



Natural Science Collections Alliance

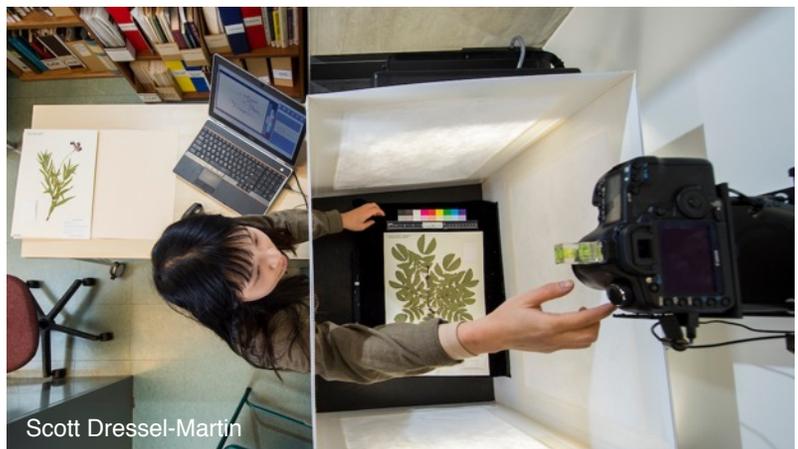
2017 Summary

Science Funding

- Helped secure a 3 percent funding increase for the Smithsonian Institution in fiscal year 2017 and prevented large cuts to the budgets for the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies that support natural history collections.
- Joined with 40 other scientific organizations to call on Congress to reject the deep budget cuts to scientific research and education programs proposed by the Trump Administration for 2018.
- Worked with other museum supporting organizations and museums to defeat a Trump Administration proposal to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- Called upon federal lawmakers to provide relief from budget sequestration for non-defense programs, including scientific research and education programs.

Collections Policy and Advocacy

- Participated in the Biodiversity Collections Network (BCoN), including as a member of the advisory council.
- Intervened when the University of Louisiana Monroe planned to dispose of its natural history collections. NSC Alliance's involvement helped garner media attention and encouraged the university to facilitate transfer of the collection to other organizations.
- Provided recommendations to the Department of the Interior on a draft rule on paleontological resources preservation.



- Joined 150 other scientific organizations to oppose an Executive Order that would hinder scientific exchange by barring citizens of 7 countries from traveling to the U.S.
- Encouraged the National Science and Technology Council to leverage existing collections in its efforts to develop a national research strategy for soil biodiversity.
- Sponsored the Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits event.

Outreach

- Promoted National Fossil Day on October 11, which is organized by the National Park Service.
- NSC Alliance Board members participated in a national workshop to understand the ramifications of the Nagoya Protocol on biological research.
- NSC Alliance President Joseph Cook co-authored a PNAS article stemming from a BCoN-sponsored workshop that urged the creation of a central repository for isotopic data that would intersect with biodiversity collections and other databases.
- NSC Alliance President Joseph Cook and Board member Scott Edwards organized the inaugural PFRB Symposium for 40 postdocs. The symposium highlighted new research uses of collections and provided an overview of opportunities in collections-based employment. The symposium was followed by a smaller BCoN workshop aimed at identifying new directions and opportunities for museums in the near future.
- 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 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