Date: Tuesday 12 December.

Location: Oxford e-Research Centre (OeRC)

Notes: Athanasios Velios

Meetings with OXLOD stakeholders

Athanasios Velios, the OXLOD Data Architect, has continued with meeting key colleagues from GLAM to discuss their documentation systems and integration in OXLOD:

- Stephen Johnston (Museum of the History of Science)

- Sarah Joomun (Museum of Natural History)

Contact has been made with colleagues from all of the proposed OXLOD datasets and by February, the team will have reviewed most of the documentation systems in use.

Druce collection

Oxford University's herbaria was the second dataset to consider in OXLOD. The catalogue of the specimens is based on a system called BRAHMS which was originally developed in Oxford and has since been deployed in many collections around the world, hosting around 10% of the world's specimens. BRAHMS is based on tables of records with keys linking to reference tables and the core record type is the specimen. The database fields describe the event of the specimen collection and the event of the classification of the specimen as a specific type.

Given that the nature of the BRAHMS database is scientific observation and classification, the integration of the fields was done using the Scientific Observation Model which is an extension of the Conceptual Reference Model tailored for activities such as sample collection and measurement. During the 2nd workshop an example of the process of mapping was given, as well as an example of integration of the Druce collection data with Wikidata. For the latter we showed how it is possible to reconcile data from BRAHMS in order to retrieve IPNI identifiers for species and then use these to automatically retrieve Wikipedia resources (e.g. images) relevant to these species. This meant that images of specimens from the herbarium can be automatically matched to images of live plants from Wikipedia.

Quantitative evaluation

During OXLOD we will investigate the new links being established among collections after integration. David Weigl contributed background research to the project by identifying a number of metrics that can be calculated on the OXLOD datasets to give us a good indication about the extent and nature of these links. Two of these metrics have already been implemented and more will be added as the project progresses.

Coming up

The team will be working with Sarah Joomun from the Museum of Natural History to integrate the fossil plant collection with the fossil plants from the Druce collection. This is a good example of the benefits of integration through Linked Data since the two collections are managed by different software and their direct integration would have been impractical.