

Historical thesaurus flora and fauna

An important part of the ATHENA project is to develop a historical thesaurus for flora and fauna in the Netherlands. The thesaurus will initially be developed for five taxonomic groups; birds, mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians and vascular plants. The thesaurus will contain current and former scientific names, Dutch (historical) names and synonyms.

Development steps:

- Inventory of existing digital data sources and key non-digitized resources containing species names.
- Automated and/or manual digitalization and annotating of important historical sources. Initially only species lists will be included (e.g. registers), not yet full texts. Manually digitalization of hand written historical sources through crowdsourcing. Annotation in collaboration with domain experts.
- Automated integration and enrichment of the different data using 'linked open data' principles. The data files are converted to RDF so that the various data files are linked to each other and can be jointly queried.
- Development of tools for querying, visualization and analysis of the thesaurus.

Existing digital data sources:

Nederlands Soortenregister – Naturalis

PLAND database – Meertens Institute

Etymologiebank – Meertens Institute