

# TIZEN SCIENCE

ic research conducted, in whole or in part, by amateur or nonprofessional sci

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# PARTICIPANTS & AGENDA

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10 John Orcutt: Introduction

15 Julia Parrish: The role of citizen science in coastal observations

15 Mairi Best: European initiatives in Citizen Science

15 RCN discussion and future directions

15 Adjourn

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analysis of data;  
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# OpenScientist

Projects and opinions from the world of Citizen Science. Because getting started is easy.



**Will you be attending the 2015 Citizen Science Conference (February 11-12) in San Jose, CA? Registration is now open [here](#).**

**Do you want to help support the Conference? Help with the Conference [Crowdfunding efforts here](#).**

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

## Crowdfunding Citizen Science: Is it Working?

Funding for citizen science has been preoccupying me recently. In most cases I think about creating business models that can develop and use funds that support the field. But that's not the only option. Scientists are well-versed in requesting grant funds for citizen science support, and over the last few years crowd-funding has also been used. In fact the 2015 Citizen Science Conference is requesting [crowd-funding assistance](#). But is it working?



**Photo Courtesy:**  
Flickr user: 401(K) 2012

I've done a (very) preliminary analysis and made it publicly available on the web. Feel free to add or modify if you'd like. You'll see this is not a rigorous analysis...just a basic search of four sites (RocketHub, Experiment, IndieGoGo, and Kickstarter) for the phrase "citizen science." While this leaves out many potential projects it still reveals a lot for or purposes here.

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- Finalizing a Definition of "Citizen Science" and "Citizen Scientist"
- Citizen Science Genius and Renaissance Fool - The

# HISTORY OF CITIZEN SCIENCE

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"Citizen science" is a fairly new term but an old practice. Up to the 20th century, science was often the pursuit of amateur scientists, amateur or self-funded researchers such as Sir Isaac Newton, Benjamin Franklin, and Charles Darwin. By the mid-20th Century, however, science was dominated by researchers employed by universities and government research laboratories.

# ENDING

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found 18 projects spanning the last few years. Why is this? Partly I think it's because of how citizen science (as a term or identifiable field) is still not completely clear. So projects that may be citizen science by our definitions would not use the term to describe or market themselves.

The total of all these projects came out to a mere \$81,000. Citizen science can be a very cost effective way to do research, but \$81,000 is not nearly enough to fund many projects. Especially when those projects only raised \$62,000 (76%) of that amount. The remaining 19% is missing.

Looking even more closely at these individually, many are not specifically citizen science projects. Instead they use citizen science as one small part of the research, or it is a broader project that impacts citizen scientists as one of many audiences. Again, it's not enough to make a significant impact.

# AMPLES

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Galaxy Zoo

TI@home

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

ARIB Tails

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