



Project no. 018340

Project acronym: EDIT

Project title: Toward the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy

Instrument: Network of Excellence

Thematic Priority: Sub-Priority 1.1.6.3: "Global Change and Ecosystems"

C5.28 Portal prototype functional for machine access to Metadatabase

Due date of component: Month 30

Actual submission date: Month 30

Start date of project: 01/03/2006

Duration: 5 years

Organisation name of lead contractor for this component: 10 NHML

Revision: final

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme (2002-2006)		
Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

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Introduction

ViTaL, the Virtual Taxonomic Library is a component of the EDIT infrastructure, being created as part of WP5.3, which is concerned with the provision of Bibliographic tools for the taxonomic community.

The services provided by ViTaL have been discussed in detail in [previously published project documents](#). The diagram below has been extracted from document [D5.15 ViTaL draft system design](#). It provides a useful overview of the system architecture.

This report documents the pilot launch of the software components making up the **bibliographic aggregation and search application**, known collectively as **Falx**, which is in development at the Natural History Museum (London). The pilot went live on 26 September 2008.

Functionality

For the purposes of the pilot, Falx is harvesting the bibliographies of EDIT scratchpad sites using their bibtex download facility. Currently over 9,000 records are harvested in total.

The bibliographic data is stored in a MySQL database (the meta-database). This content is then used to build a full-text searchable index using [Apache Lucene](#), a Java indexing application. Finally the index is exposed to the web for both human and machine use at the URL <http://taxonlib.org/bibsearch>.

Interfaces

Human Access

Human access is via a web search page which includes search instructions, links to further information, and the search form itself. Search results can be sorted by author name, publication name, title year and source name.

The results of an example search can be seen here: http://taxonlib.org/bibsearch?term=carbon*

An OpenURL link is given for each item, which allows the user to look for full text content using the ViTaL OpenURL resolution service, based on Ex Libris SFX.

Machine access

Machine access is achieved through the addition of a query string parameter to the search URL: **format=json**. E.g. http://taxonlib.org/bibsearch?term=carbon*&r=2&n=all&format=json

[JSON](#) (JavaScript Object Notation) is a lightweight data-interchange format which is the preferred format for data exchange with the EDIT CDM.

ViTaL draft system design

