

Update on Digitization of U.S. Scientific Collections

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BIO Advisory Committee meeting

March 17, 2010

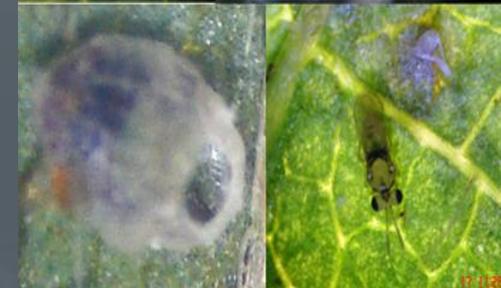
U.S. scientific research collections

- ◆ Over 10,000 major biological specimen-based research collections in United States
- ◆ Non-federal collections equal ~80% and federal collections equal ~ 20% of total
- ◆ Of ~800 surveys NSF sent to collections it has supported over last 15 years, 611 responded



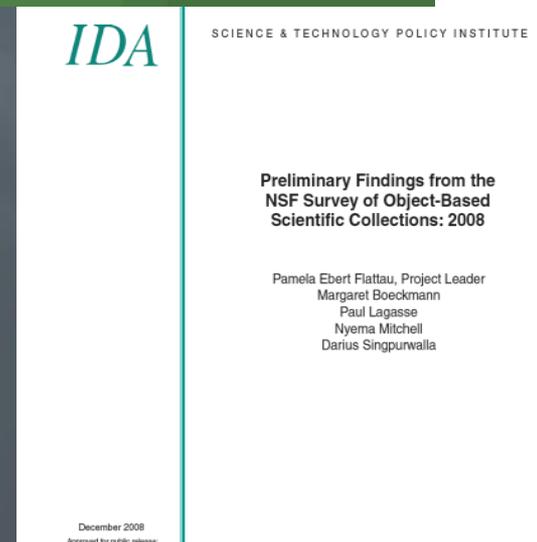
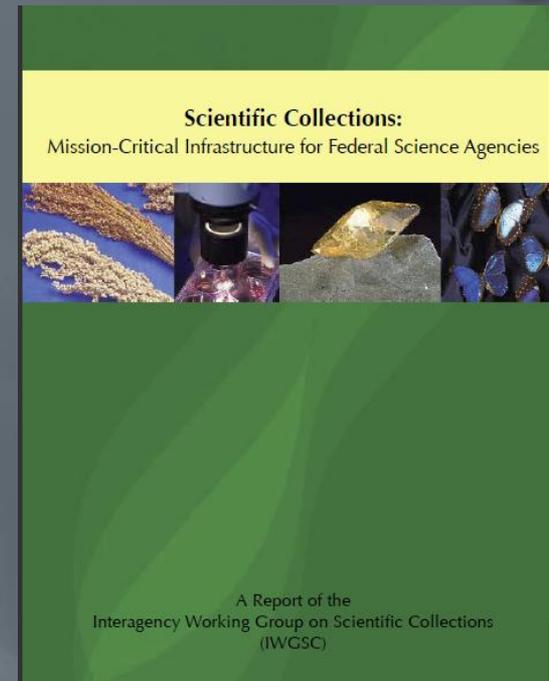
Digitization of collections is critical

- ◆ Support from ARRA promoted scientific community's effort to test methods for mobilizing digital images
 - ◆ FY 2009: ARRA funds used to support more digitization projects, including development and testing of new techniques
- ◆ BIO to fund continuing efforts to digitize and network U.S. specimen-based research collections
 - ◆ Collections include wealth of valuable data, e.g., images, DNA samples, environment and habitat information
 - ◆ These data form baseline to study critical information and identify knowledge gaps
 - ◆ Filling these gaps crucial for complete understanding of planet's biodiversity and history of climate change



Status since last BIO AC meeting

- ◆ Discussion of two reports by BIO AC
- ◆ Emphasis that a project could be done
- ◆ Follow-up within BIO directorate
 - ◆ Presentation to House authorization committee re digitizing scientific collections
 - ◆ Language in 2011 budget for support to digitize existing collections



Interagency activities

- ◆ Scientific collections working group became subcommittee to provide longer term activity
- ◆ New co-chair from USDA (Molly John)
- ◆ Discussions continuing on sharing best practices
- ◆ International interest in promoting linked data resources
 - ◆ NSF funded researchers to attend Scientific Collections meeting in Belgium in February 2010
 - ◆ Models from other countries



BIO activities to promote networking of collections

- ◆ Formed BIO working group to engage collections community
- ◆ Supported focus group representing broad collections community (Feb. 5-7 at NESCent) to air issues and find way to develop Strategic Plan for collections resource
 - ◆ Soliciting community input by crowd sourcing via listservs, society announcements
 - ◆ Blog set up through NESCent to post comments
<http://digbiocol.wordpress.com/>



Producing 10 year strategic plan

- ◆ Workshop (after blog input) to be held in late May/June 2010
- ◆ Participants to include members of original focus group and additional participants to broaden expertise
- ◆ Goal of workshop: produce 10 year strategic plan for a national resource

