Crowd-sourcing: perpetual valuable resource or a passing shower of dubious worth?

Paul Flemons
Collection Informatics, Australian Museum

nature culture **discover**

Australian museum

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The ALA Volunteer Portal development team

Dave Martin – Software Architect

Nick DosRemedios – Programmer

Mark Woolston - Graphics and User Interface

Why crowdsource?

It works……

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Why crowdsource?

…. for stars, old boats and newspapers…….

Why crowdsource?

…. can it work for biodiversity data??????

ALA Volunteer Portal

http://volunteer.ala.org.au

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Volunteer for Australia's Biodiversity

Join one of our virtual expeditions

and help capture the wealth of information hidden in our Museums and Herbaria. Help turn this information into valuable knowledge that will be used for understanding the relationships between organisms, learning where they live and how they might be affected by habitat loss and climate change.

Browse our current projects and click on one to start the expedition.

Moths Expedition

Australian Museum

Hawk moths fly very fast and strong, with rapid wingbeats, and can hover in flight to sip nectar. Don't let their beauty fool you though, the caterpillar stage of their life cycles can do significant damage to agricultural crops. Your task is to transcribe the labels so we know who collected them, when and where.

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Transcribe Specimen labels

Transcribe Task: Australian Museum Cicada Expedition (ID: 45102)

Video tutorials: Introduction, Using the Mapping Tool & Transcribing

Specimen Information

Institution: AM
Project: Australian Museum Cicada Expedition
Catalogue No.: K295090
Taxa: Aleeta curvicosta

1. Transcribe All Text – Record exactly what appears in the labels so we have a searchable reference for them

symbols:

2. Collection Event – This records information directly from the label about when, where and by whom the specimen was collected. Only fill in fields for which information appears in the labels

High-Speed Internet Access - Guest-Tek Ltd.

Event Date [YYYY-MM-DD]
Collector
Collection Method
Verbatim Locality
Verbatim Altitude
Verbatim Latitude symbols:
Verbatim Longitude symbols:

2. Collection Event – This records information directly from the label about when, where and by whom the specimen was collected. Only fill in fields for which information appears in the labels

Event Date [YYYY-MM-DD]

Collector

Collection Method

Verbatim Locality

Verbatim Altitude

Verbatim Latitude symbols

Verbatim Longitude symbols

3. Interpreted Location Use mapping tool – Use the mapping tool before attempting to enter values manually

Locality

Decimal Latitude

Decimal Longitude

State/Territory

Country

Coordinate Uncertainty In Meters

4. Identification – If a label contains information on the name of the organism then record the name and associated information in this section

Scientific Name Alexia curvicosta

Identifier

Type Status

Authorship

Date Identified [YYYY-MM-DD]

Notes – Record any comments here that may assist in validating this specimen

Your Notes

Submit for validation | Save unfinished record | Skip

Australian museum

Volunteers home : Projects : Australian Museum Cicada Expedition

Admin: Validation Task List

Picklists | Mailing List | New News Item | Edit Project

Total Tasks: 2316, Transcribed Tasks: 2169, Validated Tasks: 87 | Export validated tasks | Export transcribed tasks | search

