

# What is a data aggregator and what does it do?



# What aren't data aggregators?

- These are databases or collection management systems (Excel is not a database)




# Publishing and Aggregation: IPT



## Hosted resources available through this IPT

 Filter: 

Logo	Name	Organisation	Type	Subtype	Records	Last modified	Last publication	Next publication
--	<a href="#">AMNH Bird Collection</a>	AMNH	Occurrence	Specimen	833,709	2015-02-12	2013-10-30	--
--	<a href="#">AMNH Herpetology Collections</a>	AMNH	Occurrence	Specimen	349,178	2015-02-19	2015-02-19	--
--	<a href="#">AMNH Mammal Collections</a>	AMNH	Occurrence	Specimen	290,333	2015-02-12	2015-02-12	--
--	<a href="#">AUM Fish Collection</a>	AUM	--	Specimen	66,983	2016-03-28	2016-03-28	--
	<a href="#">Bernice P. Bishop Museum</a>	BPBM	Occurrence	Specimen	836,971	2015-05-22	2015-05-22	--
--	<a href="#">Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections - TCWC Marine Invertebrates</a>	TCWC	Occurrence	Specimen	22,804	2016-02-22	2016-02-22	--
--	<a href="#">Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections - TCWC Vertebrates</a>	TCWC	Occurrence	Specimen	230,376	2015-09-05	2015-09-05	--
--	<a href="#">BYU Herpetology Collection</a>	BYU	Occurrence	Specimen	39,322	2016-02-24	2016-02-24	--
--	<a href="#">CCBER Herpetology Collection</a>	CCBER	Occurrence	Specimen	15,637	2015-11-19	2015-02-12	--
--	<a href="#">CCBER Mammalogy Collection</a>	CCBER	Occurrence	Specimen	1,948	2015-11-19	2015-02-12	--
--	<a href="#">CCBER Ornithology Collection</a>	CCBER	Occurrence	Specimen	7,000	2015-11-	2015-02-12	--

# Data Publication Fallacies (and Truths)

- The Fallacy of Perfection:

Data must be perfect before publication

- The Truth:

Data will never be perfect in every aspect

# Data Publication Fallacies (and Truths)

- The Fallacy of Petrification:

Data do not change (or don't need to be changed) once they are in a ledger or a database

- The Truth:

Data are dynamic and often require regular curation

# Data Publication Fallacies (and Truths)

- The Fallacy of Data Fitness of Use:

Fitness for use of data depends on how and why those data were collected

- The Truth:

Fitness for use depends on the questions being asked (the value of data is in the eye of the beholder)

# Challenges for data quality and publication

## Individual:

Education, Experience, Funding, Support

## Institutional:

Inter/Intra-collection community, Mixed technology,  
Legal limitations

## Structural:

Interoperability, Related/Derivative Sources