

CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH COLLECTIONS (CBRC)

Current Mission

The Center enhances collection-based research and education in biodiversity, zooarchaeology, paleontology, and related disciplines by facilitating digital research within the College of Arts and Sciences and by providing shared infrastructural and data management support for IU's biological research collections. The Center focuses on collections of biological specimens, including fossils and archaeological remains, that have shared taxonomic, geographic, and temporal metadata requirements. The Center also coordinates policy, develops digital infrastructure, provides shared resources, facilitates educational outreach, and serves as a collaborative research platform for IU's biological and paleontological specimen collections. It helps support data management and digitization for research grants that use IU's collections. The Center interfaces with partners to develop the specific digital infrastructure needed for biological collections and collaborates with other collections to develop shared infrastructure and best practices.

CBRC Management

The Center is run by a Director and Executive Committee consisting of the faculty and research scientists who oversee IU's Biological Collections.

- **P. David Polly**, Director, (Geological Sciences);
- **Claudia C. Johnson**, IU Paleontology Collection (Geological Sciences);
- **Eric B. Knox**, IU Herbarium (Biology);
- **Laura L. Scheiber**, William R. Adams Zooarchaeology Lab (Anthropology).

CBRC Employees

- **Gary Motz**, Project coordinator. Provides training in digitizing equipment and digital processing; provides support and training for the *Specify* collection database system; finds solutions for data management and digital research problems; works with IUB Libraries and UITS on development of digital repository.
- **Paul Rothrock**, Plant taxonomist and associate director of IU Herbarium. Updates taxonomic identification and labels of plant specimens in the IU Herbarium in preparation of digitization.

Current CBRC Priorities

- *Digital Archive*. In collaboration with Libraries and UITS, develop permanent digital archive for scans, photographs, and other digital representations of biological objects.
- *Training in Digital Research*.
- *Digital Collection Management Database for IU collections*.
- *Taxonomic update of IU Herbarium*.

Internal Advisory Committee

- **William Barnett**, Research Technology and Pervasive Technology Institute (Partner)
- **Michael Boyles**, Advanced Visualization Lab (Partner)
- **Adam Maltese**, School of Education (research specialist in science learning)
- **Jon Dunn**, Library Technologies and Digital Libraries (Partner)
- **Tom Schoenemann**, Anthropology (specialist in CT scanning and digital archives of 3D data).

Original Mission

The Center enhances collection-based research and education in biodiversity, zooarchaeology, paleontology, and related disciplines by providing shared infrastructural and data management support for IU's biological research collections. The Center focuses on collections of biological specimens, including fossils and archaeological remains, that have shared taxonomic, geographic, and temporal metadata requirements. The Center coordinates policy, develops digital infrastructure, provides shared resources, facilitates educational outreach, and serves as a collaborative research platform for IU's biological and paleontological specimen collections. It develops external funding streams for upkeep and development of collection infrastructure, and it helps support data management and digitization for research grants that use IU's collections. The Center interfaces with partners to develop the specific digital infrastructure needed for biological collections and collaborates with other collections to develop shared infrastructure and best practices.

Original CBRC Priorities

- *NSF Advanced Digitization of Biodiversity Collection (ADBC) grants.*
- *Return of ICR to support collection management and infrastructure.*
- *Jumpstart digitization of collections to prime ADBC proposals.*
- *Promote research using digitized IU collections.*

CBRC History

- *Autumn 2011.* OVPR requests proposal for a Center for Natural History Collections in order to return ICR to meet IU's commitment for NSF collection grant. Requested partners from across campus.
- *June 2012.* Proposal submitted jointly by Anthro, Geol, Biol, Glenn Black/Mathers, Geological Survey.
- *July 2012.* Revised proposal submitted.
- *May 2013.* After delays, College of Arts and Sciences agrees to form CBRC in partnership with OVPR. No return of ICR, reduced funding for digitizing equipment and hourly help.
- *2013-2014.* CBRC searches for its two employees, who formally started August 2014.
- *August 2014.* VPR and OVPR announce that they are not committed to funding CBRC and will only pay for single scanner. VPR says CBRC is unqualified to seek NSF ADBC grants.

- *Autumn 2014.* Discussions between Singell, Wade, libraries and UITS about future of CBRC, digitization masterplan, etc. Agree to refocus CBRC on supporting digital research instead of digitizing collections.
- *November 2014.* Wade agrees joint funding of CBRC with College for calendar year 2015.