Id	Catalog Number	Atlas of Living Australia home	ily Transcribed By	Fully Validated By	Validation Status	Action
7,539	K266771	Tettigarcta crinita	Elycia Wallis	Paul Flemons	✓	review
7,544	K266772	Tettigarcta crinita	Peter Brenton	Paul Flemons	✓	review
7,549	K266773	Tettigarcta crinita	Mark Wooleton	Paul Flemons	✓	review
7,554	K266774	Tettigarcta crinita	Jim Croft	Paul Flemons	✓	review
7,559	K266775	Tettigarcta crinita	Mark Wooleton	Paul Flemons	✓	review
7,564	K266776	Tettigarcta crinita	Alexis Tindall	Paul Flemons	✓	review
7,569	K266777	Tettigarcta crinita	Mark Wooleton	Paul Flemons	✓	review
7,574	K266778	Tettigarcta crinita	Mark Wooleton	Paul Flemons	✓	review
7,579	K266779	Tettigarcta crinita	Melissa Grima	Paul Flemons	✓	review
7,584	K266780	Tettigarcta crinita	Therese Chan	Paul Flemons	✓	review
7,589	K266781	Tettigarcta crinita	Mark Wooleton	Paul Flemons	✓	review
7,594	K266782	Tettigarcta crinita	Mark Wooleton	Paul Flemons	✓	review
7,599	K266783	Tettigarcta crinita	Mark Wooleton	Paul Flemons	✓	review
7,604	K266784	Tettigarcta crinita	Mark Wooleton		–	validate
7,609	K266785	Tettigarcta crinita	Mark Wooleton		–	validate
7,614	K266786	Tettigarcta crinita	Mark Wooleton		–	validate
7,619	K266787	Tettigarcta crinita	Mark Wooleton		–	validate
7,624	K266788	Tettigarcta crinita	Mark Wooleton	Paul Flemons	✓	review
7,629	K266789	Tettigarcta crinita	Elycia Wallis		–	validate
7,634	K266790	Tettigarcta crinita	Elycia Wallis		–	validate

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 116 Next »

Australian museum

Volunteers home / Volunteers / Paul Flemons

Volunteer: Paul Flemons (thats you!)

Tasks edited 130

Tasks Completed 46

Tasks Validated 27

First contribution 4 months ago

Change avatar

Recently Transcribed Tasks by

Atlas of Living Australia home

Id	Image ID	Catalog Number	Status	Action
44,010	AM_ENTO_DRW_33_0825.jpg	K294809	submitted	view
9,313	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe6_0426	K287064	submitted	view
9,648	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe7_0502	K287127	submitted	view
9,726	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe7_0515	K287139	submitted	view
24,067	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe11_0759	K287342	submitted	view
24,717	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe13_0909	K287472	submitted	view
24,722	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe13_0911	K287473	submitted	view
24,727	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe13_0912	K287474	submitted	view
24,752	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe14_0922	K287481	submitted	view
24,732	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe13_0913	K287475	submitted	view
24,757	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe14_0923	K287482	submitted	view
24,762	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe14_0928	K287485	submitted	view
24,807	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe14_0934	K287490	invalidated	view
24,817	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe14_0936	K287492	invalidated	view
24,797	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe14_0931	K287488	invalidated	view
24,822	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe15_0937	K287493	invalidated	view
[illegible]	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe15_0938	K287494	invalidated	view
[illegible]	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe15_0940	K287496	invalidated	view
[illegible]	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe15_0941	K287497	invalidated	view
[illegible]	AM_Ento_Cicada_Dhe12_0869	K287442	submitted	view

