

How to create a Darwin Core Archive

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1 What is a Darwin Core Archive (DwCA) and why do we use them?

2 GBIF, OBIS and a network of data

There are a number of data centres that manage biodiversity and associated data. GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) is the largest and most (all?) of the other data centres that focus exclusively on Darwin Core make their data available via GBIF. So if you publish your data with any of the below services, your data will also be available via GBIF.

Table 1: A network of Darwin Core data. This table is just a small selection of the services available.

Name	Website	Comment
OBIS	https://obis.org/	Only marine data. The OBIS community have been pushing the DwC standards forwards to build better functionality for scientific data.
iNaturalist	https://www.inaturalist.org/	For citizen science, nature enthusiasts and researchers. Offer some great apps like Seek that you can use on your mobile phone for taking pictures, identifying the organism and publishing the data https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app
Living Norway	https://livingnorway.no/	Norwegian ecological data project
Artsdatabanken	https://www.artsdatabanken.no/	Service for collecting, organizing, and disseminating data related to Norwegian flora and fauna

3 Cores and extensions

4 How to create a Darwin Core Archive

4.1 Creating the CSV files

4.1.1 Template Generator

4.1.2 Using R

4.1.3 Using a spreadsheet software e.g. Excel

4.2 Creating a DwCA from your CSVs

Once you have your CSV files, creating a DwCA is easy. You can use the integrated publishing toolkit (IPT), developed by GBIF, to create the DwCA and also publish it.

4.3 The Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT)

4.3.1 Finding an IPT

5 Making your data available via SIOS

6 Citing your data in your paper

Cite your paper just as you would cite any other scientific publication - in your list of references. You can also mention the data in a data availability statement if your chosen journal requires one, but this should be as well as (not instead of) including the data in your list of references.

The recommended citation can be seen on the landing page of the dataset in the data centre you chose to publish with (GBIF or NMDC most likely).