

## Semantic Web-based integration of digital resources on birds

COOLEMAN S.1, GESER G.2, LOUETTE M.1, HEERLIEN M.3, MEIRTE D.1, MERGEN P.1 & MULRENIN A.2

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Francolinus squamatus squamatus

Francolinus squamatus squamatus Cassin, 1857

RMCA - Model example

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RMCA A.58986 Taxon concepts

E Cinnyris stuhlmanni chapin

Taxon names

The Birds of Africa

Ė Volume 6

- <sup>1</sup> Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA), Tervuren, Belgium
- <sup>2</sup> Salzburg Research Forschungsgesellschaft m.b.H., Salzburg, Austria
- <sup>3</sup> Trezorix, Delft, The Netherlands



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Royal Museum for Central Africa

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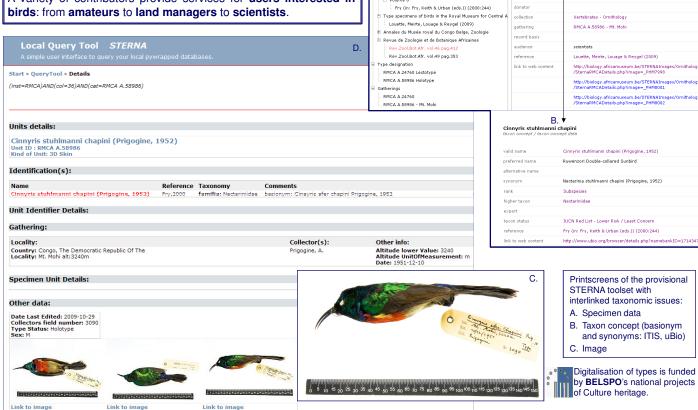
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STERNA (Semantic Web-based Thematic European Reference Network Application) develops a distributed digital library solution that allows for semantic search of, and improves access to, birdrelated content from the natural history and cultural domains.

The project is related to the European Digital Library initiative and demonstrates how integrated access to heterogeneous collections of many institutions can be realized based on Semantic Web technologies and standards such as RDF (Resource Description Framework) and **SKOS** (Simple Knowledge Organization System).

A variety of contributors provide services for users interested in birds: from amateurs to land managers to scientists.



RMCA works to enrich content semantically, and advises on compliance with biodiversity information standards, and on interoperability, for instance via development of a BioCASE portal, based on **ABCD** (see printscreen D).

RMCA provides information on:

- 1. Afrotropical bird specimens (and ornithological publications): 987 type specimens of 226 nominal species and Albertine Rift Birds (ENBI WP13)
- 2. Ethnographical objects (composed of beaks or feathers)



The semantic integration of resources into one Webaccessible network is an ongoing challenge. On top of a basic semantic layer provided by interlinked thesauri and classification schemes, domain and core ontologies will be needed to allow for higher-level integration, reasoning, and other capabilities.

The semantic search prototype will be available in December 2009.

Project results will be of interest to digital library initiatives such as **Europeana** and the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) and those providing mobilisation of biodiversity data like Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).

More info: http://www.sterna-net.eu

Contact: stijn.cooleman@africamuseum.be





















