Globus at the Smithsonian

Globus is a secure, high-performance data transfer platform that enables Smithsonian staff to move large datasets between storage systems and share data with external collaborators. Whether you're transferring terabytes of genomic data, archival video collections, high-resolution imagery, or field research files, Globus handles it reliably, even if you close your laptop or your connection drops mid-transfer.

All Smithsonian staff can log into Globus right now at app.globus.org using their Smithsonian network credentials, no registration, VPN, or Smithsonian network connection required.
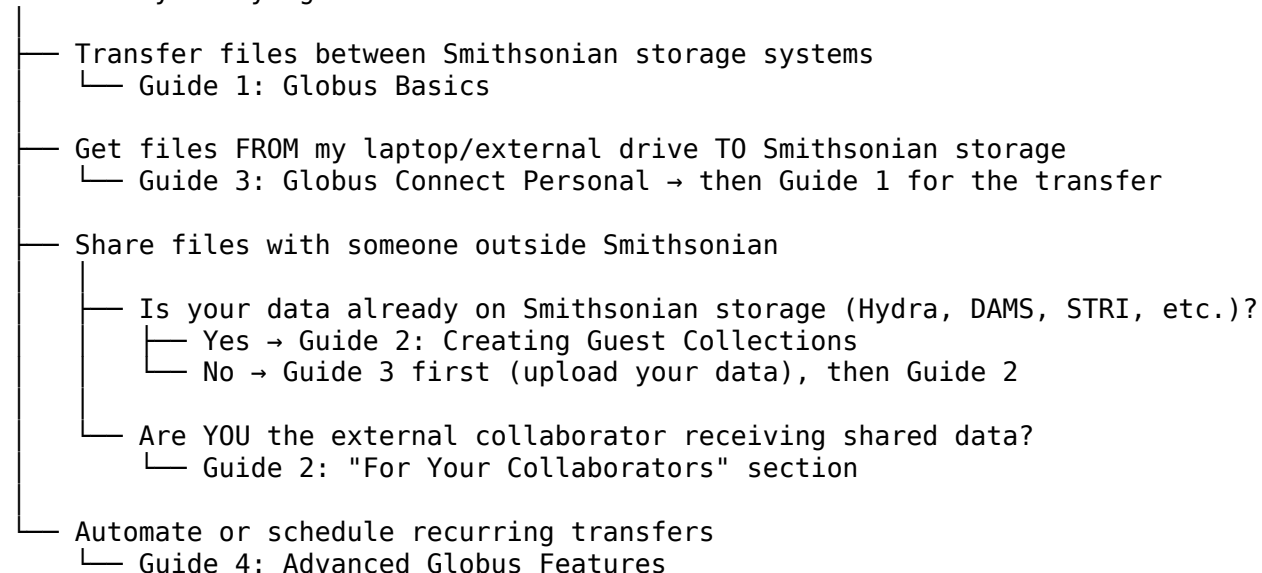
Which Guide Do I Need?

I want to...	Start here
Learn the basics — log in, navigate Globus, transfer files	Guide 1: Globus Basics and File Transfers
Share data with an external collaborator — someone outside Smithsonian needs access to files	Guide 2: Creating Guest Collections
Transfer files from my laptop or external drive — get data from a personal device onto Smithsonian storage	Guide 3: Globus Connect Personal
Automate transfers — set up recurring syncs, scheduled transfers, or multi-step workflows	Guide 4: Advanced Globus Features

New to Globus?

Start with **Guide 1**. It covers everything you need to log in, find collections, and complete your first transfer. The other guides build on these fundamentals.

Quick Decision Tree

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What are you trying to do?
│
├── Transfer files between Smithsonian storage systems
│     └── Guide 1: Globus Basics
│
├── Get files FROM my laptop/external drive TO Smithsonian storage
│     └── Guide 3: Globus Connect Personal → then Guide 1 for the transfer
│
├── Share files with someone outside Smithsonian
│   │
│   ├── Is your data already on Smithsonian storage (Hydra, DAMS, STRI, etc.)?
│   │     ├── Yes → Guide 2: Creating Guest Collections
│   │     └── No → Guide 3 first (upload your data), then Guide 2
│   │
│   └── Are YOU the external collaborator receiving shared data?
│         └── Guide 2: "For Your Collaborators" section
│
└── Automate or schedule recurring transfers
      └── Guide 4: Advanced Globus Features
```

Access & Subscription

Smithsonian is an institutional subscriber to Globus. All subscriber features are available to all Smithsonian staff.

Access Level	What You Get	Requirements
Globus Web Application	Log in, browse collections, manage transfers, use all subscriber features	Smithsonian network credentials (same as email)
Smithsonian Institutional Storage	Access to Hydra, DAMS staging, STRI servers, network drives, etc.	Smithsonian credentials + account on specific storage system

In short: Any Smithsonian staff member can log into Globus immediately using their network credentials. However, to access data on Smithsonian storage systems, you also need an account on that specific system.

Need Access to Storage?

Storage System	Contact
Hydra (HPC cluster)	Request an HPC account on the SI Service Portal
DAMS NAS Staging	SI-Globus@si.edu
STRI Data Transfer Server	STRIhelp@si.edu
Other systems	SI-Globus@si.edu for guidance

Quick Links

Resource	Link
Globus Web App	app.globus.org
Globus Connect Personal Download	globus.org/globus-connect-personal
Official Globus Documentation	docs.globus.org

Getting Help

Contact	For
SI-Globus@si.edu	General Globus support, questions, troubleshooting
SI-HPC@si.edu	Hydra system support
STRIhelp@si.edu	STRI Data Transfer Server accounts and support

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These guides are maintained by ODI's Chief Data and AI Office. Last updated: 12/17/25. For corrections or suggestions, contact SI-Globus@si.edu or submit an issue in this repository.