Title   Plinian Core: integrating information about species

Abstract   Plinian Core is a draft standard for sharing information at the species
                 level. It was conceived to solve how to represent "species
                 information" for its electronic dissemination, exchange and
                 integration, including controlled vocabularies. By "species
                 information" we refer to all kinds of properties or traits related to taxa
                 (of any rank), including those associated with species descriptions,
                 nomenclatural, conservation, management, and demographic
                 information, as well as related resources. In this regard, the group's
                 interests go beyond strictly taxonomic descriptions. The objective of
                 this work is to present the process and advances of the development
                 (Plinian Core v3.1) and implementation (Application Profiles) of
                 Plinian Core.

                 The initial activity of the project consisted of reviewing the existing
                 standards associated with species information, which had been
                 published on the Internet. The evaluation demonstrated the necessity
                 of developing a standard that allows the automated integration,
                 recovery and exchange of species information from heterogeneous
                 databases. The development of the standard has been leaded by the
                 National Institute of Biodiversity (INbio, Costa Rica), GBIF-ES
                 (Spain), University of Granada (Spain), Humboldt Institute
                 (Colombia), Conabio (Mexico), University of Sao Paulo (Brazil).

                 The general principles of the standard design were that it should not
                 be intimidating, but be able to work on its own, represent all the
                 information contained in the related projects, and be expanded and
                 able to be integrated. As a result of the recent advances, the actual
                 hierarchical schema allows developing species data sheets that can be
                 shown in websites. It is structured in 18 classes composed for
                 numerous elements. Currently, as part of the documentation, there is
                 an Abstract Model: (https://purl.org/pliniancore/am_v3.1) and an
                 Application profile (http://purl.org/pliniancore/ap_v3.1). You can
                 see more documentation about Plinian Core in
                 https://code.google.com/p/pliniancore/.

                 As far as we know, Plinian Core is being used or developed by
                 projects and institutions of Chile, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica,
                 Mexico and Spain. We aim to make Plinian Core a truly global
                 standard by bringing together teams and institutions all over the world
                 under the umbrella of TDWG.