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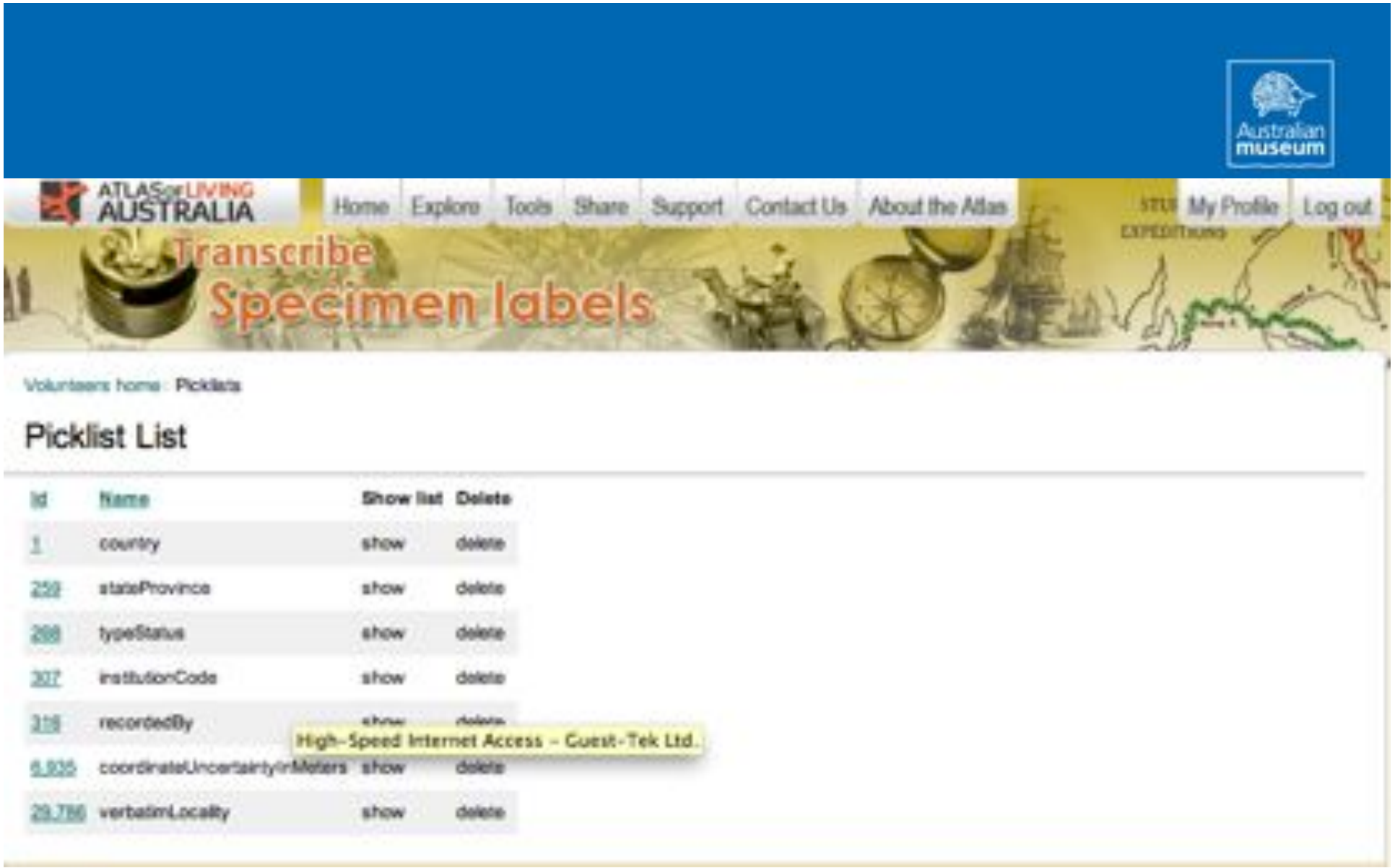
Show Picklist

Id 29,786

Name verbatimLocality

search

Id	Key	Value
29,787	6037288	bounding up tree trunk in series of short quick flights|-33.65|151.13|10000
29,788	6055233	Calumet 26m. N.E. of Binnaway|-31.292|149.07|10000
29,789	6034273	Coomeroo near Thirlmere|-34.2779|150.5796|10000
29,790	5012499	Garrawilla, Mulalley Garrawilla (parish), Mulalley incorrect spelling= Mullaley|-31.08|149.92|100000
29,791	1094240	Lorien, 3km N of Lansdowne|-31.753487|152.537747|10000
29,792	1094240	Lorien, 8km N of Lansdowne, nr Taree|-31.753487|152.537747|10000
29,793	1128377	Woolondoon, Rowena, NSW|-18.709|143.7|10000
29,794	6059146	(Bottle E.) Penrith|-33.7513|150.6943|10000
29,795	1143515	(topside) Moores' Riv. (underside) Mogamber|-31.0355|116.0417|1000
29,796	1143518	(topside) Tammin (underside) Cunderin WA 10 mile heading E|-31.6514|117.3417|10000
29,797	5006728	7km from top end ofTucker Box Rd, Beaury SF|-28.4814|152.4303|100
29,798	5006085	0.25km S of jnct Tubrabucca & Omadale Brook Rds|-31.9153|151.4|100
29,799	1097488	0.7KM E OF WIRRINYA->CARAGABAL RD INTERSECTION. LINE HEADS E|-33.66811|147.81508|
29,800	1097219	0.9KM E OF WIRRINYA->CARAGABAL RD INTERSECTION. LINE HEADS E|-33.66811|147.81508|
29,801	5006285	0.9km S along Chaelundi rd from Big Bull Rd Mt Hyland Nat Res|-30.1539|152.4661|100
29,802	1144946	0-100m|-21.15|-175.23|10000
29,803	1108472	1 m. S. Crystal Springs, Nornalup National Park, WA, M.V. Lamp|-34.983828|116.606658|10000
29,804	1147680	1 mi. N. Quang Tri, Vietnam|16.76|107.1921|10000
29,805	1097272	1.2KM FROM EASTERN RD WHICH IS 350M S OF CAMP RD. LINE GOES S STARTING 20M FROM RD|-33.77156|147.79984|
29,806	1097274	1.2KM FROM EASTERN RD WHICH IS 350M S OF CAMP RD. LINE GOES S STARTING 220M FROM RD|-33.77156|147.79984|
29,807	6034377	1.8km N of ford on Karuah River on Karuah River Rd Chichester SF|-32.0994|151.7217|100
29,808	6034377	1.8km N of ford on Karuah River on Karuah River Rd. Chichester SF|-32.0994|151.7217|100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Transcribe Specimen labels

