Since 2010, Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) has developed a huge open source platform to serve biodiversity information at national level. The ALA – that is also Australia’s GBIF node – delivers a centralized web-based infrastructure with several modules re-usable by other organizations.

Since 2013, the community around this tool has organized technical workshops to present ALA modules to other institutions – mainly to GBIF participants – that wanted to implement it, to improve already existing national data portals and to learn from each other’s achievements.

Since 2014, we have organized at least one technical workshop per year around specific modules of the platform (e.g. species or spatial modules, registry, etc.). These meetings are really precious and motivating because we can share ideas or doubts, solve technical issues and get assistance from other ALA developers. At the end, they have helped to create a wonderful community, but also given the possibility to everyone to move forward on the developments of their national data portals.

Thanks to the previous meetings and other engagements arranged around this topic, at least 11 data portals using ALA technology in 8 countries have been released in production since 2014.

The community is a group of developers that love to work together and improve tools to facilitate a free and open access to biodiversity data.

Since the beginning of the adventure, 9 institutions have released one or more data portals based on Atlas of Living Australia tools in production (in green on the graph) and 4 institutions are currently developing it (in orange).

Several other institutions (GBIF Nodes or not) are talking about using the ALA platform as a national data portal (in white).

[Tip for developers] We have a public HipChat room where you can access and ask any question related to the ALA platform and how to install it. https://www.hipchat.com/go/ala-portal

[ALA Mailing list] Subscribe to the ALA-Portal mailing list in order to ask any technical or non-technical question to the community. https://lists.gbif.org/mailman/listinfo/ala-portal