



Metadata

Exercise : using the Ecological Metadata Language - EML through Galaxy-Ecology

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<https://biodiversitydata.github.io/>



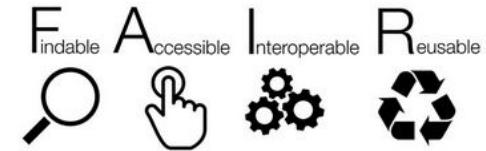
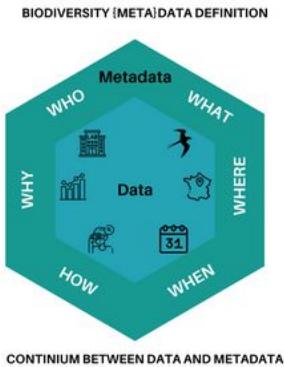
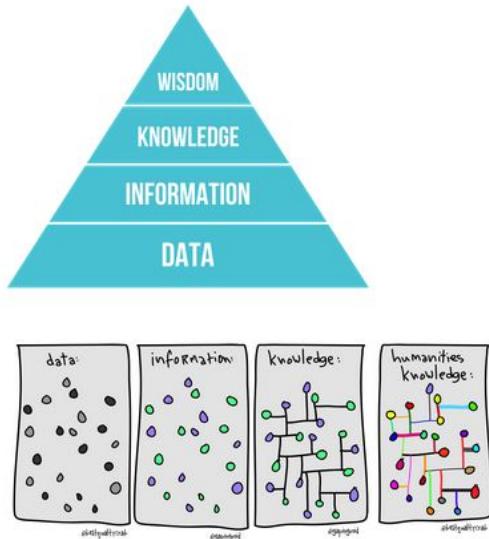
CESAB
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OF BIODIVERSITY

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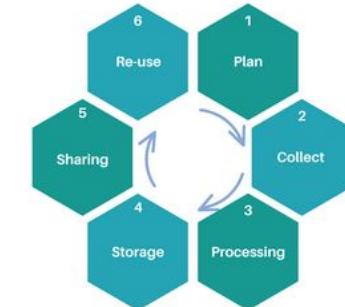
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Reminder : context and issues

- **Heterogeneity** (data types, origin, standards) & **diversity** of “objects” to be linked together¹
- **Loss of information** over time²
- Toward a better **open science** and **reproducibility**^{3 4}



Cycle de vie des données



1. Page (2016)

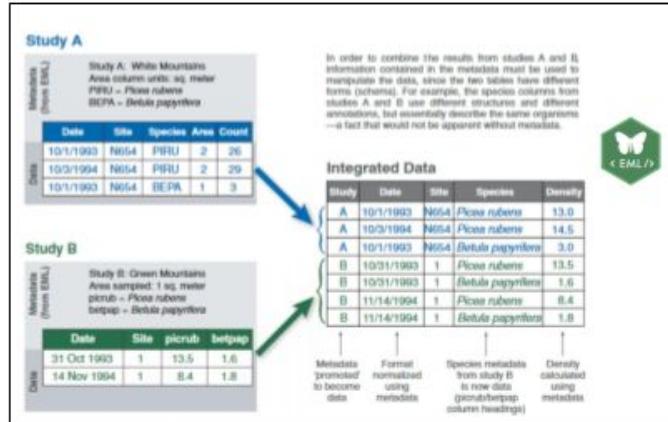
2. Michener et al. (1997)

3. Powers & Hampton (2018)

4. Genkins et al. (2016)

<https://biodiversitydata.github.io/>

Reminder : Ecological Metadata Language



M.B. Jones et al., 2006 <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.ecolsys.37.091305.110031> + <https://eml.ecoinformatics.org/>

Record-level Terms	Dublin Core terms, institutions, collections, nature of data record	Simple Darwin Core (flat)  Biodiversity Informatics BIOINFORMATICS
Occurrence	evidence of species in nature, observers, behavior, associated media, references.	
Event	sampling protocols and methods, date, time, field notes	
Location	geography, locality descriptions, spatial data	
Identification	linkage between Taxon and Occurrence	
Taxon	scientific names, vernacular names, names usages, taxon concepts, and the relationships between them	
GeologicalContext	geologic time, chrono-stratigraphy, biostratigraphy, lithostratigraphy	
ResourceRelationship	explicit relationships between identified resources (e.g., one organism to another, taxon to location, etc.)	
MeasurementOrFact	measurements, facts, characteristics, assertions, references	Generic Darwin Core (relational)

