Increase productivity of DigiVol? Challenge accepted!

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April 2015

nature culture **discover**

Australian **museum**

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DigiVol

Volunteers building knowledge and communities through digitising collections

Virtual expedition of the day

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM MALACOLOGY COLLECTION

Australian Museum Gastropod Expedition - 9

Australian Museum Gastropod Expedition - 9

Start transcribing 𝒶 ⟩ Ⓐ

Australian Museum Gastropod Expedition - 9

More expeditions   View all

0%
Australian Museum Gastropod Expedition - 9

7%
Australian Museum Thornton Diaries Expedition - Diary of Hong Kong

11%
1855
Australian Museum Entomology Register 1 Expedition

12%
Australian Museum Frit Flies Expedition - 2

43%
Australian Museum Bivalve Expedition - 11

53%
Dolichurus stantoni (Ashmead, 1904)
Sphecidae: Thread-Waisted Wasps of Hawai'i I

Honour Board

Day Tripper	View Top 20
Jaclyn Metzger	56
Weekly Wonder	View Top 20
Megan Edey	219
Monthly Maestro	View Top 20
Megan Edey	1194
DigiVol Legend	View Top 20
Megan Edey	34788

View my notebook

Expedition stats

140963 tasks of **158318** completed
909 volunteer transcribers.

News

12 Jan 2015

Happy New Year

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DigiVol » Institutions » Smithsonian Institution - US National Herbarium

Smithsonian Institution - US National Herbarium

⚙ Settings

Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Smithsonian Institution - US National Herbarium

Email: Sylvia Orli
Phone: 1-202-633-0911
Website 🔗

The United States National Herbarium (US) is housed in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, located in Washington, DC. Many of the plant groups represented in the U.S. National Herbarium rank among the finest and/or largest in the world. The United States National Herbarium was founded in 1848, when the first collections were accessioned from the United States Exploring Expedition (50,000 specimens of 10,000 species). Current holdings total 5 million specimens, making this collection among the ten largest in the world representing about 8% of the plant collection resources of the United States. The herbarium is especially rich in type specimens (@110,000).

Volunteers	**156**
Tasks	**17830** in total (**99%** transcribed, **97%** validated)
Expeditions	**Specimens** 25
	Underway: 4
	Complete: 21

NMNH US Honour Board

Day Tripper	View Top 20	
Jaclyn Metzger		56
Weekly Wonder	View Top 20	
Jaclyn Metzger		127
Monthly Maestro	View Top 20	
Jaclyn Metzger		416
NMNH US Legend	View Top 20	
Helen Bell		9473

NMNH US Expeditions

All | Active | Deactivated   All | Incomplete | Completed   ☰ ▦

❓ [   ] Search

Name	Tasks completed	Volunteers	Sponsoring Institution	Type

⚙ ▾

Smithsonian Institution - Euphorbiaceae Galore Set 6!

351 of **500** tasks transcribed **(70%)**

314 tasks validated **(62%)**

8

Smithsonian Institution - US National Herbarium

Specimens

Public Participation in Digitising at the Australian Museum

Stage 1

DigiVol
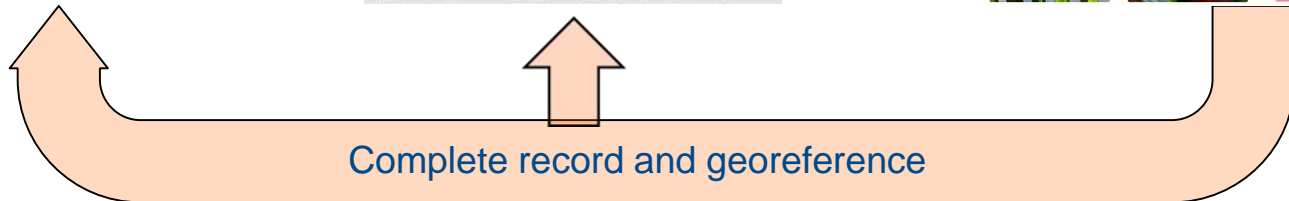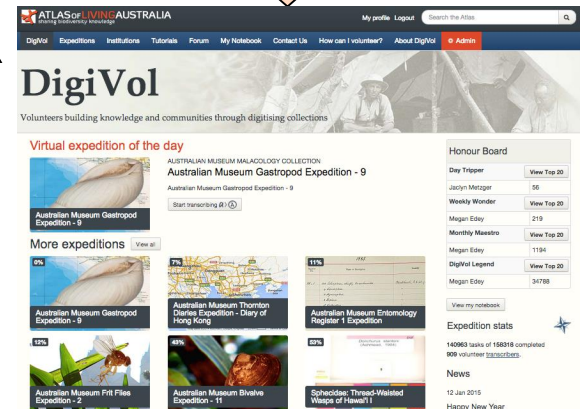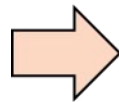
Volunteers
Digitising
Collections-
Capturing
images and
"partial records"

