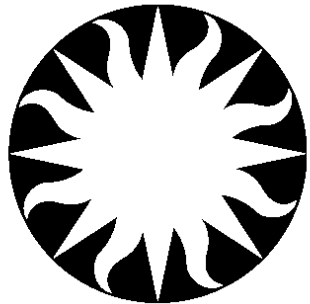


# TDWG 2007: Summary of Upcoming Challenges

Anna Weitzman & Chris Lyal  
Smithsonian Institution & Natural  
History Museum, London

TDWG 2007, Bratislava



Smithsonian



# *Pivotal time for TDWG*

- Relative maturity of TDWG data standards & proposed standards (especially TCS, ABCD, SDD, NCD, TAPIR...LIT & others coming soon)
- TDWG standards have mainly taxonomic orientation
- Interoperability between data types increasingly important
- Good time to think about how to bring them all together (stop thinking about it—*MOVE!*)



# *Accomplishments to 2007*

## TDWG Infrastructure Project

- Accomplished a lot in ~27 months to revitalize TDWG
- New website, consistent architecture, LSID recommendation
- More formalised processes for standards, publication, etc
- Thanks to Donald, Lee, Roger & Ricardo & TDWG executive

Lots of work on standards, interactions inside and outside TDWG

GBIF (and *MANY* others) use of TDWG standards

More people from outside taxonomic community coming to TDWG

# *Where to now?*

Still needed from TDWG:

- Clarity on generation & use of LSIDs
- Clarity on use of RDF/OWL & XML, relationships, implementation with complex data types (LIT, SDD, ...)
- Capacity building for users and providers
  - Stability so TDWG interest groups can catch up and prepare (with others):
    - Guides for using standards written for them
    - Working examples
    - Best practice manuals for applying standards
    - Integrated tools that can be tailored for users
  - Work with GBIF and others?

# *User needs*

Users want something that works *for them*

- studies of user needs vital for:
  - Standards development (standards are the backbone)
  - Building, testing, and implementing applications
- TDWG collaboration, cooperation, integration key!
- We are getting closer with a wide variety of applications, but much more to do:
  - Integrating applications together to serve taxonomists more simply (EDIT as one example)
  - ***Stop reinventing the wheel***
  - ***Work together and pool resources***

# *TDWG – wither next?*

- Divergence of opinion about whether to stick to our core (taxonomy) or be more inclusive (all biodiversity)
  - Do one thing well *or* reach out to larger community?
  - Collaborate (OGC, ecological groups, phylogeny, library, gene sequences) while concentrating on our historic strength *or* build a larger tent?
- Journal? Online only or print? Focus?
- Answers to these questions will define how to move forward

# *Raise profile of TDWG*

Raise profile to whom?

- Mainly taxonomists?
- Biodiversity research community?
- Other standards development groups?
- General public including policy makers?

*How depends on which profile, but...*

# *Raise profile of TDWG*

**Concerted effort by everyone here to present:**

- TDWG overview (PPT on TDWG website)
- TDWG-related results

at ALL relevant meetings:

- Taxonomy & Systematics
- Conservation
- Ecology
- IT
- Standards Groups
- Library Groups

***Stress pivotal use of TDWG in talks & passing out brochures!***

Hire press relations person (or use institutional) for a events that could catch public attention

Journal? I need volunteers if we are serious

More activities at the regional level—workshops, meetings?

What else? ***We need your ideas...***