Guide for Version 8

Updated December 2020

Installation and login guide
https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/support/installv8

BRAHMS training guide PDF
https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/content/software/v8/Getting_Started_BRAHMS.pdf
also available using System > Training Guide (PDF) after login

Demonstration database
https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/support/conifers

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For technical enquiries, contact brahms@plants.ox.ac.uk

http://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8
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BRAHMS introduced

Managing Natural History

BRAHMS is a management system for preserved and living natural history collections, taxonomic research and biogeographic study. Updated to the latest database technologies, BRAHMS is scalable from the individual research project to enterprise level systems with millions of records.

For collection managers in museums, botanic gardens, herbaria and seed banks and for those undertaking researches related to natural history, BRAHMS helps integrate all of your data, increasing outputs and productivity.

The Taxonomic data infrastructure lies at the core of all BRAHMS databases.

BRAHMS has been developed to store all categories of natural history collection.

Development priorities

Intuitive - similar to MS Office applications
Scalable - from individual researcher to multi-site enterprise systems
Taxonomic Core - comprehensive across disciplines
Integrating Digital Assets - including preserved and living collections
Modular - allow others to develop, including web-based add-ons
International - with respect to data store and user interface
Sustainable and providing custom support -
BRAHMS v8 introduction and guide

For further information about BRAHMS, visit https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8

BRAHMS v7 users

Although v8 is a completely new system, v7 users will be able to adapt quickly. Most v7 features and functions have been carried over and are more intuitive in the new system. For a summary of some of the key changes between v7 and v8, refer to Annex 2.

A selection of BRAHMS video clips

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<td>Importing bird sample data from an Excel table</td>
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### Some acronyms and other terms used in BRAHMS

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<th><strong>Internal mapper</strong> used in BRAHMS.</th>
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<td>Botanic Garden Conservation International.</td>
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<td><strong>BOL</strong></td>
<td>BRAHMS Online.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BRAHMS</strong></td>
<td>The acronym originally stood for ‘Botanical Research And Herbarium Management System’. The name BRAHMS is still used – however, the ‘Botanical’ and ‘Herbarium’ are no longer relevant as BRAHMS manages all natural history collections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Calculated fields</strong></td>
<td>Fields that are not automatically updated – they are updated using the <a href="#">Recalculate function</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collection event</strong></td>
<td><a href="#">Collection event records</a> store details of collections: who by, when, where, what. They are known as Botanical Records in v7. An event may result in one to many physical specimens. Alternatively, it may be an observation or a recording from literature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Custom field</strong></td>
<td>A <a href="#">non-standard data field</a> added to BRAHMS (known as link fields in v7).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data Connection</strong></td>
<td>A <a href="#">data connection</a> is a link from the BRAHMS software to a data store. A data store may have one to many databases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Database project</strong></td>
<td>A specific <a href="#">database</a> (= project) in a data store.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Edit History</strong></td>
<td>The <a href="#">history of edits</a> made to the database. This is called Track Changes in v7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gazetteer</strong></td>
<td>A place name added to the main gazetteer table as a collection event location. Often a town name, park name, a forest, a mountain name or similar. If unknown or vague, a description may be stored in locality notes. The place name should be linked to a country and hopefully a major admin area such as a state or department.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lookup List</strong></td>
<td>The <a href="#">central lookup dictionary</a> as found on Management &gt; Lookup Lists.</td>
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<td><strong>Merge records</strong></td>
<td><a href="#">Merging records</a> is used to join one or more records into one. This is used where there are two or more records representing the same thing. Merging records will also process child records, joining these to the selected record.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Merge values</strong></td>
<td>If there are multiple spellings/formats of a text string in a given field, these can be edited to a standard value using <a href="#">Merge Values</a> on the Summary form.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Query or Filter</strong></td>
<td>Filter and query and one and the same thing in BRAHMS v8. These actions lead to a selection of your data which can subsequently be processed as you wish (exported, printed, mapped, etc.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RDE</strong></td>
<td>Rapid Data Entry. RDE files are external to BRAHMS, used for efficient data capture. Refer to the <a href="#">Rapid Data Entry</a> section.</td>
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<td><strong>Specimen</strong></td>
<td>A physical object of any category, derived from a collection event.</td>
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<td><strong>Tag</strong></td>
<td>A single character mark (default=*) in the <a href="#">TAG field</a>. This field is found in all tables.</td>
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<td><strong>Tag groups</strong></td>
<td><a href="#">Tag groups</a> enable you to set up and save any logical grouping of records, for example a list of species records that are in some grouping, for example 'Migratory birds' or 'Poisonous plants'.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Transaction</strong></td>
<td>A <a href="#">transaction record</a> describes a loan, exchange, gift or any other category of transaction. You can link specimens and/or living plant material to transactions.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Building a natural history database

