

# SURVEY FOR USERS OF AUSTRALIA'S BIOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water Population and Communities (DSEWPC) has commissioned this survey to gather the views of users of Australia's biological collections. These collections include some of Australia's unique animal and plant specimens being preserved in Museums, Botanic Gardens, CSIRO, Research Centres and Universities. The survey is being conducted by the Environmental Economics Research Hub (EERH) at the Australia National University (ANU). The results of the survey will be used to help plan for the future management of national biological collections. We would appreciate a few minutes of your time to fill out this questionnaire. Please rest assured that all information you provide will be treated with full confidentiality. Thank you for your cooperation!

## SECTION A: THE COLLECTIONS

We would like to know your experience and perceptions of Australia's biological collections. Please provide detailed responses where possible.

### Q1. Which Australian biological collections have you used over the past 12 months?

	Type of collections:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Botanical collections:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Entomology collections:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife collections:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marine collections:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Germplasm (crop) collections:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pathology/Rhizobia collections
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mycology collections
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):

### Q2. What did you use a collection for?

	Main reasons for using collections:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identification:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Loan request:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teaching purpose:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Information on research results:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial applications:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Preparation of a book/journal/manuscript:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Genetic resource for crop improvement/crop genetic research
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):

### Q3. What problems (if any) did you get in using biological collections?

<input type="checkbox"/>	High costs of searching for collections:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of information about collections:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of access to collections:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Limited availability of collections:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access to data on provenance/source,.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Linkage with other biotechnological data/synonyms in other collections
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):

**Q4. Did you incur any expenditure associated with your use of biological collections?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes →go to Q5	<input type="checkbox"/> No→Go to Q6
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**Q5. Please give details of expenditures associated with the use of biological collections.**

	Items- Amount (\$)	2008	2009	2010
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charges for accessions			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transport/Parking fees			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Total			

**Q6. Who are the beneficiaries of your work using biological collections?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxonomists:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental managers:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Readers of scientific journals:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Students:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other researchers:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plant breeders, curators etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

**Q7. How important were the biological collections to your work? Please tick one box below.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not important at all	Somewhat important	Moderately important	Very important	Essential

**SECTION B:**

Please consider the following scenario. Suppose that the government were to invest funds to develop infrastructure (e.g. server, internet portals etc) to bring together all national biological collections into a central database, available online. This would result in lower search costs for collection users. However, it might require the introduction of a 'user fee' to maintain the new database in the long-term. Suppose that collection users were asked to contribute funds for this new central database of collections through user fees.

**Q8. Would your department, organisation or institution be willing to pay an annual subscription fee of ...  to purchase access to the new central database?**

Yes→Q9.  No.→Q9/Q10.

[Note: The amount in the box takes on seven different values: \$50, \$100, \$150, \$200, \$250, \$300 and \$400. It needs to be distributed equally among the respondents.]

**Q9. What is the most that you would be prepared to pay every year, through a subscription fee, to purchase access to this new database? \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Q10. What is the main reason you are not willing to pay? [Tick only one box]**

<input type="checkbox"/>	No need for the new central database of collections
<input type="checkbox"/>	Australian Government must provide support
<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't have to pay elsewhere
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am not able to afford to pay for it
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):

**Q11. Please approximate the number of people employed in your organisation: \_\_\_\_\_**

**SECTION C: ABOUT YOU**

**Finally some questions about you to make sure that we have a representative sample. This will help us to see how well this study reflects the general population of Australia. Your answers are strictly confidential. You will not be identified in any way.**

**Q12. Please indicate your gender below.**

- Female                       Male

**Q13. How old are you?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Years

**Q14. What is your highest level of education?**

<input type="checkbox"/> I did not finish high school	<input type="checkbox"/> University-undergraduate
<input type="checkbox"/> Primary school only	<input type="checkbox"/> University-postgraduate
<input type="checkbox"/> Secondary school-year 10/12	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Diploma or certificate	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q15. What is your present occupation?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Employed
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-employed
<input type="checkbox"/> Student
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired:
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

**Q16. Please state your profession: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Q17. Please approximate your household income last year [Tick one of the boxes below]**

<input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$80,000-\$100,000
<input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000-\$40,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000-\$120,000
<input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000-\$ 60,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120,000-\$140,000
<input type="checkbox"/> \$60,000-\$80,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Over \$140,000