

This document contains the notes taken during the last **Workshop on Biodiversity Metadata Management in Latin America** (<http://www.recibio.net/tallermetadatos/metadatos.php>) in relation to questions raised by Éamonn Ó Tuama (GBIF.S). This workshop took place in Bogotá (Colombia) in September 13th-16th, 2010 and was organized by the “Sistema Nacional de Información sobre Biodiversidad de Colombia” (SiB) and the Spanish GBIF Node in collaboration with La Salle University and the GBIF Secretariat within the **PIIB** (<http://www.recibio.net/piib/>) framework.

QUESTIONS BY ÉAMONN Ó TUAMA (GBIF)

1. **How can GBIF help? Infrastructure, tools, training**
 2. **As a regional metadata network, what kind of network intersections do you envisage? within network, with GBIF, with others**
 3. **Key activities for 2012-2016 work programme?**
 4. **What is the role of a central GBIF portal for metadata?**
 5. **How do you propose to handle language issues?**
 6. **What are your approaches to incentivizing production of high quality, complete metadata?**
 7. **How are you using metadata?**
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Below you can find the answers to questions 1, 4, 5 and 6.

1. **How can GBIF help? Infrastructure, tools, training, ...**

- Supporting training activities.
- Clear definition of the schema used by GBIF; standard clarification and documentation in this regard.
- Seed money grants for metadata digitalization.
- Interface to query the metadata that is already being compiled and to feedback on them (see progress in the region http://www.recibio.net/cat_metadatos.php).
- The participants from Latin-America suggest working as a network comprising all countries in the region. This network should support query and exchange of metadata on whatever biodiversity information that is needed. This regional metadata network must be interoperable with other regional and global networks; hence GBIF can support the consolidation of this network. Nevertheless, is up to the region to define its own metadata management strategy.
- Supporting exchange capacity leverage within the region and with other regions.

2. What is the role of a central GBIF portal for metadata?

Develop a metadata search engine that:

- Is integrated with the data portals.
- Feeds from metadata from the regional systems.
- Allows access to metadata to feed regional catalogues

Develop a metadata architecture that integrates the global, regional, national, or thematic metadata systems in a way data are compiled and curated at the most appropriate level, but can be discovered and utilized at any level .

3. How do you propose to handle language issues?

- Promoting the use of controlled vocabularies.
- Allowing documentation of metadata in their own language of origin and providing translation to other languages.
- Using multilingual thesauri.

4. What are your approaches to incentivizing production of high quality, complete metadata?

- Supporting regional nodes on its metadata initiatives.
- Promoting metadata collection at the closest possible point where the data are created and compiled. Ideally metadata must be created in the same context that the data they describe were created.
- The human factor is important for attaining quality metadata. An incentive mechanism must be devised in this regard. Some ideas for this :
 - Visibility encourages improving the maintenance conditions of collections (the collections makes visible how they are, personal, growth, protocols, loans, etc.).
 - Developing an accreditation/certification system according to the standards used.
- Promote developing auditing systems (these require IT tools as well as human teams in the nodes or regional catalogues).
- Adopting existing schemas (standards) and defining priority elements for these schemes.
- Supporting countries that have to work on this matter.

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- Creating a working group for metadata auditing (human and technological resources).

Notes taken by Mónica Vera (SiB)