

**OPEN
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OpenUp!

A New Project on Opening up the European Natural History Heritage for EUROPEANA



W. G. Berendsohn, A. K. Michel, A. Güntsch, W.-H. Kusber (2011)
Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Freie Universität Berlin, Königin-Luise-Str. 6-8, 14195 Berlin, Germany
Email: w.berendsohn@bgbm.org; a.michel@bgbm.org; a.guentsch@bgbm.org; w.h.kusber@bgbm.org



Fig. 1: The OpenUp! consortium consists of 23 partners from 12 European countries

Project Details

OpenUp! is a 3-year-project in the Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP) and Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) of the European Commission **starting in March 2011**. The participating institutions (Fig. 1) will provide over one million multimedia objects from the natural history domain (Fig. 2) to Europeana. OpenUp! is complementary to the eContentPlus project **Biodiversity Heritage Library Europe**, which is mobilising digitised literature in the natural history domain.

OpenUp! is an initiative of members of the **Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF)** and several European nodes of the **Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)**.

High quality biological specimen images	881 438
Natural history artwork	119 100
Animal sound files	21 350
Movies	1 200
Other	38 000
Total, at least	1 061 088

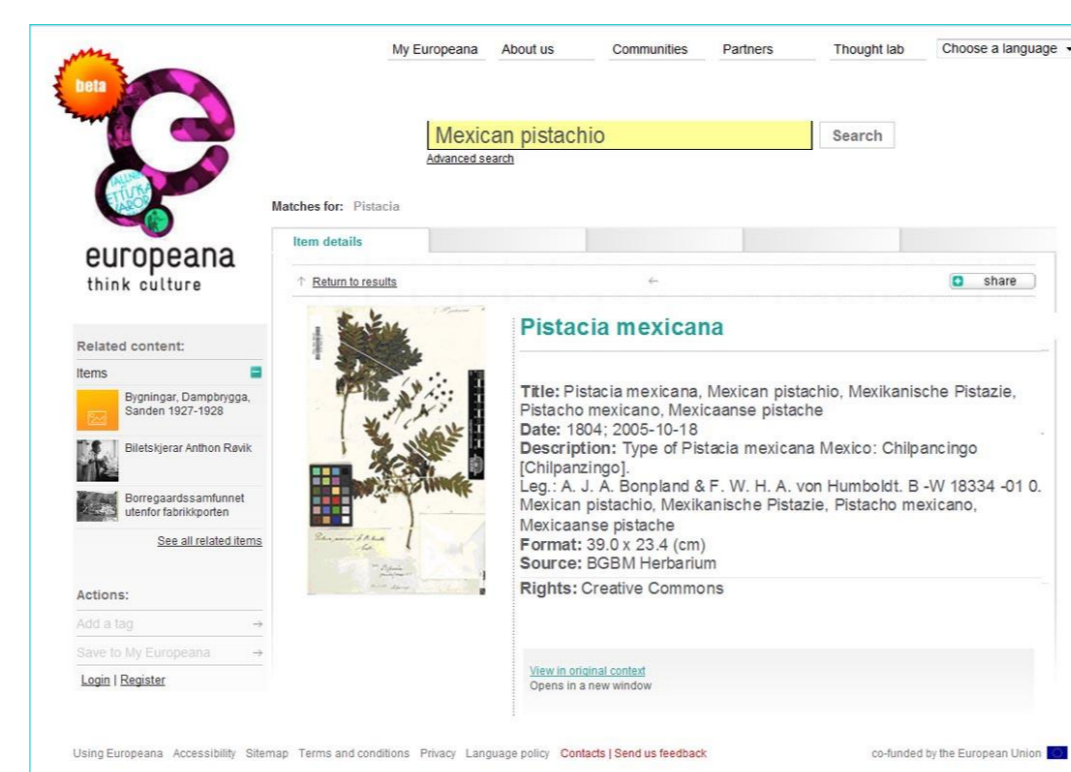


Fig. 2: The amount of multimedia content from the natural history domain that OpenUp! will at least provide to Europeana by the end of the project duration

Fig. 3: Europeana output (mock-up), showing a herbarium sheet at B, searched by a vernacular name

Background

www.Europeana.eu is a cross-domain portal to Europe's cultural and scientific heritage. Europeana co-operates in the delivery and sustainability of the joint portal, stimulates initiatives to bring together existing digital content, and supports the digitisation of Europe's cultural and scientific heritage. Europeana is funded by the European Commission and the member states.

Its newest version will link to over ten million digital items:

- **Images** - paintings, drawings, maps, photos, and pictures of museum objects
- **Texts** - books, newspapers, letters, diaries, and archival papers
- **Sounds** - music and spoken word from cylinders, tapes, discs, and radio broadcasts
- **Videos** - films, newsreels, and TV broadcasts

Some of these are world famous, others are hidden treasures from Europe's museums and galleries, archives, libraries, and audio-visual collections.

Project Objectives

OpenUp! will establish a close collaboration between European cultural and scientific institutions concerned with collections of natural objects (see Fig. 3), with the aim of aggregating and contributing multimedia objects from the natural history domain into EUROPEANA.

