

Making Open Biodiversity Data accessible through GBIF

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The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) was set up by governments in 2001 to encourage and facilitate free and open access to biodiversity data, via the Internet. The first GBIF Data Portal prototype was launched in 2004, with a global launch in 2007. A major revision of the Data Portal was launched in October, 2013 which gives access to over 400 million biodiversity occurrence records indexed from over 500 data publishers. This presentation will review the history of the Data Portal, comment on lessons learned, and highlight some of the new features just released, including enhanced occurrence search options, unlimited downloads of occurrences, near real-time occurrence indexing, full integration of the GBIF backbone taxonomy, and provision of a rich application programming interface (API) and set of web services for other systems to draw on.