Project no. 018340

Project acronym: EDIT

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Instrument: Network of Excellence

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

M5.24 Details of Z39.50 catalogue resources provided to the ViTaL team (NHML) by the initial set of actively collaborating institutions

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

Organisation name of lead contractor for this milestone: 10 NHML

Revision [Draft]

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Dissemination Level ("X" in the relevant box)		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
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Introduction

ViTaL, the Virtual Taxonomic Library is a component of the EDIT infrastructure, being created as part of WP5.3, which is concerned with the provision of Bibliographic tools for the taxonomic community.

The services provided by ViTaL have been discussed in detail in previously published project documents.

This report documents the completion of the milestone M5.24 - *Details of Z39.50 catalogue resources provided to the ViTaL team (NHML) by the initial set of actively collaborating institutions.*

Goal

The ViTaL metasearch service uses the standard Z39.50 protocol to send queries to online public access catalogues (OPACs). ViTaL uses this facility to allow the querying of EDIT partner library resources, hence the need for these libraries to supply the relevant connection information to the ViTaL team.

Scope

The scope of this milestone has been extended somewhat, with all of the EDIT partners being contacted and asked for this information, not just those who have confirmed their wish to have an active involvement. This is because the details of the OPAC services, where they exist, should not be difficult to provide by the partner libraries, and the additional information will allow us to provide a more useful search service during our pilot and the subsequent development of the system.

Information requested

Staff at the various EDIT partner libraries was asked to provide the following information relevant to their library system and OPAC:

1. What library system you use (supplier, product and version)?
2. Does your system support Z39.50? If NOT, please go directly to question 6.
3. What is the IP address of your Z39.50 server?
4. What is the username and password to connect with (if applicable) 5. What is the Z39.50 database name?
5. What is the URL of your online library catalogue?

Due to an oversight, specific server port details were not explicitly asked for in the initial communication, though this information has been provided in the responses sent by the libraries, as this is a standard part of most OPAC connection details.

Responses

Several libraries have already responded, giving either their OPAC connection details, or reporting that they do not have an externally accessible system. OPAC details will shortly be

added to the knowledgebase of the ViTaL meta-search service. Further responses will be added to the system as they arrive.

The initial responses at the time of writing are as follows:

Responded with OPAC details or details already on file:
- NHM
- Kew
- Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History
- Free University Berlin
- National Museum of Natural History of Denmark
- Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Spain

In progress:
- The National Museum of Natural History of the Netherlands
- Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium

Responded - no OPAC available:
- INRA - Versailles (Institute of Agronomical Research, France)