J. Wieczorek et al., 2012 <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0029715>



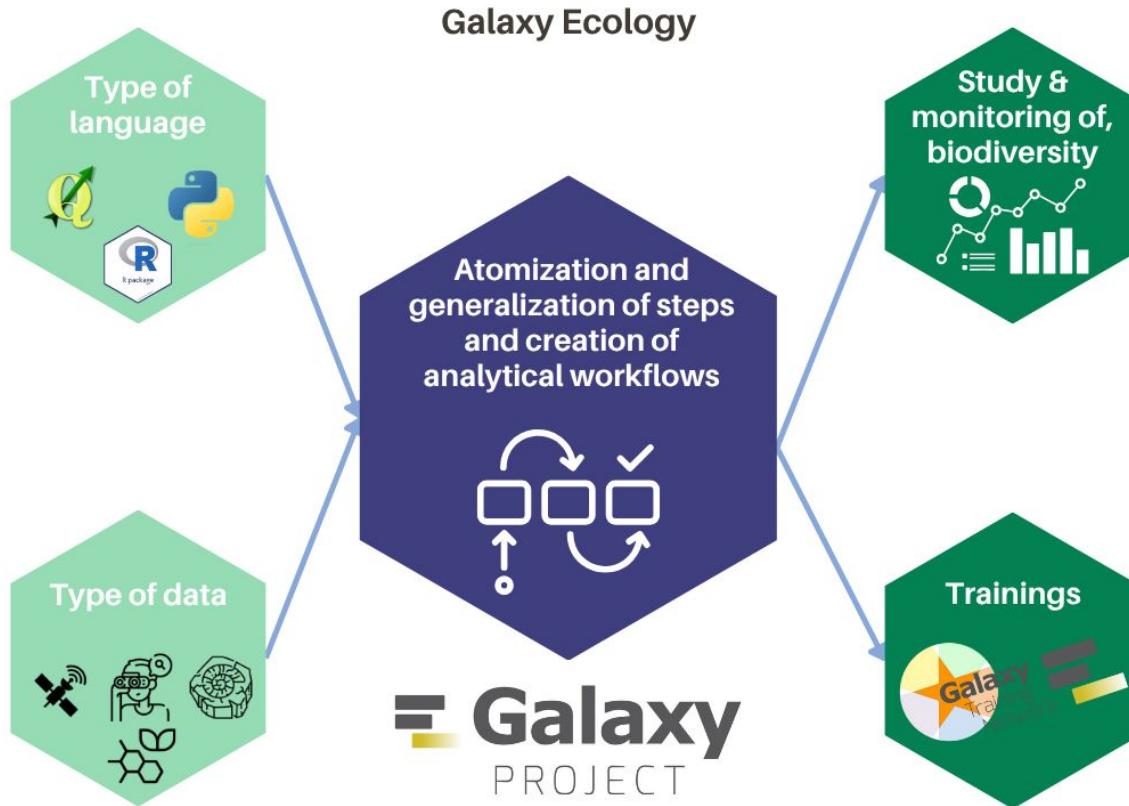
Raw vs. specific and derived information
Knowledge of the standard, its formalism, its restrictions
Need to know the time for standardization
Diversity of data types

COMPLEMENTARITY OF THE TWO APPROACHES

<https://biodiversitydata.github.io/>



Reminder : Galaxy-Ecology



See more

- [https://www.pndb.fr/pages/galaxy-ecology 0/](https://www.pndb.fr/pages/galaxy-ecology-0/)
- Royaux et. al., 2025. Guidance framework to apply best practices in ecological data analysis: lessons learned from building Galaxy-Ecology. Gigascience. <https://doi.org/10.1093/gigascience/giae122>

Reminder : Galaxy-Ecology

Use scripts on a cluster → with 0 programming skills! ← Create, edit, share, reuse workflows

The image shows two side-by-side screenshots of the Galaxy platform. The left screenshot displays a tool configuration page for 'Calculate community metrics from abundance data'. It includes sections for 'Input file' (a file named '36_Transpose on data.gal'), 'Choose the community metrics you want to compute' (with options like 'Specific richness' and 'Shannon index'), and 'Email notification' (checkbox checked). The right screenshot shows a 'Workflow constructed from history "tuto_pampa"' with a complex grid of interconnected steps, each represented by a small icon and a brief description.

<https://ecology.usegalaxy.eu/>

Create & share interactive visualizations,
Even deploy and share Jupyter notebooks or R shiny apps

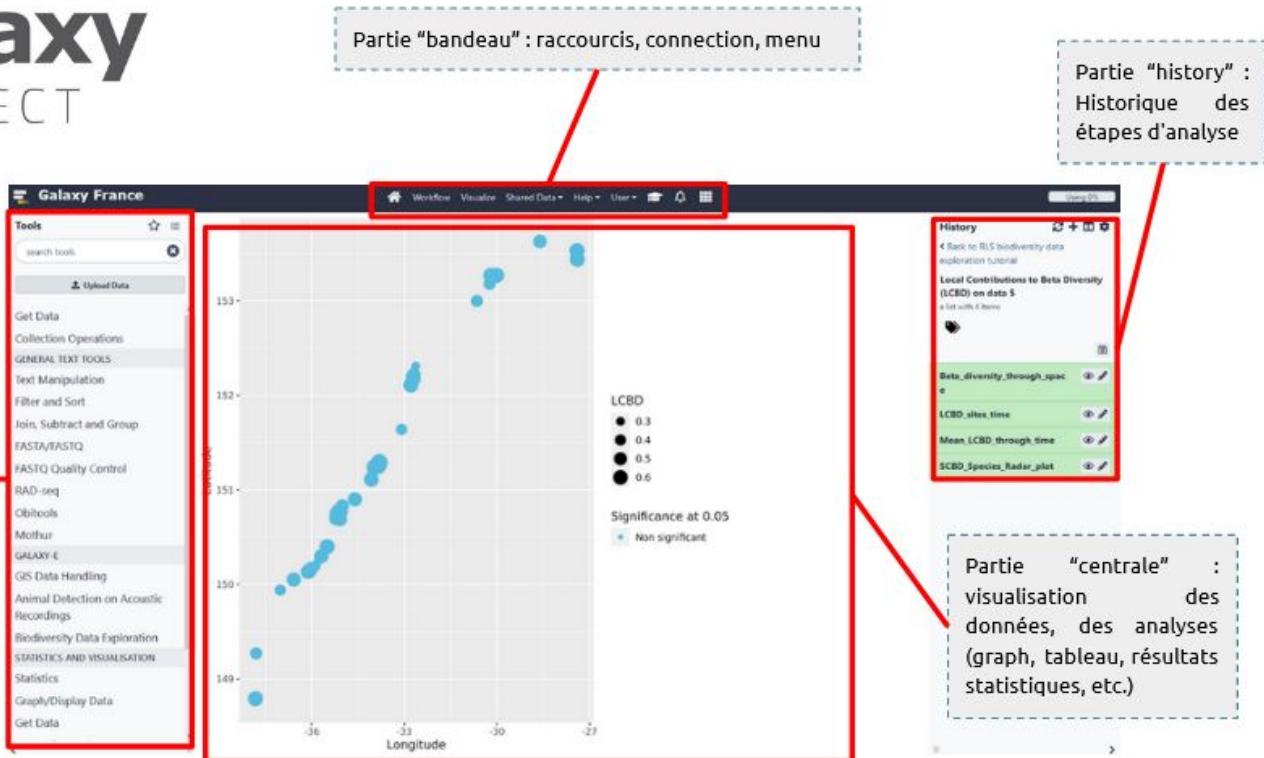
The image shows two examples of data visualization. On the left is a line graph titled 'Gadus morhua' showing abundance variation over time, with a global trend of -10.475. On the right is a 'geoExploreR' dashboard featuring a choropleth map of the world where colors represent values, and two scatter plots showing data distribution across a coordinate system.