Validate Task: Australian Museum Cicada Expedition (ID: 7940)

Video tutorials: Introduction, Using the Mapping Tool & Transcribing

Specimen Information

Institution: AM
Project: Australian Museum Cicada Expedition
Catalogue No.: K266851
Taxa: Tettigarcta crinita

1. Transcribe All Text – Record exactly what appears in the labels so we have a searchable reference for them

NSW: Kosciusko
30 Mar 2000:
M.S.Moulds & S.McEvey

Australian Museum
K266851

symbols:

2. Collection Event – This records information directly from the label about when, where and by whom the specimen was collected. Only fill in fields for which information appears in the labels

Event Date	2000-03-30 [YYYY-MM-DD]	Verbatim Altitude	
Collector	M.S.Moulds & S.McEvey	Verbatim Latitude	symbols:
Collection Method		Verbatim Longitude	symbols:
Verbatim Locality	NSW: Kosciusko		

2. Collection Event – This records information directly from the label about when, where and by whom the specimen was collected. Only fill in fields for which information appears in the labels

Event Date: 2000-01-00 [YYYY-MM-DD]
Collector: M.S.Moulds & S.McEvey
Collection Method:
Verbatim Locality: NSW: Kosciusko

Verbatim Altitude:
Verbatim Latitude: symbols:
Verbatim Longitude: symbols:

3. Interpreted Location (Use mapping tool) – Use the mapping tool before attempting to enter values manually

Locality: Kosciuszko
Decimal Latitude: -36.45
Decimal Longitude: 148.16

State/Territory: New South Wales
Country: Australia
Coordinate Uncertainty in Meters: 10000

4. Identification – If a label contains information on the name of the organism then record the name and associated information in this section

Scientific Name: Tetragnatha [illegible]
Identifier:

Authorship:
Date Identified: [YYYY-MM-DD]
Type Status:

Notes – Record any comments here that may assist in validating this specimen

Transcriber Notes:
Validator Notes:

Validate | Dont validate | Skip | [is valid: | validatedBy:]

The big questions!

