#CitSciNZ2018

ROUNDTABLE: MANAGING & MAINTAINING DATA QUALITY

Moderator: Andrea Wiggins, University of Nebraska, USA

Contributors: Te Papa, Community trust education specialist, Victoria University, GWRC scientist/ecologists, University of Otago, Massey University, Community group.

Ask 'What do scientists want to know?' 'What do citizens want to know?'

'How do you win over sceptical scientists?'

- Make the process transparent by demonstrating it. Have a plan for analysis, data archiving and accessibility
- Highlight what citizen science can achieve that other methods can't
- Manage processes so that scientists won't 'get overrun by over-enthusiastic volunteers' - good volunteer management is key
- Scale-up in a scaffolded manner

Support volunteers

- Upskill volunteers - Provide funding for training. Pair with other methods for QA.
- Give citizen scientists encouraging feedback about errors
- Engage with volunteers to maximise retention of training
- Recognise and don't confuse educational motivations, science question motivations, citizen motivations to engage

Methods

- Trade-off between existing standard methods (developed by scientists) vs quick and easy methods - can they be integrated?
- Keep the tasks simple e.g., restrict species ID to a small subset
- Use indicator species, support materials and puppets to teach children
- Cross-validation for correcting errors – this is 'gentler' if from peer review not just experts
- Compare with historical baselines
- Match-make between 'analysts' and data collectors
- Use Existing platforms: citsci.org, eBird, NatureWatch NZ/ iNaturalist, Trap.NZ, CatchIT - 60 + exist for biodiversity - learn from similar projects elsewhere

---

Notes revised by Monica Peters, people+science