digitization ACADEMY

Public Participation in Digitization of Biodiversity Collections

Overview

This free, online course is focused on public participation in science as it relates to digitization and research using biodiversity specimens. Public participation in science is sometimes referred to as citizen science, community science, or crowdsourcing. This course is targeted at those already associated with a biodiversity collection, such as student technicians, collections managers, curators, affiliated educators, or administrators. The course will be relevant to a diversity of collection types. Participants do not need prior knowledge of public participation in science, only a desire to use it as part of their future research or digitization activities. .

Learning Objectives

The aims of the course are to empower participants with the knowledge and skills to successfully:

1. Identify and address the opportunities and additional complexity that public participation introduces to a digitization project at a biodiversity collection, including ethical and legal factors.
2. Design a public participation in digitization project, including budgeting and risk management.
3. Identify, evaluate, and use tools and online platforms in a public participation in digitization workflow.
4. Identify and implement data quality management strategies.
5. Identify common participant motivations and strategies to recruit and engage participants in a project, including events, games, and online forums.
6. Perform evaluation of a public participation in digitization project.

Class Format & Homework

This course is a fast-moving mix of synchronous presentation and discussion and asynchronous work either alone or in small groups. In general, each day will begin with time for questions about the asynchronous activity and/or readings from the day prior, followed by a presentation of new content and activities related to the new content.

Schedule & Topics

The schedule below provides a high-level overview of course content. Topics will be updated with links to their corresponding slide decks as available. Links to recordings of each block will be posted after the conclusion of the block.

	Synchronous	**Asynchronous**
Block 1	Course introduction High-level framing of public participation in science	**Optional Reading:** The Collective Wisdom Handbook_2021 Ellwood et al. 2015 Ridge et al. 2021
Block 2	Public participation opportunities for digitization of biodiversity collections	**Activity 1:** Project Design I
Block 3	Preparing for successful engagement of public participants	**Optional Reading:** Ridge et al. 2021 West et al. 2021 Ellwood et al. 2018 Hitchcock et al. 2021
Block 4	Preparing for successful engagement of public participants	**Activity 2:** Project Design II
Block 5	Assembling and managing the data creation workflow	**Optional Reading:** Baker et al. 2021 Public Participation Platforms Wiki
Block 6	Live discussion/Q&A with public participation platform representatives	**Activity 3:** Project Design III
Block 7	Data use and project sustainability	**Optional Reading:** Cooper et al. 2021
Block 8	Project presentations	

Meeting Time & Place

The course will occur via Zoom.

Content & Communication

Access to and management of the course's digital content will be accomplished via Google Drive. Communication outside of the synchronous Zoom sessions will be via email.

Materials Needed

Participants will need to access Zoom and Google Drive as part of this course.

Code of Conduct

All participants are expected to abide by iDigBio's Code of Conduct and Community Code of Conduct: https://www.idigbio.org/content/idigbio-code-conduct

Recording Policy

Each class will be recorded and posted for later asynchronous viewing. Zoom recordings are available exclusively to participants and not to be shared publicly.

Acknowledgements