DiSSCo Design Study

ICEDIG

DiSSCo Construct

DiSSCo
Distributed System of Scientific Collections

DiSSCo Deploy

CoL+

DiSSCo Prepare

mobilise

SYNTHESYS+
Synthesis of Systematic Resources
02/2019–01/2023

SYNTHESYS+ is creating an integrated European infrastructure for natural history collections. Funded by the European Commission (Horizon 2020 programme).

NETWORK	RESEARCH	ACCESS	VIRTUAL ACCESS
Network activities will support and develop the infrastructure of natural history collections across Europe. These activities will provide foundations for DiSSCo, a major pan-European collections infrastructure and access initiative.	Developing new collections services and technologies for researchers around the world. Projects include the development of digital collections infrastructure, and applying artificial intelligence to speed up processes that make collections digitally available.	Short visits to utilize collections, staff expertise, and analytical facilities at one of the 21 partner institutions (TAF members) for the purposes of the users' research.	Users request Virtual Access to collections. Participating institutions digitise collections according to community demand and data will be made openly available.

Work packages 1–5
Network Activities (NA)

Work packages 6–8
Joint Research Activities (JRA)

Work package 9
Transnational Access (TA1) [NHM]

Work package 10
Virtual Access (VA1) [NHM]

Work packages with tasks

NA1 Management **WP1** [NHM]

NA2 Harmonisation of policies and best practices, training, and support WP2 [CETAF]
2.1 Harmonisation of policies, implementation of policy mandates
2.2 Integration and expandation of institutional collection assessments
2.3 Training activities
2.4 Run Helpdesk for online support

NA3 Molecular Standards & Processes WP3 [SmithsonianGGBN]
3.1 Landscape analysis of biobank standards and practices
3.2 Define best practices for usage of molecular collections
3.3 Registration system for biodiversity biobank collections

NA4 Digital Standards & Processes WP4 [TDWG Europe]
4.1 Biodiversity data standards: landscape analysis & compliance
4.2 DETAF stable identifier framework
4.3 International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) API specifications

NA5 Internationalisation & New User Communities WP5 [GBIF]
5.1 Roadmaps for priority infrastructure component areas
5.2 Engaging expanded geographic involvement [leadership MfN]
5.3 Engaging society & industry as users of biodiversity Ris
5.4 European biodiversity infrastructures stakeholder forum

Work packages with tasks

JRA1 Optimisation of Access WP6 [Naturalis]
6.1 Structure & design of system
6.2 System Development
6.3 Testing and integration of workflows

JRA2 Collections on Demand WP7 [HCMR]
7.1 Digitisation as a service model
7.2 Digitisation on Demand (DoD)
7.3 DNA Sequencing on Demand

JRA3 Specimen Data Refinery WP8 [NHM]
8.1 Landscape analysis
8.2 Tool & service development
8.3 Platform development
8.4 Data delivery and exploitation

- Funds to cover the costs of a researcher's travel, accommodation, & subsistence, whilst completing a short research visit at any one of our TA participating organisations.
- Access to collection(s), equipment and other research infrastructure(s) named in their proposal.
- Assistance and training from TAF staff (only if essential to the project, and named in the proposal)
- Feedback on all proposals which are not chosen for funding by a User Selection Panel (USP) of collections experts.

A successful VA proposal will mean the organisation will use S+ funding to digitise their own collection via their own digital workflows.

- Chance to make the case for why a collection should be digitised for the benefit of the global research community.
- All collections data will be open access, and freely available to anyone, anywhere.
- Chance to work with digitisation teams across TAF organisations, as part of a 'Digitisation on Demand' (DoD) model of digitisation.

Taxonomic Access Facilities Germany (DE-TAF)

Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin (BGBM)
Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung (SGN)
State Museum of Natural History Stuttgart (SMNS)
Zoologisches Museum Alexander König Bonn (ZFMK)
Museum für Naturkunde Berlin (MfN) **DE-TAF coordinator**