



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"

## **C8.1.4.4 Report on the fully operational on-line catalogue of training resources for taxonomy with continuity for the future**

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<b>Dissemination Level</b>		
<b>PU</b>	Public	X
<b>PP</b>	Restricted to other program participants (including the Commission Services)	
<b>RE</b>	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
<b>CO</b>	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

This report indicates the current status of the Online Catalog for Taxonomy courses and recommendation for the future use and sustainability of the service. It has been compiled by James Davy and Franck Theeten with input from Kim Jacobsen, Lellani Farinas, and Patricia Mergen, and colleagues of the EDIT project and beyond.

### ***Introduction***

The Online Catalog for Taxonomy courses was developed to have a centralized database that indicates all available taxonomic courses. Currently, most students and researchers find it difficult to locate a course in the taxonomic field as they are poorly represented in common searches. However, with the development of the online catalog Universities and Research institutions across the world can clearly indicate the courses they have available.

As the database grows, the catalog will quickly become an important tool for anyone looking to expand their knowledge of taxonomy. Institutions can update their respective courses when they require doing so. The content management system used to organize the site is Drupal (<http://drupal.org/>) with the database running on PostgreSQL (<http://www.postgresql.org/>) To ensure sustainability beyond EDIT the service will be hosted by a server setup on site in the RMCA, with a persistent backup to ensure the data is not lost.

### ***Description of the Taxonomic Course Catalog functionality***

[http://edit.africamuseum.be/drupal\\_dev/](http://edit.africamuseum.be/drupal_dev/)

A normal user (someone with no log-in eg: a student) is able to access the main page showing the list of available taxonomic courses. The list is updated live so the courses are always up to date, that is if the training providers contribute regularly with updates and new courses. There are several columns of information showing for each course. The list can be sorted from any of the column titles by clicking the title (Image 1 ref 1). A second click will cause the sorting order to be reversed (descending or ascending).

**EDIT** European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy

International Taxonomic Courses Index

List EDIT WP 8 Training courses Search Training Courses

**User login**

Username: \*

Password: \*

[Create new account](#)  
[Request new password](#)

**User Menu**

- [EDIT WP 8 Training courses](#)
- [Search training courses](#)

**List of EDIT WP 8 Training Courses**

244 record(s) match(es) your search criterium:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ... next > last >>

ID	Course Title	Country	Course organiser	Language	Target Level	Duration
1	Economically and agriculturally important insect taxa			English		<b>Ref 1</b>
2	Molecular taxonomy			English	/	
4	Plant taxonomy	Belgium		Dutch	academic course/	10 days
5	<b>Insect taxonomy</b>	Finland	Zoological museum, University of Helsinki.	Finnish/Swedish /English	academic course/non-academic/	26, 13, 1-2 hrs depending on item
6	Applied taxonomy	The Netherlands	Zoological Museum, University of Amsterdam	English/Dutch/German /Bahasa Indonesia/reporting in English	academic course/undergraduate /master/	10-60 ECTS
7	International doctoral studies in natural sciences	Poland	Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, IB PAS	Polish/English	academic/PhD/	4 years
8	Plant systematics (Biol450)	USA	West Virginia University, Biology Dept.	English	academic course/	1-2 hrs/days, 4 days/week during 15 weeks
9	MSc in ecological marine management	Belgium	Vrije Universiteit Brussels	English	academic/master/	2 years
10	Taxonomy of Pamphredoninae wasps	Lithuania	Vilnius University, Inst. of Ecology	English/Russian /Lithuanian	/consulting	1 day
11	Principles of zoological systematics	Lithuania	Vilnius university, Dept. of Zoology		academic course/master/	6 ECTS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ... next > last >>

Image 1: Taxonomic course list

Once the required course is located the user may then find more details by clicking the title of the course (Image 1 ref 2). This brings up the course details page (Image 2), indicating much of the information shown on the previous screen with additional content and details.

**EDIT** European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy

International Taxonomic Courses Index

List EDIT WP 8 Training courses Search Training Courses

**Home**

**Details of Training**

**Title:** Insect taxonomy

**Country:** Finland

**Target Audience:** general public/amateur taxonomists/high school students/undergraduates/master level/specialists / professionals/technicians/

**Organiser:** Zoological museum, University of Helsinki. **Host:** On occasion held by collaborative institutions.

**Language:** Finnish/Swedish/English

**Content:** Insect taxonomy, especially Coleoptera. Insect pests in museums. Presentation of different insect groups (orders, important smaller insect groups, species level).

**Periodicity:** on a regular basis /one time in the framework of a special occasion (e.g. congress, project)/on demand **Duration:** 26, 13, 1-2 hrs depending on item

**Person Responsible:** Olof Bistrom

**Contact:** olof.bistrom@helsinki.fi

**Website:**

**User Menu**

- [EDIT WP 8 Training courses](#)
- [Search training courses](#)

Image 2: Taxonomic course details page

All of the necessary contact information to enroll in a course can be found in the course details page. As the standards change between institutions for methods of enrollment, the main concerns are an active e-mail and a website.

If a user requires information regarding a specific topic or wish to view courses only offered in certain languages then they have the available search tool. It has a text field to search any words or terms to be found in the database (Image 3 Ref 1). It allows the user the option to select which fields of information they would like to have searched (Image 3 Ref 2) with the most common options selected by default.

International Taxonomic Courses Index

Home

Search Training Courses

me: \*  
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in  
account  
password

User Mer  
○ EDIT WP  
○ Search tr

Search:

Select your search criterium in the list below. EG. Select duration and search the word 'days' if you would like to find courses that are relatively short. **Ref 1**

<input type="checkbox"/> ID #	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Target Audience
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Country	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Language	<input type="checkbox"/> Periodicity
<input type="checkbox"/> Organiser	<input type="checkbox"/> Host	<input type="checkbox"/> Duration
<input type="checkbox"/> Person Responsible	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact E-Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Website address

**Ref 2**

Image 3: Search page

Users with a log-in will have the same capabilities as those without. In addition to these default functions a logged in user is able to add new courses to the database as well as update any entries previously added. The functions for adding, editing, and deleting entries become available once the user has logged in.

The log-in will use EDIT's SSO (Single Sign On) system, allowing any registered member of the EDIT and associated projects to have the ability to add entries without the need for re-registering. The colors and theme are also inline with other EDIT sites built on Drupal. (ie Scratchpads, Summer School site, DEST site, ATBI sites ...)

### ***Conclusions and suggestions***

The online course database is fully functional and is capable of satisfying a great need in terms of access to information. The course list currently hosted in the database is incomplete as many of the organisations did not provide all of the required details. This can be corrected by having a request sent to all the contact personnel listed in the current database, and asking them to update their entries or create new ones. To harvest more information the site will also be largely advertised worldwide for sustainability and usefulness beyond EDIT.