Biodiversity Partners in Informatics:Natural History Museums and Field Stations

Michelle Koo*, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology;
John Deck*, Berkeley Natural History Museums;
David Ackerly, UC&Jepson Herbaria;
Heather Constable, UC Natural Reserve System;
Becca Fenwick, UC Natural Reserve System;
Rosemary Gillespie, Essig Museum of Entomology;
Joyce Gross, Berkeley Natural History Museums;
Charles Marshall, Museum of Paleontology





Longterm Biodiversity Partners in Informatics:

Longterm, in two meanings:

- historically, organizations founded on average 100 years ago
- our future is dependent on commitment to collaborations and partnerships necessary for research and sustainability

Longterm repositories for natural history data needed for research to understand change and predict the future



Challenge

Making high-quality natural history data accessible in easy to use portals without programming.





Berkeley Natural History Museums:

Observational Datasets: Georeferenced specimens

o Vertebrates: >700,000 specimens (100% digitized)

o Plants: 2.2 million specimens (~18%)

o Fossils: 6.5 million specimens (<5%)

o Insects: 6.5 million specimens (<2.5%)





938M observational records so far!



Berkeley Natural History Museums:

Observational Datasets: Natural History Images

CalPhotos - over 600,000 images









Diversity Database

Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles Taxonomy **Database**



ETC

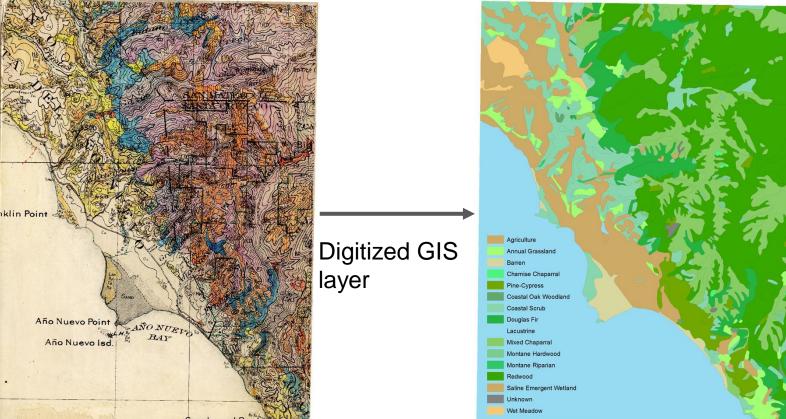








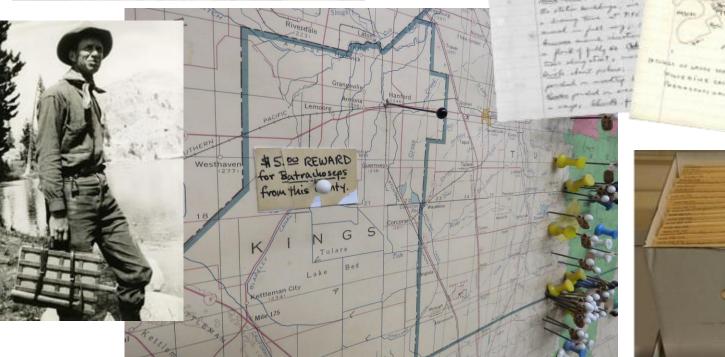
Hand drawn veg cover on 15" topoquads





Berkeley Natural History Museums: Archives





Personal Papers

- -Field notes
- -Manuscripts
- -Faculty papers
- -Photographs

Museum Records

Annotated maps

Pictorial media

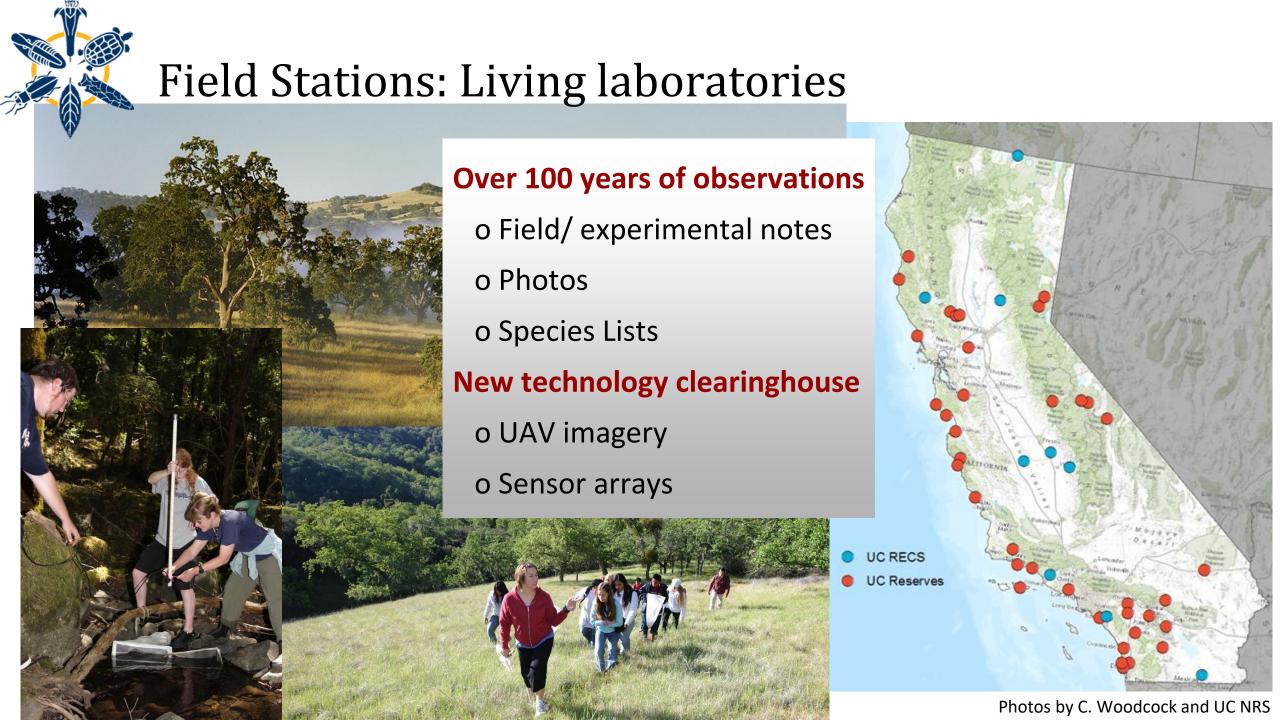
- -Prints
- -Negatives
- -35mm slides
- -Glass plate negatives
- -Lantern slides
- -Moving film

Correspondence

Rare books

Fine Art

Born digital content



Solutions

Using flexible, modern tools and languages, build easy to use portals that *integrate* datasets.

DEMOS

ReserveMapper

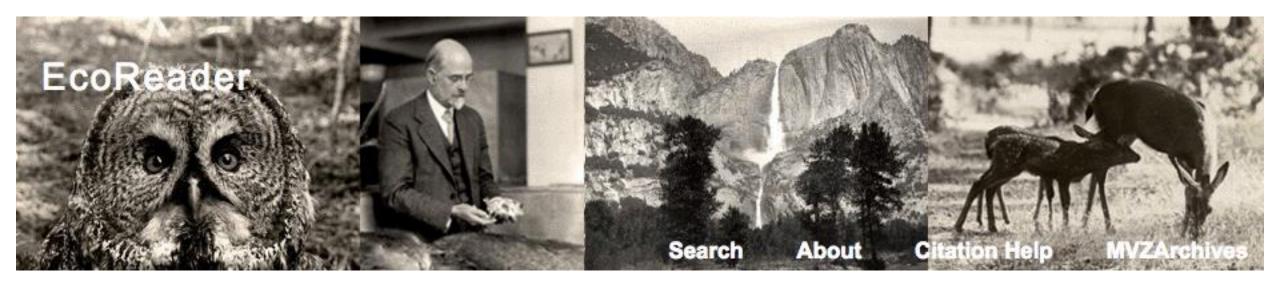
(https://reservemapper.berkeley.edu/)

EcoReader

(http://ecoreader.berkeley.edu/)