Introduction

Some database project examples:

- manage a grasshopper or beetle collection;
- create a catalogue of fungi or cultivated plants;
- produce an annotated checklist for a mountain in Cameroon;
- develop a comprehensive botanic garden or seed bank management system;
- or all of these together within a larger natural history museum or herbarium;
- create an online portal to search and display your data, images and maps.

The development of a well organised database is an important activity for managers and researchers. The strategy you adopt to do this will vary depending on your resources, the amount of data to manage and your short- and longer-term objectives. However, in all these cases, the paths to successful database development are broadly similar.

Hardware

For individual researchers running their own show, the software and the database will be installed on a personal computer running Windows or on a Mac with Windows emulation. Aside from having sufficient disk space and as much RAM as possible (8GB or ideally more), there are no special requirements other than that the .NET version is sufficiently up to date. However, bear in mind that performance is broadly related to how well resourced your infrastructure is. An under-resourced server and/or client workstation leads to poorer performance.

For institutions with large collections, perhaps many millions, and many simultaneous users, the database will be stored on a server and it is important that this is well resourced. The server will need sufficient disk space, adequate RAM and a good processor. If you try to run any large database on an inadequately resourced server, performance will be poor.

The BRAHMS software itself will either be installed on a shared drive that all users can access — or on individual client workstations. You can also have a set up with remote server log in by users located on different sites. On larger networks, the set up you adopt will be fine-tuned to achieve the maximum performance, a specialised IT task that is not further discussed here.

In addition to the server where the database and usually the BRAHMS software are stored, the role of client workstations should not be underestimated. When you log into the BRAHMS software, the system uses the resources of the local workstation/PC. Thus, even if your server is extremely well resourced, under-resourced workstations will not perform well.

In summary, cutting corners on hardware set up is something of a false economy when it comes to establishing a healthy database environment, all the more so when there are large databases and many users. Institutions need to invest appropriately in managing their digital assets.

Data migration

You may have data in an earlier version of BRAHMS, in Excel or Access tables or in other database packages. These data are important and can be migrated into BRAHMS. V7 databases are automatically upgraded and data in Excel can be imported to BRAHMS via RDE. Data held in other packages may require some form of migration input. However, one way or another, the idea of migration is that you maintain all the data your currently have.

Optimising data capture

Data entry efficiency (speed + accuracy) can be sensibly optimised for all projects, be they small or large. While smaller number of records can be added directly into BRAHMS, the recommended procedure for larger scale
data capture is to use Rapid Data Entry (RDE). Data are added to external RDE spreadsheets (themselves portable mini-databases) and after checking, these data are transferred into the main database. RDE files can themselves be optimised for specific projects by setting up the desired fields and field order.

To take full advantage of RDE, your database can be kick-started by importing useful dictionaries of data, for example collector, taxa and geographic names. Lookup lists can be added for any field where you have a fixed set of values. Although lookup lists can be generated on the fly, it’s usually best to have these defined in advance. You are then in a position to force selection for a defined list or allow the data entry person to add new entries. A more complete range of optimising procedures is discussed in the RDE section.

**Exploring your data**
One of the key attractions of BRAHMS is that you can explore your data in smart spreadsheets or data grids. While the provided BRAHMS forms are great for data editing, the data grids, together with the many toolbar options, are incredibly powerful for viewing, sorting, filtering, calculating and analysis. Data grids are virtualized, ensuring they are fast even if you are working in table with millions of records.

