

Florida Museum of Natural History  
Herbarium & Informatics, Department of Natural History

354 Dickinson Hall  
PO Box 117800  
Gainesville, FL 32611-7800  
Tel. 352-273-1979  
Fax 352-846-1861  
ncellinese@flmnh.ufl.edu

Dr. Arlin Stoltzfus  
National Institute of Standards and Technology  
9600 Gudelsky Drive  
Rockville, MD

Dr. Rutger Vos  
School of Biological Sciences  
University of Reading  
Reading, RG6 6BX  
United Kingdom

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Dear Arlin, Enrico and Rutger,

I am very excited to know that you are proposing a NESCent Working Group that includes a series of hackathons with the goal of promoting interoperability through a deployment of the foundational technologies provided by CDAO, PhyloWS and NeXML as key resources.

As you know, I am very interested in data integration and interoperability, and as part of my own development with TOLKIN ([www.tolkin.org](http://www.tolkin.org)), I would be able to offer a test-bed that serves as reference implementation for your development. Reference implementations, especially when viewed as an essential component of standards development, help to identify problems early on, and optimize usability for the phyloinformatics community.

Given the diverse data types and associated metadata stored in TOLKIN, it serves as an ideal test-bed for reference implementation of standards and specifications developed through the Working Group. In addition, current TOLKIN workflow development adds considerable significance for testing the applicability and benefits of the foundational technologies.

I am willing to sponsor one TOLKIN programmer to participate to one Hackathon during the first year, and one postdoc from my lab to participate in coding activities during years 2 and 3, that is, a total of 3 person-trips worth of support.

I wish you the best for the success of your proposal.

Sincerely,



Nico Cellinese  
Assistant Curator, Herbarium & Informatics

Assistant Professor, Department of Biology