<https://biodiversitydata.github.io/>

Reminder : Galaxy-Ecology



Partie "outils" : liens vers les outils existants, des workflows, avec un moteur de recherche par mots clés



<https://biodiversitydata.github.io/>

Connect to Galaxy Ecology Europe

To create a Galaxy Europe account: <https://ecology.usegalaxy.eu/login/start?redirect=None> or
<https://usegalaxy.eu/login/start?redirect=None>

To access training resources: <https://usegalaxy.eu/join-training/eml>

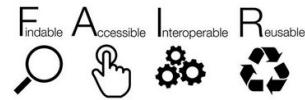
Then go to Galaxy Ecology Europe: <https://ecology.usegalaxy.eu/>

Context and issues

- Rich metadata production (F2 of the FAIR principles, Wilkinson et al., 2016)
- Easy creation/modification of metadata by researchers
 - Metadata inference
 - Data attributes
 - Taxonomic coverage
 - Geographic coverage
 - Personal information
 - Semantic annotations
 - No need to know the specifications of the target standard
 - No coding skills required
 - Web-enabled
 - Possibility of incremental and collaborative development
- Human-machine exchange
- List of minimum criteria chosen by the PNDB

good Level of FAIRness

- Open data (CC-BY 4.0 compatible with Etalab)
- Mandatory license
- Direct link to download raw datasets
- Thematic scope (All biodiversity including paleo- and archaeo-biodiversity)
- Geographic scope (Data produced by France)
- Temporal coverage (at least one data acquisition date)
- Abstract
- Title, authors and contacts
- Acquisition framework (at least via a text field)
- DOI / unique identifiers
- taxonomic coverage (if taxa are present)
- keywords related to the Thesaurus
- Data attributes (Dictionary of data attributes with units and descriptions)
- Semantic annotation (Keywords and attribute names, unlimited usable resources)



Creating an EML metadata record from EML metadata template files in text format

Click on Galaxy History with the input data: <https://ecology.usegalaxy.eu/u/ylebras/h/eml-assembly-line-tape-1--creation-deml>

Steps

- Import the data, then click on the "home" icon at the top of the page and/or refresh the page.
- File review / What information is there (by looking at just the file names first, then browsing the contents of the metadata templates)?



Creating an EML metadata record from EML metadata template files in text format

« History: Tuto EML Assembly Line sans MetaShARK fin

Metadata templates original



a list with 16 datasets

Download
1: taxonomic_coverage.txt
2: abstract.md
3: additional_info.md
4: attributes_02_Ref.txt
5: attributes_datafile_1.txt
6: attributes_datafile_2.txt

<https://biodiversitydata.github.io/>

Creating an EML metadata record from EML metadata template files in text format

Taxonomic coverage

1: taxonomic_coverage.txt 

33 lines

format **tabular**, génome de référence ?

uploaded tabular file

1	2	3	4	5
name	name_type	name_resolved	authority_system	authority_id
Cetacea	scientific	Cetacea	World Register of Marine Species	2688
Balaenopteridae	scientific	Balaenopteridae	World Register of Marine Species	136979

Creating an EML metadata record from EML metadata template files in text format

Attributes

4: attributes_02_Ref.txt					
4 lines					
format tabular , génome de référence ?					
uploaded tabular file					
1	2	3	4	5	6
	attributeName attributeDefinition	class	unit	dateTimeFormatString	missingValueCode
HRef	Description for: HRef	numeric	dimensionless	""	""
VolRef	Description for: VolRef	numeric	dimensionless	""	""
DBHRef	Description for: DBHRef	numeric	dimensionless	""	""

The missing value code explanation is missing.

Creating an EML metadata record from EML metadata template files in text format

Categorical variable

9: catvars_datafile_2.txt

3 lines

format **tabular**, génome de référence ?

1 2 3

```
attributeName code      definition
area_name     Biscay  Value: Biscay for attribute: area_name
area_name     Channel Value: Channel for attribute: area_name
```

Creating an EML metadata record from EML metadata template files in text format

Entities to describe the spatial information of raster and vector files

11: entities.txt

15 lines

format **tabular**, génome de référence ?



