SICol-Net: The Brazilian Microbial Resource Centre Network

Author(s)	Alexandre Marino, Diego Rocha, Sidnei de Souza, Dora Ann Lange Canhos, Vanderlei Perez Canhos
Institution(s)	1. CRIA, Centro de Referência em Informação Ambiental, Av. Romeu Tórtima, 388, Barão Geraldo, 13084-791 Campinas SP, Brasil

Abstract:

SICol-Net is an online information system developed by the Reference Center on Environmental Information, CRIA, funded by FINEP (Financiadora de Estudos e Projetos – Ministry of Science and Technology), which aims to provide information on collections that are participating in the network of Biological Resource Centres (CRBs) in Brazil, and also to make the Brazilian Virtual Catalogue of Microbial Strains freely and openly available online. The demand for high quality biological material and information is increasing as a consequence of the growth of the Brazilian biology-based economy. There is a growing need to consolidate an integrated infrastructure of distributed biological resource centers not only to underpin the increasing demand for biological material from industry and academia, but also to address the emerging technical and sanitary barriers associated with the global market. The Virtual Catalogue is based on the same architecture and technology developed for the speciesLink network (see http://splink.cria.org.br), which facilitates the process to send and update data, enabling each collection to have full control over their own data. Each collection determines what data is restricted and what is public. The system is compatible with global networks that use internationally accepted standards and protocols for data exchange. Through a web interface, users may search and retrieve data in different formats, may rapidly and efficiently visualize species occurrence data on maps, and also have access to a number of indicators. The system also provides reports on each collection's profile, based on metadata and on the analysis of online data and reports on data quality. Data cleaning reports are meant to help curators in identifying possible errors and to help data users in evaluating data quality.

Key words: online system, network, biodiversity, biological resources