Nicole and Louise

Image,
species name,
catalogue number

Image,
species name,
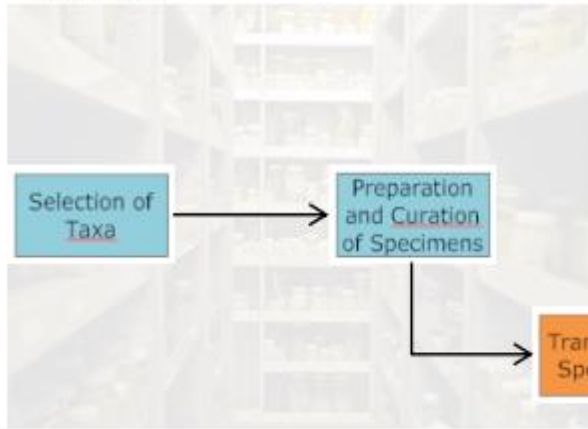catalogue number

Public
Participation

EMu Database

Complete record and georeference

Stage 2

Workflow

Location
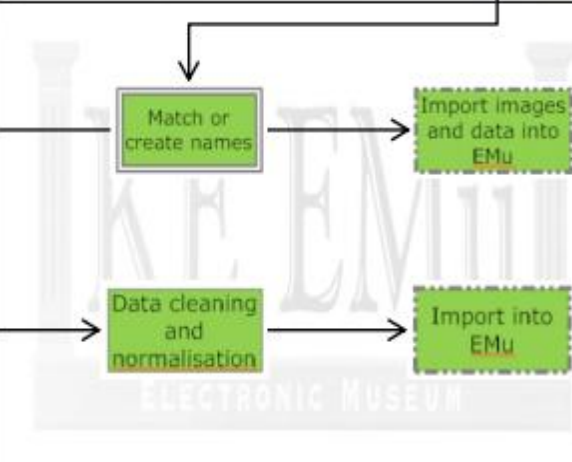
Collection

Selection of Taxa	→ Preparation and Curation of Specimens

Transporting Specimens

DigiVol Lab

Training and Supervision

Take Image → Record Metadata

Quality check: images and data

Online

Upload Images to BVP

Transcribe text → Validate text →

Database

Match or create names → Import images and data into EMu *Partial Record*

Data cleaning and normalisation → Import into EMu *Full Record*

Resource Legend:

- Collection Staff
- Database Specialists
- Volunteer Coordinators
- Volunteers
- MS Access
- KE EMu
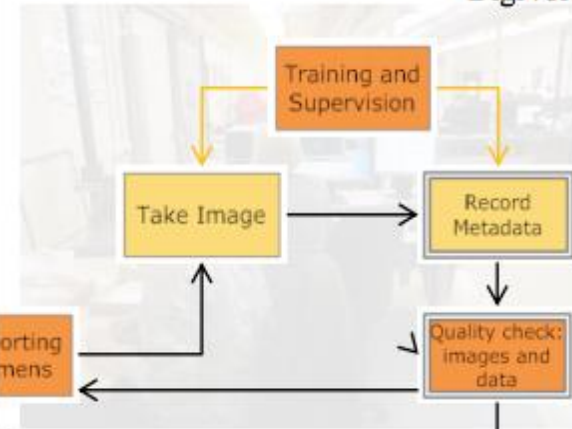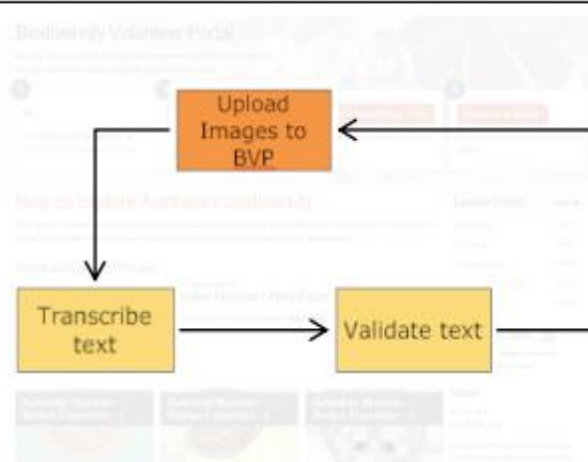
Costs of DigiVol to AM?

DigiVol Lab

    Paid staff – 1

    Volunteers – 70 per week

DigiVol Online

    Paid staff

        Volunteer coordinator – 0.2 per week

    Volunteers – 900

Data processing

    Paid staff - 1

Total

    Paid staff – 2.2

    Volunteers – almost 1000

DigiVol Lab:
Image 60000 specimens a year

DigiVol Online:
Transcribe 30000 specimens a year

Why do we need to make DigiVol more productive?

Crowdsourcing sites such as DigiVol have been remarkably productive but the task is huge.

Through DigiVol something like 60000 tasks are transcribed and validated per year, varying in complexity from simple labels with only a few words, through complex labels with georeferencing to double page field diaries with many hundreds of words per page.

