



Natural Science Collections Alliance 2014 Accomplishments

- Partnered with the American Institute of Biological Sciences and the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections to launch a national initiative to build a biocollections community that is able to fully implement and achieve the goals of the Network Integrated Biocollections Alliance. The project is supported by a five-year grant from the National Science Foundation.
- After years of advocacy from NSC Alliance and the scientific collections community, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy issued a directive to federal agencies to develop policies to improve the management of and access to federal scientific collections.

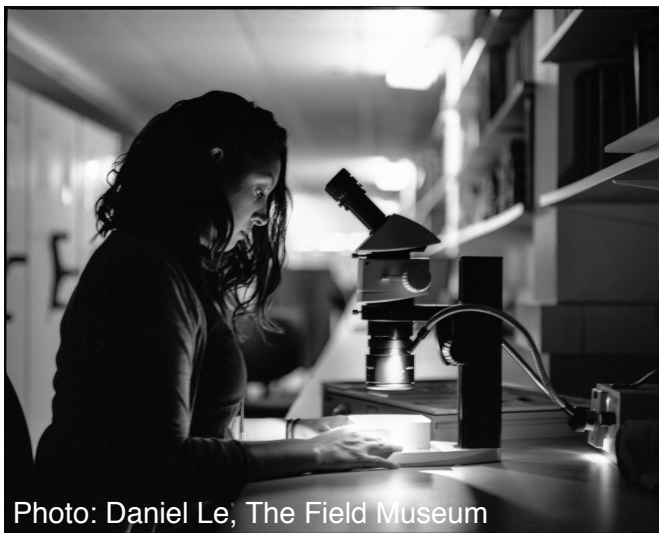


Photo: Daniel Le, The Field Museum

- Sponsored a symposium with iDigBio on the future of scientific collections. The event furthered community discussions related to national digitization efforts.
 - Provided testimony to House and Senate Appropriations Committees in support of increased funding for research, curation, and digitization of natural history collections from the National Science Foundation and the Department of the Interior.
- Sponsored the 6th Annual Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits event. Several organizations that curate natural history collections participated in the event and hosted tours of their collections for policymakers.
 - In collaboration with other scientific organizations, NSC Alliance pushed for increased funding for basic research to close the innovation deficit and opposed further restrictions on the ability of federal employees to attend scientific conferences.



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2014 Accomplishments

- Rallied the collections community to influence pressing science policy issues, including federal funding for research and science education.
- Served as an allied partner in the Heritage Health Information 2014 Survey, which will assess the state of the nation's collections held by museums, scientific research collections, archaeological repositories, archives, and libraries.
- Released a new paper in the NSC Alliance series "On the Importance of Scientific Collections" about the use of genetic information preserved in natural history specimens to inform wildlife management research.
- Three NSC Alliance members were awarded the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor conferred on museums and libraries for service to the community.
- Participated in the USGS Coalition, an alliance of more than 70 organizations dedicated to the continued vitality of the US Geological Survey and its programs.
- Provided regular policy and news updates via the NSC Alliance Washington Report. The newsletter is freely available. Subscribe at www.nscalliance.org.

About NSC Alliance

The NSC Alliance is a nonprofit association that supports natural science collections, their human resources, the institutions that house them, and their research activities for the benefit of science and society. Our 100 institutional members are part of an international community of institutions that house natural science collections and utilize them in research, exhibitions, academic and informal science education, and outreach activities. www.nscalliance.org