

Valuing access to the Atlas and Collections

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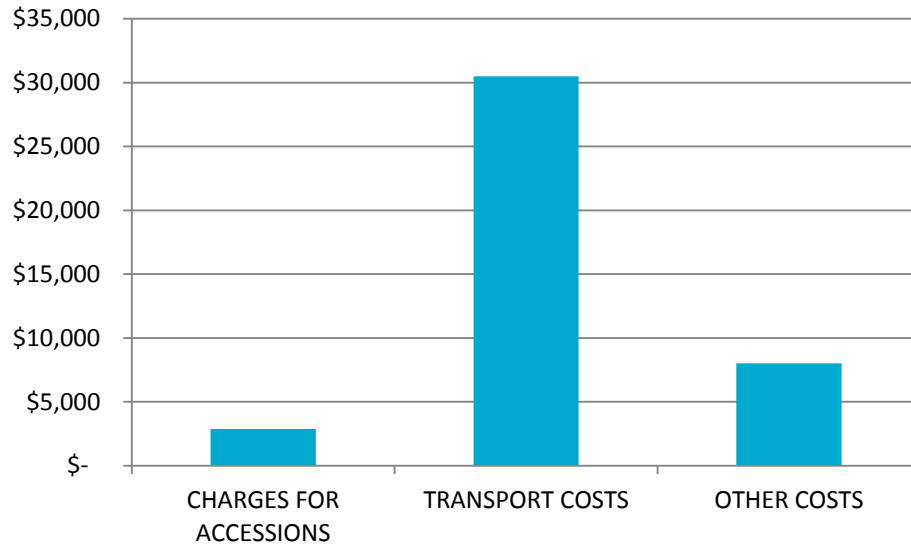
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Introduction

- Bio-resource collections maybe underutilised because of the transaction costs incurred in their use (Mwebaze & Bennett, 2014)
- Transaction costs include the time and resources spent searching, waiting, negotiating, applying for permits, filling reports and administering paperwork to secure access (McCan et al., 2005)
- One way to reduce transaction costs and foster greater utilisation of biodiversity information is via the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA)

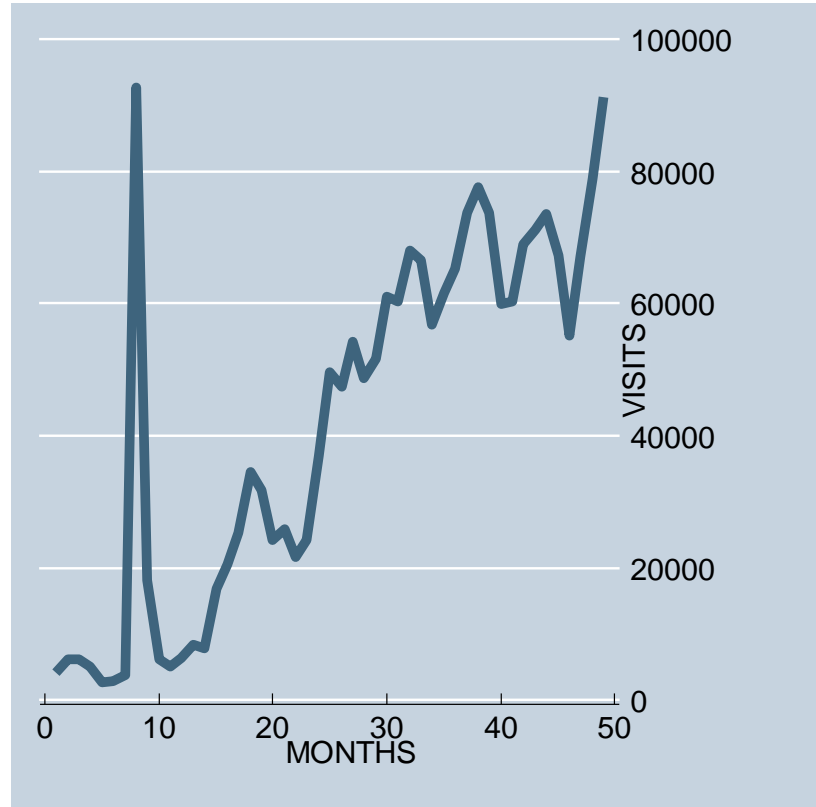
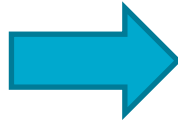
Example of transaction costs for collections



