

# Collections Digitization and Opportunities for International Collaboration – SPNHC 2014

Special Interest Group session, Friday June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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As SPNHC is an international organization, the yearly conference is an ideal place to gather those individuals currently involved in digitization of our world-wide natural history collections (nhc). Everyone interested is invited to participate. In this one-hour special session, our aim is to initiate a conversation, a kick-off, to facilitate represented digitization projects world-wide in finding effective cooperative and collaborative strategies benefiting all parties going forward. Please come with ideas in hand and methods that are working - ready to share.

**Invitees:** Anyone involved in or interested in current nhc digitization efforts.

**Format:** Lead off with short introduction to the purpose of the meeting, followed by open discussion and closing with concrete next steps.

**Comments / Ideas:** email to dpaul@fsu.edu with Subject: SPNHC 2014 Digitization Collaboration

## Seed Topics / Scope:

- Citizen Science / Crowd-Sourcing initiatives** as part of digitization.
  - Opportunity for getting those who are building / using these tools - to meet.
  - Georeferencing is part of this.
- Working Group outreach / overlap:** becoming members of each others working groups to facilitate **horizontal communication** for expertise sharing and creating shared resources. (Interoperability, Ambassadorship). Some *examples*:
  - sharing digitization workflows and workflow documentation
  - SPNHC - iDigBio representative
  - CETAF - starting a digitization working group
  - JRA - Synthesys3 + iDigBio representatives: expertise/knowledge transfer
  - iDigBio and Synthesys3 both have a **research use focus**. How do we work together on meeting researcher's data needs, gaps?
  - iDigBio, Synthesys3, NHM, NYBG, and SI have citizen science components.
- Sustainability** – keeping narrow focus here to some manageable bit of this topic.
  - How can large collections / large digitization projects help smaller collections?
  - Workforce training for sustaining digital resources.
    - courses, materials (both sharing available, and gaps).
  - Continuing the sustainability conversation.

## Expected Outcomes.

- Plan for continuing the conversations (Working or Interest Group).
- Set up participation in each others working groups as first step (cooperation) to actual collaboration. Start with Working Group Discovery.
- Discuss / develop plans / ideas list for how large groups can help small ones.
  - Example: feedback to / from the Small Collections Network. (<http://scnet.acis.ufl.edu/>)
- Discuss / develop concrete plans / ideas list for how to accomplish 2a above, for example.