

ZEFOD - Register for Biological Research Collections in Germany

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SUMMARY

Only occasional overviews and analyses of botanical and zoological research collections in Germany exist at the moment, but individual collections are in various stages of self documentation. The existing data will be combined by ZEFOD, systematized and, together with new data, presented via the Internet as an expandable, interactive information network for a broad range of users in science, administration and the general public. Apart from an overview of collections, the ZEFOD information system will provide a structural and content-orientated description of biological research collection in Germany based on metadata provided by collection holders. The collections included are zoological and botanical collections in museums, universities, zoological gardens, and botanical gardens. To record the metadata, questionnaires have been designed, mailed to the collection holders, and made available via the ZEFOD homepage (www.genres.de/zefod). Metadata areas covered include data on the institution or collection holder (address, contacts, staff), general information about the collection (taxonomic and geographical foci, state of documentation), and a description of the collec-

tion's contents (number of subjects, degree of computer recording, number of nomenclatural types).

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