Interoperability model between PLAZI and the EDIT CDM Platform

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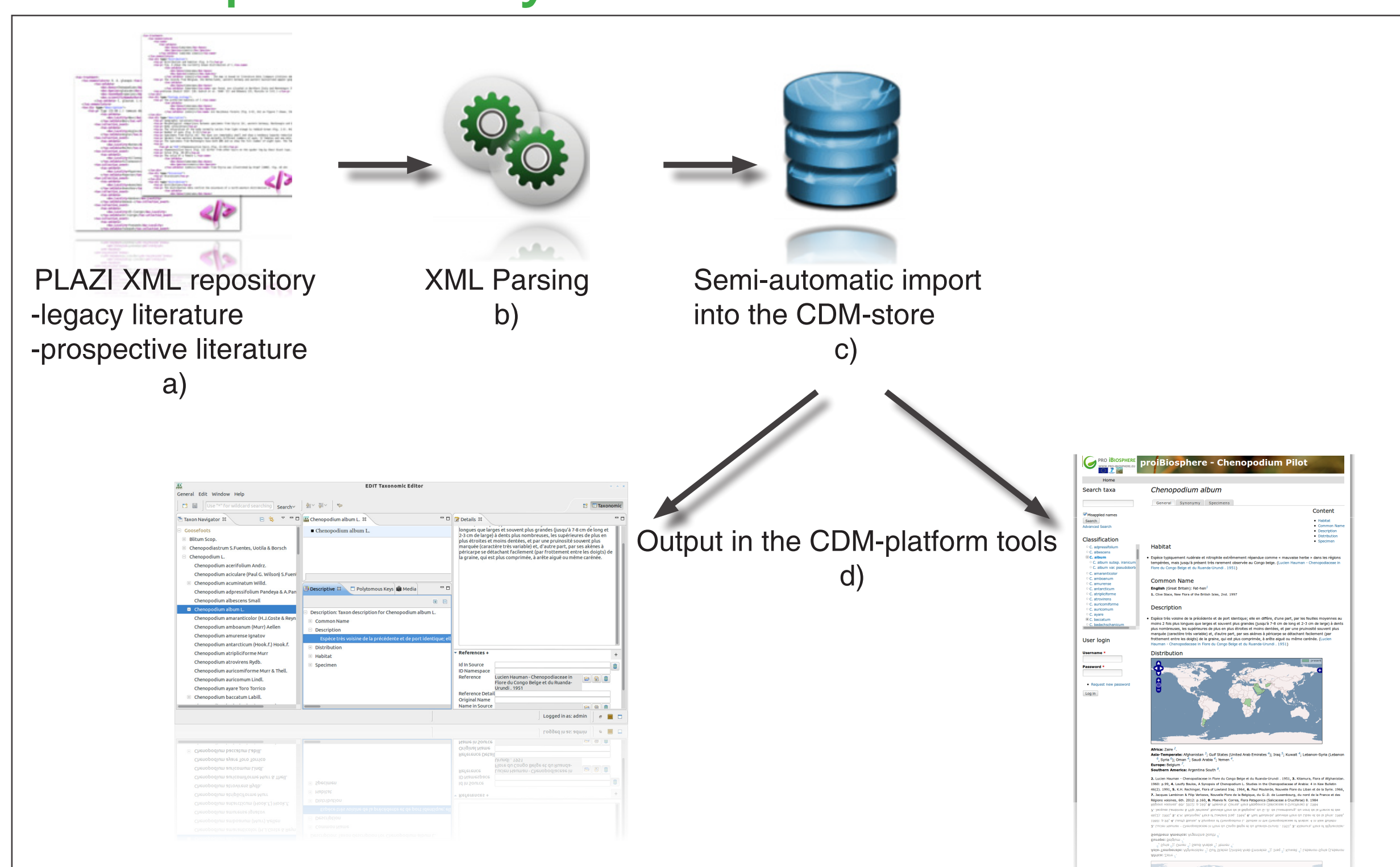Patricia Kelbert / Donat Agosti
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Plazi & the EDIT CDM platform

Plazi[1] is an association supporting and promoting the development of persistent and openly accessible digital taxonomic literature. It maintains a digital taxonomic literature repository to enable archiving of taxonomic treatments.

The EDIT Platform for Cybertaxonomy[2] is a collection of tools and services which together cover all aspects of the taxonomic workflow (taxonomic editing, publishing of edited data, data storage and exchange, collections and specimens, descriptions, fieldwork, literature, and geography). At the heart of the Cybertaxonomy platform is the Common Data Model (CDM)[3], a repository for every conceivable type of data produced by taxonomists in the course of their work, and the backend for most EDIT components.

Interoperability model

PLAZI XML repository
-legacy literature
-prospective literature
a)

XML Parsing
b)

Semi-automatic import
into the CDM-store
c)

Output in the CDM-platform tools
d)

a) Taxonomic treatments, saved asTaxonX[4] XML files, are stored in the PLAZI XML repository.

b) Each treatment is harvested and parsed, meaning sections such as taxonomic name, authorship, synonyms, bibliographic references, descriptions, distribution data, discussion or diagnostics are extracted.

c) Each element is saved into the CDM-database. A user interaction is required to solve ambiguities regarding sections identification or name parsing.

d) Eventually, data can be accessed through the CDM-Platform (printed publication tools: edition with the Taxonomic EDITor, web-output with the CDM dataportals, PDF output etc.).

For building and testing this model, 7 taxonomic groups (among animals, higher plants, fungi and bryophytes [5]), dealing with both zoological and botanical data, have been used. They focus on both legacy and prospective literature.

1 http://plazi.org/
2 http://wp5.e-taxonomy.eu/
3 http://dev.e-taxonomy.eu/trac/wiki/CommonDataModel
4 http://sourceforge.net/projects/taxonx/
5 http://wiki.pro-ibiosphere.eu/wiki/Pilots

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