Kevin Holston, Markus Englund, Ida Li, Ingimar Erlsson, Markus Skyttner, Karin Karlsson and Fredrik Ronquist
Department of Bioinformatics and Genetics, Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, Sweden

The DINA-Specify consortium is an international partnership for collaborative development of an open-source, web-based information system for managing and sharing natural history data. DINA is currently being implemented for Swedish natural history collections. Target collections also include living collections, observation records and molecular data.

The Consortium
Software components in use have been developed in collaboration with the Specify team in Kansas, developers in Estonia and the natural history collections network in Denmark. The Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin joined in 2012. Additional DINA collaborators include the Harvard University Herbaria, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, The Natural Museum of Canada and the Morphbank project.

Distributed Development
DINA-Specify software is intended for national or major institution deployment with a single source code to support multiple installations and accommodate distributed user and storage management. Web clients combine multiple software components using service-oriented architecture to facilitate distributed development of functionally separate modules (Fig. 1).

The Specify team (University of Kansas, Lawrence) are collaborating with DINA staff (Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm) on development of web clients for searches and data entry. Image management within the Specify framework has focused on Morphbank (Florida State University, Tallahassee) as a DINA component.

The first DINA software was a data entry portal for a Swedish faunal inventory project in the summer of 2012. In spring 2013 the project released DINA-search portal for the collections. The project will release a DNA-barcode portal in the beginning of 2014.

Contact information
E-mail: kevin.holston@nrm.se • markus.skyttner@nrm.se • karin.karlsson@nrm.se

http://dina-project.net