Citizen Science at the Botanic Garden

Quentin Groom, Plantentuin Meise





737,816,556 records 55% from "*citizen scientists*"

Chandler, M., See, L., Copas, K., Bonde, A. M., López, B. C., Danielsen, F., ... & Rosemartin, A. (2016). Contribution of citizen science towards international biodiversity monitoring. *Biological Conservation*.

"A world in which biodiversity information is freely and universally available for science, society and a sustainable future."



Local versus global



By Lienhard Schulz (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0 (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0)], via Wikimedia Commons

By NASA/Apollo 17 crew; taken by either Harrison Schmitt or Ron Evans [Public domain or Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons



Herbaria @ home

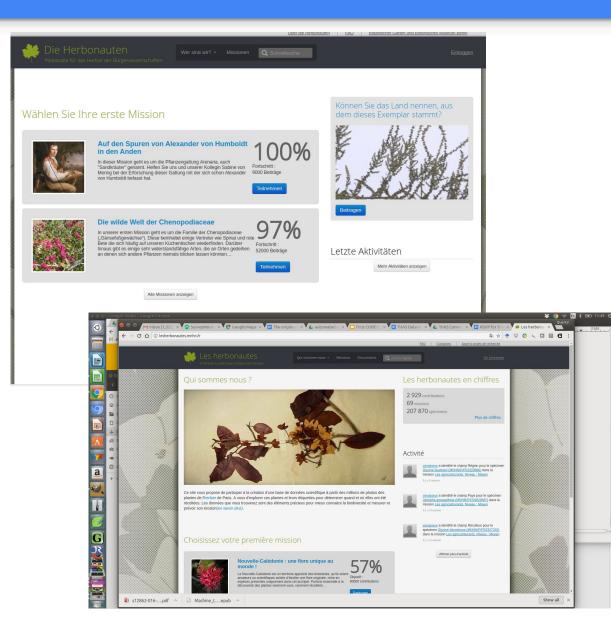


166,000 specimens over 10 years

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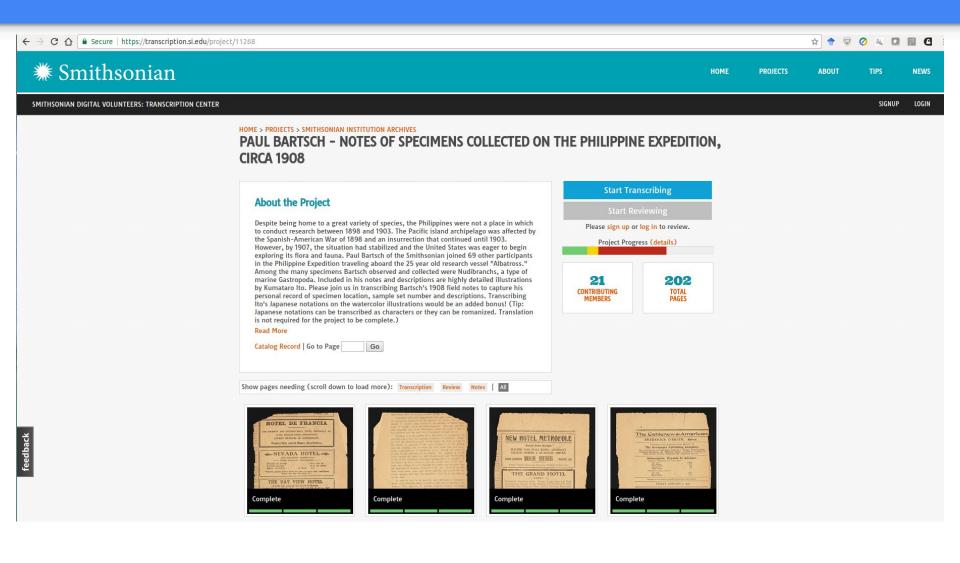


