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The *Trichoptera Literature Database*: a collaborative bibliographic resource for world caddisfly research

PATINA K. MENDEZ[1,2]*, RALPH W. HOLZENTHAL[2] & JOSHUA W. H. STEINER[3]
[1]*Department of Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720 U.S.A. E-mail: patina.mendez@berkeley.edu*
[2]*Department of Entomology, University of Minnesota, 1980 Folwell Ave, 219 Hodson Hall, St. Paul, MN 55108 USA, E-mail: holze001@umn.edu*
[3]*Josh Steiner Consulting, 6025 Claremont Ave., Oakland, CA 94618 USA., E-mail: josh@eds.org*
(*) Corresponding author

Abstract

In addition to a list of valid names and synonyms, as provided by the *Trichoptera World Checklist*, access to the primary literature itself is essential for research in Trichoptera taxonomy and systematics. To improve access to bibliographic information, we established the *Trichoptera Literature Database*, http://www.trichopteralit.umn.edu, a bibliographic database of over 8,500 citations of literature on Trichoptera. In addition to compiling bibliographical information, we provided access to over 450 high quality Portable Document Format files (PDFs) of historically important, rare, or out-of-print older works as well as more current literature. To provide universal web access to this bibliographical resource, we constructed a dynamic, custom-designed, web application (PHP, Symfony framework) created to import Extensible Markup Language (XML) from the EndNote data file. The database allows the user to search by author and year of publication, displays citations in a standard bibliographic format, and provides download links to available PDF literature. Existing bibliographies of Trichoptera literature and online access to *Zoological Record* databases were used to accumulate citations. Protocols for scanning literature, issues regarding copyright, and procedures for uploading citations and PDFs to the database are established. We hope to create a collaborative framework of contributors by seeking regional, subject, or language organizers from the community of Trichoptera workers to assist in completing and maintaining this resource with the goal of lowering barriers to efficient access to taxonomic information.

Key words: online collaboration, historical literature, online literature, rare taxonomic literature

Introduction

An expanding number of internet resources are available to the scientific community. These resources aid communication and provide greater access to information, target areas in need of research attention, provide collaborative frameworks, and communicate science in non-traditional publishing forums. For example, taxonomic resources are being consolidated online for most taxonomic groups in the form of lists of valid species names, checklists, bibliographies, and identification tools (both traditional and interactive). Large-scale initiatives such as the *Tree of Life Web* project (http://www.tolweb.org) and the *Encyclopedia of Life* (*EOL*, http://www.eol.org) seek to

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