**Reports**
Aside from using the data export options provided in BRAHMS, you may want to create report templates for lists, labels, loan forms and others. You can gradually build up a library of handy report templates — and many of the tricks to learn for that are reviewed in detail in the report design section of this guide. Learning to design cool reports is one aspect of mastering BRAHMS where users with interest to do so can go the extra mile, delving into complete range of report design options as laid out, for example in https://www.stimulsoft.com/en/documentation and https://www.youtube.com/user/StimulsoftVideos

**Mapping**
Most projects want to produce maps and again, all the procedures for creating maps using different GIS options such as QGIS are reviewed in the map section. Bear in mind that if you are online, you have access not only to the in-built ArcGIS API but also the map point location editor. One of the handiest features in BRAHMS v8 is the ability to view data records and map points together, dynamically linking these to highlight the current data record, and respect filters.

**Exporting data**
Aside from reporting, all data can be exported to Excel or CSV — and all such exports respect your currently selected column views, applied filters and sort order. In v8.1. a new XML designer will allow you to export to XML using a user-defined XML schema.

**Special management areas**
In addition to the powerful system-wide features and functions listed above, BRAHMS includes specialist modules for managing museums, herbaria, botanic gardens and seed banks. These modules have been developed collaboratively with numerous institutions ensuring that provide the day to day curation and research support that projects need.
Installation

Have an early BRAHMS test version?

If you have been evaluating BRAHMS and have no live databases to keep, we suggest you delete your current BRAHMS software folder, the BRAHMS folders under Documents and any test databases.

Prerequisites and .NET

BRAHMS operates under Windows or on Macs with Parallels, Virtual Box, Boot Camp or equivalent. Your installed Windows .NET framework version needs to be v 4.7.2 or later. If it is not, BRAHMS prompts you to upgrade. If you do have to upgrade .NET, it will be best to restart your PC after. As further discussed below, ideally your workstation will have 8GB of RAM or more. RAM is used by database applications for most operations.

Software folder location

The BRAHMS software folder can be located on a drive that all users have access to, either through a share or via internet access. Alternatively, it can be installed on each local workstation/PC where it will be used. Otherwise, there are no restrictions of the location and/or name of the installation folder.

Disk space and memory requirements

For the complete system installation (including the ArcGIS and reporting runtime libraries, the training guide and other system components) you will need about 250 MB of disk space. This does not include the space required for your data. The demo conifer database requires about 100 MB.

RAM requirements are not strictly imposed. However, as with most database systems, the more RAM you have, the more efficiently the system will operate. Firstly, this needs to be considered for the server itself. For example, the more RAM MSSQL Server has, the better. The server database, independently from the BRAHMS software, will utilize available RAM for indexing, caching and querying. In Oxford, we use a server with 256 GB RAM although BRAHMS itself rarely uses more than 50% of this. If you are using a server database such as MSSQL Server, make sure the database has access to as much RAM as possible.

The RAM requirements also need to be considered for the workstation where you are running BRAHMS from, even if the software is stored on a separate server. Running BRAHMS on a poorly resourced workstation, even if your server is well resourced, will not give the best result. For average use, the workstation you are using should have at least 8GB RAM but ideally 16GB or more.

Whether the software is on the server (above right) or on the workstation (above left), both will benefit from being well-resourced.
**Have you got your licence key?**

To open BRAHMS, you will need either an evaluation key allowing you to test the system for 60 days or a full licence key. Both are obtained from Oxford University Innovation (OUI).

- Apply for evaluation key: [https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/evaluations](https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/evaluations)
- Apply for licence: [https://process.innovation.ox.ac.uk/software/p/14165/brahms/1](https://process.innovation.ox.ac.uk/software/p/14165/brahms/1)

The key you receive will be a long text string similar to:

```
lgBAN8ikR7HNUBBBQbmA5hBWU9U29sYW51b5B8Qcm9qZWNOiB5b3hcBCBc3RhmljEdhcmRbnMgRWRpbnJ1cmdoiCgTmF0dXJhbCBlaX N0b3JlI1I1c2V3bSNQdXJaGFzZURhdGU9M123MjAxQEQg4hL3jcbgoucSgmBN7oiM2yDmE637gvJVBArl5/UK0hY4ph84fKwag9q/XRG8inHfY7Ga8w2vRoOvGm=
```

This key text you will be sent by OUI is copied into the licence form when you first open BRAHMS.

