XIV OPTIMA Meeting

September, 9-15 2013

Palermo

Abstracts

ARS

Regione Siciliana

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Lectures
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optima
organization for the phyto-taxonomic investigation of the mediterranean area

Orto Botanico, Palermo 9-15 September 2013

OPTIMA (Organization for the Phyto-Taxonomic Investigation of the Mediterranean Area)

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A web collaborative project to store and map botanical data

Venanzoni R., Aleffi M., Assini S., Bonini I., Chiarucci A., Feoli E., Gigante D., Guarino R., Foggi B., Geri F., Gubellini L., Landucci F., Lastrucci L., Lucarini D., Maneli F., Mariotti M., Panfili E, Peccenini S., Perini C., Rosati L., Santangelo A., Strumia S., Taffetani F., Vanacore Falco R., Viciani D., Vidali M., Tacchi R., Zuccarello V.

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The present paper aims to develop a debate about the possibility to realize a web common project to store and map botanical data. In the last years, the idea that different kinds of botanical databases could be realized, developed and than brought together, has been promoted. This strategy, in theory fascinating, has often been adopted at national and regional level but the results look like Babel of information.

AnArchive (http://www.anarchive.it) is an open source web geodatabase designed to store, retrieve and analyze herbarium, floristic and vegetation data. A synthesis of technical details, ontology and other information is available on the web page http://www.anarchive.it/anArchive/storia.jsp. It was based on the work of volunteers of academic provenience who wished to share resources, competences and data. Started in 2000, as an interuniversity collaborative project, it has been initially supported and developed by a team of researchers from the Universities of Perugia, Camerino and Siena (Venanzoni & al 2003; Bonini 2012). During the last 12 years, the project grew up, involving more and more universities (18), private and educational institutions, for a total of 122 active users. Mainly designed for herbarium specimens and floristic data, the project gradually enlarged its target including to vegetation plots and phytosociological data within the twin project VegItaly (http://www.vegitaly.it), adopted by the Italian Society for Vegetation Science (Landucci & al. 2013; Venanzoni & al. 2012). Another application was the atlas of Tuscan Pteridophytes (http://geo.anarchive.it/gis/map.phtml?config=fra) developed by the G.I.F.T. project (http://www.atlantefloratoscana.it/site2/?page_id=80) (Geri & al. 2011, 2013) and Liguria monitoring network (Mariotti & al. 2013), etc. Actually the improved structures and applications give secure support for data, privacy and opportunities to users to facilitate research and exchange, to publish each-others data, to build maps and visibility to the web-searching engine as Google is ensured (Venanzoni & Panfili 2010; Gigante & al. 2012; Venanzoni & al. 2012).

One of the most significant targets reached by the working group is the Web-GIS engine and the master taxonomic list. The Web-GIS engine is based on MapServer and Pmapper, support maps according to the most common floristic grid e.g. CEM, UTM (10 or 2 Km square), etc. or point-to-point. The master list actually includes 31,963 names of specific and infra-specific taxa both valid names and synonyms. Created to enter correctly accepted names, it was developed to support the storing of botanical data including historical names (pre-Linnaean) and old names in both herbaria, floristic, vegetation samples and plots, Particularly attention was paid to tie the entire name's chain (synonyms) having the same final taxon (valid name) in order to let the user (not necessarily expert) to input the original name or the updated one's (Gigante & al. 2012). The complete master list is available online at http://www.anarchive.it/anArchive/specie/browser.jsp. The taxonomic list is continuously improved and updated according to new publications, revisions and changed taxonomic visions. This model has been appreciated inside the European reference point for the creation of the European taxonomic standard list for vegetation studies named EuroSL (Landucci & al., submitted; Negri & al. submitted; http://vnr.unipg.it/PGRSecure/).