



Big Data from Europe's Natural Science Collections through DiSSCo

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DiSSCo, a Distributed System of Scientific Collections, will be a Research Infrastructure delivering big data describing the history of Planet Earth. Approximately 1.5 billion biological and geological specimens, representing the last 300 years of scientific study on the natural world, reside in collections all over Europe. These span 4.5 billion years of history, from the formation of the solar system to the present day.

In the European landscape of environmental Research Infrastructures, different projects and landmarks describe services that aim at aggregating, monitoring, analysing and modelling geo-diversity information. The effectiveness of these services, however, is based on the quality and availability of primary reference data that today is scattered and incomplete. DiSSCo provides the required bio-geographical, taxonomic and species trait data at the level of precision and accuracy required to enable and speed up research for the rapidly growing seven grand societal challenges that are priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy.

DiSSCo enables better connections between collection data and observations in biodiversity observation networks, such as EU BON and GEOBON. This supports research areas like long term ecological research, for which the continuity and long term research is a strength of biological collections.