Connecting Collections
For a New Generation of Interdisciplinary Research

First Announcement
Scientific Collection International (SciColl) Second Conference

2-4 February, 2011, Melbourne Museum, Australia

Scientific Collections International (SciColl) invites you to its second international conference on "Connecting Collections: A New Generation of Interdisciplinary Research". The conference will be hosted by the Melbourne Museum and this announcement will provide you with the preliminary agenda and information on hotel accommodations and travel options. Please contact John La Salle (preferably before 15 January 2011) if you are planning to attend so that catering can be arranged in advance.

The goals of the conference are to:

- Explore four major interdisciplinary research challenges and how object-based collections can enable new and exciting research approaches;

- Discuss the systemic enhancements needed to collections to support future interdisciplinary research, especially in the area of collection access, digitization, and interoperability; and

- Hold SciColl's first business meeting, to which the Interim Executive Board and representatives of other prospective SciColl member organizations are invited.

Background information.

SciColl is an initiative developed under OECD's Global Science Forum (GSF) as international interdisciplinary coordinating mechanism for object-based collections. As used here "object-based collections" include specimens and samples in permanent archival repositories from the full range of scientific disciplines, including but not limited to anthropology, archaeology, biology, biomedicine, earth and planetary sciences, and applied fields such as agriculture, environmental science, and technology. A proposal to launch SciColl as an organization of member countries and institutions was approved by GSF in April 2010 and letters of intent to join SciColl are now being submitted. SciColl's mission is to increase the return on investment that countries and institutions make in their scientific collections by:

- *Promoting a new generation of research on major challenges that can only be done through the use of scientific collections that are distributed across countries and disciplines; and*

- *Improving the management, operation, documentation, accessibility and use of collections in all disciplines by developing community standards, documenting and disseminating good practices, and catalyzing international and interdisciplinary collaboration.*

Additional information is available on the SciColl website including an introductory brochure, SciColl's Terms of Reference, and a set of Frequently Asked Questions.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Conference day 1, Wednesday February 2, 2011

09:00   Coffee and registration

Welcome and introduction

09:30	Welcome by the Australian host and housekeeping issues
09:40	Introduction and discussion about the workshop background, aims and expected outcomes (David Schindel, current chair of SciColl steering committee)

Science session 1: Interdisciplinary use of collections for research on human migrations and environmental change

10:00	Overview (TBA) Presentation of collections-based research Presentation on potential use of additional types of collections
10:40	Discussion and possible impact on SciColl programme of work

11:00   Coffee break

Science session 2: Interdisciplinary use of collections for research on climate change (The need for integrated global data in the role of understanding scales of climate change)

11:30	Overview (Barry Brook, University of Adelaide) Presentation of collections-based research Presentation on potential use of additional types of collections
12:10	Discussion and possible impact on SciColl programme of work

12:30   Lunch

Science session 3: Interdisciplinary use of collections for research in emerging diseases

13:30	Overview (Warwick Anderson, Australia Health and Medical Research Council) Presentation of collections-based research Presentation on potential use of additional types of collections
14:10	Discussion and possible impact on SciColl programme of work

Science session 4: Connecting collections

14:30	Connecting biodiversity collections in Australia (John La Salle & Ken Walker)

15:00   Coffee break

Science session 4: Connecting collections (continued)

15:30	Australian Roadmap for data intensive networks (Suzanne Miller)
15:50	London Natural History Museum initiative (Richard Lane)
16:10	Connecting collections in the US (David Schindel)

16:30   Adjourn

18:30   Conference dinner, Museum Victoria

Conference day 2, Thursday February 3, 2011

09:00   Coffee-Registration

Science session 5: Interdisciplinary use of collections for research on food security

09:30	Overview (Andy Lowe) Presentation of collections-based research Presentation on potential use of additional types of collections
10:10	Discussion and possible impact on SciColl programme of work

10:30   Coffee break

Breakout session

11:00	Parallel sessions (one per science research topic session); *- discussion on lessons learned from interdisciplinary use of collections in their area* *- elaboration of recommendations for SciColl science programme*

Session 6: Conclusions

12:00	Open discussion of recommendations and decisions to SciColl Leadership on Research Problems and building them into the SciColl work plan

12:30   Lunch

Meeting of SciColl Interim Executive Board and prospective SciColl members

Conference day 3, Thursday February 3, 2011

Session 1

13:30	- Introduction of participants (tour de table) - Status of membership initiative (David Schindel, Smithsonian Institution) - Review of proposed SciColl governance (Christoph Häuser, Berlin Museum) - Status of selection of Secretariat host (Frédéric Sgard, OECD Global Science Forum) - Review of proposed SciColl Secretariat Office staff, programme of work (Richard Lane, Natural History Museum London)

15:00   Coffee break

Session 2

15:30	- Selection of the Chair of the Interim Executive Board - Discussion of proposed governance model - Discussion of financial commitments and operating budget

17:00   Adjourn

Conference day 3, Friday February 4, 2011

08:30   Coffee

Session 3

09:00	- Reflections on Melbourne scientific symposium and input to SciColl programme of work 2011-2012 - Discussion of proposals and timeline for Secretariat host

10:30   Coffee break

11:00	- Elements to be included in the future Memorandum of Understanding - Summary of revisions needed in the Terms of Reference - Review of next steps, next meeting, communication strategy and timeline

12:30   End

Travel and accommodations information

Venue: Melbourne Museum,11 Nicholson Street, Carlton VIC 3053, Australia

http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/

Dates: Wednesday, February 2 – Fridaym, February 4, 2011

Taxis are available at the airport for travel to the CBD – it will cost Au$40-50. Other forms of transportation (e.g. shuttle buses) also available at airport.

Accommodation

The Melbourne Museum is in the Carlton district of Melbourne.

You can find a list of local accommodation options using the Wotif website at
www.wotif.com

- Search on Australia, Melbourne CBD and it will give you a list of hotels in the entire Central Business District

- By changing CBD to Carlton in the search box you will get a list of hotels and apartments close to the Museum. By zooming in on the map, you can see which are closest to the Museum. All of these are also within a short distance to the CBD with its restaurants.

- The following link will take you directly to Carlton accommodation
  http://www.wotif.com/search/Advanced?selectedSuggestionId=&viewType=all&startDay=&searchTerms=&country=AU&region=8&destination=1540&accommodationTypeMatch=&roomTypeCategoryMatch=&starRatingMatch=&maximumPrice=&isoCurrencyCode=AUD

Direct links to some of the hotels and apartments listed on Wotif are as follows:

- Rydges on Swanston; http://www.rydges.com/hotel/RVCARL/Rydges-On-Swanston-Melbourne.htm

- Apartments on Lygon; http://www.apartmentsonlygon.com.au/

- Best Western The Travel Inn; http://www.travel-inn.bestwestern.com.au/

- Quality Hotel Downtowner on Lygon; http://www.downtowner.com.au/

- Quest Carlton on Finlay; http://www.questcarltononfinlay.com.au/

- Quest Clocktower on Lygon; http://www.questcarltononfinlay.com.au/

- Arrow on Swanston; http://www.arrowonswanston.com.au/

- Carlton Terrace; http://www.carltonterrace.com.au/

- Drummond Serviced Apartments Carlton; http://www.drummondapartments.com.au/

- Melbourne's Princes Park Motor Inn; http://www.princespark.com.au/

- Parade Inn; http://paradeinn.com.au/site/links

- Plum Carlton Serviced Apartments;
  http://www.plumapartments.com.au/index.cfm?pageCall=misc&pageMode=landingPage&contentTypeId=18713