**Installing v8**

The software is conveniently provided as a single (copy-deploy) zip file.

Open the zip file to any location. **Do not use the default windows file extraction tool** as this may result in the blocked security status of some files. Please use 7z or similar.

After opening the install zip, you will have a software folder similar to that shown here. This folder also has a BRAHMS licence file. Evaluation versions do not have this licence file.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Files/Folders</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bin</td>
<td>Core application DLL and ArcGIS runtime files.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branding</td>
<td><a href="https://example.com">Branding banner image</a> and other branding items as available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation</td>
<td>Getting Started PDF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logs</td>
<td>Daily log files and any application error files.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modules</td>
<td>Application DLL files linked to specific modules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared</td>
<td><a href="https://example.com">Shared data connection files</a> and some other shared files.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAHMS.exe, BRAHMS.exe.config, BRAHMS.lic, NLog.config</td>
<td>The main application exe file. System configuration files. The BRAHMS licence file (evaluation systems do not have a licence file).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Initially, no installation of additional database management software is required as BRAHMS is delivered with a default SQLite data store. Further information on using MSSQL Server or PostgreSQL is provided below.
Logging into BRAHMS

Brahms.exe and creating desktop shortcut

The top-level BRAHMS software folder contains the file brahms.exe which you run to start the application. You can create a shortcut to this in the normal way. The shortcut on your local desktop may point to the software in any accessible location, be this local or on a drive/server that you have access to.

Note: if you have file extension hidden on your PC, the correct file to run in the one with blue database icon. There is another file called brahms.exe.config which is not the application file.

At this stage, if prompted to update your .NET version, proceed to do this and preferably, re-start your PC.

Login to the personal data store

After installation, you must initially log into BRAHMS using the Personal Data Location. The system will initially default to Windows Authentication using your Windows identity and thus you do not need to add a password.

After installation, logging in using Window Authentication to the Personal database, no password will be needed.

When you first log in, the system auto-creates an empty SQLite data store called brahms.db in your Documents/BRAHMS folder. The folder itself is created automatically. This may be on your physical PC or on a network drive with roaming user profiles. In the latter case, you will be able to access it from different work stations.

If for any reason you cannot log in under Windows Authentication, change this setting to BRAHMS Authentication on the log in form. Choose any user name and a password. Passwords are case sensitive. In this case, the user name and password will be added to the BRAHMS user file. You must remember a BRAHMS user name and password.
First log in and database ownership

The first log in to a newly created database assigns ownership to that database. Thus, if you log in using Windows Authentication, your windows account will, initially, be the only way to open the database. Adding or editing different users is discussed in the users and permissions section.

The Database Projects Manager form opens

As initially, the default personal data store is empty (it has no database projects), the first log in will auto-open the Database Projects Manager screen with options New and Import. At this stage, you have three choices:

- Create a New database project.
- Import data from an XML folder you have been provided.
- Close this form and move on to connecting the demo or another database.

The Documents/BRAHMS folder

When you first log in, a folder called BRAHMS is created in your Documents folder. This is used for the default location of the empty brahms.db data store and some setup files.

If you delete the BRAHMS folder, it will be recreated when you next log in.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File/Folder</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>brahms.db</td>
<td>The default SQLite datastore, initially empty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>datalocations.dat</td>
<td>Encrypted binary file storing connection strings (connections to data stores). All database project details (their names and descriptions) are stored in the data store itself. Once you connect to a data store, the database project(s) within the store are listed allowing you to choose a log in – unless there is only one database project in which case, it logs you directly in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>localbrahms_v1.config</td>
<td>User specific configuration file holding background image mode, tag highlight colours and a few other settings. Data are stored in JSON format.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Columns**

Visible column definitions are stored here as in the species file examples:

- `Full name and all calculated fields.speciesview.dgc`
- `Full name with protologue.speciesview.dgc`
- `RedList editing.speciesview.dgc`

The `.dgc` extension refers to Data Grid Column. These files can be exchanged with other v8 users. Also stored are files with `.lcv` extensions. These store your used last column view per table.

