2014-05-12

Questions and answer to JTS, BalticDiversity

1. In the previous milestone we asked about the functionality of the web portal. You responded that you (P3 Swedish Natural History Museum) would use your own resources in order to improve the system and especially to consider how to make the portal more user-friendly. Could you please submit a more detailed schedule for how you are going to proceed with this work in 2014 (which parts to be improved, possible solutions when it comes to the user aspects etc.).

Detailed technical action points in prioritized order 2014:

1. Stabilizing the server environment by shifting from a Glassfish application server (no webserver in front of the application server) to a JBOSS/WILDFLY Java EE application server (with an apache web server in front) immediate implementation.
2. Resolve issues with data errors resulting from slightly faulty import of taxonomy data by redoing the import and fixing the issues with missing data.
3. Collect traffic logs (webserver access logs) and provide tools to present and digest information in those as well as deploy real-time web traffic analysis based on Piwik (an Open source tool comparable to Google Analytics).
4. Add and tune intrusion detection systems (fail2ban) to provide resilience in case of sudden peaks in traffic.
5. We will implement a time-out function after a certain time period to address the issue with the eternal progress bar when looking for images on external sources and red list status services. \*) Answer to question 2c.

Action points 2014 for more user friendly interface:

* User instructions – in all languages by improving “About page” and make the
* Improve Contact page
* Improve user interface by using same headers and footers on all pages to facilitate navigation on the site.
* Logotype “Naturforskaren” – make it clickable and always take you to the homepage
* Supply a classical site map.
* Supply a site map that describes the taxonomic tree for different languages which indicates which pages have content.
* Quality control of static content on web pages.
* Focus groups testing user interface.

1. In addition, we have the following more specific questions about some of the functions of the portal The Naturalist:
2. You have now included four groups of species in the portal as displayed on the starting page (grasshoppers, dragonflies, butterflies and freshwater clams). Do you have any intention to add additional groups to be highlighted (we understand that it is possible to find information about almost any species using the search function)

We have plans for other ways to provide entry points to different groups, for example a carousel of random groups.

Next groups that are about to be entered in Swedish are:

Beetles

Bumblebees

Vascular plant

1. It looks like the description of the different groups of species is most elaborated when it comes to the Swedish version? Do you have any plans of include also other languages in a more elaborated manner? (for example like the description in Finnish already published regarding grasshoppers)? And perhaps also a "key" to identify the different families of these species in the other languages?

Yes, we have plans to harvest content from Finnish services this year into the Naturalist; vascular plants, fungi, bryophytes and lichens. Total amount of species is around 3 500 –4 000. In the plans for this year we will not be able to develop a “key” in any other language, but it will be highly prioritized for next year.

1. It seems like the system at a certain point may remain "working" and continues to look for information about images and red list status? This is probably an example of the notifications you would need to make for the developers. Please include a comment on this in your response to our first question as mentioned above.\*) see answer under question 1.

2) We also last time asked about your strategy for informing about the portal for specific user groups. The Memorandum of Understanding indicates that you will continue this work. Could you please further elaborate on this issue, and especially mention how the "national" portals and The Naturalist interact? Are there any cross-references etc. between the different systems etc.?

Yes there will be collaborative work on cross-referencing and also harvesting from the national portals to the Naturalist.

3) One of the objectives of BALTICDIVERSITY was to make the service available for the environmental administrations in the participating countries. Could you please explain how you have fulfilled this task.

In Sweden we are presenting a strategic communication plan for The Naturalist before the summer of 2014. The service is of course available to everyone, but we have not yet advertised due to the instable environment we have experienced with the Naturalist. Once this is solved we will take action to present the Naturalist to national environmental administrations in the participating countries.