



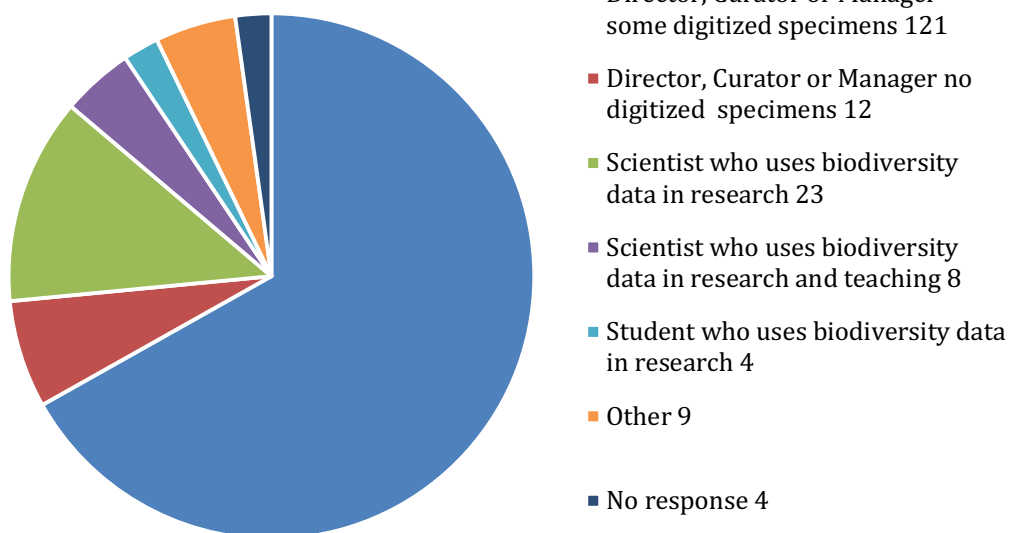
## BIODIVERSITY COLLECTIONS NETWORK

### SURVEY RESULTS: Harnessing Biodiversity Collections Data for Addressing National Challenges

This survey, initiated on 7 February 2018, was intended to elicit information for a stakeholder vision of how to maximize the value of biodiversity collections data for collections management, research and education in the future. BCoN is coordinating the development of this vision in response to requests from NSF and others to inform the development of a new funding program to succeed NSF's current ADBC program. The effort will culminate in a workshop in October 2018 where we will consolidate the feedback into a strategic plan for 2020-2030. The strategic plan, to be issued in early 2019, will be available for public comment and modified in response to comments made before it is finalized.