**Exports**

Any files exported from BRAHMS are stored here. This includes Excel and CSV files.

**RDE**

RDE files are stored here by default – but you can set up separate RDE storage folders.

- `Dimorthanthera.taxonomy.rde`
- `Field trip 2018.taxonomy.rde`
- `The genus Inga.taxonomy.rde`

Each `.rde` file is a self-contained SQLite database with the RDE file metadata, the data itself, image links and edit history.

**Troubleshooting on logging in**

If the copy/deploy BRAHMS install zip is opened using the Windows default extraction, this may block access to some BRAHMS files. When logging in, you may see a message similar to the left-side screen above. The solution is to delete your BRAHMS software folder and then again open the zip file you have downloaded using 7z [https://www.7-zip.org/download.html](https://www.7-zip.org/download.html) or another utility. Another possible explanation is your security system (e.g. anti-virus) requires you to include brahms.exe as a trusted exception.

Licensing and software updates

Licensing

Licences to use BRAHMS are provided by Oxford University Innovation (OUI). For further information, please contact brahms@innovation.ox.ac.uk. Evaluation licences are normally for 60 days.

If you have received a licence key from OUI, when you log into the software, simply copy the key into the licence key form when prompted.

Software and database updates

Software updates are issued periodically. These may be to resolve reported problems or to issue additions and new features. Users who are within their licence period are eligible to download all categories of software update.

Notification of updates with a software download link are sent to all licensed users with a summary of the update content. The new software folder replaces the existing software folder. As soon as you log into any database, the system will inform you if database structural changes are needed. If databases changes are needed, you can then proceed to auto-update. The database update process uses scripts that are drawn from the BRAHMS website. You need to be online to use the update options.

If you have not updated your software for a longer period, several scripts may be needed and these are automatically run in the correct sequence. The same applies to RDE files. The entire update process is automated.

As soon as you log into a database that requires updating, the system will inform you if database structural changes are needed.
Data stores and databases

The difference between data stores and database projects

The data store refers to the location of your data. It is a physical store in a database management system separate to BRAHMS itself. For example, you may opt to store your data in MSSQL Server, PostgreSQL or SQLite. Each of these is a database management system.

How many databases in a store?

A given data store may include more than one database project. If a single store has multiple database projects (left below), the data are not mixed. If you open a data store with more than one database, the first thing BRAHMS does is ask you to select which database you want to open. You could also create a new store for each separate project (right below). The choice is an institutional matter – the result is very similar.

A single data store may include many separate database projects (left). Alternatively, projects may opt to create a separate database project instance for each database project (centre). For improved integration, related data can be combined in a single database project in a single store (right).

One database for all?

Storing museum data of different types in separate databases may not always be the best option. Consider that you want to query on all collections or taxa from a selected area or collected during a certain period or by a selected collector – based on all preserved animal and plant records, living collections and fossil records. If these data are combined in the same database, this is possible. But if the data are separated in different databases, it is harder to get the combined results. You would have to somehow combine the data after querying separate databases.

BRAHMS is designed to store and integrate data across collection categories. There is no limit to the number of records and in any case, if you want to query only the Anacardiaceae or Hymenoptera, you can do so.

Note that if data are stored in separate databases, it is possible to connect these to a single web portal via BRAHMS Online, thus combining the queries there.
SQLite requires no installation

One of the advantages of SQLite (= ‘Local file system’ in the BRAHMS documentation) is that it requires no installation. SQLite datastores can be copied onto your workstation or server either as an empty store or containing one or more databases. After linking your BRAHMS software to the store, you are ready to go.

When you install BRAHMS, it comes with an empty SQLite store file called brahms.db. This is created in your Documents\BRAHMS folder when you log in to BRAHMS after installation. If it is missing in that location, an empty brahms.db file is always created.

The demo conifer database is provided as an SQLite store. SQLite is also used for all RDF files.

