Crowdsourcing: Available Resources

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“Crowdsourcing is an online, distributed problem-solving and production model.”
Crowdsourcing Sites – What’s out there?

In the beginning
Mechanical Turk - https://www.mturk.com/mturk/welcome
Herbaria at Home: http://herbariaunited.org/atHome/

Other disciplines
Transcribe Bentham: http://www.transcribe-bentham.da.ulcc.ac.uk/td/Transcribe_Bentham
Old Weather: http://www.oldweather.org/

Single institution
Paris Herbarium: http://lesherbonautes.mnhn.fr/
Smithsonian Institute: https://transcription.si.edu/

Multi-institution
Notes from Nature: http://www.notesfromnature.org/
So you want to get dirty with the crowd?
What do you need?
How to get started?

1. You have your images

2. Do you have funds?
   a) Yes bucket loads – build your own site
      i. Eg Paris or Smithsonian

   b) No or not a lot – look at using an existing site
      i. Biodiversity Volunteer Portal Symbiota, Notes from Nature,
         a) Check out what each site offers
            i. User interface
            ii. Volunteer management
            iii. Data management eg quality and output

         b) What sort of activity is required
            i. Correcting OCR
            ii. transcribing

         c) Ease of involvement
         d) Managing the process
Blatent Promotion of the Biodiversity Volunteer Portal

Virtual expedition of the day

Smithsonian US Herbarium - Bombacaceae and Malvaceae Part 3

Please join us in our effort to transcribe the Malvaceae and Bombacaceae.

Honour Board

Date | Score
--- | ---
Helen Woods | 39
Helen Woods | 181
Helen Woods | 141

Expedition stats

7164 tasks of 62283 completed
965 volunteer transcribers

News

21 Jan 2014

A new and better BVPI

Look for: A new honour Board. A simpler front page that shows all of the currently available expeditions. New transcription templates. Improved validation work flow for validation. The site dynamically resizes so that it adjusts to your screen size.
Creating an Expedition:

What you need:

Australian Museum Stiletto Flies Expedition

Therevidae are a family of flies commonly known as Stiletto Flies. The family contains more than 1,600 described species. They are diverse in arid and semi-arid regions with sandy soils. The larvae are predators of insect larvae in soil.

Admin – Expedition Creation

Steps in Creating an Expedition:

1. Upload descriptive text and image
2. Link to tutorial
3. Choose template
4. Create upload file
5. Load images into expedition
Who is in the BVP crowd

What characteristics are typical of members of the “BVP crowd”:

• intelligent
• like order and are good with detail,
• particular,
• like to feel needed,
• like to be acknowledged,
• don’t like their time being wasted,
• highly motivated,
• they like to feel part of something, not many specialists

Who we have trouble attracting:

• Specialists and professional taxonomists
• Enthusiasts in the groups we have represented on the BVP – only know of one

Volunteer stories – Joy, Megan, Jim, Teresa, Reiner
Reality Checks – crowdsourcing is not an infinite resource,

- Crowdsourcing volunteers are NOT paid employees
  - They are not obliged to work to deadlines
    - So beware of setting deadlines that rely on crowdsourcing
    - They can however be encouraged to increase productivity
  - They work the way they want to work – eg researching names

- Volunteers are NOT free

- Volunteering through Crowdsourcing does not appeal to everyone
  - Nichesourcing
  - Suits a particular Personality type
  - A small number will be very productive
  - There will be limits in terms of volunteers
    - Overall
    - Super productive ones
Thank you

www.australianmuseum.net.au