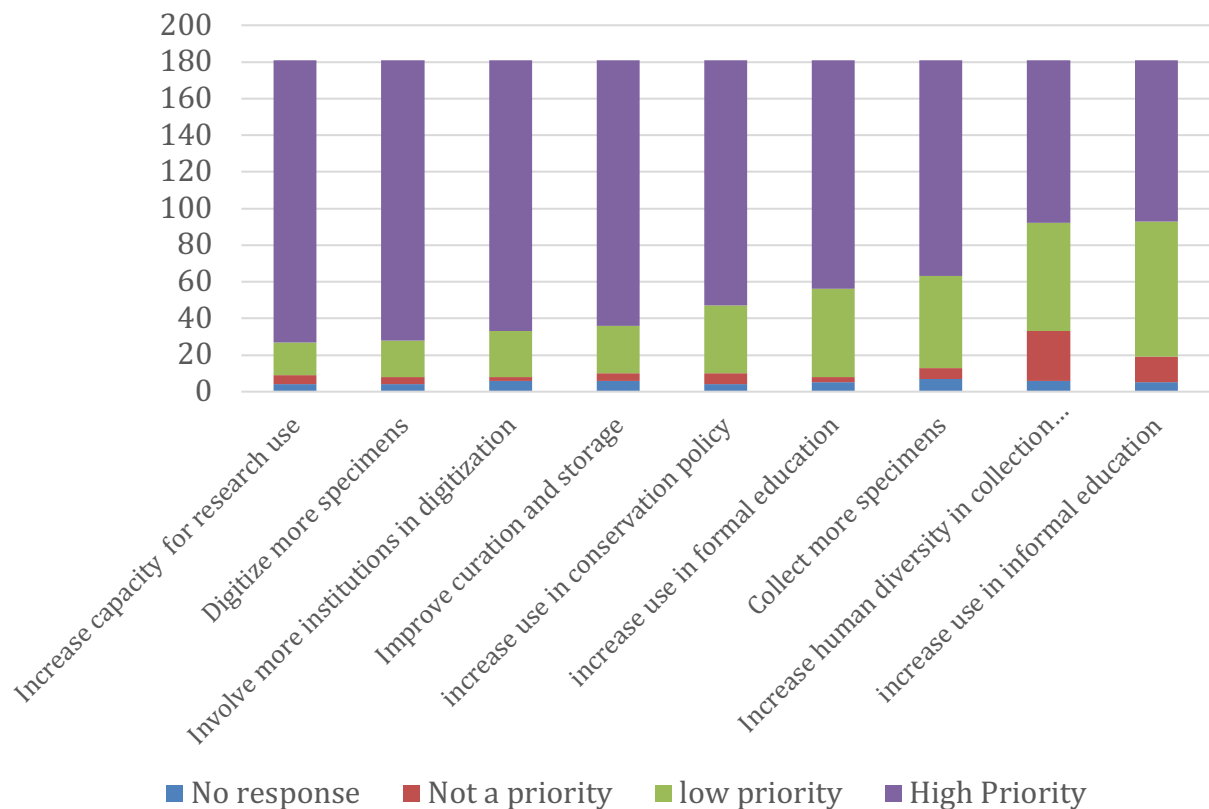
#### Participants in the Survey

There were 181 respondents to the survey, who self-identified in the following categories:



## Priority Future Goals

Respondents were asked to rank a set of future goals for biodiversity collections according to whether they considered the goal was high priority, low priority or not a priority.



Results indicate that increasing the capacity for research, digitizing more specimens and involving more institutions in the digitization process were all viewed approximately equally as high priority, and increasing human diversity in collections and increasing the use of collections in informal education were ranked lowest priority, in approximately equal numbers.

