

SwissCollNet Conference 2026

Preliminary Programme

Moderator: Britta Allgöwer, Member of the SCNAT Executive Committee and the SwissCollNet Steering Board

8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome Barbara König, Vice-President of the SCNAT Executive Committee and Member of the SwissCollNet Steering Board
9:10 – 10:25	SESSION 1 - NATIONAL DIGITISATION INITIATIVES
25 min.	Natural history collections: Infrastructure caught between a rock and a hard place Christoph Scheidegger, President of the SwissCollNet Steering Board, SCNAT, Bern, Switzerland
25 min.	The development of Récolnat in France François Dusoulier, Head Curator at Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle and Head of Récolnat, Paris, France
25 min.	Weaving collections into national research infrastructure: A South African approach Anthony Magee, Director of the Natural Science Collections Facility, South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria, South Africa
30 min.	Coffee Break
10:55 – 12:10	SESSION 2 - PERSPECTIVES ON COLLECTION NETWORKS
25 min.	Connecting past knowledge to present and future challenges. Unlocking the potential of natural history collections Ana Casino, Executive Director of CETAF (Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities), Brussels, Belgium
25 min.	The best of both minds: How DiSSCo combines human expertise and machine annotation to scale specimen-based science Dimitris Koureas, Executive Director of DiSSCo (Distributed System of Scientific Collections), Leiden, The Netherlands
25 min.	The new face of SwissCollNet Matthias Meier, Co-President of musnatcoll.ch and Director of Naturmuseum St.Gallen, Switzerland Pia Stieger, Head of SwissCollNet, SCNAT, Bern, Switzerland
70 min.	Lunch Break
13:20 – 14:25	SESSION 3 - PERSPECTIVES ON COLLECTION DATA
15 min.	Geological Collections Data

25 min

From drawers to data: connecting Swiss collections to the biodiversity data landscape

Sofia Wyler, Swiss Node Manager at GBIF Switzerland (Global Biodiversity Information Facility), Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Glenn Litsios, Director of info fauna, Neuchâtel, Switzerland

25 min.

GBIF at 25: a foundation in collections makes a global biodiversity network and infrastructure possible

Joe Miller, Executive Secretary and Director of GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility), Copenhagen, Denmark

14:25 - 15:05

SESSION 4 - USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN COLLECTIONS

25 min.

Unlocking collections: Building scalable digitisation pipelines with AI

Arianna Salili-James, Senior Researcher, Machine Learning, AI & Innovation team at Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom

15 min.

Accelerating natural history collection digitization through applied artificial intelligence

Michael Greeff, Curator of the Entomological Collection of ETH Zürich, Switzerland

Nadir Alvarez, Director of Naturéum, Muséum cantonal des sciences naturelles, Lausanne, Switzerland

30 min.

Coffee Break

15:35 - 16:35

Opportunities and challenges over the next 10 years

Panel discussion

16:35 - 17:00

Retrospective and acknowledgements

17:00 - 19:00

Closure and apéro