1	2	3
objectName	variable	value
Present.Surface.pH.tif	spatialReference	GCS_WGS_1984
Present.Surface.pH.tif	horizontalAccuracy	<p>unknown </p>
Present.Surface.pH.tif	verticalAccuracy	<p>unknown </p>
Present.Surface.pH.tif	cellSizeXDirection	7000

Creating an EML metadata record from EML metadata template files in text format

Geographic coverage

12: geographic_coverage.txt

3 lines

format **tabular**, génome de référence ?



1	2	3	4	5
geographicDescription northBoundingCoordinate southBoundingCoordinate eastBoundingCoordinate westBoundingCoordinate				
Biscay	46.0253	46.0253	-4.8054	-
Channel	46.4696	46.4696	-4.57	-

< >

westBoundingCoordinate is missing

<https://biodiversitydata.github.io/>

Creating an EML metadata record from EML metadata template files in text format

Keywords

14: keywords.txt

2 lines

format **tabular**, génome de référence ?

■ 🔍 ⓘ ⓘ

1	2
keyword	keywordThesaurus
Biodiversity	""

<https://biodiversitydata.github.io/>

Creating an EML metadata record from EML metadata template files in text format

Contacts of persons (data producer, PI, data manager,...)

16: personnel.txt

3 lines

format **tabular**, génome de référence ?

1 2 3 4 5 6

givenName	middleInitial	surName	organizationName	electronicMailAddress	use
Yvan	"	Le Bras	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle	yvan.le-bras@mnhn.fr	000
Yvan	"	Le Bras	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle	yvan.le-bras@mnhn.fr	000

< >

16: personnel.txt

3 lines

format **tabular**, génome de référence ?

5 6 7 8 9 10

electronicMailAddress	userId	role	projectTitle	fundingAgency	fundingNumber
yvan.le-bras@mnhn.fr	0000-0002-8504-068X	creator	""	""	""
yvan.le-bras@mnhn.fr	0000-0002-8504-068X	contact	""	""	""

< >

Creating an EML metadata record from EML metadata template files in text format

Steps

- Import the data, then click on the "home" icon at the top of the page and/or refresh the page.
- File review / What information is there (by looking at just the file names first, then browsing the contents of the metadata templates)?
- **EML creation from EML Assembly Line template files using the Galaxy Make EML tool**
 - Provide the data package title “EML dataset creation from EML Assembly Line files”
 - Temporal coverage “2021-01-01” to “2021-12-12”
 - Select the data collections of type “dataTable”, “spatialRaster”, and “spatialVector”
 - The license is automatically CC-BY 4.0 compatible with Etalab 2.0 open license.
 - make eml /
 - What was written in the metadata?
 - EML validated?

Creating an EML metadata record from EML metadata template files in text format

The screenshot shows the Galaxy web interface with the 'Ecology' tool selected. The main area displays the 'Make EML Create EML from EAL templates' tool parameters. The 'Tool Parameters' section includes:

- Upload all EAL templates**: A list of files selected: 16: personnel.txt, 15: methods.md, 14: keywords.txt, 13: Intellectual_rights.txt, 12: geographic_coverage.txt, 11: entities.txt, 9: cavers_datafile_2.txt, 8: attributes_PresentSurface.ph.txt, 7: attributes_LakeGeneva_phytoplankton_1974-2894.txt, 6: attributes_datafile_2.txt, 5: attributes_datafile_1.txt, 4: attributes_62_Ref.txt, 2: abstract.md, and 1: taxonomic_coverage.txt.
- Title for your dataset**: EML dataset creation from EML Assembly Line files.
- Temporal coverage**:
 - Beginning date of the dataset in the format YYYY-MM-DD**: 2021-01-01
 - Ending date of the dataset in the format YYYY-MM-DD**: 2021-12-12
- Do you have data table ?**:
 - Upload all data files which are data table**: 25: dataTables
 - Input a data collection**.
 - Give a short description of your data file**: If there is multiple data files please separate your descriptions with a comma (,) in the same order of your data input - optional.
 - What's the quotes of your data table ?**: Repeat this parameter as many time as the number of data tables you've input and in the same order.
 - + Insert What's the quotes of your data table ?
 - Give the publicly accessible URL from which your data table can be downloaded**: If more than one, data files please separate your URLs with a comma (,) in the same order of your data input. If wanting to include URLs for some but not all then use a - for those that don't have a URL.
 - optional
- Do you have raster data ?**:
 - Upload all data files which are spatial raster**: 2t: spatialRaster
 - Input a data collection**.
 - Give a short description of your data file**: If there is multiple data files please separate your descriptions with a comma (,) in the same order of your data input - optional.

