

# Webinar Series



## Constructing a Digital Environment

**Topic: Unlocking the potential of Royal Botanic Garden Kew's collections through digitisation**

**Speaker: Sarah Phillips, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**

**Time: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 11:00GMT**

**Registration:**

[https://ukri.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_9odfE46BQI63U0wTm24Gzg](https://ukri.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9odfE46BQI63U0wTm24Gzg)

With over 8.5 million specimens, RBG Kew houses one of the largest and most diverse botanical and mycological collections in the world. The collections represent approximately 95% of vascular plant genera and 60% of known fungal genera, constituting a globally unique resource collected over 250 years. The collections are a treasure trove of information which underpin much of Kew's scientific research and are used to identify species, understand extinction risks and the evolution of plants and fungi. However, most of these collections are shut away behind cupboard doors; their cultural and scientific value invisible to all but expert academic communities, being accessible only through visits, thus severely limiting research potential. RBG Kew has just embarked on an ambitious four-year programme with initial 2-year funding from DEFRA, to complete the digitisation of these collections so that images and label data are available free of charge via Open access to anyone who requires it.



In this webinar, Dr Sarah Phillips, Research Leader in Digital Collections, will give an overview of the digitisation programme which will facilitate research on global challenges facing humanity today, including climate change mitigation, biodiversity loss and food security

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 webinar series seeks to showcase the latest expertise in digital technology and methodologies applied to the environment, illustrating 'the arc' from data gathering, its management and curation, analysis and presentation to decision makers, covering topics such as distributed networks of sensors, new sensor technology, novel forms of data informatics (e.g. data lakes, data cubes), data analytics, uncertainty, data labs, apps, skins and tools to support decision makers across the society.



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