

Webinar Series



Constructing a Digital Environment

Topic: Digitising the world's collections to address global challenges

Speaker: Dr Vince Smith & Dr Mike Howe

Time: Friday 29th April, 11:00GMT

Registration:

https://ukri.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9odfE46BQI63U0wTm24Gzg



Natural science collections can tell us how the earth and its natural systems formed over 4.65 billion years, and the impact of human life on the natural world over the past few thousand years. If collections data can be unlocked and shared on a global scale, they become a dynamic research tool to help find solutions to the most important challenge humans face over the next 30 years – mapping a sustainable future for ourselves and the ecosystems on which we depend. Dr Vince Smith and Dr Mike Howe have been at the forefront of these activities, leading and contributing to the development of DiSSCo (<https://www.dissco.eu>), the Distributed System of Scientific Collections. This is a pan-European research infrastructure that is bringing together the data from an estimated 1 billion specimens held in 20 countries, including 130 million from 90 UK based institutions. This webinar will review contributions of natural science collections to environmental science and explore how these are being transformed through digitisation to unlock their scientific potential, including areas such as biodiversity conservation, control of invasive species, medicine discovery, agricultural research and development, and mineral exploitation.

The NERC Constructing a Digital Environment (CDE) programme is running a series of online Webinars, aiming to develop the digitally enabled environment, benefitting scientists, policymakers, businesses, communities and individuals. The fifth seminar series covers efforts to augment the range of data that are available for use in environmental research by harness existing sources of data sources in various forms in innovative ways. This includes data digitisation, data rescue, and repurposing of data to enable use for new purposes beyond their original application. The webinar series will cover activities spanning each of these efforts, which are enabling new value to be delivered from existing sources of data.



<https://digitalenvironment.org/cde-webinar-series>