Introduction version 0.01

A web based *user sourced* catalog, forum, and encyclopedia that helps user identify and learn about species of *all* types. Our site will be the ideal “playground” for users to gather and contribute their information on various species such as scientific evidences, evolution tree (lineage), stories (history), photos and videos, various names, as well as be able to discuss on an easy-to-use forum board that can interpret/translate various languages (Reddit – also be able to cycle through new conversations and well as popular ones). This site should be easy enough for a child to use, but useful for a professional to use. This site should reflect a new standard of identifying and sharing information of the environment. Essentially we are building an etsy-liked (the aesthetically pleasing part) version of <http://eol.org/> with various features from Instagram, eBay, Vine, and Reddit.

User friendly species identifier & catalog that is a web and mobile application which is sourced by the public (just like Wikipedia) along with a forum and photo sharing pages.

Originally some of the information will be sourced by us, but the general sense is that the information about the species is created by the public.

We give the app away for free, but generate revenue through an open source approach (throw traffic and ad space, donations, consultations, selling data, or micro-transaction small additional features, etc.)

Criteria and Features:

* Aesthetically pleasing, easy to use, and organized.
* Main page will be a search page with a search bar (can search by name or description), or various options to search by clicking a easy-to-use GUI (graphical user interface) page organized by categories such as: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxonomic_rank> (something along these lines; further details later), as well as a navigation bar for various aspects of our website.
* Each species page would consist of a photo (more photos, illustrations, and videos when clicked), a quick summary (various names, species type, habitat, size, genome sequence, etc.), forum bubbles, map of various where they were sighted, and detailed description (Wiki-like info) below it all with list of references, citations, and credibility towards the contributor.
* Easy to use text area, category definition, and uploading/sharing photos and video link, to add information for the encyclopedia pages (create miniature commands like Reddit’s comment boxes with no word max. limitation; <http://daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/syntax>)
* Photo/video and forum pages would have a voting button an algorithm to shuffle new and popular stuff to the front of the list.
* various bubbles (panels) from the forums as well as photos and videos can be seen on each individual species page.
* Have color text for various species that are extinct, endangered, thriving, or newly discovered. (have a way to credit the users account of the contributor or creator)
* Some type built in credibility checker of the user or source of information. Able to date all information added.

Features worth considering (but not required **yet**); mainly for future deployment of the website if you want to continue to build this site:

* mobile application for easy way of searching our catalogs of species, as well as using our site from a mobile device or gathering data.
* photo recognition software (very difficult to implement to various image comparing to work properly as well as adaption of various species)
* a higher star ranking system for the user. For instance, Prof. with doctorates in the field have higher ranks than anyone. They would be able to have stronger powers or influence than anyone else for our site. People with large contribution to the site can be at the same level as the professor, or a hobbyist, photographers or child who have a great deal of information with no educational background can contribute as well (admins of the site have the highest power). We need human error to regulate how information is back. How do we make sure that the information uploaded to this site is credible?
* Statistical pages of user defined data sets; comparing bird migration, population of certain predators with in a certain date, or worldly phenomena such as sea turtle hatchings.
* Various awareness or teaching tools and tutorials (zoology, micro biology, behavioral science, environmental awareness, survival training, star navigation, identifying dangerous plants and animals, etc.) so that people can gather information without harming themselves or the environment.
* Life tree: a GUI lineage tree that is easy to navigate
* Map plotting sightings of a particular species as well as a comparison (overlapping)
* A page of all unknown or newly discovered species for everyone to identify (original uploader has higher priority than votes; part of designing process)