

Understanding the impact of your collection through value scoring: what have we learned so far?

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What is a “valuable” plant? Depending on the focus of your mission as an institution, whether it is research, conservation, education, horticulture or heritage, some plants in your collection are regarded as more valuable than others. But how do you measure this value across a collection? How are your value judgments impacted by the collections of others? Are these values well-defined and understood within your institution? Do you find it difficult to communicate these values and your mission to stakeholders and visitors? Are you confident that your plant collection is evolving in the right direction? These are some of the questions that a Collection Value Scoring Approach is trying to address. With more reliable plant collection metrics, your institution will also be in a much better position to move from individual hunches to truly data-driven decisions. The fundamental concepts around Collection Value Scoring (CVS) were introduced a few years ago and we are gradually gaining a better understanding of how to apply CVS. Join our session to hear three different perspectives on CVS, what lessons they have learned, and their thoughts about what the future of CVS might look like. What impact does CVS already have on the management of collections? Can these concepts be applied to meta-collections and global conservation initiatives? How can technology help and what are the biggest challenges ahead? Our panel consists of Martin Smit, Curator at Utrecht University Botanic Gardens, the largest and one of the oldest University Botanic Gardens in the Netherlands. Havard Ostgaard, the Director of Botanical Solutions, and Dr Waheed Arshad, the Botanical Scientist on the Hortis team at Species360, share their insights on how technology can empower botanical institutions to harness the potential of Collection Value Scoring.