

iDigBio's Public Participation Platform Survey

Thank you for taking the time to consider and respond to the following questions. iDigBio will make your responses available to the natural history collections community, both as an online resource available to anyone, and as a reference specifically for participants in our upcoming Public Participation in Digitization of Biodiversity Collections course.

Please return your completed survey to Michael Denslow (michael.denslow@gmail.com). And thank you for your time!

Questions:

1. Name and email of person responding to this survey:

Pieter Huybrechts, pieter.huybrechts@meisebotanicgarden.be
Sofie De Smedt, sofie.desmedt@plantentuinmeise.be

2. Name of public participation platform:

DoeDat

3. Website:

https://www.doedat.be/?lang=en_US

4. Company or group responsible for maintaining platform:

Meise Botanic Garden

5. Long-term funding structure for maintaining platform (e.g., grants, membership, private):

DoeDat was founded and funded with money from the Flemish Government via 2 mass digitisation projects, but is currently funded directly by Meise Botanic Garden. Additionally, external partners pay a small fee per activated project to help maintain the platform.

6. Brief summary highlighting the market niche for this platform:

The platform is designed for, and mainly directed towards the transcription and enrichment of natural history collections. Over time, it has gained functionality that makes it attractive to other types of transcription tasks such as those in the digital humanities (postcards, maps, pictures, posters, ...). DoeDat is also highly suitable for species detection and identification on camera trap (wild camera) images.

7. Types of biodiversity specimens most common on the platform:

Herbarium Specimens are by far the most common, followed by camera traps. We are capable, and are planning to also host insect specimens.

8. Types of tasks supported by the platform (e.g., transcription, measurement, georeferencing):

Mainly transcription, georeferencing of point features (specimen) via the google maps API. Also species identification (camera traps), Enrichment (digital humanities objects). In the past we have had projects that queried users' opinion on art objects.

9. Other disciplines that utilize the platform (e.g., camera traps):

Camera Traps, Digital Humanities

10. Example of the types of institutions/collections using your platform:

Meise Botanic Garden itself, Centre for Academic and Secular Humanist Archives, Photography Museum Antwerp, City of Bruges, Province of Antwerp, Luxembourg National Museum of Natural History, ...

11. Any restrictions as to who can use the platform:

No. The only restriction as a partner on the platform is to be able to fit the requested tasks into the existing templates. For transcribers we don't have any restrictions.

12. Primary language(s) supported:

Full support in Dutch, English, French and German

13. Primary volunteer base or core users of the platform:

When conducting a survey amongst volunteers who transcribed label information from herbarium specimens, most of them seemed to be retired or home due to sickness/lockdown. and are highly educated. Most of them are in a way connected or have affinity to Meise Botanic Garden.

External partners are asked to advertise DoeDat and their projects. This way they can also find people who have affinity with their subject and/or institute.

14. Brief description of method(s) for quality control/quality assurance available on the platform:

Validation rules on the fields, mandatory fields, picklists. Built in validation functionality for elevated users (project partners, Herbarium staff) to check on tasks manually.

New users are monitored and individually mentored as a form of onboarding. Their first 100 tasks are checked and feedback is sent by email.

15. Types of media supported by the platform (e.g., image, video, 3D):

Images, Image sequences (there are limitations)

16. File formats supported by the platform. Indicate both input and output as appropriate:

Input: jpeg, csv, spreadsheets. Output: csv, spreadsheets, DarwinCore or custom mappings as appropriate

17. Workflow customization available to the user:

Limited for volunteers, but we can adapt the project template (questions asked, layout, shape, ...) to best fit the needs of the partner/project.

18. Costs to collections to use the platform:

First project free, then €500 per project (ca. 1000 objects)

19. Representative for potential users to contact:

sofie.desmedt@plantentuinmeise.be

doedat@plantentuinmeise.be

20. Best resources for additional information about the platform (e.g., presentations, brochures, recorded webinars, peer-reviewed papers):

<https://www.doedat.be/about/index>

Groom Q, De Smedt S, Veríssimo Pereira N, Bogaerts A, Engledow H (2018) DoeDat, the Crowdsourcing Platform of Meise Botanic Garden. Biodiversity Information Science and Standards 2: e26803.

<https://doi.org/10.3897/biss.2.2680>

Groom Q, Engledow H, Bogaerts A, Veríssimo Pereira N, De Smedt S (2018) Citizen science at the borders of Romance (www.doedat.be). Biodiversity Information Science and Standards 2: e24991.

<https://doi.org/10.3897/biss.2.24991>

Groom Q, Bogaerts A, Veríssimo Pereira N, De Smedt S (2018) A fork in the alphabet soup: DoeDat a multilingual crowdsourcing platform. Biodiversity Information Science and Standards 2: e25148.

<https://doi.org/10.3897/biss.2.2514>

21. Data ownership or usage policies (e.g., publication, sharing of data, public access):

Specimens that were transcribed for Meise Botanic Garden are eventually (after validation, database ingest, cleaning, ...) published through our herbarium portal botanicalcollections.be as well as on GBIF.

External partners stay owner of their own data, after the projects are finished, Meise Botanic Garden doesn't keep the images.