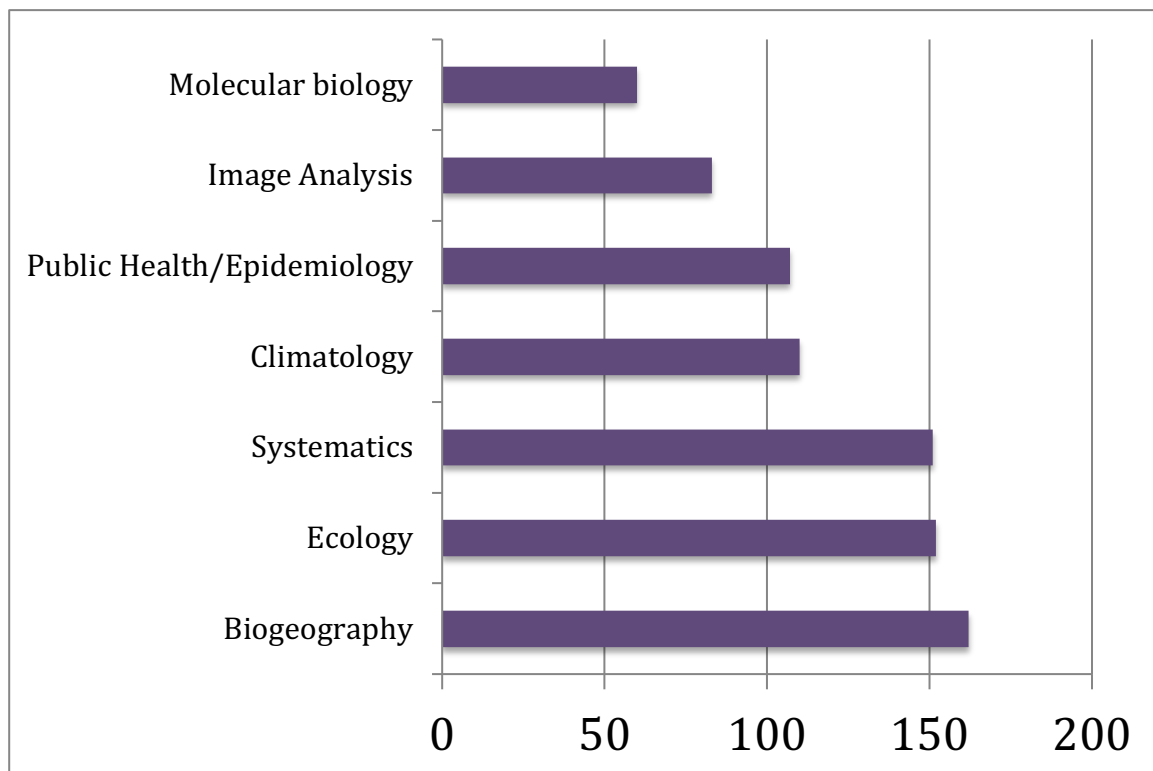
## Other Goals

Participants were given the opportunity to suggest other goals that should be a high priority for biodiversity collections. The responses fell into five over-arching categories:

- Train more systematists, collections professionals
- Identify other (e.g., non- NSF sources of funding for collections digitization)
- Improve data quality, especially specimen identifications
- Develop new digitization technologies
- Broaden the user community for digitized specimen data
- Focus future digitization on: historical collections; international collections; small collections; acoustic collections

## Which Research Areas Would Benefit from Greater Integration and Collaboration with Biodiversity Collection Data?

Participants indicated which of the Research Areas listed above would benefit from greater integration with digitized data. Digitized specimen data was considered most relevant to Systematics, Ecology and Biogeography.



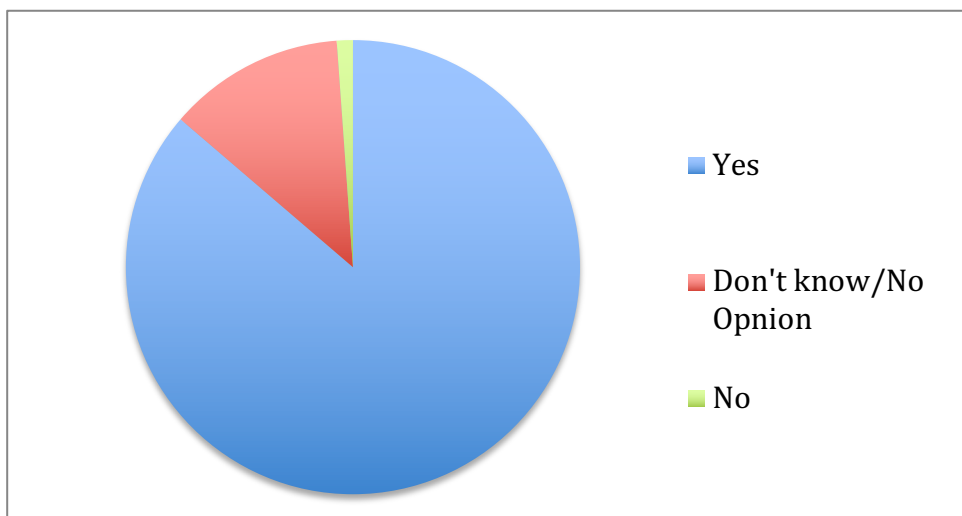
## Other Fields that could Benefit from Greater Integration and Collaboration with Digitized Collections?

Participants were asked to list other fields that could make use of digitized specimen data. These are summarized in the table below:

Agriculture	Evolutionary Biology
Anatomical and Health Sciences	Fisheries Science
Architecture	Geology
Art	History
Conservation Biology	Human Evolution
Ecology	Invasive species control
Economics	Paleoecology
Education	Paleontology
Ethology	Stratigraphy

