Milestone M4.17

Extensions for DwC-A export functionality

Leading partner: BGBM

Compiled by: Lorna Morris

Date: February 2012

DwC-A export functionality for extensions to Taxon data for Scratchpads2.0

Introduction

We have extended the DwC-A Scratchpads module to export data from the Scratchpads2 database for extension data linked to core data for a Taxon. A subset of the fields from DwC-A for each of the 5 extensions (reference, image , types and specimen, distribution and description have been mapped to fields in Scratchpads2. The mapping has been described in detail in ViBRANT-D4.1 document.

Implementation

We created views in Scratchpads2 to specify the data we required in each extension. For 'reference', 'image', 'types and specimen' and 'distribution' we created a single view for each extension type. DwC-A stores all description data in a single file whereas Scratchpads stores this data in multiple tables, one table per taxon description type. Therefore we created multiple views for each description type and combined these views into a single 'description' extension file. The preconfigured views and the meta.xml file describing each of the fields are incorporated in the module.

The DwC-A module is available from EDIT's subversion repository:

http://dev.e-taxonomy.eu/svn/trunk/drupal/7.x/modules/dwca_export

Enabling the module in Scratchpads2 creates the default views. Once enabled the user interface can be accessed by requesting this URL:

http://<scratchpads-base-url>/admin/conifg/system/dwca_export

The module provides an interface for the user to associate a view with a file name for export of data from the Scratchpads database into DwC-A format

Clicking the link "The DarwinCore Archive export is available at dwca_export" will execute the export routine and return the generated archive.
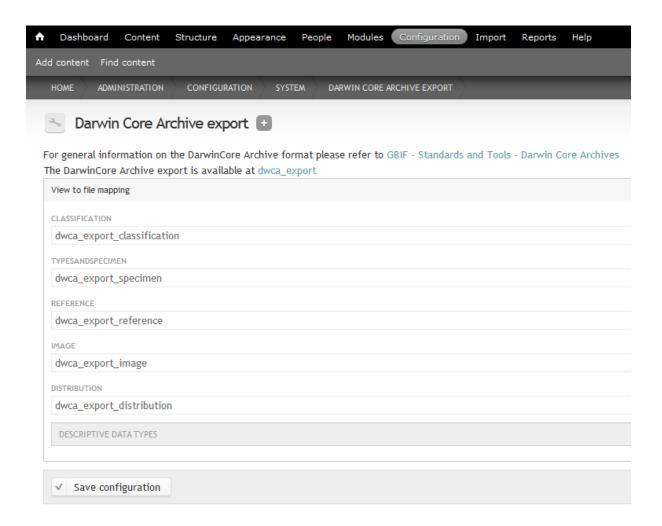

Image 1: Screenshot of the dwca_export_module administration panel showing the file extension type (e.g. Image) to View name mapping (e.g. dwca_export_image). For the descriptive data types there is an expandable form to allow the user to select the views for each of the description types that will appear in the Description extension file.

Testing

We created a biological classification and added Taxonomy data in Scratchpads2 to test our views and export routine via the module. New functionality in Scratchpads2 enabled us to add Taxon Description data, specimen, images and references (created via the biblio module) to our taxonomy. We were unable to add Distribution data to a Taxonomy term by selecting a region using the Google Map geolocation field to the

Taxon description content type. Thus the file containing data for the distribution extension was empty. We plan further testing once we have access to real Taxonomy data that we can export into our Scratchpads2.