

...free and open access to biodiversity data

The Data Paper: an incentive for metadata publishing

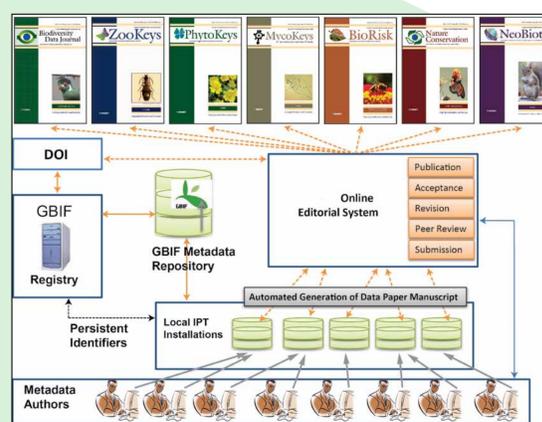
The lack of incentives for data publishers is one of the key impediments to free and open access to biodiversity data. The Data Paper has been conceived as one possible mechanism to offer scholarly recognition for the effort and investment involved in authoring rich metadata, and publishing them as a citable academic paper.

A Data Paper is a searchable metadata document describing a particular online accessible dataset, or a group of datasets, and published in accordance to the standard academic practices. Its purposes are:

- to provide a citable journal publication that brings scholarly credit to data publishers;
- to describe the data in a structured human-readable form; and
- to bring the existence of the data to the attention of the scientific community.

Unique features of Data Papers include: (a) low technology and infrastructural overheads; (b) close links or interconnections between data publishing and scholarly publishing cycles; (c) an automated, push-button conversion tool exporting metadata to a manuscript and (d) minimal core metadata elements to reduce time required for authoring a metadata document.

Data Papers for biodiversity will use the GBIF Metadata Profile (GMP) to author the metadata document. The GBIF Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT) contains a user-friendly interface that makes authoring metadata easy.

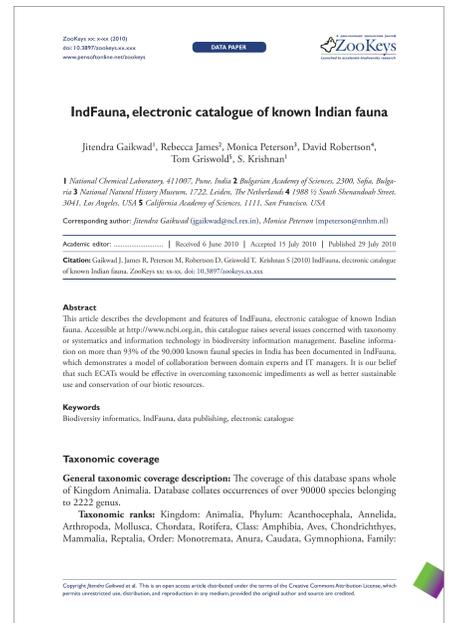


Data flow

A list of IPT installations supporting authoring of the Data Paper is accessible at <http://tools.gbif.org/data-paper-authoring/>. Guidelines for authors and reviewers of the Data Paper are accessible at http://www.pensoft.net/J_FILES/Pensoft_Data_Publishing_Policies_and_Guidelines.pdf.

The Data Paper prototype was developed in collaboration with PenSoft Publishers (<http://www.pensoft.net/index.php>)

Data publishers will be credited through (a) registering authorship in a scholarly publication, (b) indexing and citation of Data Papers similar to research papers, (c) tracing usage and citations of published data, and (d) providing a persistent description of the published data resource over time.



Sample Data Paper

About GBIF

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) was established by governments in 2001 to encourage free and open access to biodiversity data, via the Internet. Through a global network of national and thematic nodes, and a Secretariat based in Copenhagen, Denmark, GBIF promotes and facilitates the mobilization, access, discovery and use of information about the occurrence of organisms over time and across the planet.

Vision - A world in which biodiversity information is freely and universally available for science, society, and a sustainable future.

Mission - To be the foremost global resource for biodiversity information, and engender smart solutions for environmental and human well-being.

www.gbif.org

