BioBeacon

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INTRODUCTION

- Managing biodiversity crises requires access to credible information on species, their changing abundance and spatio-temporal distributions
- Technological advances are expanding both the variety and volume of data available
- Many online resources exist but a lack of fundamental categorization inhibits efficient location and use of relevant data for biological research, conservation, education and industrial application

NEED FOR A DATABASE DIRECTORY

- There are currently many online biodiversity databases (Edwards et al., 2000).
- While this is great news for biodiversity research, this plethora of data will not see it's full potential unless it can be organized and easily accessed with an effective directory
- Google and other common search engines are not friendly to many of these database sites, so a directory that focuses exclusively on biodiversity data is desperately needed

OBJECTIVE

Create an online directory through which biodiversity databases are easily and practically identified to help make the data on these sites more accessible.

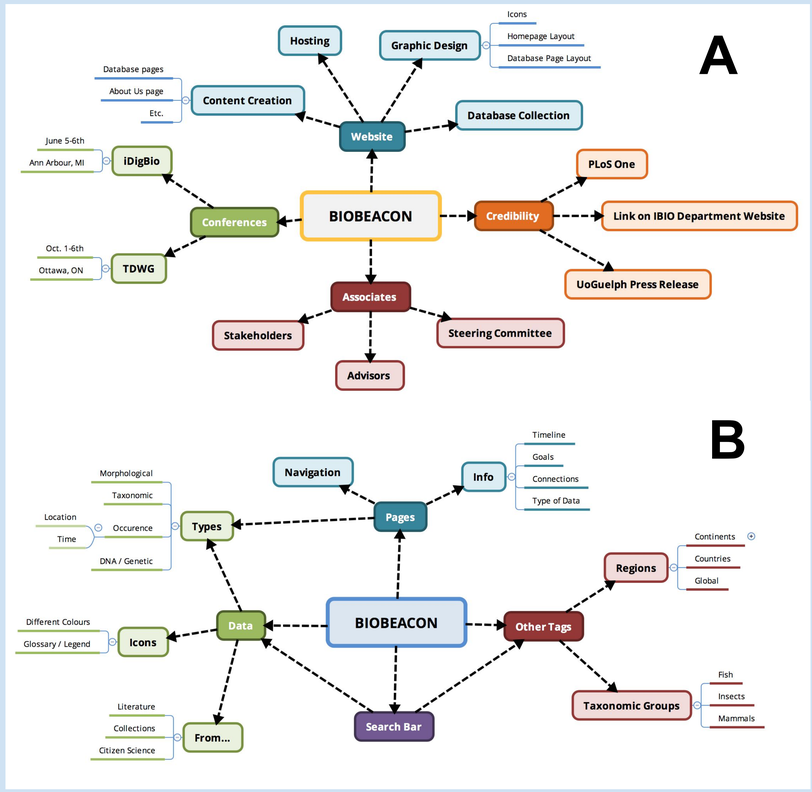

Figure 1a. Concept map of BioBeacon project. **1b.** Concept map of website content.

SOLUTION

BioBeacon

- A student-driven collaboration between the Biodiversity major at University of Guelph and the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario
- Purpose is to shine a light on biodiversity information resources
- Will characterize databases according to objective criteria to simplify navigation and increase accessibility.
- Criteria will include data type, source, region of focus, and current status

WEBSITE DIRECTIONS

- BioBeacon will initially contain global and North American databases, but our vision is to expand BioBeacon to include all types of biodiversity data from around the world
- Other possible future features are the inclusion of navigation guides for more prominent databases and mapping to the BCO (Biological Collections Ontology) (Walls et al., 2014).

CONCLUSION

- In order to keep up with the ever expanding number of biodiversity databases, BioBeacon will need to be continuously curated to provide the best service possible.
- However, this will not deter us from achieving our goal of making biodiversity information more accessible than ever by providing the most comprehensive biodiversity directory on the web.

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LITERATURE CITED

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