<https://biodiversitydata.github.io/>

Creating an EML metadata record from EML metadata template files in text format

Steps

- Import the data, then click on the "home" icon at the top of the page and/or refresh the page.
- File review / What information is there (by looking at just the file names first, then browsing the contents of the metadata templates)?
- EML creation from EML Assembly Line template files using the Galaxy Make EML tool
- **MetaSHRIMPS: FAIRness assessment of metadata and creation of a draft data paper**
 - https://ecology.usegalaxy.eu/root?tool_id=interactive_tool_metashrimps on the generated EML
 - Execute => Draft of data paper + FAIR assessment
 - The draft “Data Paper” allows you to see the different metadata elements presented in the form of a static web page, a bit like in a data/metadata catalogue but without waiting for sending to the catalogue administrators and putting online!
 - We can see that some attributes have definitions added manually, while others have been automatically populated by EML Assembly Line
 - We could modify them afterwards to improve this
 - You can download an editable version of the draft data paper, to have a shareable or modifiable word version that can serve as a basis for writing an internal document or for wide distribution such as a data paper.
 - FAIRness score 30 success / 10 failure / 5 warning
 - On the “warning” side, we note a point on the size of the summary which would facilitate the “findable” aspects, another on the definition of an attribute “Present.Surface.pH” which only contains 3 words and would improve the “reusable” aspects.
 - On the “failure” side, it’s worth noting the lack of semantic annotation.

Creating an EML metadata record from EML metadata template files in text format

Steps

- Import the data, then click on the "home" icon at the top of the page and/or refresh the page.
- File review / What information is there (by looking at just the file names first, then browsing the contents of the metadata templates)?
- EML creation from EML Assembly Line template files using the Galaxy Make EML tool
- MetaSHRIMPS: FAIRness assessment of metadata and creation of a draft data paper
- **How to improve the files and get a better EML?**
 - Added annotation (EML report) + modified abstract and attributes (MetaShRIMPS report)

Creating an EML metadata record from EML metadata template files in text format

Steps

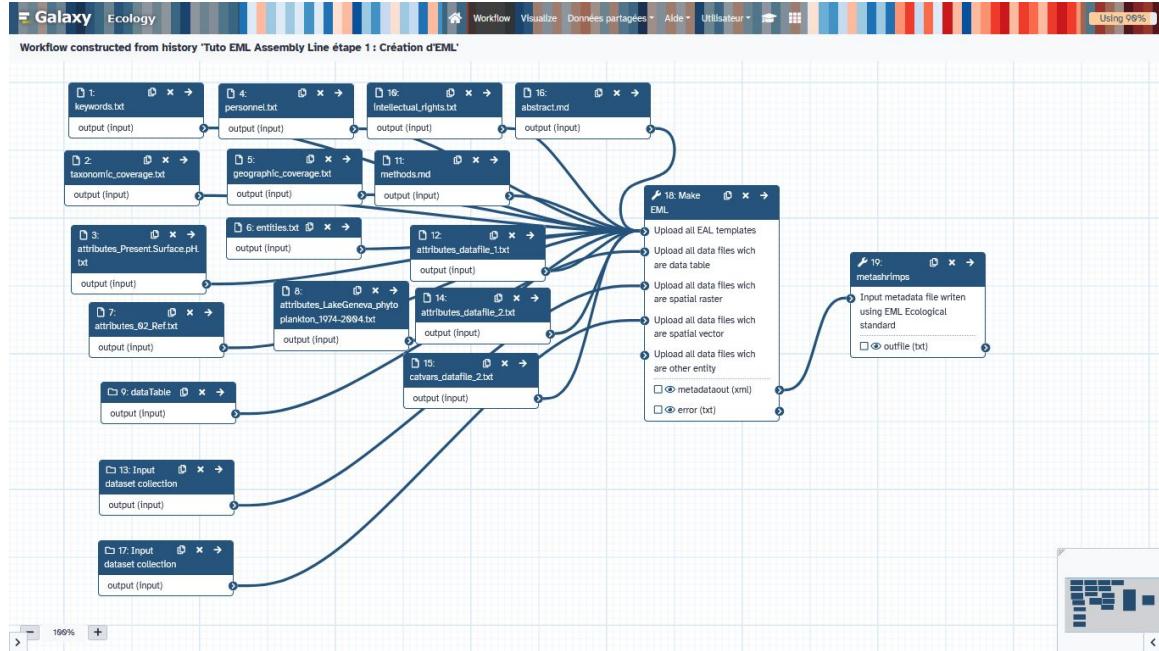
- Import the data, then click on the "home" icon at the top of the page and/or refresh the page.
- File review / What information is there (by looking at just the file names first, then browsing the contents of the metadata templates)?
- EML creation from EML Assembly Line template files using the Galaxy Make EML tool
- MetaSHRIMPS: FAIRness assessment of metadata and creation of a draft data paper
- How to improve the files and get a better EML?
- **Edition de fichiers de template EML Assembly Line pour améliorer le score de FAIRitude**
 - editing the “abstract.txt” file to obtain a summary of more than 100 words, of the “attributes_Present.Surface.pH.txt” file to expand the description of the “Present.Surface.pH” attribute (“surface present pH” instead of “ph” for example).
 - Creation of an “annotations.txt” file to add a keyword to the metadata record, “is about” “biodiversity”
 - => We recreate an EM
 - => We re-evaluate the “FAIRness” of our metadata via MetaShRIMPS (33 successes / 9 failures / 3 warnings)

id	element	context	subject	predicate_label	predicat
/dataset	/dataset	eml	dataset	is about	http://purl.org/

Creating an EML metadata record from EML metadata template files in text format

You can create a workflow from your history by clicking on the “gear” in the top right corner of the history, then “extract workflow”.

<https://ecology.usegalaxy.eu/u/ylebras/w/workflow-constructed-from-history-tuto-eml-assembly-line-tape-1--creation-deml>



=> But how do you create these famous template files?

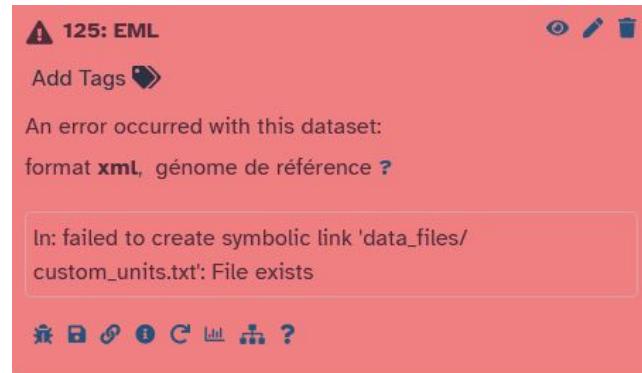
<https://biodiversitydata.github.io/>

Creation of EML Assembly Line metadata template files

Galaxy history with input data:

<https://ecology.usegalaxy.eu/u/ylebras/h/eml-assembly-line-tape-2--cration-des-fichiers-modeles-de-mtadonnes>

- Galaxy EML Assembly Line tools for generating:
 - Lists of attributes
 - For data tables
 - For raster GIS files
 - For vector GIS files
 - Survival data from the Quadrige database retrieved on November 30, 2021 for the REPHY program
 - Geographic coverage
 - If this does not appear to work, carefully review the error message (by clicking on the "insect" icon in the bottom left of the data file preview) to determine the source of the problem and suggest a solution.

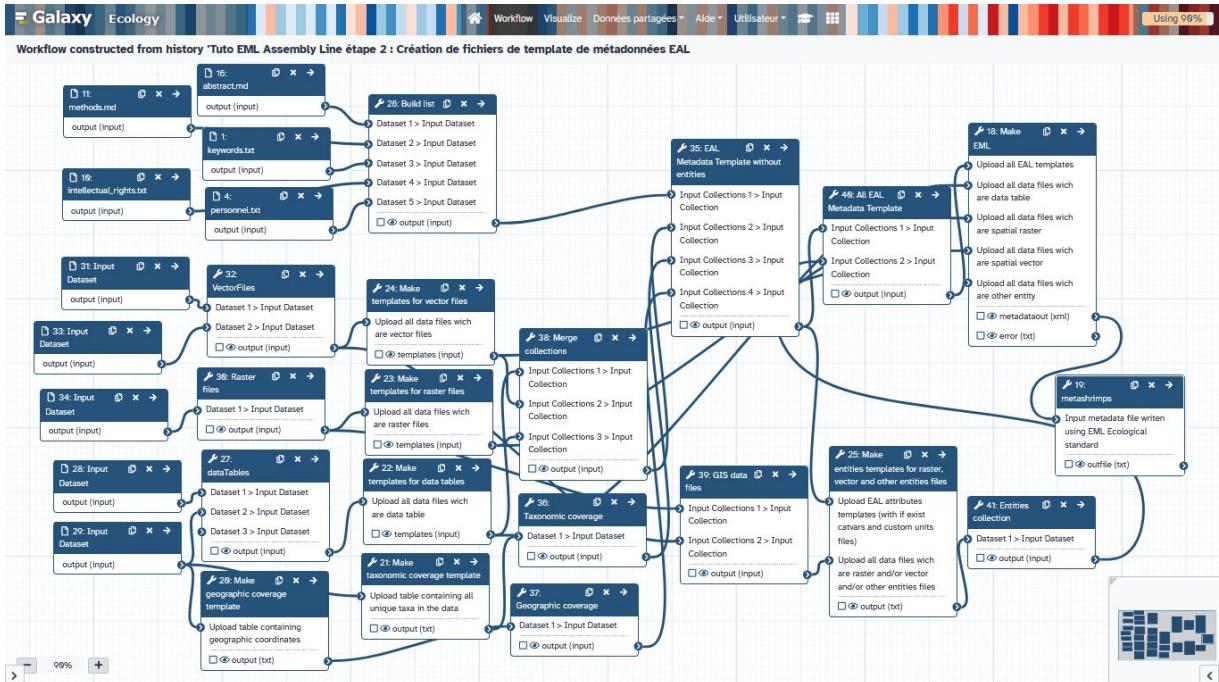


Creation of EML Assembly Line metadata template files

- Galaxy EML Assembly Line tools for generating:
 - Lists of attributes
 - Geographic coverage
 - **Taxonomic coverage**
 - Regarding the Temporal Coverage => as previously mentioned, this must be provided when creating the EML, along with the title
- We are seeing missing information in the metadata template, which explains why not all data files are populated in the EML.
 - Find and fill in the missing information by navigating to the "Warning message" file.

Creation of EML Assembly Line metadata template files

<https://ecology.usegalaxy.eu/u/ylebras/w/copy-of-workflow-constructed-from-history-tutorial-assemble-line-tape-1--creation-deml>



<https://biodiversitydata.github.io/>

Creating tab-delimited text metadata template files from an EML record

- From the Kakila database's EML metadata record:
<https://data.pnrb.fr/view/doi%3A10.48502%2F8bb5-pk85>
 - Copy and paste the direct link URL to the metadata record into the Galaxy upload module / "paste/fetch data" field:
https://pnrb.fr/metacat/d1/mn/v2/object/doi%3A10.48502%2F8bb5-pk8
5 Product analysis history
- <https://ecology.usegalaxy.eu/u/ylebras/h/tuto-eal-3-eml-to-eal>

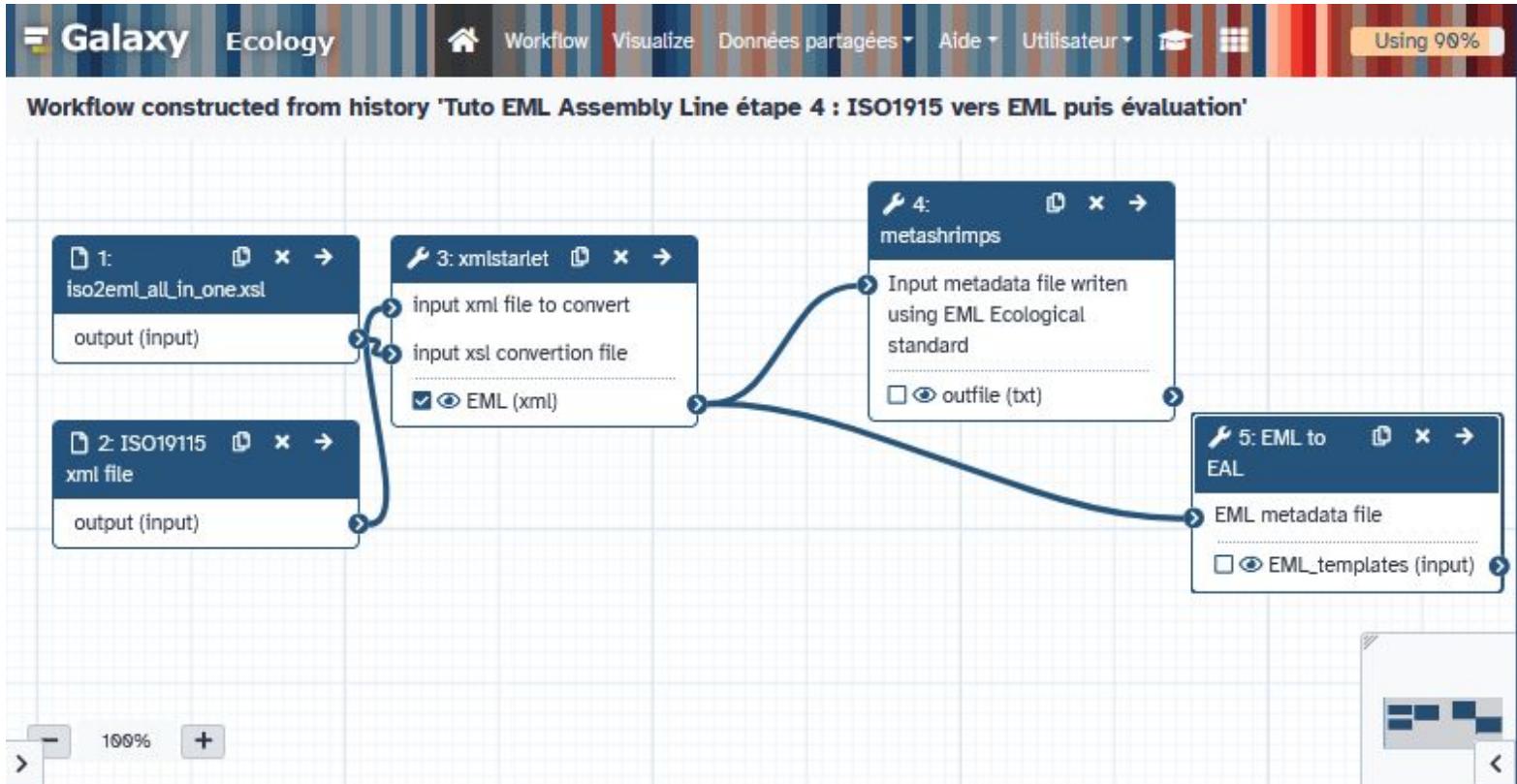
Creating an EML record from an ISO19115 metadata record

Galaxy history with input data:

<https://ecology.usegalaxy.eu/u/ylebras/h/tuto-eml-assembly-line-tape-4--iso19115-vers-eml-puis-validation-fairitude-et-bauche-de-data-paper>

- Using the “xmlstarlet” tool to convert the SURVAL ISO metadata sheet accessible from this webpage
<https://surval.ifremer.fr/Donnees/Cartographie-Inventaire-du-reseau-REPHY#/metadata/aa8fe568-d2c0-4b53-a8bb-d9fce2b5293> (direct link to metadata sheet:
<https://sextant.ifremer.fr/geonetwork/srv/api/records/aa8fe568-d2c0-4b53-a8bb-d9fce2b5293/formatters/xml>) to EML using the conversion file “iso2eml_all_in_one.xsl”
- Creation of a “FAIRitude” report and a draft “data paper” via “MetaSHRIMPS”
- Creation of metadata template files in tab-delimited text format via the “EML to EAL” tool

Creating an EML record from an ISO19115 metadata record



<https://ecology.usegalaxy.eu/u/ylebras/w/tuto-eml-assembly-line-tape-4--iso19115-vers-eml-puis-valuation>

