

Selected web shots of the survey instrument.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the homepage of the NSTC/COS Interagency Working Group on Scientific Collections Survey. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://iwgsc.ida.org/>. The page has a blue header with the title "NSTC/COS Interagency Working Group on Scientific Collections Scientific Collections Survey Homepage".

On the left side, there is a vertical navigation menu with the following links: Home, IWGSC Charter, IWGSC Member List, OMB, OSTP, FY 2007 Administration R&D Budget Priorities, Agency Director Stewardship Survey, Archaeological Anthropological and Ethnographic Collections Survey, Botanical Collections Survey, Cellular & Tissue Collections Survey, Chemical Collections Survey, Geological and Geophysical Collections Survey, Invertebrate Zoology Collections Survey, Paleontology Collections Survey, Vertebrate Zoology Collections Survey, Technological Collections Survey, Other (NEC) Collections Survey, **FAQs**, and **Questions or Comments**. The last two links are circled in red.

The main content area is titled "Welcome!" and contains the following text:

On behalf of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), the Committee on Science (COS) and our Interagency Working Group on Scientific Collections (IWGSC), we thank you for participating in this survey of object-based scientific collections. The information that you provide will be used to develop a coordinated strategy for object-based scientific collections maintained or financially supported by the US Federal government. The aim of our NSTC/COS interagency working group is to:

- Evaluate the state of object-based scientific collections at, supported by or used by US Federal agencies or in federally supported activities;
- Foster the coordination of collections activities across the Federal agencies; and
- Increase government and public awareness of the importance and use of collections.

We have developed surveys in 9 areas, each designed to gather information about object-based scientific collections. The appropriate survey or surveys should be completed by the person or persons responsible for managing or maintaining the collection(s).

We also invite Agency Directors to complete a separate survey describing the care and maintenance of these collections by their agencies.

INSTRUCTIONS

From the list on the left, choose the survey (or surveys) whose title most closely characterizes the composition of the object-based scientific collection(s) for which you have responsibility.

Once you have selected a survey from the list, please follow the instructions that are provided on the survey form.

COLLECTIONS INCLUDED IN THIS STUDY

This study includes only object-based scientific collections maintained or financially supported by the Federal government, and any ancillary materials directly related to the object-based scientific collections.

Object-based scientific collections are defined as collections primarily acquired, maintained and used for scientific research, such as natural and physical science specimens, living animals and plants, archaeological and ethnographic objects, or technological objects of current or contemporary design.

Ancillary collections are defined as collections of important materials associated with an object-based scientific collection, but only if the material is directly used for scientific research, such as archival and library materials, audio and visual media, or data that might reside in databases.

COLLECTIONS EXCLUDED FROM THIS STUDY

Collections of data (both analog and digital) or databases containing such data are **excluded** from this study unless they are attached to an object-based scientific collection, in which case they may be treated as ancillary collections. (See previous section). Such collections will be addressed by the NSTC/COS separately.

Historic and artistic collections that do not function as scientific collections are **excluded** from the survey. Library collections are also excluded unless the collection is important for understanding the object-based scientific collection.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The information solicited in this study is collected under the authority of the National Science and Technology Council (Executive Order 12881, 1993.) Any

Figure 1. Homepage of survey instrument with link to “FAQ” and “Question and Answer” pages highlighted.

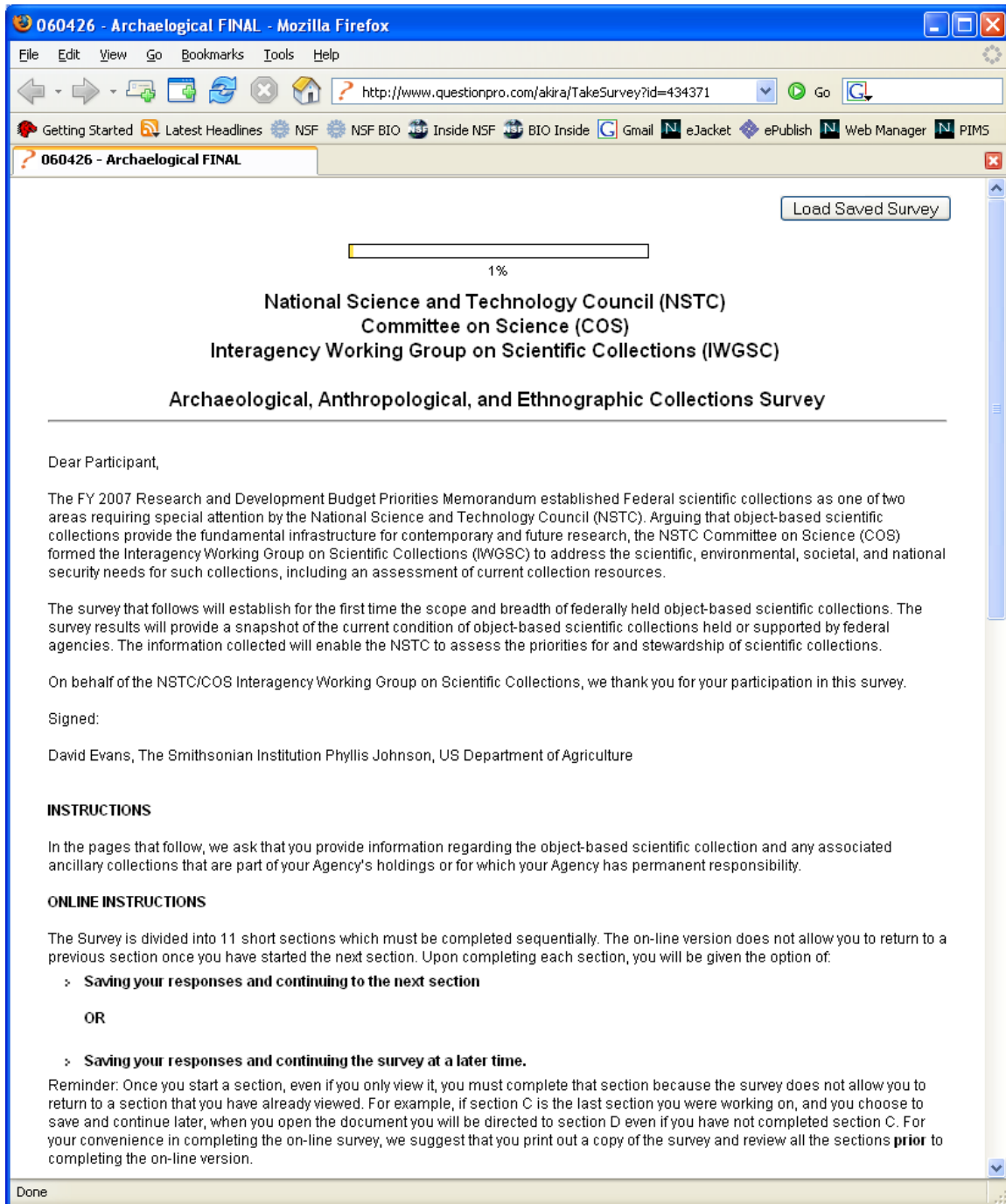


Figure 2. Screenshot of first page of electronic survey.