http://lesherbonautes.mnhn.fr/ and https://www.herbonauten.de/



Botanic Garden Meise

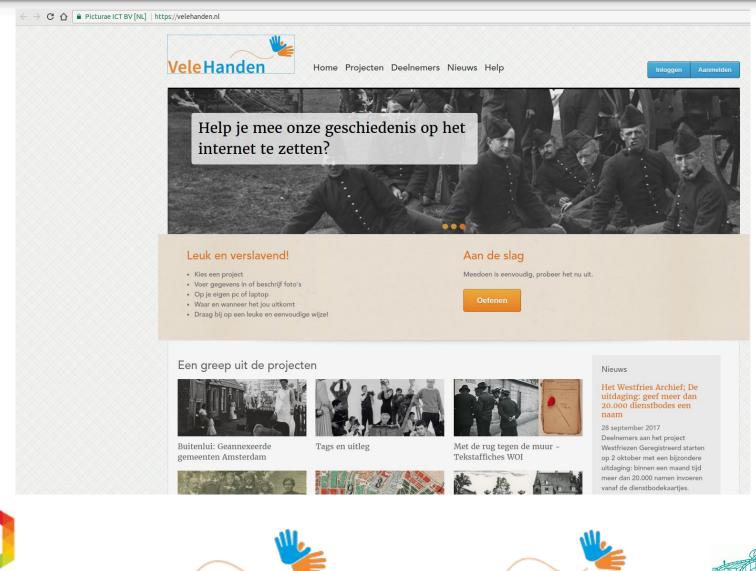
Smithsonian Transcription Center





VeleHanden

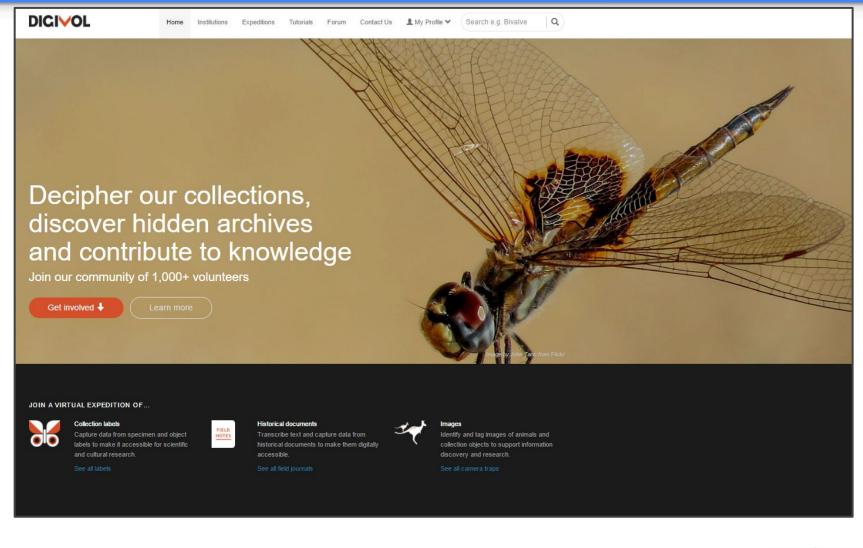
PICTURAE VeleHanden



Heritage Helpers



DIGIVOL





Transcribing Herbarium Specimens

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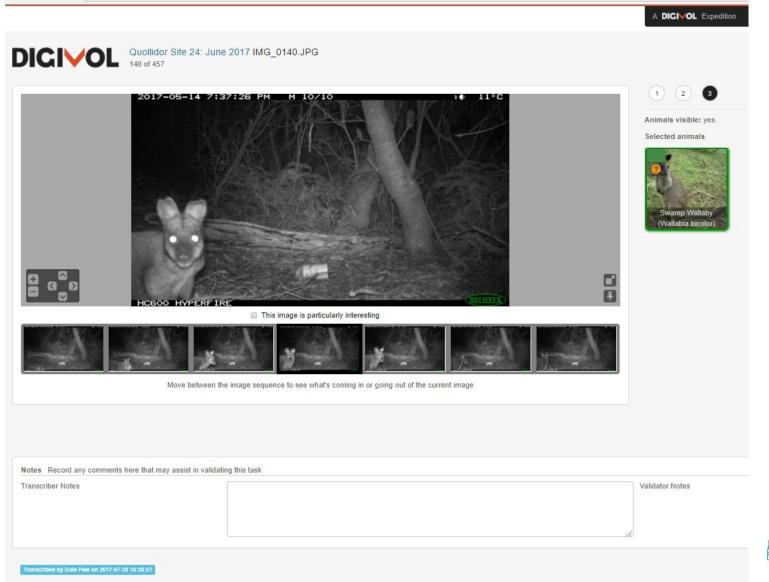
Transcription of notebooks

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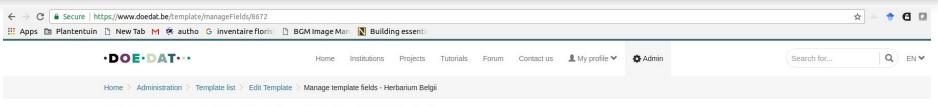
Processing camera trap images

← → C 🏠 🛈 https://volunteer.ala.org.au/validate/task/18637377?max=20&sort=id&order=asc&q=&offset=120