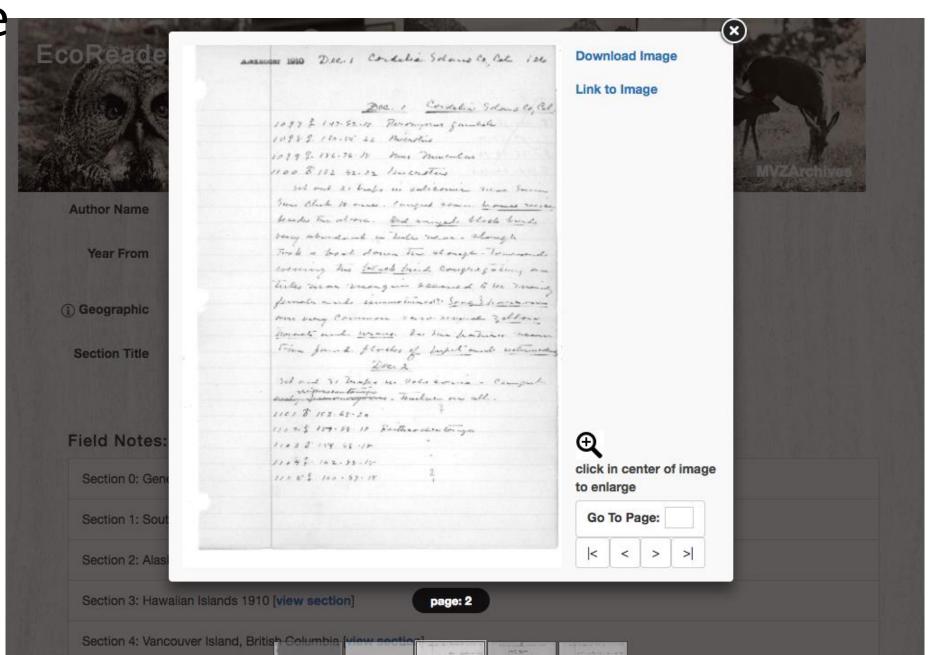
EcoReader (http://ecoreader.berkeley.edu/)

- Search and read fieldnotes online
- "Metadata Object Description" files generated from Archivist Toolkit to populate dropdown query interfaces
- Supports Geographic searches
- Dynamic link to hosted digitized field note pages
- Created modular system to support multiple installations.



EcoReader -- Search and Read Field Notes

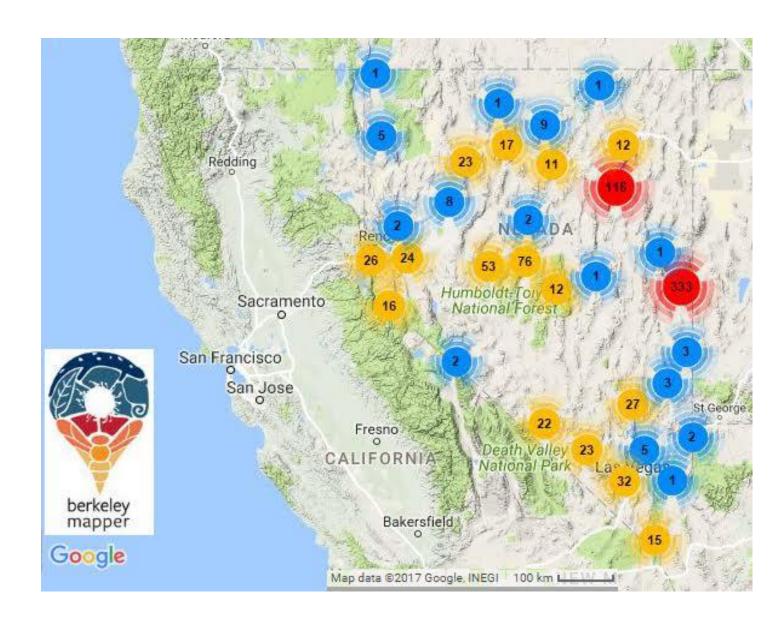
Online



BerkeleyMapper

• Embedded in:

