BIOfid.de
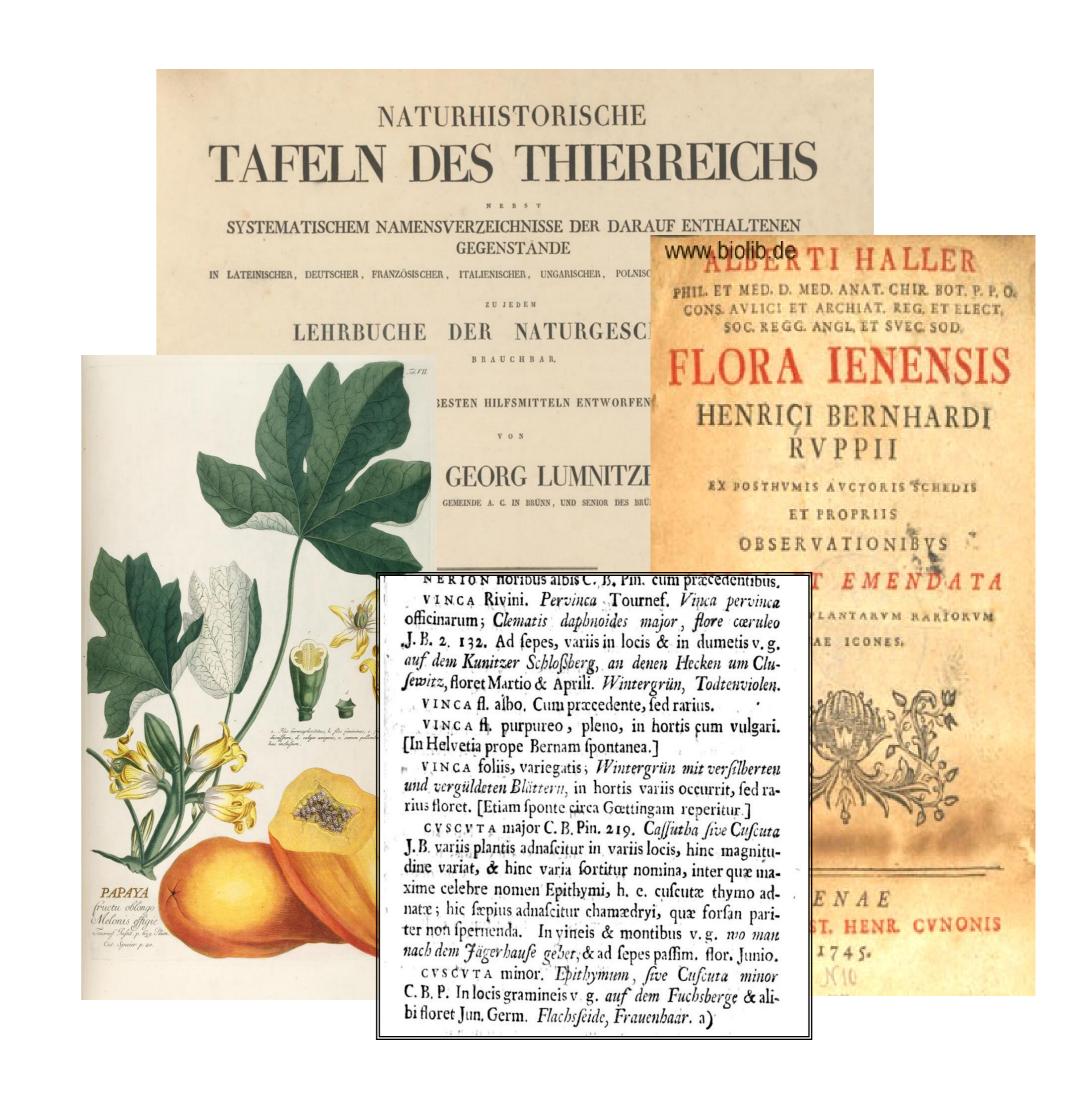fachinformationsdienst biodiversitätsforschung

Fachinformationsdienst Biodiversitätsforschung
Specialised Information Service for Biodiversity Research

A Specialised Information Service for Biodiversity Research, involving large-scale data mobilisation by mining German biodiversity literature

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Biodiversity research heavily relies on recent and older literature, and the data contained therein. Despite great effort, large parts of the literature and the data it holds are still not available in appropriate formats needed for efficient compilation and analysis. As a part of the current funding strategy of the German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG), and resulting from an extensive dialogue with the scientific community in Germany, a "Specialised Information Service" (Fachinformationsdienst, FID) for Biodiversity Research will be established with the objective of making further segments of literature about biodiversity available in up-to-date formats. This project, starting 2017, is conducted by the University Library Johann Christian Senckenberg (Frankfurt/Main, Germany) together with the Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung and the Text Technology Lab of the Goethe University (Frankfurt/Main).

The new Specialised Information Service for Biodiversity Research (FID Biodiversitätsforschung) comprises four core elements:

① Text-mining pilot scheme

An essential focus is on the mobilisation of biodiversity data from the literature via a text mining approach which encompasses advanced text technologies and a large body of 20th century literature (Module 1). The aims of this module are twofold: to mobilise data on selected keystone groups (vascular plants, butterflies, birds) in the Central European literature, and, to develop reusable text mining tools which are adapted to the domain-specific contents and formats of the biodiversity literature. The chosen approach involves integration of botanical, zoological and ecological ontologies (such as PO, FLOPO, ENVO) as well as ontology development, maintenance and enhancements.

② Digitisation of German literature

The digitisation of German literature (Module 2) provides a significant part of the text corpus which is a necessary prerequisite for Module 1. The online availability of 20th century literature regarding the selected keystone groups will be substantially improved. Furthermore, Module 2 provides a basis for the journal platform (Module 3).

③ Platform for Open Access journals

A platform for Open Access journals (Module 3) will be established as a long-term service for biological academic societies and not-for-profit editors. This service also comprises the transfer of print-only titles into digital formats.

④ Acquisition of print literature

The acquisition of specialised print literature (Module 4), combined with efficient services for document delivery, ensures nation-wide availability for researchers in Germany, with delivery also available to other countries. Built on the foundation of the comprehensive holdings of biological literature supported by the DFG for decades, this service encompasses the entire bandwidth of biodiversity literature.

BIOfid Web site will be available by the last quarter of 2017.
Please visit www.vifabio.de for updates.

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A project by: UNIVERSITÄTS BIBLIOTHEK FRANKFURT AM MAIN   SENCKENBERG world of biodiversity   Text Technology   Co-funded by: DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft