

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Between

The Encyclopedia of Life

And

The Tree of Life Web Project

Introduction

This Memorandum of Agreement provides the basis for the Encyclopedia of Life and the Tree of Life Web Project to work together to develop and share critical biodiversity informatics infrastructure. In particular, the Encyclopedia of Life will have access to taxon pages served by the Tree of Life Web Project, especially the supraspecific pages. In return, the Tree of Life will have access to the resources of the Encyclopedia of Life, including species pages, scanned literature, and informatics tools.

The Parties

The Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) is an informal consortium of organizations dedicated to building an on-line Encyclopedia of Life composed of content-rich multi-media species pages for all of the presently known species on Earth. Currently, the EOL is composed of five working groups:

- *Species Sites Group*—defines the composition of information on species pages; works with the scientific community to identify potential sources of information (such as the Catalogue of Life) for the species pages and to authenticate the information on the species pages; establishes licensing agreements with data providers.
- *Biodiversity Informatics Group*—conceptualizes and prepares the software needed to host and to search the species pages; applies taxonomic intelligence to the scientific names on the species pages and in the literature.
- *Scanning and Digitization Group*—working with the Biodiversity Heritage Library, a consortium of many of the world's largest natural history libraries, digitizes and marks up the world's biodiversity literature.
- *Education and Outreach Group*—exploits the EOL's potential by exploring and promoting its educational uses.
- *Biodiversity Synthesis Group*—holds synthesis meetings to help reach taxonomic consensus on megadiverse groups; develops tools for analyzing and synthesizing information across species pages.
- **The Tree of Life Web Project (ToL)** is a collaborative effort of biologists from around the world. On more than 9000 World Wide Web pages, the project provides information about the diversity of organisms on Earth, their evolutionary history (phylogeny), and characteristics. ToL pages are linked one to another hierarchically, in the form of the evolutionary tree of life. Starting with the root of all Life on Earth and moving out along diverging branches to individual species,

the structure of the ToL project thus illustrates the genetic connections between all living things.

Objectives

1. To establish a framework for co-operative working between the ongoing EOL and ToL programs, on the basis that this co-operation will assist EOL to link together its species pages, and will assist ToL to complete and enhance the twigs of its phylogeny. The intention is to enable EOL and ToL scientists and managers to work together, when appropriate, in addressing both the work of assembling the Encyclopedia of Life and the continuing work on creating and enhancing the Tree of Life Web Project.
2. To authorize EOL to make full use of the ToL services and products. The intention of this authorization is to enable EOL to use the ToL in a variety of ways within the EOL program, especially for linking together species pages into larger clades and for aiding in traversing the EOL via a planned phylogeny browser. In addition, EOL will have access to software developed by the ToL for such purposes as tracking the conditions under which data providers have made information available and for enabling provision of content by citizen scientists and school children.
3. To authorize the ToL to gain access to information and tools provided by the EOL, in particular the species pages and the data contained therein, all open-source software developed by the EOL, literature scanned by the Biodiversity Heritage Library, participation in the consensus-building meetings sponsored by the Biodiversity Synthesis Group; and meetings and materials of the Education and Outreach group.

Conditions of Use

1. Both parties agree that they will clearly label the source of all content and require users to indicate those sources in any subsequent re-use. For EOL-supplied data, ToL will indicate that the information came from the EOL and will include all further attribution metadata. For ToL-supplied data, EOL will require users to recognize three levels of attribution:
 - Credit for the whole work to the Tree of Live Web Project
 - Credit to the individual author or editor.
 - Credit to the articles or other scholarly resources quoted in the ToL pages.
2. Both parties agree to show the other's logo on the site's list of partners.

Amendments and Modifications

Either party may amend this Memorandum of Agreement by notifying the other party in writing and with the agreement of the other party.

Non-exclusive Agreement

This Memorandum of Agreement is non-exclusive, and in no way restricts either EOL or ToL from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private initiatives, organizations, or individuals.

Signatures

For Tree of Life Web Project

Signature  Date: 7 December 2007

Name: David Maddison
Title: Coordinator and Editor, ToL

For Encyclopedia of Life

Signature  Date: 12/18/07

Name: James L. Edwards
Title: Executive Director, EOL