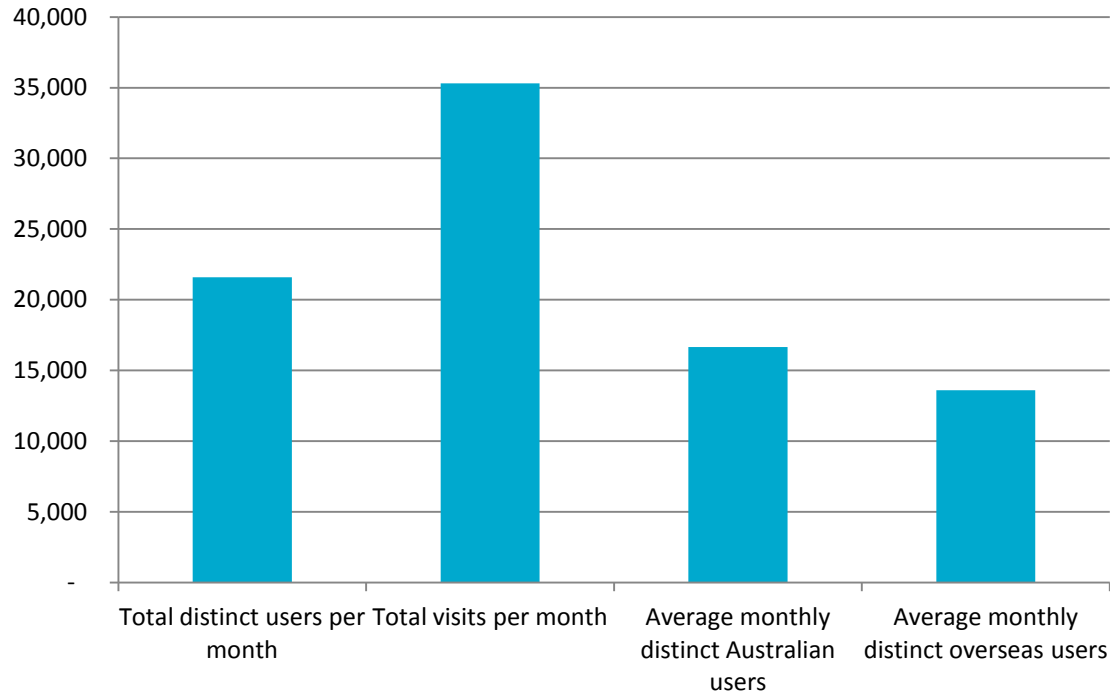
Source: Mwebaze & Bennett (2014). Valuing access to biological collections with contingent valuation and cost-benefit analysis. *Journal of Environmental Economics & Policy*

ATLAS-performance statistics

- Exponential growth in the use of the Atlas
- 1.5 billion records downloaded from the Atlas by April 2014
- Trend growth rate in the number of visits is about 6.5% per month or 73% per year



Performance statistics (2011-2012)



Cost-Benefit Analysis (Mwebaze & Bennett, 2014)

Benefits

1. Increased probability of development of new products
2. Reduced transaction costs
3. Provision of verified biodiversity information for Research and Development
4. Provision of a home for

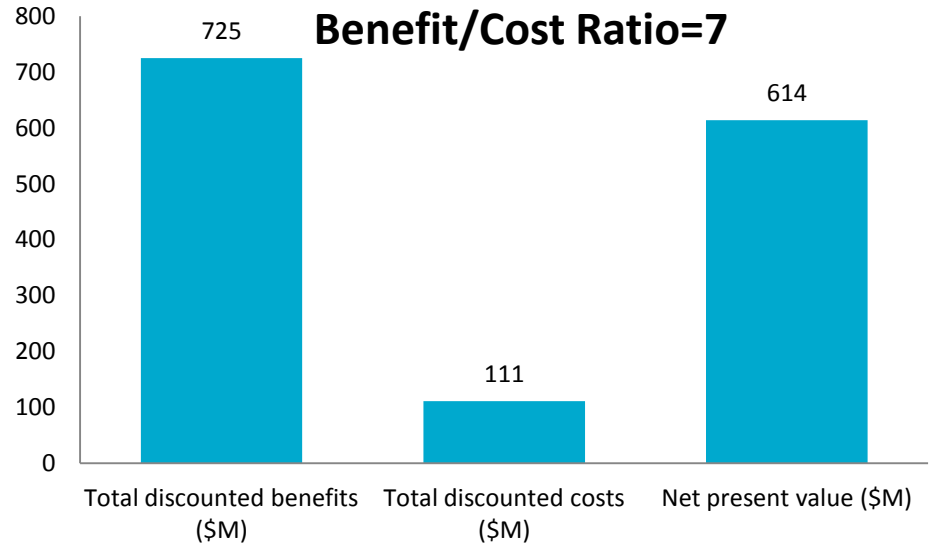
biodiversity at risk of being lost after original research.

Costs

1. Capital and operating costs including Internet portal, staff and central infrastructure
2. Costs associated with maintenance of the system

CBA (cont)

- Counterfactual is that of no database
- 15 year timeframe
- Discount rate of 7%
- Sensitivity analysis with Monte Carlo simulation
- Benefits outweigh the costs (BCR=7)
- The Atlas represents a good investment



Source: Mwebaze & Bennett (2014)

Thank you

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