

2011 ECN Presentation

Aubrey Moore
Extension Entomologist
Western Pacific Tropical Research Center
University of Guam

Title: Evaluation of a Scratchpad Template as an Online Database for the University of Guam Insect Collection

Abstract: Biota (© Sinauer Assoc.) and BioLink (© CSIRO) were used in initial attempts at cataloging the University of Guam Insect Collection at the specimen level (about 30,000 specimens). The Biota database was irretrievably lost following hardware failures coupled with inadequate backup. BioLink worked very well on a LAN, but relied on proprietary software (MicroSoft Server). A few years ago, I started searching for a web based replacement with the following features:

- Free and open source
- Reliable backup
- Flexible data security
- Web browser used for information delivery and data entry
- Specimen records compliant with Darwin Core
- Storage for images, bibliographic data, informal notes, etc.

I settled on a Drupal template developed by the Natural History Museum (NHM) in London. The free, open source template is called ScratchPad. NHM even hosts and maintains Scratchpad sites on their servers for free. In my talk, I will outline Scratchpad's features which I find useful for building and maintaining an online catalog for the University of Guam Insect Collection. I will also present a critical evaluation of ScratchPad for my specific application.