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C5.122 Metadatabase for the resource catalogue

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Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

INTRODUCTION

This report deals with the practical achievement of the inventory of identification keys and related descriptive datasets, with emphasis on the metadata fields selected and some issues raised by this inventory. The inventory has been initiated in Species-ID (http://www.species-id.net/wiki/Main_Page) a wiki dedicated to species descriptions and identification keys on a new page called Open inventory of existing identification keys and descriptive datasets (http://www.species-id.net/wiki/Open_inventory_of_existing_identification_keys_and_related_descriptive_datasets).

METADATA FIELDS

Relevant metadata fields have been selected into a pre-existing metadata list defined in the KeyToNature project after discussing the options with G. Hagedorn. The aim was to keep a short number of fields in order to keep a moderate-sized table for the display and facilitate the appropriation by the future participants.

Type

In this context, the only possible values for this field are:
-IdentificationTool : a document, data set, or software with embedded data, that may be used to identify organisms or other entities (parts, diseases, etc.);
-DescriptiveDataset : a data set that is not already listed as part of an identification tool.

Title

Concise free-form text title or name of the key. Further information on the resource should be entered in the field "Description".

Description

Description of the resource, containing whenever possible, the Who, What, When, Where and Why as free-form text.

Subject Category

This is a fixed list of high-level taxonomic or ecological groups like plants, mosses, fungi, algae, etc. intended for general orientation of the user rather than for strict taxonomic classification purposes. For all categories, the higher categories should be used only if further information is missing or indeed a mixture or lower categories is present. See the list of values on http://www.keytonature.eu/wiki/Subject_Category.

Host Application

Name of the application needed to perform the key or access to the descriptive dataset. See supported values at http://www.keytonature.eu/wiki/Resource_Host_Application.

ID Tool Structure

-Dichotomous: single-access key with branching limited to two leads;
-Polytomous: single-access key with at least occasionally more than two leads;
-Multi-access: the sequence of characters can be freely chosen by the user;
-Multi-entry: a choice of multiple characters is available in a first step, followed by a browsing or single-access key structure;
-Browsing: descriptions or images arranged in a long sequence like field guides.

Language

Language of the resource in ISO language code.

License Statement

The license statement defining how resources may be used.

Interactivity

Supported values are:

-Static: the resource provides no interactive functionality. In the case of identification tools, no dynamic change of structure and presentation of key occurs in response to user interaction;

-Hyperlinked: the resource provides only minimal interactive functionality. For example, static and printable keys that are enhanced with simple hyperlink jumps or popup-tooltip text (as commonly found in html or pdf documents).

-Dynamic : dynamically changing structure and presentation in response to user interaction and progress of identification (as in typical software identification tools).

URI

Allows to find the resource on the Internet, URL in this context.

Availability

Availability of the URI. This contains values from a constrained vocabulary, see http://www.keytonature.eu/wiki/Resource_Availability for further information on the supported values.

DISCUSSION

We have initiated the content of the inventory with more than 40 references (mainly identification tools). To participate and add their own resources, users have to register the wiki and edit the page of the inventory. Then they can copy the format used thanks to templates and complete each metadata field. When the page is saved, the new content appears immediately at the end of the table.

The main issue encountered while collecting the resources is to get all the metadata needed. The most frequently absent field is "License statement" maybe because we have so far focused on online keys that are free, so providers may not have judged necessary to specify a license statement.

The next step is to get enough entries to fill in the database. Users must be encouraged to participate and add new resources. A way for evaluating the content in the wiki would be to provide users with the possibility to rate the content of the inventory.

The best way of connecting the inventory to the EDIT context (and users) would be to integrate it to the BDTracker, for instance, by making it possible to query the metadatabase from this EDIT website.

CONCLUSION

This inventory is subjected to the large issue of participative science initiated through wikipedia-like websites. The meeting on taxonomic identification organized jointly by EDIT, KeyToNature and STERNA in September 2010 is an opportunity to invite providers and users to complete the metadatabase. We suggest that some reports should be done, in 6 and 12 months order to evaluate the success of this inventory.