Towards Making Collected Data Available for Global Analyses

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Marine Biology faces a particular problem and opportunity. Marine ecosystems are connected by a continuous medium (water). That means that all organisms with a free swimming or planktonic life stage are essentially mobile throughout all seas [1]. The biogeography of such organisms requires therefore information from an extraordinary large (circumglobal) area which makes the experimental approach to such information costly, and organisatorically demanding. However, the international marine research community in principal works globally. Samples as well as sample analysis and documentation are carried out with a reasonable good spatial coverage already for many groups of organisms. A meta analytical approach towards all gathered information faces serious difficulties as most data from sample documentations are neither published nor made publicly available. As important as such research opportunities would be e.g. for plankton researchers, the difficulties in data acquisition and data transformation most often prevent such analysis. A number of information portals such as GBIF, BioCASE, BioFresh, AlgaBase, AlgaTerra and PlanktonNet provide taxonomy and biodiversity data to the research community. The Network activity (E) in "Developing storage and Retrieval systems for New Type Collections" funded by Synthesys, as well as infrastructure movements such as the German DNA Bank Network, EDIT (EU FP6) and LifeWatch are a considerable progress as well as infrastructure movements such as the German DNA Bank Network, EDIT (EU FP6) and LifeWatch are a considerable progress.

References

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