Across the biodiversity sector we have a big job – 3 billion plus specimens depending on your size threshold.

How to increase productivity?

- Increase overall numbers of volunteers

    AND/OR

- Increase the numbers of tasks completed by each volunteer

How to increase overall numbers of volunteers?

Attract more volunteers through marketing

Social media is useful but we need more

DigiBlitzes
Ad hoc
Australian Science Week
WeDigBio

How to increase overall numbers of volunteers?

Offer expeditions that appeal to a broader audience

- camera trap images

- images for trait extraction

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⚙ Admin

Welcome to the WildCount

⚙ Settings   Admin   Validate tasks

Start transcribing a › Ⓐ

View tutorials ⊙   My tasks ✔

Visit the Project Forum 🗨

WildCount progress

1 of 8 tasks transcribed (**12%**)

WildCount overview

WildCount

It is easy to believe that common native animals like kangaroos, possums, lyrebirds and wombats will always be around. Is it possible that, despite being relatively common, they are in decline? WildCount aims to answer this question. WildCount is a 10-year fauna monitoring program that uses motion-sensitive digital cameras in 200 sites across 146 parks and reserves in eastern NSW. WildCount looks at trends in occurrence of animals at these sites, to understand if animals are in decline, increasing or stable.

WildCount personnel

Expedition Leader
Change leader icon

Scientists

Collection Managers

Technical Officers

View Details

2014-02-26 10:17:50 AM M 2/3 0 19°C

WILDCOUNT-CAM107

Institution: NSW Environment and Heritage   **Project:** WildCount   **Catalog Number:**   **Taxa:**

1. Details

Date		?
Temperature		
Animals present	☐	?
No animals present	☐	
Sex		
Species interaction		?

Time	?
Location/Camera Number	?
Number of Species	
Identification of animal	
Maturity	
Behaviour	

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DigiVol » Expeditions » Welcome to the Australian Museum's Fish Traits

Welcome to the Australian Museum's Fish Traits

⚙ Settings   Admin   Validate tasks

Start transcribing a › Ⓐ

View tutorials ▶   My tasks ✔

Visit the Project Forum 🗨

Australian Museum's Fish Traits progress

0 of **11** tasks transcribed (**0%**)

Australian Museum's Fish Traits overview

Australian Museum

Fish Traits are excellent

Fish Traits Tutorial

Australian Museum's Fish Traits personnel

Expedition Leader   Scientists   Collection   Technical Officers

View Details

Institution: Australian Museum Ichthyology   **Project:** Australian Museum's Fish Traits   **Catalog Number:**   **Taxa:**

Fish Traits Tutorial

1. Details

Common Name		Species Name	
Pattern		Colour	
Body Shape		Characters	
Life Stage			

How to get each volunteer to do more?

Motivate them

- Show them what the scientific goals are

- Show them how they are making a difference

- Reward their efforts

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DigiVol » Paul Flemons

My Notebook

My Achievements | Badges | Maps | Social | Tasks Transcribed | Saved Tasks | Tasks Validated

Volunteer score   371

Tasks transcribed   117 (85 of which have been validated)

Tasks validated   254

First contribution   4 years ago

Recent Badges

How you're making a difference!

- You have added 40 species to the ALA

■ Acupalpa albi...   ■ Agrius convol...   ■ Aleeta curvic...   ◄ 1/14 ►

- You have contributed to 18 new field observations
- You have participated in 28 expeditions
- You have transcribed 0.06% of the total transcriptions on DigiVol

12.2%
10%
8.9%

How to get each volunteer to do more?

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DigiVol » Paul Flemons

My Notebook

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Australian Explo...

Completed 100 tasks from expeditions from Australia.

Awarded 2 weeks ago

Field Naturalist

Transcribe 10 field note tasks.

Awarded 2 weeks ago

World Explorer

Completed 100 or more tasks from expeditions from 5 different countries.

Awarded 2 weeks ago

Botanist

Transcribed more than 100 Botany tasks.

Not yet awarded

Entomologist

Transcribed more than 100 insect tasks.

Not yet awarded

Expert Botanist

Transcribed more than 1000 Botany tasks.

Not yet awarded

Malacologist

Transcribed 100 malacology tasks.

Not yet awarded

Master Scribe

Transcribed 100 field note tasks from 3 different diary expeditions.

Not yet awarded

More volunteers AND more tasks per volunteer

Structured volunteering

Examples

onsite at the Museum – DigiVol Lab
schools
universities

offenders returning to the workforce
 work for the dole
retirement villages

More volunteers AND more tasks per volunteer

Structured volunteering – what is required?

Structured volunteering ideally requires the following:

1. a lab or office like space that has computers with internet access
2. onsite training and training materials
3. onsite supervision by suitably trained coordinators
4. structured reward system with the institution involved such as
    - Educational/Vocational certificate for job seeking
    - Behind the scene tours
    - Video conference sessions with collection staff

Thankyou
ALA and IDigBio

nature culture **discover**