

SOME PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF CULTURE COLLECTIONS WORK IN RELATION TO GBRCN

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Abstract:

One of the first key rules in the future GBRCN – are the BRC information standards for all the Culture Collections to include: the Minimum -, the Recommended - or the Full Data Set (OECD Best Practice Guidelines, p 38, 74-76). We compared presentations of information stored in on-line catalogues of the WFCC Culture Collections. In particular we checked how uniform are the structure and the content of the catalogues with respect to: - do they have the same list fields in the catalogue data base, - do they have the same kind of content in the same fields, - do they have the same printout of the same content. The comparison shows that the only fields common in all the catalogues are: - Accession number - The name. The meaning of the content and printout of the fields varies. Unification of the content is important to achieve the same understanding. It's a demanding job. Could we start this harmonization effort now? The pair wise comparison of content of N catalogues makes approximately $N*(N-1)/2$ possible conflicts. But if there is an information center that collects the catalogues in one data base, the problem becomes easier. Could we find such a center now? We checked all the network servers that WFCC web site presents on his "Networks of CC" folder. And we found that the only one possible candidate from this list is StrainInfo. The procedure of import into StrainInfo information system (called XML synchronization) is easy for all the Culture Collections that maintain some minimal quality level of their catalogue search system. Our experience shows that one programmer needs one week only to make such an import procedure. But the first, initial step, was to make our data base and our web search system compatible with BRC standards. The full synchronization of VKM catalogue in StrainInfo demonstrates VKM data in this popular information center, and also helps in our job: description of all the VKM species have direct links to Strain pages with relevant information services. But nevertheless, we need more. It would be very good if StrainInfo could expand its "Strain passport" with some important additional fields, for example: - "History of deposit" (from Minimum Data Set) - "Isolated from" (from Recommended Data Set) The Type strains data in StrainInfo could also have links to taxonomic data bases, like "Bergey Manual" and "Procaryotes".

Key words: GBRCN, data base, StrainInfo