

Scientific Publishing in Natural History Institutions

Workshop organised by Museum national d'Histoire Naturelle, on the 8th of December, 2008, in the context of EDIT WP4

Natural history institutions are unique in academia when it comes to publication of scientific titles. Most natural history institutions publish one or more journals and scientific series. Among the 27 EDIT institutions alone more than 100 journals titles are published of which the majority cover taxonomy and systematics. The journals of natural history institutions are a window to the work of taxonomists and to research on collections and are a valuable infrastructure for the taxonomic community.

In the digital era of today, the field of scientific publishing is continuously changing. Publishing staff in natural history institutions have to deal with new opportunities and new strategic questions about visibility, access, format, and financial structure of their publications. EDIT supports integration of communication and research infrastructures in taxonomy at different (institutional) levels. The meeting on Scientific Publishing by Natural History Institutions brings together publishing staff from its member institutions and offers a platform for exchanging knowledge and exploring synergies. During the preparation of the meeting, a wide range of publishing issues have been suggested to the MNHN by EDIT members. These subjects are so rich that EDIT plans to have a subsequent meeting on scientific publishing in 2009.

The morning session of the workshop of the 8th of December aims to make publishing personnel acquainted with one and other and will discuss the organisational structure and work processes of scientific publishing, opportunities and challenges of e.g. publishing on the Web. The round table discussion in the afternoon aims to point out specific publishing issues that should be on the agenda of the follow up meeting which is planned for 2009.

The workshop will bring together representatives who:

- Have a view and overview of all scientific publication activities and organisation in his/her institution
- Have a view on or works on the technical aspects of scientific publishing (textual editing, preparation for production, access)
- Have a view on or is involved in decision making on institutional scientific publication strategy
- Coordinates the scientific publishing programme in her/his institution
- Coordinates marketing and advertising of scientific publications

If you have further questions about the meeting please contact Laurence Bénichou benichou@mnhn.fr or Daphne Duin duin@mnhn.fr.