Dear Dr. Recknagel,

thank you very much for your motivating mail on our planned special issue in “Ecological Informatics”. As we have nearly finished compiling the program of our workshop, we can answer the questions raised as follows.

Our working title of the special issue is:

“Data platforms in integrative biodiversity research”

Currently, we envisage the submission of 13 manuscripts for the special issue where we plan 8-10 number of pages (~3500 words) per paper

Tentative titles of papers are listed below. Please notice that only leading authors are indicated for the most papers so far.

Introduction
1) Integrative biodiversity data platforms – current achievements and future challenges
   Bendix, J. & Nieszulze, J.
2) International repository infrastructures -- connectivity between thematic and generic approaches
   Horstmann, W.

Data, data models and standards
3) What are data and metadata and what is the role of Media Content?
   Vogt, L.
4) Data version management
   Reusser, D.
5) Using observational data models to enhance data interoperability for integrative biodiversity and ecological research
SCHILDHAUER, M.  
6) User-friendly Semantic Registration of Scientific Data  
HEIMANN, D.  

**Infrastructure and its sustainability**  
7) A comparative evaluation on technical solutions of long-term data repositories related to biodiversity  
BACH, K., SEEGER, B., SCHÄFER, D. & BENDIX, J.  
8) An assessment of costs and risks in the operation of long-term digital archive infrastructures  
KLUMP, J.  

**Tools, services, user requirements & incentives**  
9) The user's view on data sharing  
ENKE, N. Gemeinholzer, B.  
10) GSC Standards, GCDML and megx.net: From minimum standard specifications through implementations to web services  
KOTTMANN, R.  
11) DataONE: Changing community practice and transforming the environmental sciences through access to data and tools  
MICHENER, W. K.  

**Special features of current data platform**  
12) Morph.D.Base – Increasing transparency and reproducibility of morphological data  
GROBE, P.  
13) Project data base diversity - shared characteristics and differences of two main biodiversity data warehouses of integrative biodiversity research projects  
LOTZ, T., & HEIMANN, D.  

The publication is tentatively scheduled as follows  

**Submission:** May 2011  
**Review:** End of August 2011  
**Revision** End of October 2011  
**Production** December 2011  

I hope that this information answer your questions. If not entirely, please feel free to contact me. Again, I would like to thank you for offering us the opportunity for a special issue.  

Looking forward hearing from you!  

(Prof. Dr. Jörg Bendix)