Project no. 018340

Project acronym: EDIT

Project title: Toward the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy

Instrument: Network of Excellence

Thematic Priority: Sub-Priority 1.1.6.3: "Global Change and Ecosystems"

C5.160 Meta-documentation report: a round-up of all the Geoplatform documentation, code, tools and data

Due date of Component: Month 59

Actual submission date: Month 60

Start date of project: 01/03/2006   Duration: 5 years

Organization name of lead contractor for this component: MIZPAN, RMCA, NBGB

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme (2002-2006)		
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)	

This report presents available sources of documentation, code, tools and data related to the EDIT Geoplatform. It was compiled by Marcin Gąsior with a generous input from Patricia Mergen, James Davy and Franck Theeten and the colleagues from the EDIT developer mailing list.

Introduction

The EDIT Geographical platform components were established under the Work Package 5 – The **EDIT Platform for Cybertaxonomy** (http://wp5.e-taxonomy.eu/). An overview of the Cybertaxonomy platform showing how data is exchanged between various WP5 components is available at the **EDIT Platform Cybergate**: http://wp5.e-taxonomy.eu/platform/.

There are two major geographic tools developed under Work Package 5.4: the **EDIT MapViewer** and the EDIT **Map REST Service**. An overview of geographic components is available at: http://dev.e-taxonomy.eu/trac/wiki/GeographicComponents. The list of WP5.4 components reports are provided in the Annex.

The EDIT mapViewer is meant to be an easy to use online mapping tool for taxonomists working with their own data. The EDIT map REST service was designed to provide means for automated access map generation. It exposes a rich API based on HTTP parameters enabling users to take a full advantage of available functionality.

EDIT MapViewer

This online tool is currently hosted by RMCA and available at:
http://edit.br.fgov.be/edit_wp5/geo/mapviewer/edit.html

The documentation for the tool is offered in a form of video tutorials connected with additional textual description and is available at:
http://edit.br.fgov.be/edit_wp5/edit_info/edit_videos.html
These videos allow user to quickly familiarize with all MapViewer functionalities and start using the tool.

The GIS data layers used in the MapViewer (as well as in the Map Service) are obtainable at:
http://edit.csic.es/GISdownloads.html

The source code of the MapViewer is freely accessible and stored at:
http://dev.e-taxonomy.eu/trac/browser/trunk/geo/edit_wp5_web_folder/geo

The reports concerning recent version of the MapViewer are:
C5.111, C5.154, C5.156, C5.157, C5.158

EDIT Map REST Service

There are three services currently operating providing different output:

- Distribution maps (output – areas):
  http://edit.br.fgov.be/edit_wp5/v1/areas.php
- Occurrence maps (output – points):
  http://edit.br.fgov.be/edit_wp5/v1/points.php
- Map legends (output – legend):
  http://edit.br.fgov.be/edit_wp5/v1/legends.php

The general description of map REST service and guidance for implementation is available at:
http://dev.e-taxonomy.eu/trac/wiki/MapRestServiceApi
The usage examples of currently operating EDIT Map REST Services with URL syntax are presented at:
http://dev.e-taxonomy.eu/trac/wiki/MapRestServiceExamples

The source code of the Map REST Services is freely accessible and stored at:
http://dev.e-taxonomy.eu/trac/browser/trunk/geo/edit_wp5_web_folder/v1

The reports concerning recent version of the Map REST Services are:
C5.112, C5.154, C5.155, C5.156, C5.158

The Coordinate Converter
This minor tool, developed to facilitate preparation of MapViewer input data, is available at:
http://gis.miiz.waw.pl/webapps/coordinateconverter/
Description of usage is provided in the User's Guide section on the site.

The source code of the Coordinate Converter is freely accessible and stored at:
http://dev.e-taxonomy.eu/trac/browser/trunk/geo/coordinateConverter

Final remarks
As RMCA has committed to maintaining the Geospatial components beyond EDIT, it was agreed to maintain also the associated documentation. The documentation will be available online and accessible to the community for supplying additional materials and update content.

RMCA has indeed advisory and helpdesk activities in different EU projects and nationally funded project. The cybertaxonomy and biodiversity information services unit of RMCA has thus set up a common helpdesk facility using Drupal with functions compatible with EDIT Scratchpads. The EDIT geospatial components documentation, tutorial and helpdesk will also be maintained in this facility. Upcoming projects funded by the EU or nationally in the domains of Biodiversity, Geology and collection management have expressed interest in using the EDIT map viewer and map Rest services.

Annex

List of Work Package 5.4 components (sorted by completion date). The full list of WP5 components is available at: http://wp5.e-taxonomy.eu/blog/2007/04/04/deliverables

Component	Description
C5.31	Formerly D5.4.2. Application for distribution maps
C5.32	eConference on biogeographic representation of biological data with Open GIS
C5.36	GIS database of vectorial and raster maps freely available at the European extent
C5.42	Formerly D5.4.1. Relevant European databases on environmental and biological data HTML compilation and link collection
C5.35	Predictive distribution modelling report
C5.38	Gap analysis in local inventories report
C5.43	Test data report
C5.41	Package instructions, internet download structure and text on statistical considerations with examples
C5.64	Global background maps available in printing quality
C5.65	Point (occurrence) map generation webservice for online and print quality maps released and online available
C5.66	Regional distribution map generation webservice for online and print quality maps released and online available
C5.67	Map generation webservices enhanced for Publication ready maps (print quality)
C5.68	API Documentation for map generation webservices available
C5.070	Report 1 on converter webservice that transforms point occurrence data to distribution data
C5.073	Workshop with WP7 contributors to geo-Platform to review geo-platform functionality (report on requirements)
C.5.107	Specification for the application of EDIT Geo-Software for taxonomic inventory sites (WP7)
C5.039	Report on the application of geoplatform software to map inventory
C5.040	Application to select vector units by environmental and spatial criteria
C5.060	ATBI site data linked to geoplatform (deferred from 5.2 to 5.4)
C5.069	E-conference on requirements of geospatial services for taxonomists
C5.072	Dynamically link GBIF data to core geoplatform allowing GBIF data to be visualised in addition to custom user data
C5.108	MapViewer version 2: The EDIT MapViewer with enhanced functionality available
C5.109	Map REST Services version 2: The EDIT Map Web Services for occurrence and distribution data with enhanced functionality available
C5.110	Design document for a prototype software for data completeness assessment (gap analysis) for selected test data (e.g. ATBI and other datasets)
C5.153	E-conference with developers and contributors for Geoplatform development and function follow-up
C5.154	Testing report on installation of a mapViewer Tool mirror
C5.155	E-conference on future-proofing of the Geoplatform components
C5.156	Comprehensive report on technical continuity and sustainability of Geoplatform tools beyond the EDIT Project
C5.111	MapViewer version 3: The EDIT MapViewer with enhanced functionality available
C5.112	Map REST Services further refined and fully integrated into EDIT Platform

C5.157	Integration testing of various external data sets with the mapViewer tool (e.g. GNOSIS and ATBI data sets)
C5.158	Report on integration of Open OGC services, INSPIRE objectives and WP5 components in Geoplatform
C5.159	Report on functional and technical requirements for extended geoplatform functions (specialised taxonomic, morphological, phylogeographical or paleontological modules)
C5.160	Meta-documentation report : a round-up of all the Geoplatform documentation, code, tools, and data