OpenUp! will

- use the established technical infrastructures of GBIF including the Biological Collection Access System for Europe (BioCASE) to create a single access point to distributed multimedia content in the natural history domain for EUROPEANA ,
- provide the validation mechanisms to ensure compliance with EUROPEANA standards,
- improve data quality by a massive effort in data cleaning and quality control which will also benefit users of the GBIF and BioCASE networks,
- ensure sustained and open item-level access to the multimedia items,
- provide a multilingual metadata vocabularies and thesauri which can be used to enhance cross-linking for EUROPEANA content,
- extend participation in content provision beyond the original consortium.

Project Activities

OpenUp! will

- provide the mapping between GBIF data standards and the EUROPEANA metadata scheme ESE and the EDM (Europeana Data Model),
- draw on the existing efforts of partners with respect to vocabularies on organism names to unite them for the purpose of metadata enrichment in the project,
- put into place the procedures to enrich object metadata at the source level and control compliance with EUROPEANA standards as well as with OpenUp! vocabularies,
- quality control species names associated with the objects by matching and linking them with taxonomic databases (*such as: European Register of Marine Species, Fauna Europaea, Euro+Med PlantBase, World Register of Marine Species, Species 2000 & ITIS Catalogue of Life*),
- aggregate the contents using BioCASE technologies and provide previews of objects in the aggregation cache,
- document best practice and develop a consistent IPR and copyright strategy for future data provision by consortium members and other content providers,
- mirror the aggregation site as well as the documentation to at least three sites across Europe to ensure performance and availability.

Figure 4 outlines the projected procedures.

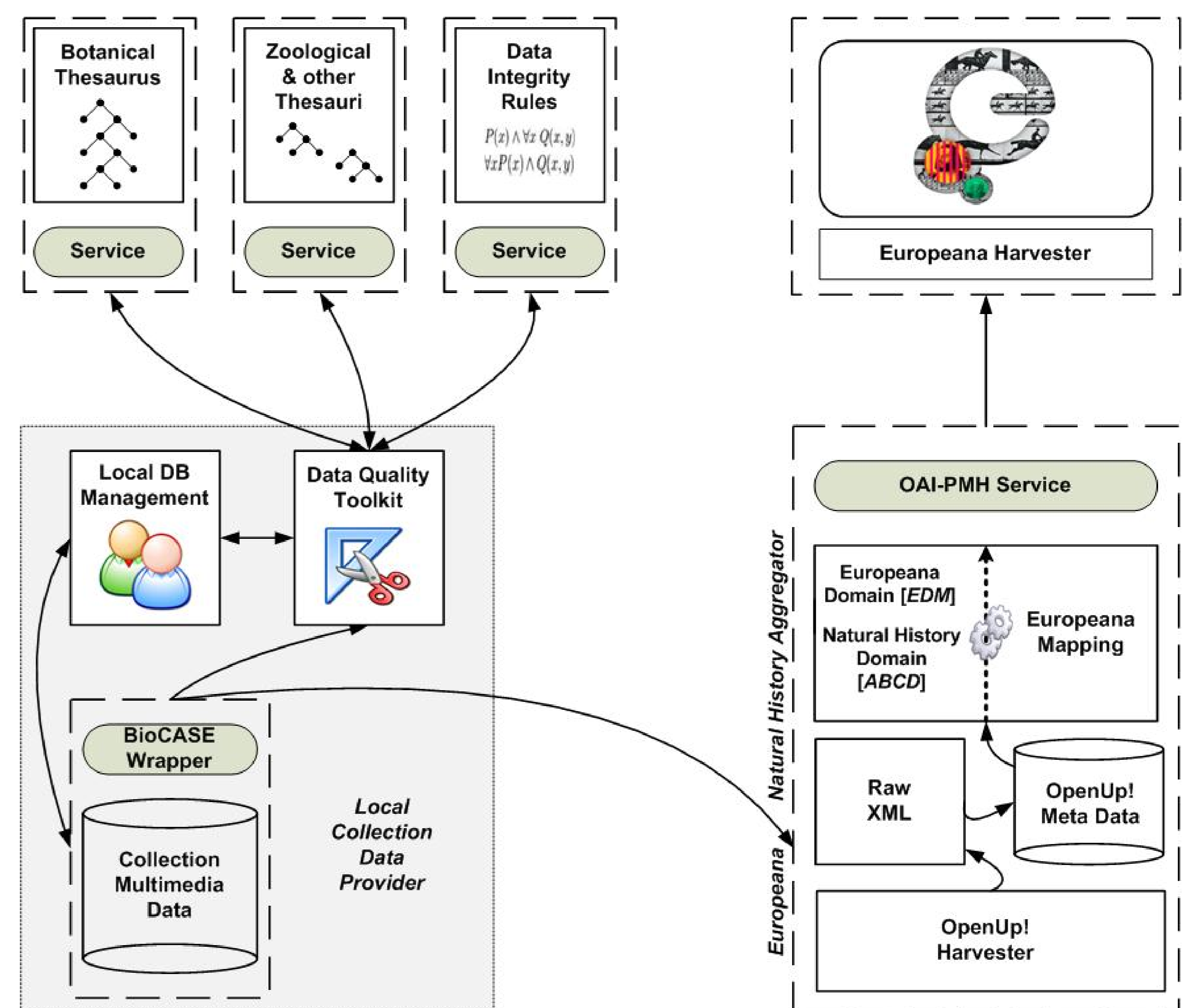


Fig. 4: Data processing steps in the mobilisation of multimedia content from natural history institutions for EUROPEANA

Find more information at www.europeana.eu or contact the OpenUp! project coordination: openupcoord@bgbm.org

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