



## A Loans and Permits Data Standard for Scientific Collections

Joint virtual MOBILISE WG3 and SYNTHESYS+ NA3  
workshop

29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### Introduction

Natural history collections that are brought to the digital age open up new research and utilisation opportunities and massively increase the mobility of objects and data. However, legal and ethical aspects have to be considered when publishing and using these objects and data: Under the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol, the countries of origin can regulate the use of their material. It is in the interest of the collections to properly manage this information and thus foster transparency and trust. Within networked collections and research infrastructures, there should be an easy way to trace and make visible any information that potentially restricts the use of the material. This concerns also the document management in the collections and the traceability of legal and administrative information. Legal and administrative information may well go beyond the Nagoya documents and include for example documents for collecting, transferring or loaning physical material, access permits for protected areas or phytosanitary documents. A related aspect are ethical aspects such as data protection or the protection or tracing of Traditional Knowledge related to specimens.

To digitally link this kind of information to specimen information and to share it with users via ABCD, DwC and other data standards, a new standard has to be created. GGBN has addressed this topic in its data standard in 2016 by proposing the [GGBN Permit](#) and [Loan Vocabularies](#).

These particular classes of the data standard will now be reviewed again within the EU funded SYNTHESYS+ project. The MOBILISE COST Action via its Working Group 3 has identified this standard as one of the important concepts to implement in DiSSCo for the infrastructure to be compliant with national and international laws and regulations. Furthermore, it supports the institutions and the community in their data management endeavours and in implementing the CETAF Code of Conduct as the only ABS best practice example so far which is officially recognized by the European Commission.

## Goals

In this workshop we will present the concept of the current loans and permits data standard and seek input from various collection communities regarding their needs and problems. At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day we will discuss the scope of the planned TDWG Task Group “Permits and Loans”.

The long-term goal is to develop a data standard that can be used by different communities. It shall be coordinated by this TDWG Task Force. More communities will be added at a later point in the process.

In this workshop, we will also discuss the implementation of the standard in infrastructures and portals from a general point of view of what we want to achieve, and more specifically how we could do it.

## Scope

The workshop is expected to contribute to an ongoing cross-community discussion on how to support the adequate handling of legal and ethical requirements in natural history collections and related digital data infrastructures. In this context, the community consultation on converging Digital Specimens and Extended Specimens

(<https://www.gbif.org/news/x7u6tmOhyfTE6rM3FQgIK/community-consultation-converging-digital-specimens-and-extended-specimens>), especially part 8 on meeting legal/regulatory, ethical and sensitive data obligations (<https://discourse.gbif.org/t/8-meeting-legal-regulatory-ethical-and-sensitive-data-obligations/2665>) provides an excellent approach to the topic.

As a starting point we have invited four different communities representing the main collections of natural history collections: **biological collections, palaeontological collections, geological collections, anthropological collections**. In addition to these data providing collections, representatives from various **data infrastructures** will join the discussions.

## Outcomes

A publication shall be produced from the workshop results and a proposal to build a [TDWG](#) Task Group “Permits and Loans” to develop the standard further will be written afterwards. The workshop shall also incentivize and promote this work.

# Preliminary agenda

## Day 1

- Introduction - background, scope and aims
  - Goals and scope of this workshop
  - Synthesys+ workshop/survey Results
  - GGBN Data Standard
- Keynote presentations - The big picture
- Presentations from the communities
  - Biological collections
  - Geological collections

## Break

- Palaeontological collections
- Anthropological collections
- Infrastructures/publishers
- General Discussion
  - Outlook for tomorrow
    - What are the specialties of our collections with respect to permits?
    - What kinds of permit documents do we need? What restriction types do we have?
    - What do we have to consider when sharing permit data?
    - How would we like this information to be organized, where should it be visible etc.?

## Day 2

- Short summary and main conclusions of day 1
- Breakout sessions including a short *break*
  - Biological collections
  - Earth sciences collections
  - Palaeontological collections
  - Anthropological collections
  - Implementation session: Infrastructures, portals, databases, journals...
- Report from the breakouts
- Plenary discussion
- Next steps and closure