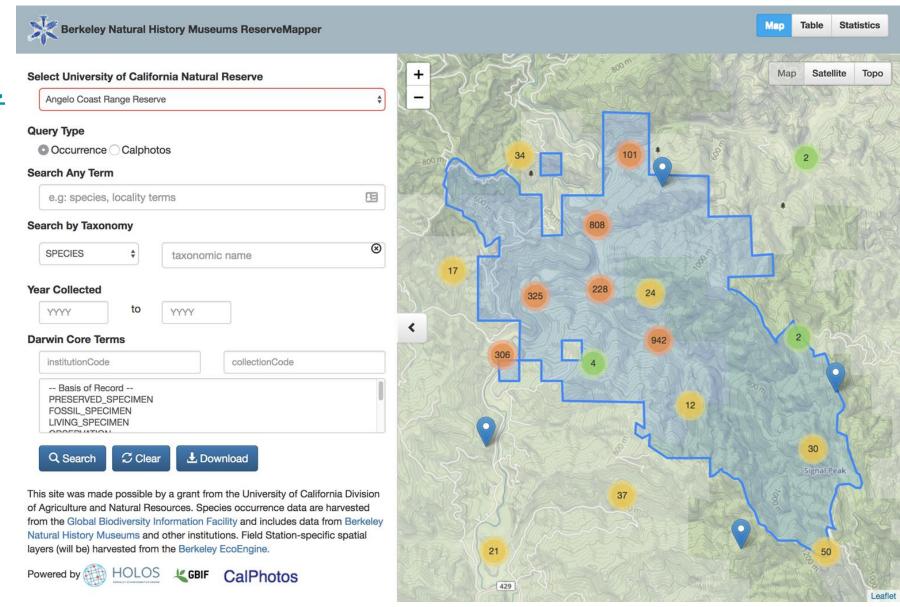
AmphibiaWeb, Arctos (MVZ), CSPACE (UCJEPS/PAHMA), Consortium of California Herbaria, UCMP, Essig Museum of Entomology



