GBits

GBIF Newsletter

No. 11 - June 2009

The mission of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) is to facilitate free and open access to biodiversity data worldwide via the Internet to underpin sustainable development. Priorities, with an emphasis on promoting participation and working through partners, include mobilising biodiversity data, developing protocols and standards to ensure scientific integrity and interoperability, building an informatics architecture to allow the interlinking of diverse data types from disparate sources, promoting capacity building and catalysing development of analytical tools for improved decision-making.

CALLS FOR ACTION AND PARTICIPATION

Launch of Survey on 'Natural History Specimen Digitisation: Challenges and Concerns'

The GBIF Task Group 'Global Strategy and Action Plan for Digitisation and Mobilisation of Natural History Collections Data' (GSAP-NHC) has launched a survey on "Natural History Specimen Digitisation: Challenges and Concerns" (deadline 20 June 2009). [*read more…*]

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

GBIF and IPNI sign a Memorandum of Cooperation

On 19 May 2009, the GBIF Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the partners of the International Plant Names Index (IPNI). This formalises the mobilisation via the GBIF data portal of over 1.6M nomenclatural records that serve a crucial role in improving access to information related to plant species. [*read more…*]

GBIF and Thomson Reuters sign a Memorandum of Cooperation

On 3 June 2009 the GBIF Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with Thomson Reuters which will provide access to a number of valuable taxonomic datasets [*read more…*]

GBIF convenes Task Group on LSIDs

GBIF has convened a Task Group to provide advice on persistent identifiers for biodiversity informatics. The principal objective of the group is to provide recommendations and guidelines on deployment of Life Science Identifiers (LSIDs) and other Globally Unique Identifiers (GUIDs) on the GBIF network with particular reference to the potential role of GBIF as a stable, long term provider of GUID resolution services. [*read more…*]

ZooKeys facilitates discovery and access to 'primary biodiversity data' simultaneously with scholarly publication

ZooKeys became the first systematic open access journal to facilitate discovery and access to 'primary biodiversity data' simultaneously with scholarly publication using GBIF infrastructure. ZooKeys is a peer-reviewed, open-access, 'rapid-publish' journal launched to support the free exchange of ideas and information in systematic zoology. [*read more…*]

Australian Government Awards A$30 million to Develop System to Manage Australia's Biological Diversity Data

The Australian government announced on 12 May the award of A$30 million for the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) for work during 2009-2011. The A$30 million ensures that ALA can deliver a comprehensive set of tools for managing distribution data, descriptions, images, literature and molecular data for any species. These systems will assist Australian researchers in responding rapidly to new discoveries and to base planning and policy decisions on the fullest available scientific data and will feed directly into international networks such as GBIF. [*read more…*]

TOOLS & SERVICES

GBIF releases first version of the Integrated Publishing Toolkit User Manual

The GBIF Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT) is an open source software platform developed by the GBIF Secretariat to facilitate efficient biodiversity data publishing to the Internet by all Participants in the GBIF network. [*read more…*]

World Database on Marine Protected Areas website launched

The UNEP-WCMC and IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas have launched a new web site "dedicated to providing the most comprehensive set of marine protected areas data available". Through this site users are also able to link GBIF-mediated data specific to marine protected areas. (http://www.wdpa-marine.org/)

PARTICIPATION

GBIF Participants

For a full list of GBIF's current Participants, click here.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

GBIF announces 2009 Ebbe Nielsen Prize Winner

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) is pleased to announce that Dr. Andy Jarvis is the winner of the Ebbe Nielsen Prize for 2009. [*read more…*]

Regional Meeting of GBIF Participants in North America

As part of the regional meetings strategy initiated last year (with meetings in Europe, Latin America, and Africa), a North America Regional Meeting was held from 22nd to 24th April, in Herndon, VA, USA. [*read more…*]

GB16 registration site launched

The 16th meeting of the GBIF Governing Board (GB16) takes place in Copenhagen, Denmark from 3-9 October 2009 (http://gb16.gbif.org/).

GBIF and EoL hold Nomina IV workshop focused on taxonomic name processing

The Nomina IV workshop, held in Woods Hole, USA, end-May brought together an international group of developers working on the processing of taxonomic names that include tools and services that can identify names in free-text, parse names into constituent parts, and perform 'fuzzy-matching' tests that tie misspelled names to a correct name. [*read more…*]

CONTACTS

Postal and physical address:

GBIF Secretariat
Universitetsparken 15
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø
Denmark

Tel: +45 35 32 14 70
Fax: +45 35 32 14 80
E-mail: info@gbif.org

Contact information for GBIF Secretariat staff: http://www.gbif.org/GBIF_org/gbifs

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