



To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competitions: NSF: Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections (ADBC)
(NSF 15-576)

Date: August 3, 2022

This program seeks to enhance and expand the national resource of digital data documenting existing vouchered biological and paleontological collections and to advance scientific knowledge by improving access to digitized information (including images) residing in vouchered scientific collections across the U.S. The information associated with various collections of organisms, such as geographic, paleogeographic and stratigraphic distribution, environmental habitat data, phenology, information about associated organisms, collector field notes, and tissues and molecular data extracted from the specimens, is a rich resource providing the baseline from which to further biodiversity research and provide critical information about existing gaps in our knowledge of life on earth. The national resource is structured at three levels: a central coordinating organization, a series of thematic networks based on an important research theme, and the physical collections. The national resource builds upon a sizable existing national investment in curation of the physical objects in scientific collections and contributes vitally to U.S. scientific research and technology interests. It will become an invaluable tool in understanding contemporary biological issues and challenges.

This solicitation focuses on proposals for **Thematic Collections Networks (TCN)** and proposals for **Partners to Existing Networks (PEN)** to link with existing TCNs. TCN proposals will be submissions for two-to-four year awards to digitize existing specimens based on a particular research theme. This research theme may be a grand challenge for biodiversity, a part of a grand challenge, or another important research theme requiring information from existing collections. Specimens to be digitized should be of critical importance to the research theme and the criteria for the specimen assessment should be indicated in the proposal. The collaborating institutions will conduct the actual digitization of the specimens (including imaging and mobilization of the data). The length of award and size of award will depend upon the number and size of the collections to be digitized.

For both TCN and PEN proposals, priority will be given to innovative projects that 1) fill gaps in the effort to provide online access to specimen data for existing biological and paleobiological collections, 2) integrate with other ongoing digitization activities and 3) increase the efficiency and lower the cost of digitization. Both TCN and PEN proposals should include:

- a detailed management plan for accomplishing the project,
- training plan for participants and students,
- priorities for tasks,
- task analysis,
- plans for sustaining the data (PEN) and for sustaining the network (TCN) beyond the award, and
- plans for interacting and integrating with iDigBio (Integrated Digitized Biocollections at the University of Florida).

Budgets for TCN proposals should reflect the scope of work proposed and should not exceed four years in duration. PEN awards will be for 2-3 years with a maximum request of \$175,000, which includes a maximum of \$150,000 for the award plus up to an additional \$25,000 as a subaward or as consultant services to the TCN for new costs to the existing network. **The deadline for full proposals is October 14, 2022.** Additional details can be found at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15576/nsf15576.htm>.

This is a limited competition. Only **one** Thematic Collections Networks proposal may be submitted by an organization as the lead organization. Organizations may be involved in more than one collaborative effort as a non-lead.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal to the Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections program, please submit a 200-word statement of interest with a tentative project title and a brief description by **noon, August 17, 2022** via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). Based on the number of responses received, the Limited Competition Management Team may announce a call for pre-proposals.

Please distribute this notice to departments and individuals whom you believe would be interested.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competitions for more information at HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu.