



**BIODIVERSITY
COLLECTIONS NETWORK**

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What's the Biodiversity Collections Network?

- Research Coordination Network funded by National Science Foundation
- A collaborative, community-building project
- A way to expand reach, engage new audiences, do things iDigBio can't

BCoN is not...

- In competition with iDigBio, or any other initiative
- A replacement for iDigBio
- “Doing” digitization

BCoN and NIBA

- 2010 Strategic Plan for Network Integrated Biodiversity Alliance
- 2011 NSF funds iDigBio, first TCNs
- 2012 Implementation Plan for Network Integrated Biocollections Alliance
- 2014 NSF funds BCoN (NIBA) RCN.
- 2015 RCN changes name from NIBA RCN to BCoN

Implementation Plan

Recommendations

- (1) Establish an organizational and governance structure that will provide the national leadership and decision-making mechanism required to implement NIBA and to fully realize its Strategic Plan.
- (2) Advance engineering of the US biocollections cyberinfrastructure.
- (3) Enhance the training of existing collections staff and create the next generation of biodiversity information managers.
- (4) Increase support for and participation in NIBA by the research community and a broad spectrum of stakeholders.
- (5) Establish an enduring and sustainable knowledge base.
- (6) Infuse specimen-based learning and exploration into formal and informal education.

BCon will...

- Evaluate the recommendations from the Implementation Plan to determine whether still relevant and to prioritize efforts
- Establish Implementation Working Groups that will develop sustainable plans to move elements of NIBA forward

Building Community



Supporting Organizations

- American Institute of Biological Sciences
- American Society of Plant Taxonomists
- Angelo State Natural History Collections
- Biodiversity Institute, University of Kansas
- Bishop Museum
- C.A. Triplehorn Insect Collection, The Ohio State University
- Central Michigan University Herbarium
- Chicago Botanic Garden
- Denver Museum of Nature and Science
- Florida Museum of Natural History
- Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology
- H.A. Stephens Herbarium, Emporia State University
- iDigBio
- Illinois Natural History Survey Herbarium
- Milwaukee Public Museum
- Natural Science Collections Alliance
- New York Botanical Garden
- North American Network of Small Herbaria
- Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History
- Small Collections Network
- Society for Preservation of Natural History Collections
- Society of Herbarium Curators
- SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University
- The Field Museum
- Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico
- University of Michigan Herbarium
- University of Wisconsin Insect Research Collection
- Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History

BCon Advisory Council

Robert Gropp, AIBS

Barbara Thiers, NYBG

Joseph Cook, Museum of Southwestern Biology

Gunter Wabel, SI, Digitization Office

Andy Bentley, SPNHC

Larry Page, NSC Alliance

Anna Monfils, Central Michigan University

Chris Norris, Yale Peabody

What have we been up to

- Established a website
- Cosponsored and participated in conferences and workshops
- Convened Collection Communications Workshop in Chicago in September
- Preparing to do an education survey in coordination with AimUp!
- Supporting a proposed meeting next year to explore ISOBANK
- Developing information about end users

Communications Workshop

- A small workshop
- Nat History Collection administrators/directors, scientists, communications/outreach, and government relations staff
- Explore opportunities for improved communication – within community and from community to external audiences (administrators, funders, other scientists)
- Productive workshop with rich mix of recommendations
- Draft report will be done soon, shared

Coming attractions

- December, participation in Biological Informatics Workforce meeting
- A workshop to evaluate progress toward NIBA goals has been suggested
- 2016, education survey
- 2016, cosponsor workshop on ISOBANK
- 2016, Communications Working Group

Participate

- Encourage everyone here to join our website, sign-up for updates
- If you have an idea, please suggest it
- If your organization is not listed among our Supporting Organizations, please join us – it's free.

For More Information

- www.BCoN.aibs.org -- sign-up to receive updates.
- Twitter @BioCollNetwork



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