



NeMys: an evolving biological information system, a state of art

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The taxonomical online database system NeMys was originally developed to store literature based morphological and geographical information on Nematodes and Mysida. As the system was constructed as generic as possible it could also handle other taxa like e.g. phytoplankton, turbellaria, ... and even non-marine taxa. New taxa also asked new requirements to the system. Therefore recently a new module on collection items was added. This enables users to add a collection item and add morphological, morphometrical and geographical data for specimens studied.

The Mysida dataset, the largest and most complete dataset running on Nemys uses all features of NeMys. Morphologically all genera have been defined and progressively also data on the species is added. Geographically information on more than 2000 stations where Mysida were found and about 5000 literature references, more then half of it in an electronical version, are available. Pictures giving a good morphological view of almost all species are progressively added. A start has been made with adding data on the most important worldwide mysida museum collections. All this together makes the Mysida dataset a good testing example for fine-tuning the online data-consultation and data-entry interfaces.

The online availability and use of common used technologies and database structures makes the NeMys system more then just a simple taxonomical dataset. NeMys can now (thanks to recent additions) be seen as fully functional biological information system which is implementable for any taxon.