



June 28, 2019

Biodiversity Collections Network (BCoN)  
c/o American Institute of Biological Sciences  
1201 New York Avenue NW  
Suite 420  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Biodiversity Collections Network,

I write to express our support for the recent BCoN vision document, “Extending US Biodiversity Collections to Promote Research and Education.” The Encyclopedia of Life Learning + Education group integrates biodiversity collection data and resources into our learning materials and we have seen the power of using these data for K-16 formal and informal educational purposes and citizen science activities. The potential topics that can be addressed through collections data are vast and include everything from basic biology to complex societal issues related to environmental change.

We fully support the efforts of BCoN to build the Extended Specimen Network and all the recommendations outlined in the vision document. Biodiversity collections and associated information have enormous educational value and this information is critical to maintain and have accessible for future generations.

Sincerely,

Marie M. Studer  
Director