



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”

M5.26 (formerly M09) Soft Launch of ViTaL

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Organisation name of lead contractor for this component: 10 NHML

Revision [Final]

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Dissemination Level (“X” in the relevant box)		
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 documents the soft launch in July 2009 of the Virtual Taxonomic Library (ViTaL), hosted at the Natural History Museum (London). The Virtual Taxonomic Library ViTaL is a component of the EDIT Platform for Cybertaxonomy, relying on Common Data Model and aims to provide bibliographic services to aid the discovery and accessibility of taxonomically relevant literature. The services provided by ViTaL have been discussed in detail in [previously published project documents](#). ViTaL can be accessed at <http://taxonlib.org>.

Services and Functionality

The main services available through ViTaL are described below.

A [metasearch service](#) allows searching across a targeted set of taxonomic text resources, including for example library catalogues, databases and e-journals. ViTaL will be able to search across multiple databases and resources and filter out duplicate results, enabling more focussed and efficient searching. The metasearch service is based on [Metalib](#), an Ex Libris product.

LABS (Locate Available Bibliographic Services), which is an OpenURL resolver is based on [SEX](#), an Ex Libris product. LABS allows users to click through their search results to view full text content where this is available free for download; via subscription resources belonging to their institution, such as e-journals; through repositories such as the Biodiversity Heritage Library; and via alternative links providing other search functions.

A [bibliographic reference aggregator](#), which harvests citations from a range of sources to provide a centralised bibliographic resource accessible on the web via faceted search interface.

Soft Launch Progress

ViTaL was promoted at the EDIT Exhibition stand at the E-Biosphere Conference which took place on 1st to 3rd June 2009 in London. The soft launch of ViTaL began in July 2009 and during the first month has logged 263 requests, averaging 9 requests a day.

During the soft launch period, EDIT institutions are being invited to add their resources to those already contributed. Support and training documentation will be available.