MSSQL Server and PostgreSQL need an extra step

If you are planning to use one of these stores, you first need to install the required software. This is something that you would normally have done by your IT section. However, MSSQL Server Express is free and can be easily installed by yourself on your local PC. Express is a slightly cut-down version of the fully licensed version of MSSQL Server.

Once the server store software itself is installed, BRAHMS has an option to create the necessary data structures directly from the Data Connections form. However, on an institutional server, you may need administrative access to MSSQL Server or PostgreSQL to do so.

The above screen shows a typical MSSQL Server database, in this case the store is called ‘Conifers’. The conifer demo database, while normally distributed in SQLite, can also be imported to MSSQL Server for testing.

Multi-user access

All data stores and databases within them can be used for multiple user access. Other than the terms of your BRAHMS licence, there is no restriction on the number of users that can simultaneously access a given store/database.

Simultaneous edits of the same data by two or more users are discussed in the section on Edit conflicts.
Choice of store

SQLite is intended for small to medium sized projects. It is portable and the entire data store is easily moved from one location to another by copying a single file. BRAHMS always uses SQLite for RDE files which are designed to be entirely portable, operating on a server or from a memory stick.

SQLite is less suitable for large multiple-user projects. Such projects will use MSSQL Server or PostgreSQL with appropriate security and maintenance. Having said that, SQLite can store millions of records – refer to https://sqlite.org/about.html.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Store</th>
<th>Licensing</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SQLite</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Provided with BRAHMS. Used for the default personal data store, the demo database and all RDE files. It is possible to download the SQLite database browser but this is not a requirement. See <a href="https://sqlite.org/index.html">https://sqlite.org/index.html</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSSQL Server Express</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>2008 R2 or later see e.g. <a href="https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/sql-server/sql-server-downloads">https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/sql-server/sql-server-downloads</a> will function but not strongly recommended for large (tables with &gt; 500,000 records), multiple user databases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSSQL Server</td>
<td>Licence required</td>
<td>2008 R2 or later see e.g. <a href="https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/sql-server/sql-server-downloads">https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/sql-server/sql-server-downloads</a> – scalable to any size.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PostgreSQL</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>9.3 or later see e.g. <a href="https://www.postgresql.org/">https://www.postgresql.org/</a> - scalable to any size.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current options for data storage in BRAHMS v8.
Data connections

If you have problems connecting to a database, refer to the Troubleshooting section at the end of this section.

Introduction

The BRAHMS software is independent from any data store you choose to link to. To allow BRAHMS to access data, you need to add at least one data connection. Data connections have a name so that you can identify them. They also have properties that describe the connection. An example connection name could be ‘BRAHMS on Server 1’. The properties of the connection would include the type of data store, its physical location or address and, when needed, access permission details.

You may have one or more data connections. Connections may be to different types of store in different file or server locations. When you install BRAHMS, a default SQLite connection is added. This is called ‘Personal’ and the location is in your Documents\BRAHMS folder. Each user has their own personal data store.

All connection details are stored in the encrypted file datalocations.dat which is located in your Documents\BRAHMS folder.

Data Connections, Servers and IT help

If you plan to store your data in a locally stored SQLite file, you don’t need any IT support. However, for larger institutions with restrictions on access to servers, inevitably, you will need to have someone to provide access/permission to a server data store. Access to server databases is an institute level matter. As a project, we can advise on storage strategy. But to implement this, you may need support from a server administrator or your IT section.

SQLite connections

When you install BRAHMS, an initial connection is auto-added to an empty SQLite data store. The connection name is “Personal”. The data store has a default location in your Documents\BRAHMS folder and the data store name is brahms.db. Initially, this is an empty file with no database projects. To create a database (or databases) in this store, you will use the database manager.

SQLite connections require no special permissions to use. They do not need the installation of any extra software. In summary, you simply browse to locate the database file. This file can have any name but it will have an extension ‘.db’ as in brahms.db or mydatabase.db.

You can create a new SQLite store and/or browse to locate an existing one.
To create a new SQLite store, Select System > Manage Data Connections > New. Provide a name for the connection. The connection provider will be Local filesystem (SQLite). Choose Create a new file and choose the folder location and file name as prompted.

