Arctos Collection Management Solution

What Arctos Values

Arctos is about connectivity! We believe that museum objects-- the natural and cultural items that museums curate-- need to be comprehensively documented and connected to maximize their value and usefulness to research and society. We believe in connecting people to a professional community of museum science and technology practitioners who enable the knowledge network represented by Arctos. Together, we connect museum records across collections and institutions, linking to any person who collected, prepared or used the object, to any media of it (photos, videos, sound), and to any publications about the cataloged item, so users can explore its entire data ecosystem.

What Arctos Delivers

Community

- **Community of Practice** - join a network of peers who provide and manage biodiversity data
- **Community Knowledge** - training (webinars, how-tos, handbook) and documentation are developed by Arctos users who are working with the system daily. Ask the community for help if you can't find what you need in the documentation. New collections are assigned a Mentor so you start your Arctos experience with a direct connection to the community.
- **Community Driven Development** - help shape the Arctos technology with your needs.
- **Extended community** - By joining Arctos, you will not need to choose between existing networks if you are already part of another network; for example, Arctos can continue to share with other portals, publishing to aggregators such as GBIF, iDigBio, SCAN, SeiNet, VertNet.
- **Collaborators** - participate in collaborative projects and proposals.

Compliance

- **Comply** with the reporting requirements of the National Park Service (NPS), your State Parks, or other agencies by assigning identifiers or creating projects and providing URLs
- **Track** funding, impact, records, and share with anyone through a dedicated Arctos Project web page.
- **Publish** beyond Arctos with easy, automated **DarwinCore** publishing
- **Link** to information outside of Arctos through reciprocal links with NCBI's GenBank, automatically generated links with GBIF and iDigBio, and with any other resource at a stable url.
- **Manage** permit dates, numbers, and agencies and relate them to accessions to ensure appropriate collection documentation.

Infrastructure

- **Just Play! (no plug needed)** Arctos is cloud-based, so no specialized software is needed beyond an internet connection and a browser.
- **No local IT staff necessary** and our Arctos Programmers know natural history and museum science.
- **Customized Permission control**- each user has access to only what they need in the database
- **Functional and growing API**, which means you are welcome to build your own user interface or you can use the Arctos web service.
- **DOI/publication system** is built-in helping grow your collection's impact factor
- **Code tables and collection structure** are built-in, so new collections do not have to start from scratch.
- **Taxonomy**, the choice is yours: use the Arctos' controlled taxonomy, or your own, or any external taxonomic source.
- **Object Tracking** is integrated with specimen data; so when objects move, the change in location is reflected in the catalog record.
- **Mapping tools** are built-in, including Google Maps look-ups, Geolocate, and BerkeleyMapper.
- **A Complete Package** - All Arctos features are equally available to all Arctos users (we are a community after all); there are no premium or subscription level access to features.

Data You Care About

- **Extended Specimen** - integrate data across collections and institutions within Arctos and link to external sources of related information. Relationships are searchable across collections and institutions within Arctos and linkable to external databases
- **Media** - Track and integrate all media (images, videos, sound recordings, 3D models, scans of original notes) assets related to your cataloged items.
- **Easy extensions** - Arctos can accommodate a specialized high-flow data entry project
- **Data Normalization** - A best practice for database management, the goal of data normalization is to reduce and even eliminate data redundancy; enhance query and data entry efficiency; and increase data quality and accuracy. Normalization enhances data discovery.
- **Clean Data** - Arctos requires clean data and provides tools to help you manage and clean your collection datasets.
- **People** - Arctos can track people through their entire careers across multiple institutions and research projects.
    - Track connections between professors and students, employees of agencies and collections, volunteer positions, etc.
    - Students can use their Arctos Agent page as a link in their resume!

Find out More

HTTPS://ARCTOSDB.ORG
HTTPS://ARCTOS.DATABASE.MUSEUM

Released 2021-03-15