

Linnaeus Link Union Catalogue

Customers

Natural History Museum in London.
The Linnean Society of London.

Context

Swedish born naturalist Carl Linnaeus (1707 – 1778) is recognized world wide for his work in nomenclature and classification of species and plants. His work established and standardized the binomial system that is still in use today, providing unique names for each individual kind of organism found throughout the whole world.

Linnaean publications are held in many institutions around the world, from National Institutions to small, specialist research bodies. Most of this work is only available in local, manual catalogues.

Business Problem

In order to exploit this work and make it freely available, the Natural History Museum and its partners funded a project to provide access to this work via the Internet. The objective was to provide detailed descriptions of every significant collection of published works, manuscripts and specimens, thus creating an important tool for scientific and cultural historians and researchers documenting global biodiversity.

Tessella Solution

To enable this catalogue to be available online Tessella designed the Linnaeus Link Union Catalogue (LLUC) application consisting of two main parts, the *harvesting system* and the *web application*.

The harvester application downloads information (effectively electronic cataloguing records) about Linnaean publications from member institutions' servers, and passes this information to and stores it in the database. Data is automatically downloaded from member institutions throughout the day.

The database stores information on Linnaean publications and the member institutions of the Linnaeus Link project from whom this information is harvested. As such, the database is used by both the harvester application and the web search/browse application.

The web application is the user interface for the whole application and is designed as a lightweight J2EE application. Its functionality is split into three parts: the ability to browse institution's collection details, the ability to search publications and the administration functionality.

Administration users have ordinary user access functionality and in addition they can browse the harvest logs, create and edit the details for member institutions and mark the repeatable fields of publication as hidden from ordinary users.

Results and Benefits

The Linnaean Link Union Catalogue is now available on the Internet to facilitate research for scholars worldwide, enabling researchers to identify locations of titles with a single Internet search. It contains over 1500 separate bibliographic records. The extensive Linnaean collections of the Linnean Society and Natural History Museum of London are now catalogued along with collections from Uppsala and Copenhagen Universities. Other European institutions are preparing their collections for inclusion.

Useful Links

www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/projects/linnaeus-link

www.linnean.org

www.linnaeuslink.org/lluc

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