

Digitizing Virginia's Herbaria: A Call to Citizen-scientists

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ABSTRACT

A consortium of 11 Virginia herbaria was funded by the National Science Foundation in 2014 to create a publicly-accessible online database of its ca. 300,000 Virginian herbarium specimens, including high-resolution digital images of all specimens. Participation by citizen-scientists is integral to the project plan. Members of the public help transcribe label data from the high-resolution digital images of the herbarium specimens into database fields via the crowd-sourcing platform, Notes from Nature (www.notesfromnature.com). This paper reviews the project's progress to date, shares links to this emerging resource for research and education, and issues a call to citizen-scientists to assist in liberating these important historical data about Virginia's flora.

Key words: plants, citizen-science, crowd-sourcing, biodiversity informatics, southeastern United States.

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