<https://biodiversitydata.github.io/>

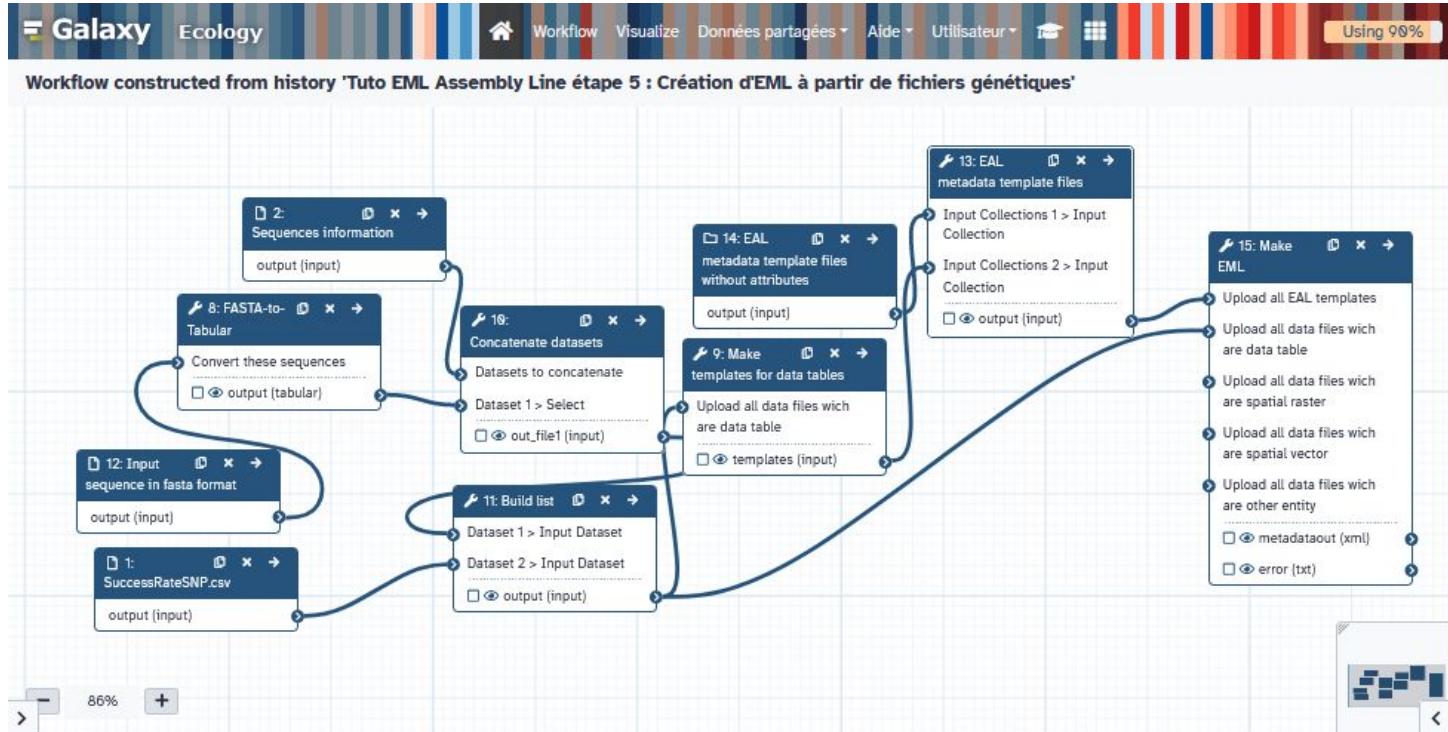
Creation of an EML record for genetic data

Galaxy history with input data:

<https://ecology.usegalaxy.eu/u/ylebras/h/tuto-eml-assembly-line-tape-5--cration-deml--partir-de-fichiers-quantiques>

- Using SEANOE data DOI 10.17882/70546 <https://www.seanoe.org/data/00593/70546/> Le Cam et al 2019
- From sequence data in FASTA format, identify a natural segmentation of sequence names into information elements, which we will call metadata elements, and create a tabulated file from this sequence file with one column for the sequence and as many columns as there are metadata elements.
- Looking at the FASTA file, we notice that there appear to be 7 metadata elements:
 - >RCL_P_1 ACATAACTTAGAGAAAGGAGCAGAGATCAGGGAGGGACAGCAACAAAG 2705094059
RCL_P_1_0_T_U_2705094059 23/07/2018 InfiniumII 1
- From the sequence file, we can therefore create a tabulated file using the FASTA TO TABULAR tool, ultimately obtaining a file with 8 columns.
- Next, you can add a header to the file using the Sequences Information history file and the “Concatenate dataset tail to end” tool.
- Then, you can create EAL metadata template files of type DataTable for this tab-delimited “SequencesSNP_Raja_clavata” file and the “SuccessRateSNP.csv” file, and then modify the content using the metadata provided in the “68857.txt” file, particularly regarding attribute descriptions.
- You can then use the content of the SEANOE metadata record “seanoe_metadata_export_20240312164552.txt” to populate the necessary information in the EAL template files. This step can be done entirely manually, but it is also possible to create a workflow to automate it using this file. If you choose this option, you will need to be or become a Galaxy Jedi, but this will allow you to share it with others and offer an automated workflow to go from a SEANOE txt quote file to EAL template files.

Creation of an EML record for genetic data



<https://ecology.usegalaxy.eu/u/ylebras/w/workflow-constructed-from-history-tuto-eml-assembly-line-tape-5--cration-deml--partir-de-fichiers-gtiques>

Perspectives

- **Transformation and Enrichment**
 - => Offers a simplified and collaborative way to share, convert, and enrich metadata
 - Identified need: Work on mappings and conversions between standards!
- **Automation by humans and/or machines**
 - => Use of the Galaxy API by external services, in particular
- **Populating data warehouses with rich metadata** without modifying the software used by the warehouses
 - => Using EAL template metadata files



<https://biodiversitydata.github.io/>



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