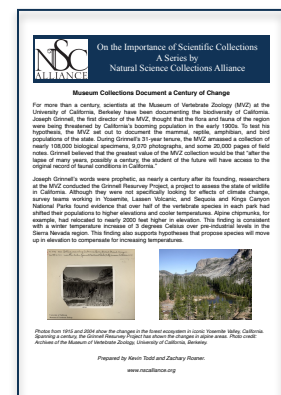




Natural Science Collections Alliance

2016 Accomplishments

- NSC Alliance led the effort to reverse the suspension of the Collections in Support of Biological Research program by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The program was put on “hiatus” in the spring of 2016 pending agency review. In response to community opposition, NSF reinstated the program on a biennial basis.
- Advocated to congressional lawmakers in support of increased funding for research, curation, and digitization of natural history collections for the National Science Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Department of the Interior.
- Sent a letter signed by 63 scientific organizations to President-elect Trump about the role science should play in his administration.
- Created two short reports on how natural history collections contribute to climate change research.
- Gained five new institutional members: Berkeley Natural History Museums, Duke Lemur Center, Entomological Collections Network, Merriam-Powell Center for Environmental Research, and Milwaukee Public Museum.
- Reaffirmed the scientific consensus on climate change in a joint letter to Congress from 31 scientific organizations.
- Collaborated with 55 leading science organizations to ask the U.S. presidential candidates a set of twenty questions regarding major issues in science, engineering, health, and the environment.
- Supported a bill to reauthorize the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the primary federal agency that supports museum education programs, collections curation, and museum professional development.



- Sponsored the Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits event. Several NSC Alliance members participated. Notable meetings include:
 - U.S. Representative Beto O'Rourke (D-TX) visited the University of Texas at El Paso Biodiversity Collections. (*pictured below*)
 - Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK) and his staff visited the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.
 - Staff for Representative Chris Stewart (R-UT) toured the Natural History Museum of Utah.
 - The University of New Mexico Museum of Southwestern Biology hosted Senator Tom Udall's (D-NM) staff.



- The Illinois State Museum reopened after a months long political budget fight between the state legislature and the governor. NSC Alliance was among the organizations that called on the Governor to reopen the museum.
- Participated in the Biodiversity Collections Network (BCoN). Representatives of NSC Alliance members are serving on BCoN working groups on next generation research and communications.
- NSC Alliance President Joseph Cook participated on behalf of the organization in a workshop that explored the potential for the development of an IsoBank—a

database for isotopic data. A paper outlining this new data repository, which includes explicit ties to museum specimens, is now in press in PNAS.

- Rallied the participation of several NSC Alliance members in the 2016 WeDigBio citizen science event, a coordinated campaign to engage citizens in efforts to digitize collections data.
- 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.
- Rallied the collections community to influence pressing science policy issues, including federal funding for research and science education.
- 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