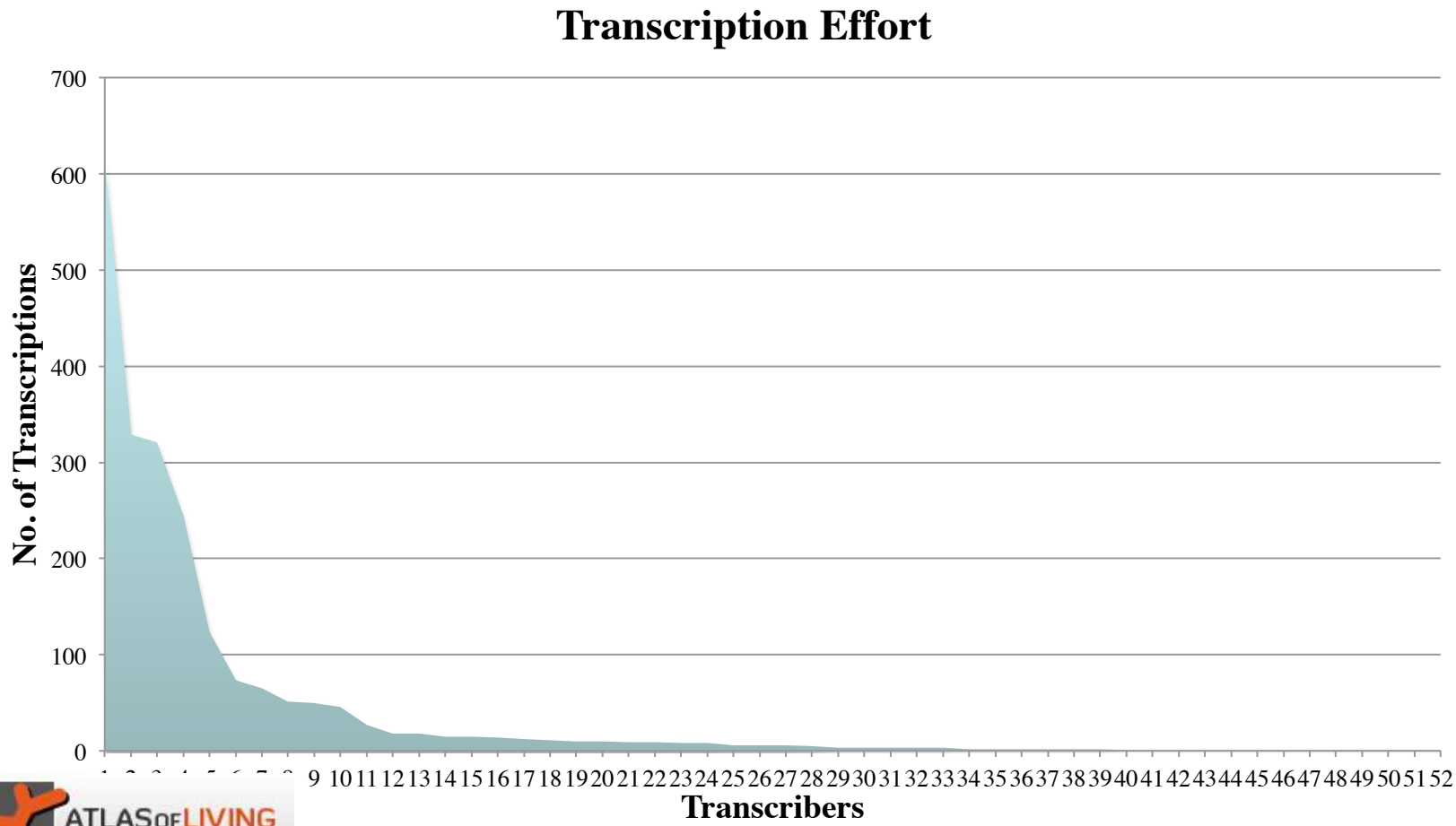
1. Is the quality of the transcribed data sufficient to justify the use of crowd-sourcing?

2. Is the crowd-sourcing resource an ongoing one or a fad that will quickly pass and not realize the benefits we hoped it would.

Other Issues to be considered?

1. Transcription versus georeferencing
2. Ease of georeferencing versus accuracy and reliability
3. The challenge of data repatration
4. Attracting volunteers and maintaining there interest

The transcription effort?



How to attract and retain volunteers?

Our experience suggests that in developing projects that seek to use crowd-sourcing we need to ensure:

1. we provide incentives for volunteers to be involved, such as:

    a. an attractive and easy to use transcription interface

    b. clear annunciation of the benefits to the institutions

    c. recognition of the efforts of the volunteers

2. that the digitisation outcome and products are not solely reliant on crowd-sourcing but are supplemented by it.

Is it worth the effort?

When considering it simply as label digitisation for entomological specimens - Maybe

For field note transcriptions – yet to be determined

If you consider it as an exercise in

- Outreach
- Education
- Collections Access

.....then the case is stronger but the jury is still out

Thank you

www.australianmuseum.com.au

nature culture **discover**

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