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1. Executive summary

The technology used by the Atlas of Living Australia is recently being reused and adopted by other GBIF participants to be used as a platform for implementing their national data portals. However, the documentation around this platform was scarce and only in English. In this scenario, the four European nodes involved in this project decided to work together on ensuring the technical documentation and user-interface were available in French, Portuguese and Spanish. In order to support the further reuse of ALA software by others, the Encounter Bay project has managed to deliver:

- ⑩ all user-interface texts completely translated into French, Portuguese and Spanish;
- ⑩ key technical documentation (basic installation and operation guides) available in English and translated into the three other languages;
- ⑩ and translation guidelines for further translations of the software.

Besides, other complementary goals have been achieved as training of four European nodes staff on ALA technology and underlying tools; and implementation of technical changes necessary to adapt ALA portal to another country. The collaborative efforts producing the **Key Technical Documentation** enabled the partners to shared their concerns and tackle the steep learning curve of ALA technology.

Furthermore, the project benefited from a synergy with other activities around ALA, specifically the CoopBioPlat EraNET-LAC Pilot Coordination Action, which involved six GBIF nodes to reach an institutional agreement to cooperate on biodiversity data portals (national, based on ALA); and demonstrate technical cooperation and progress in this area.

Although the Encounter Bay asked for CESP documentation funds, the project partners have also achieved broader objectives including:

- ⑩ training of four european nodes staff to ALA technology and underlying tools
- ⑩ implementation of technical changes necessary to adapt ALA portal to another country

2. Contact information

Edited by André Heughebaert (a.heughebaert@biodiversity.be) Belgian Biodiversity Platform

3. Project summary



Project's original idea was to ease ALA portal reusability by providing user-interface and basic documentation in four major languages (English, French, Portuguese and Spanish) and by facilitating further translations. We did originally foreseen two deliverables : a Key Technical Documentation and a Translation Guide Document. We decided to merge these two documents into a single one.

Existing ALA wiki documentation was both partial and Australia centric, when not lacunar. During the early days of the project, we learned a lot, especially how to install, configure, customise and internationalise the ALA portal. This helped us to 'de-Australize' the software but also to identify the documentation gaps and improve the existing wiki. The ALA User Interface translations were also completed. While not planned initially in the project, the project also framed the Portuguese implementation of the national data portal based on ALA

In January 2016, after defining the structure of the documentation, we decided to split the effort of writing the english text: French, Portuguese and Spanish Nodes wrote some chapters while the Belgian Node did the coordination work. We did intensively used Skype and Google Docs during this part of the project. At this point, our english text was reviewed by the Alberto GONZÁLEZ TALAVÁN and David MARTIN.

Around the end of May 2016, the english documentation was finally ready and translations could started: French by the Belgian Node, Portuguese and Spanish by their respective Nodes.

3.1. Activities completed

Data portal User Interface (for the Demo modules – Collectory, Biocache-Service and Biocache-Hubs) has been completely translated into French, Portuguese and Spanish.

Key Technical Documentation has been published in English + our three languages. It mostly covers installation and configuration of ALA Data Portal. One chapter explain how to translate the User Interface.

One-to-one training in ALA implementation: while the Portuguese node do not have the same technical capacity in software development as the remaining partners. a one-to-one training workshop was run within the frame of the project to provide guidance on the development and installation framework, and infrastructure configuration, in the Portuguese context.

Aside of our documentation project, France, Portugal and Spain have installed their customized version of ALA Data portal. Belgium did assess the ALA technology but has finally choose CKAN for his data portal. Thanks to our CESP project, this work was achieved with excellent collaboration and efficient knowledge transfer between the partners.

3.2. Ongoing and post-project activities

- ⑩ Updates of the Key Technical Documentation
- ⑩ Dissemination of knowledge gained remotely our through meetings and on-site missions
- ⑩ Propose additions about the community and projects around ALA in the implementation plan

4. Project objectives

All project objectives have been reached beyond our expectations.

5. Project deliverables



- ⑩ Data portal User Interface (FR, ES, PT) on crowdin ALA Internationalisation
- ⑩ Key Technical Documentation (about 90 pages) in four languages (EN, FR, ES, PT) available on GBIF Community Site, EncounterBay folder of the Nodes of Europe group
- ⑩ Implementation of the Portuguese national data portal, <http://dados.gbif.pt>

6. Evaluation: findings and conclusions

Our work was organized through regular teleconferences and implemented using shared documents from table of contents at the beginning, to chapters, to complete documentation at the end. Working remotely, with intermediate milestones, was easy and efficient because project's members knew each other through ALA workshops.

All project partners did learn a lot in term of ALA technology and are now stronger to maintain and further develop its data portal. As early adopters in Europe, we have experienced some troubles and/or doubts because of documentation gaps. We are convinced that the documentation we produced will benefit to the broader GBIF community and help ALA technology uptake.

So far 20 GBIF participants from Africa, America, Europe and Oceania have been identified with interest on developing their own data portals based on ALA. Having this documentation in four languages in the early stages of ALA implementation will absolutely made the work for the nodes easier. After this project, collaboration in this topic has been made stronger, so other teams will be able to get support on ALA developments and documentation in a quick and easy way.

We have concluded, also, that, in addition of the support that documentation provides, it might be necessary to provide also training, especially for the implementation of the production environment. In this case, adaptations are needed to the specific requisites and infrastructure of a country, and the informatics capacity of the node is determinant of the level of support needed.

7. Recommendations and lessons learned

- ⑩ The effort of gathering/collating/writing the english documentation was clearly underestimated.
- ⑩ Remote working was very successful with an intensive use of Skype and Google docs.
- ⑩ Together, we are stronger! All this would not have been possible if each node had to work separately.
- ⑩ Although work breakdown and follow-up went smoothly, we had some difficulty to follow our own deadlines The flexibility of the Secretariat (to offer us one additional month) was greatly appreciated and should be further encouraged for other CESP projects.
- ⑩ Besides the documentation, training and support from the community is also determinant in the successful implementation of a portal, especially to resolve issues of the implementation on a specific environment.

8. Future plans

- ⑩ Participation in the International ALA Workshop held in Madrid (Spain) the 3-5 October 2016. This workshop brought together software developers from GBIF Nodes of Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Mexico, Portugal, Spain and Sweden to enhance the development of national data portals based on the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA). The Australian, French and Spanish Nodes -based on their previous experience- assisted the other Nodes to build an ALA demo.
- ⑩ Remote help to other nodes (European, but also African, Latin American, etc.) or communities wishing to adopt ALA. By joining the already existing ALA mailing list (<http://lists.gbif.org/mailman/listinfo/ala-portal>) managed by the GBIF Secretariat other nodes can easily access to this support. New participants can have contact with the rest of the ALA on the wiki based on the ALA Github account (<https://github.com/AtlasOfLivingAustralia/documentation/wiki>) as well. This wiki is managed by the community.
- ⑩ Participate to the ALA assessments repository, as proposed during the European Nodes meeting
- ⑩ Organizing more training and coordination activities around this topic as the ALA community is growing fast.

9. Signature of the project main contact point

Signed on behalf of the project partners

Date

07/11/16

Andre Heughebaert, Belgian Biodiversity Platform