Background on the workshop

kcopas #1 February 8, 2020, 8:56am

GBIF will organize three workshops to help "major international stakeholders to develop the global collections research agenda" within the SYNTHESYS+ **NA5 Internationalization work package**. These workshops are a contribution to the efforts of the biodiversity informatics community to develop sustainable, cost-effective, scientifically relevant and internationally applicable networks and systems for managing and using biodiversity information.

The participatory consultation will test a virtual alternative to a face-to-face workshop. We hope that it will both enable wider participation by interested stakeholders around the world and reduce the carbon footprint of biodiversity informatics. See **'Why a virtual workshop?'** for a more extensive discussion of the approach and its rationale.

"Advancing the Catalogue of the World's Natural History Collections" will provide inputs into several intersecting initiatives, including but not limited to:

- **SYNTHESYS+**, as a European initiative to advance collection-based data management that reinforces the efforts of the **Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities** (CETAF) and prepares for the **Distributed System of Scientific Collections** (DiSSCo) to unify the region's digital natural science assets
- Major global efforts that catalogue natural history collections, including reference datasets for important classes of collection, such as **Index Herbariorum** (IH) and **World Federation for Culture Collections** (WFCC), and national and regional perspectives from initiatives like **Atlas of Living Australia** (ALA), other **Living Atlases** and **iDigBio**
- The **TDWG Collection Descriptions Interest Group**, with its experience in developing metadata standards to characterize natural history collections
- The ***alliance for biodiversity knowledge*** established following the 2nd Global Biodiversity Informatics Conference (GBIC2) in July 2018 to help international stakeholders of all scales work together more collaboratively
- The **Global Biodiversity Informatics Outlook** (GBIO) published following the 1st Global Biodiversity Informatics Conference (GBIC) in July 2012 as a conceptual architecture for biodiversity informatics
- **Activity 2c: Catalogue collections** within the **GBIF Implementation Plan 2021**, aimed at improving global integration of efforts to build the collections catalogue, including reworking the **Global Register of Scientific Collections** (GRSciColl) as a contribution to an integrated catalogue

The consultation aims to offer value to all of these efforts, but more particularly to provide a common vision, road map and set of priorities for efficient and seamless interoperability between their platforms and for tools and services based on accurate and current collection information.