The GBIF France new portal : Atlas of Living France (ALF)

With more than 500 million records documenting species occurrences shared and accessible through GBIF.org, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) is a major actor in biodiversity data discovery. The launch of the new GBIF website in November 2013 saw an improvement in the reliability, access and fitness for use of the published data. With this amount of data, it is not possible to offer as much detail as in national portals, especially in terms of map visualization, field search, data quality, etc.

GBIF France launched its new portal totally based on Atlas of Living Australia modules at the end of May 2015 after 3 months of configuration and installation. We have been able to match this generic infrastructure to our local needs (e.g., links to different French structures such as Service du Patrimoine Naturel for species pages) and requests (e.g., adding a map to the result page of an occurrence search), developing our own design by adding the portal to our national website, and translating the ALA portal into French.

Process of publishing data into ALF

Those PHP scripts (a) use the GBIF API (b) to insert information on institutions, collections, data resources and contacts using the UUID provided by the GBIF into the MySQL instance (d). We use the Client URL Request Library named CURL to call the GBIF web services. GBIF web services return JSON files (c).

We download archives from GBIF web services (2) through the loading tool (1) proposed by the software. It stores the DwC-Archive (3) locally and creates, on the MySQL instance (4), a metadata record for each resource.

Biocache command line tool is a java executable with a scala implementation. The entire process takes four steps : loading, processing, sampling and indexing data into the Apache Cassandra (NoSQL Database).

The metadata registry is stored on a MySQL instance.

Reference:
1 www.gbif.fr
2 www.gbif.fr
3 then click on « Consulter »
4 http://www.ala.org.au/

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