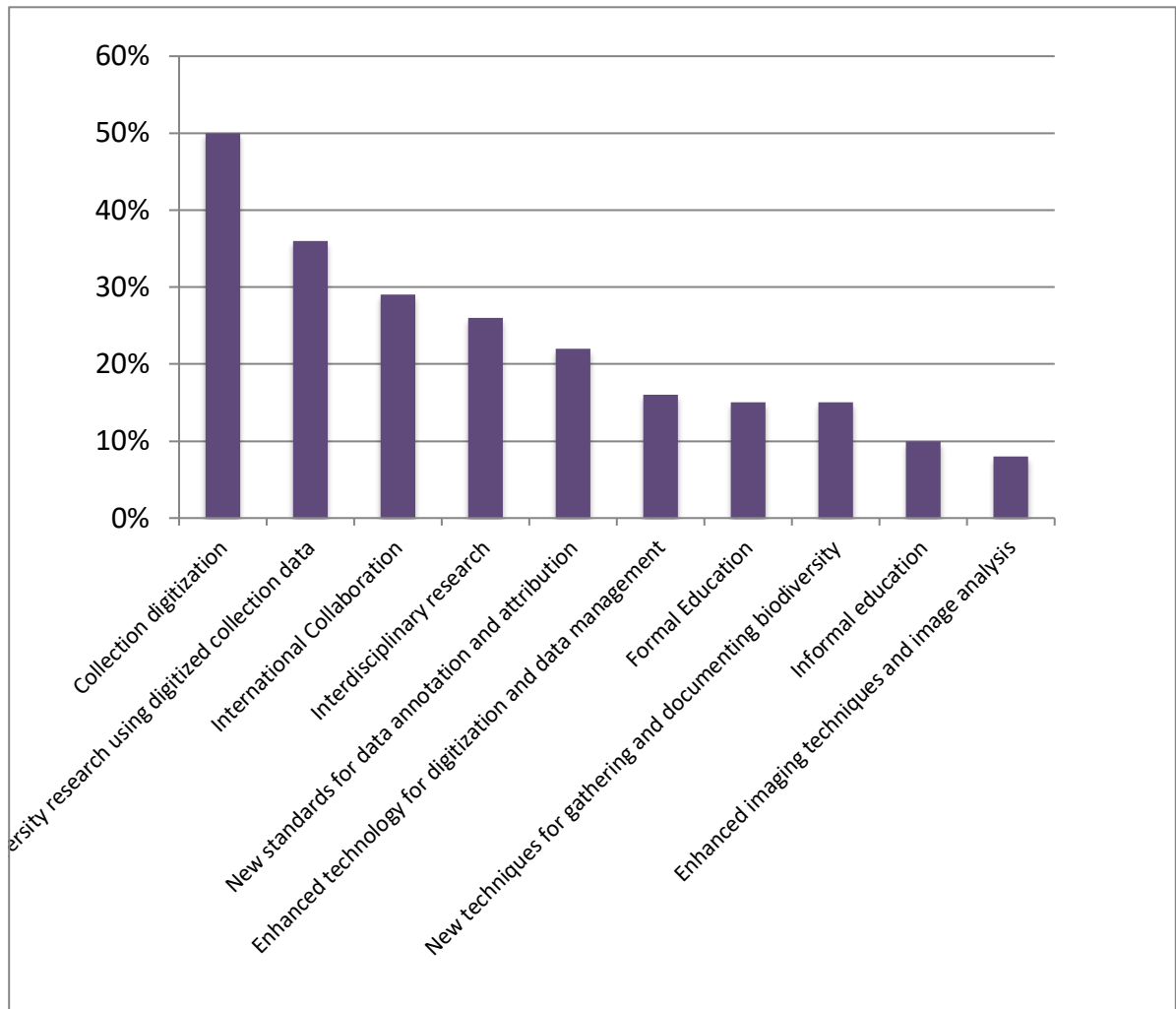
## A Future Funding Program

Participants were asked, “Do you think another NSF funding program is necessary for the digitized biodiversity data to reach its full potential for research, education and conservation objectives?” The response was strongly in favor of a new NSF funding program.



## Highest Priority Focus for a New Funding Program

Respondents were asked to rank a set of activities that could be part of a new funding program. The chart below focuses on only those items that were ranked as highest priority.



Half of all respondents ranked continued collection digitization as the highest priority activity, followed by biodiversity research using digitized collection data and international collaboration.