Botanic Garden Meise

Browser based administration of transcription templates

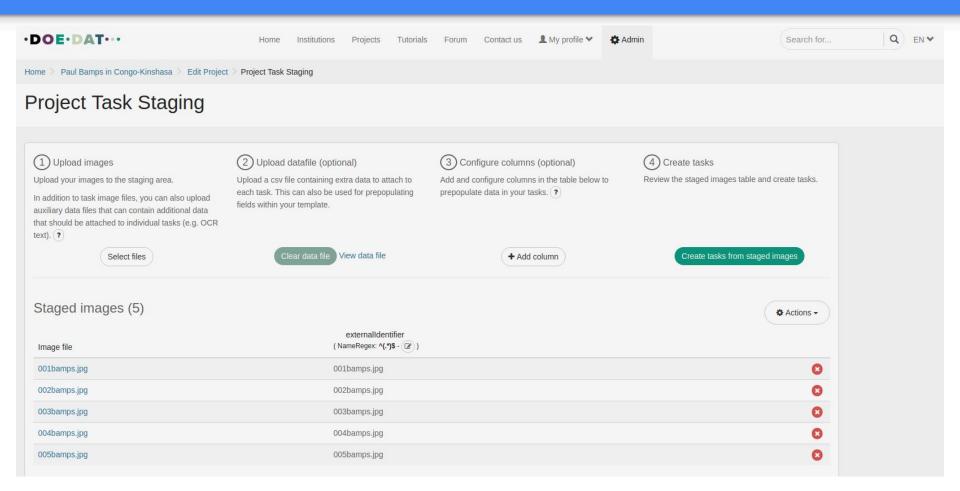


Manage template fields - Herbarium Belgii

Order	DwC field	Form type	Label	Layout class	Validation	Category	Help text		
11	originalNameUsage ()	text	Label name *			miscellaneous	(?)	•	+ 8
12	vernacularName ()	text	Vernacular name			miscellaneous	(?)	•	+ 🛛 🖉
L3	miscellaneous ()	text	Uses			miscellaneous	(?)	•	+ 🛛 🗸
21	recordedBy ()	select	Collector *			collectionEvent	?	•	+ 🛛 🖉
22	earliestEpochOrLowestSeries ()	select	&			collectionEvent	?	•	+ 🛛 🗸
23	recordedByID ()	text	Collector(s) as given			collectionEvent	(?)	•	+ 🛛 🗸
24	recordNumber ()	text	Collection number *			collectionEvent	?	•	+ 🛛 🖉
25	eventDate ()	date	Collection date	DMY		collectionEvent	(?)	•	+ 🛛 🖉
26	habitat ()	text	Habitat			collectionEvent	(?)	•	+ 🛛 🖉
27	establishmentMeans ()	checkbox	Cultivated?			collectionEvent	?	•	+ 🛛 🖉
28	dynamicProperties ()	text	Plant description			collectionEvent	(?)	•	+ 🛛 🖉
29	fieldNotes ()	text	Miscellaneous			collectionEvent	?	•	+ 🛛 🗸
31	verbatimLocality ()	text	Locality as given *			location	(?)	•	+ 🛛 🖉
32	verbatimElevation ()	unitRange	Altitude			location	(?)	•	+ 🛛 🖉
33	verbatimCoordinateSystem ()	text	IFBL Grid cell			location	(?)	•	+ 🛛 🖉



Browser based administration of projects





Browser-based User Management

·DOE·DAT····

Show User	
First Name	Quentin
Last name	Groom
Email	quentin.groom@jardinbotanicmeise.be
Created	2017-10-18 11:52:12.0
Temporary automatic key	e1c96b29-cb7a-4410-b02e-58ce2ea344d7
primaryUserType	
city	Meise
organisation	Botanic Garden Meise
secondaryUserType	
telephone	+3222600920
state	
Activated: FALSCH Locked: FALSCH	
Search for user	
ROLE_USER	
Temporary automatic key points to password e-mail, usually because	o the user reset password URL. This is useful in cases when the user didn't receive the reset e spam filters got in the way.

Edit

↑ default.home.label 🛛 🗮 User List 📝 New User



Why Digivol?

Versatile

Browser based website management

Made for use with multiple institutions

Open Source

Under active development

Proven track record and reliability

Built-in user forum

There is a big community of AoLA users

Downsides and compromises

Only versatile with limits

Some aspects are specific to Australian needs and the locale

If we don't fork the code we are restricted in what we develop

If we do fork the code we can't benefit from joint development

Positives and negatives of Crowdsourcing

- Higher visibility for our collections
- Better understanding of the scientific role of the garden
- The public feel they have a stake in our collections
- Cost per specimen decreases the more it is used
- Adaptable for different kinds of projects

- Needs to be constantly fed with projects
- Forums and queries need to be managed quickly and respectfully
- Some projects may be too difficult for untrained volunteers
- Constant promotion is required
- Requires institutional wide support



Public Engagement



Home Get Involved - Resources -

About - Team Members -



What is WeDigBio?

Worldwide Engagement for Digitizing Biocollections, or WeDigBio, is a 4-day event that engages participants online and onsite in digitizing natural history collections. Onsite events are hosted by museums, herbaria, universities, and other institutions and enable face to face meetups where participants engage with local collections.

Online events engage volunteers from around the world, facilitating the transcription of specimen information from images hosted by transcription platforms, no matter where in the world the volunteers may be.



WeDigBio at Meise



>300 specimens transcribed by >50 'volunteers'



Dissemination of Data





Species interactions





Phenology





Summary

Contribute to standardized projects

Document your records well

Share your data openly

Work together

"Think globally, act locally"

Enjoy it



Thank you!





