GREAT LAKES INVASIVES TCN – Bi-monthly report **Dec 1, 2014 – Jan 30, 2015**

Second GLI TCN report, representing five months' of effort to date.

Our four regional data processing centers (NY Botanical Garden, Field Museum, Univ of Michigan, and Univ of Wisconsin-Madison) report the following from their constituents:

1) Progress in Digitization Efforts TO DATE

PLANTS:
Specimens Barcoded Only: 3,923 (NY) + 4,000 (ILLS) + 264 (MINN) = **8,187**
Barcoded and Imaged to Date: 27,536 (WIS) + 12,243 (NY) + 12,452 (OSU) + 163 (MINN) + 8,674 (MICH) + 159 (ILLS) + 2,695 (F) + 4880 (MU) = **68,802**
Databased to Date: 45,401 (WIS) + 8,110 (NY) + 27,500 (MINN) + 15,127 (MICH) + 27,000 (ILLS) + 9,478 (F) = **132,616**
Uploaded to the GLI Portal directly or to another Symbiota Portal for editing before transfer to GLI Portal: 45,401 (WIS) + 7,849 (MICH) + 5,783 (F) +42 (MINN) + 9,624 (MOR) + 9,804 (ALBC) = **78,503**

MOLLUSKS:
Barcoded and Imaged to Date: **1,617** lots (MICH) have been imaged, representing 3 genera and 5 species.
Databased to Date: **6,594** records added by MICH, representing 6 genera and 92 species.
Uploaded to the GLI Portal or another Symbiota Portal: 2,341 images from MICH have been processed and, of these,**1,404** have been uploaded to the GLI portal.

FISH:
Databased to Date: 27,145 (ILLS) + 81,324 specimens [in 4,709 lots (F)] = **108,469**
Georeferenced: 25,000 (ILLS)

2) Share and Identify Best Practices and Standards (including Lessons Learned)

We continue to experiment with alcohol resistant barcode options. Researchers at Ohio State have learned that after several months, the adhesive backing on standard vinyl barcodes used by the herbarium has not dissolved.

Our plant workflow offers efficiencies that take advantage of duplicates from institutions that are not funded through our TCN. Records (complete or skeletal) and images are uploaded mostly to the larger Midwest Consortium of Herbaria Symbiota Portal, a subset of the largest SEINET portal. Transcription and Georeferencing takes place there prior to the completed record being migrated into the GLI Portal. This offers a higher probability of encountering a duplicate in the nationwide portal.

Lesson learned: there is no substitute for a face-to-face meeting, especially at the start of a collaborative project that crosses disciplines. At their own personal expense, 20 participants from MN, WI, IL, MI, & OH traveled to the Field Museum in Chicago on December 15 for a TCN workshop. This was a critically important meeting that brought the participating botanists and zoologists together – many for the very first time, and possibly last.   A request for minimal financial support for the workshop to iDigBio was rejected. To their great credit the Field Museum covered the cost of parking and lunch for the participants, instead; the TCN is extremely grateful for this.

3) Identify Gaps in Digitization Areas and Technology

Still trying to resolve best practices for physical application to and use of barcodes on liquid preserved fish and 3D mollusk specimens. Their use is not routine among these collection managers.

4) Share and Identify Opportunities to Enhance Training Efforts

Having current employees train new hires is efficient, and also beneficial for constantly revising and updating the workflow with potential improvements.

5) Share and Identify Collaborations with other TCNs, Institutions, and Organizations –

Project managers have discussed mollusk imaging with Paul Callomon at Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.

We have loaned a digitization workstation to participants at UW-Milwaukee, thereby starting to bring in some of the smaller but important institutions.

6) Share and Identify Opportunities and Strategies for Sustainability

Nothing to report

7) Other Progress (that doesn't fit into the above categories)

We have constructed and implemented a custom 'app' that allows for the creation of skeletal records of imaged data before uploading into Symbiota in order to accelerate the transcription process. It is available to downloading on our project website together with installation and use instructions.

University of Michian PI Rabeler represented the project at an iDigBio Herbarium Workflows workshop at Valdosta State University, 26-30 January 2015.