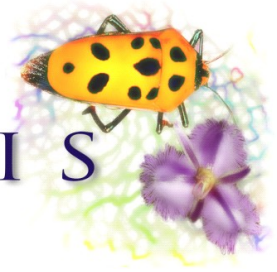


Goals and Outcomes

File version 20060106 – Craig D Robbins
Revision 20060108

RACHIS



1. General Goals

- a) Rachis is a tool for creating and using interactive keys. Features not related to the crafting of keys and presentation of facts about entities will not be implemented
- b) Be “plugin-friendly”
- c) Accountability of modifications
 1. Logins
 2. Log files
- d) Full undo history
- e) Hierarchical model of the taxonomy
- f) Description of taxa using diagnostic characters
- g) “Reverse-inheritance” of character states (e.g. characters for a genus can be derived by the sum of character states for all species within that genus).
- h) Identification of specimens using an interactive key
- i) A reader-only application for those not interested in modifying the data
- j) Subsets of the main taxonomy
- k) Develop an example taxonomy for use with rachis and testing

2. Goals that are more implementation specific:

- a) Be “plugin-friendly” and encourage 3-rd parties to develop them
 - a) E.g. File import/export
- b) Integration with external apps
 - a) Rachis file format implemented in a fashion easily imported into spreadsheet applications (e.g. .csv), modified and then loaded back into Rachis
 - b) The ability to link to any kind of file, local or remote, and open them in the appropriate applications (e.g. Using MIME types)
- c) Documented
 - a) User Manual
 - b) Plugin Development Manual
- d) A C++ style guide developed and implemented

3. What will not be included as part of Rachis

The following items, some of which were part of Taxabase, are not going to be included as part of Rachis. This decision was made in the interest of keeping Rachis functionally focused on the task at hand - which is developing a tool for the creation, use and maintenance of interactive keys. Most (if not all) of these features are better suited to a stand-alone application and/or existing applications exist.

- a) Comprehensive mapping won't be included. A simple map, allowing key creators to show distribution of species etc will still be implemented.
- b) Cataloging of "specimens". This was a feature of taxabase, but seems superfluous in light of *goal 1A* above.