Towards a Curriculum for BI Global Mapping Survey

Fatima Parker-Allie
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Key Aims of the Session at the Global Nodes Meeting -

• Get a clear idea of the activity in the GBIF community in support of both training of biodiversity informatics professionals as well as academic teaching.

• Look at how the Nodes can collaborate in these two areas.

• Consider how the Nodes can contribute or share expertise or resources/training materials in this area of work.

• Specifically, it is intended to get an idea of how the community can further contribute to the development of curricula for informatics.

• We hope to have clear outcomes to be included in the GBIF Nodes work plan.
As preparatory work before the 13\textsuperscript{th} Global Nodes meeting, \textit{we provided a survey to the Nodes community} to get an idea of the current level of activity in the GBIF network.

The aim of the survey was to get an overview of Node Managers already engaged in developing course curricula or providing training, and whether participants would be willing to share resources or enter into collaborations using the means offered by GBIF globally (e.g. the \textit{capacity enhancement support programme}).
Process

• We provided some framework/s for developing more comprehensive Biodiversity Informatics courses at the honours or masters levels, or for professional work-based training.

• Nodes were invited to review these documents and provide feedback on any gaps in the framework, and to make suggestions as to the small or large scale adjustments which may be required.

• We also considered initiatives underway involving wider communities in an endeavour to share, such as the TDWG Interest Group on Biodiversity Informatics Curriculum and Biodiversity Informatics Training Curriculum and consider alignments with these.
Current Initiatives
Biodiversity Informatics Curriculum Report
Activities

• Some Countries started the conception of posgrad degrees programs in BDI
• Benin
• Brazil
• Colombia
• Norway
• India
• South Africa
Needs identified at the survey

• Formal training is critical to establish the next generation of biodiversity informaticians

• Prioritized list for training of working professionals

• There were interest from nodes to establish e-learning platforms

• Curricula needs: should be holistic, sequential and modular

• South-South, North-South collaboration have been identified and is important
Needs identified at the survey

Funding

• For example resources should be found to interchange professors (research academics)

• Integration with other initiatives

• Integration with TDWG work group

• Extend the time and scope of the survey

• Include universities and research institutes
Existing Resources

• Coming from the survey
  ✓ Nodes training resources list needs to be develop

  ✓ Increase the use of the GBIF resource center

• Establish a task group to bring it together and a common platform to maintain together
Dissemination of the survey

• Redistribute the survey for the nodes for wider input

• Distribute globally

• Distribute in TDWG
Gaps in curricula

• Interdisciplinary degree and courses

• Basic concepts:
  ✓ Biodiversity
  ✓ Geography
  ✓ Informatics
  ✓ Standards
  ✓ Taxonomy
  ✓ Licensing issues
Outcomes

• GBIF-TDWG interest group. Hanna and Alberto will take the connection forward

• Extend the time and target audience of the survey
Outcomes

• Standard modular curricula integrating all the existing curricula that already exist and the results of the survey, as a reference for new ones
• Thank you!