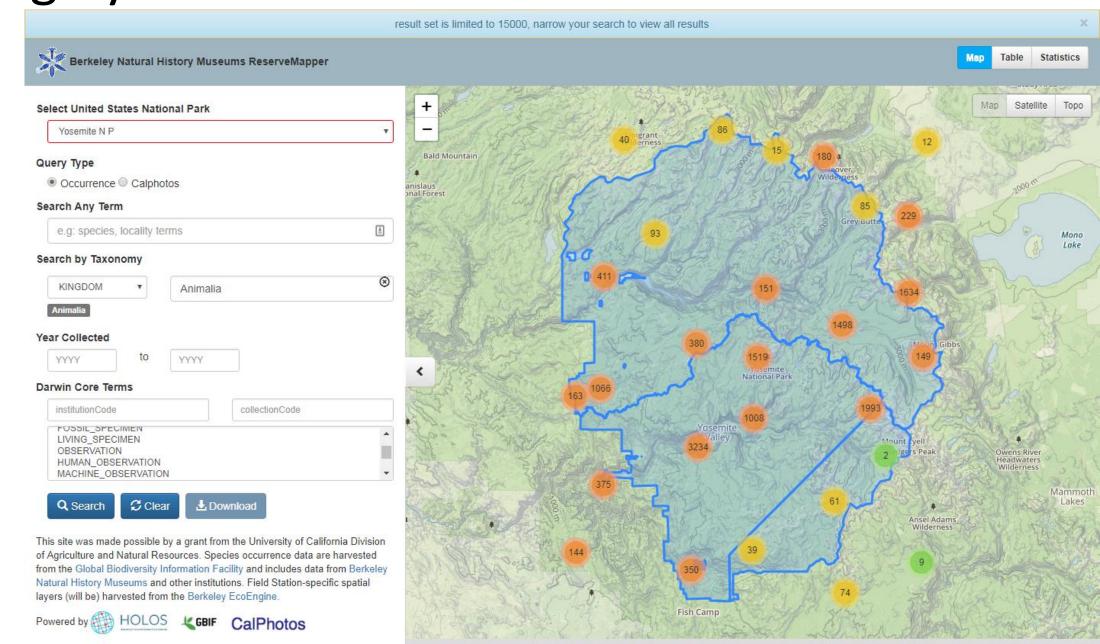
ReserveMapper - Mapping by Reserves

https://reservemapper.
berkeley.edu/

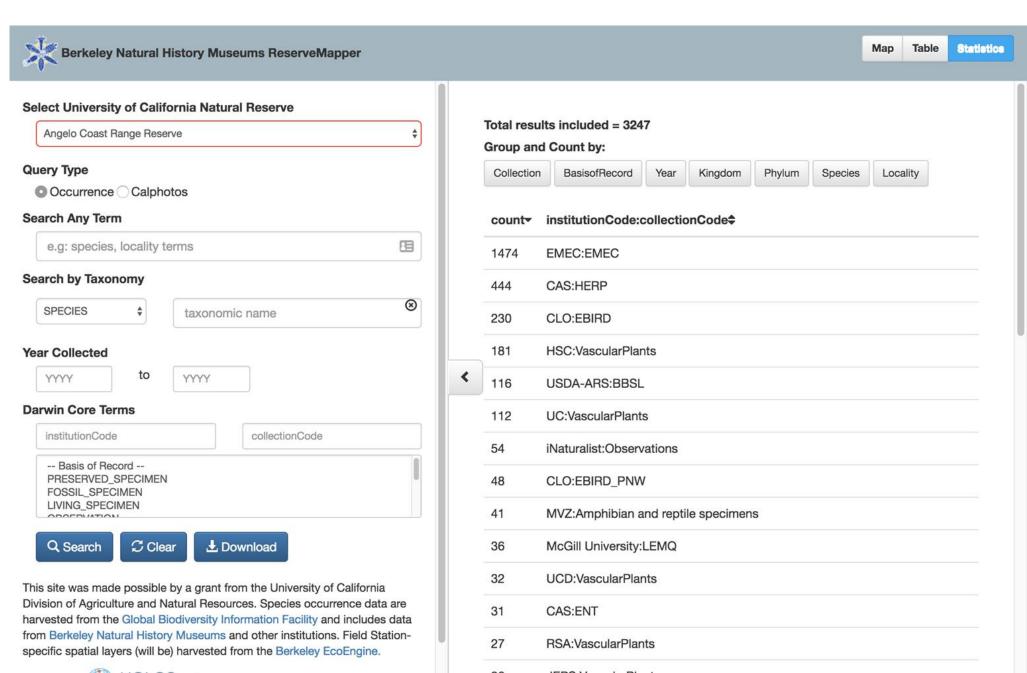
Easy to use API viewer and data discovery tool



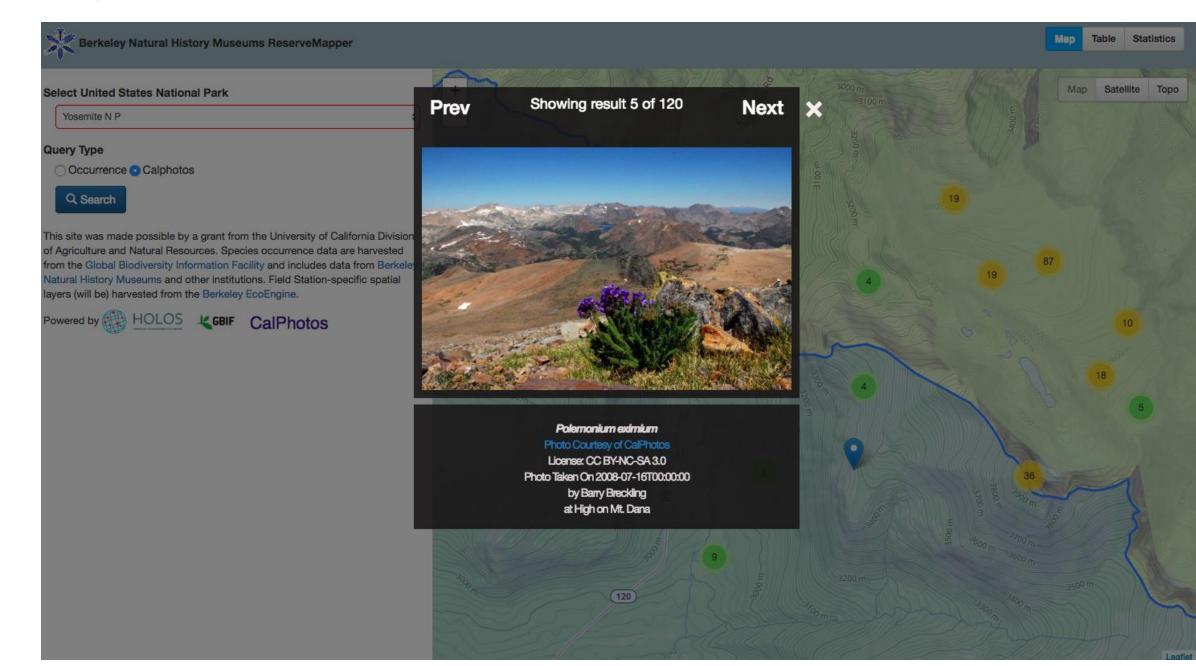
Mapping by National Parks



Statistics on Results



Mapping CalPhotos



Thanks to the Berkeley Natural History Museums IT Committee

Chair of Directors, Charles Marshall

Jason Alexander, UC & Jepson Herbaria

Michael Black, Hearst Museum of Anthropology

Carla Cicero, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology

Patricia Holroyd, Museum of Paleontology

Holly Forbes, UC Botanical Garden

Peter Oboyski, Essig Museum of Entomology