

Dear private collection owner,

When it comes to privately owned natural history collections, these are often ‘hidden’ and may harbor highly valuable specimens for a specific taxon or (local) geographic range. On a European scale, these private collections combined are expected to form a significant part of the natural history collections as a whole. Therefore, it is important to include private collections in Europe’s digitisation efforts of natural history collections, which is currently being explored within the ICEDIG project, a design study for the DiSSCo research infrastructure (icedig.eu and dissco.eu).

With this questionnaire, we hope to get an idea of the volume, scope and level of digitisation of private collections within Europe. In addition, we would like to know what kind of resources private collection owners need for digitisation and dissemination of their private collections. The outcomes of the questionnaire will be used to write guidelines for the digitisation of private collections, to perform a couple of pilot digitisation pilots of private collections and to present information about private collections to policy and decision makers. If we can show that there are many interesting private collections in Europe, we can make a strong case to focus on these natural history collections as well. It is therefore of great importance that this questionnaire is completed by as many private collection owners as possible.

The questionnaire consists of 20 questions and requires less than 10 minutes to complete. We ask you to fill out the questionnaire before the 17th of September.

Please use the following link to complete the questionnaire:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/77MQCLR>

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

Luc Willemse (Head of Entomological and Geological Collections)

and

Emily van Egmond,

Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, the Netherlands

GDPR statement

By completing the questionnaire, and in compliance with the new EU regulations on GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), you give your consent to store your data for the purpose of this survey. We will not share the data with any third party and you can opt out at any time with an email to emily.vanegmond@naturalis.nl. You can participate anonymously, except for when you are interested to receive a summary of the results of the questionnaire, for which we will need your name and email address for distribution purposes.