To connect to an existing SQLite database, copy the file you have been given (e.g. ‘sampledatabase.db’) to any accessible folder location. Select System > Manage Data Connections then New entering a suitable connection name (e.g. ‘My Sample Database’). Select the Browse for an existing file... option to locate the file. Save this and then close the form. Finally, select System > Sign out then log in once more choosing the connection name you added above.

Creating a MSSQL Server or PostgreSQL data store

For larger museum or research projects, you will want to create an MSSQL Server or PostgreSQL data store. This can be done from the system’s Data Connections option.

Example creating an MSSQL Server data store

This example which uses the express version of MSSQL Server, assumes you are creating a database on your own PC and thus can avoid having to use a DBA login and/or set up additional access rights.

You can easily install MSSQL Server express on your local PC. When doing so, we advise you also install the MSSQL Management Studio. If you have doubts, consult your IT colleagues.

- Log into BRAHMS choosing the default personal store using Windows Authentication. If there are no projects in the store, the Database Projects Manager screen will auto-open. You can close this.
- Select System > Manage Data Connections... then choose New

Choose a connection name and set the provider to MSSQL

- Select the Create option and at this stage, you can Test a connection is possible.

The test should lead to a ‘Test Connection Succeeded’ message.
Provide a physical name for the database and then Create this database

Successfully created

Following the instructions below

You can leave the User ID and Password blank if you are creating a database on your own PC and there are no administrative restrictions. Test Connection will complete the process.

- You can now sign out of BRAHMS and log in again – choosing the store name you provided e.g. My Museum Datastore. You can choose Windows authentication. If you choose BRAHMS authentication, the system will ask you to enter a user name and password. Don’t forget these.
On the first login, the Project Manager form will open. Choose New and enter a description of the project as prompted. Once completed, you can choose Load Project to open the new project in the newly created data connection.

Creating the appropriate account for accessing the database

These notes are for your Server Administrator. Using the MSSQL Server management studio, a user account should be added under Security > Logins with a BRAHMS database owner role for the newly created BRAHMS database. This user’s credentials will be used to set up access from all BRAHMS v8 software that will be connecting to the BRAHMS database. This can be done manually using the management studio.

Alternatively, you can use a script similar to the below, replacing the word brahms with your own database name:

```
USE [master]
GO
CREATE LOGIN BRAHMS WITH PASSWORD=N'SomePassword', DEFAULT_DATABASE=brahms, CHECK_EXPIRATION=OFF, CHECK_POLICY=ON
GO
USE [brahms]
GO
CREATE USER BRAHMS FOR LOGIN BRAHMS WITH DEFAULT_SCHEMA=[dbo]
GO
```

Where the username is BRAHMS and the password (SomePassword) should be set to something suitable. The first create statement sets up a login and the second adds that login to the database owner’s role of the BRAHMS database. Once this is completed, you can setup and test a data connection from BRAHMS.

A sample data connection form in BRAHMS v8 for MSSQL Server

Sharing data connections

The connections that a user has and can thus choose from on their login screen, come from the file datalocations.dat. This file is stored in the user’s Documents\BRAHMS folder. However, in an institution with many users, the database administrator may want to share a data connection for all users on the network. This is done using the Share option on the Data Connections form. This creates an encrypted file storing the
connection string. This file is added to the **Shared** folder which is found in the BRAHMS software folder. Any connections added to the Shared folder will be available to all users accessing BRAHMS from the same software folder. Shared files are named with the data connection title e.g. 'Oxford Database.dat'.

### VPN access and Remote Logins

If your connection string contains the appropriate entry for the server name, you can set up connections allowing users to log in from outside your institution. The connection is made over the internet. There may be an additional security requirement such as VPN login. The server administrator may also want to register the IP address of the user. Note that the MSSQL Server would have to be enabled for VPN access.

An example server name for a connection which would allow someone with appropriate access to log in from any location.

Another tactic is for a user to make a remote desktop connection to a server. Once connected in this way and with appropriate permissions, the user could clearly log in to BRAHMS and access the data store. Remote desktop connection approach is not recommended for large numbers of same time users unless the server is especially well resourced.
Troubleshooting

If you have installed the BRAHMS software on your PC and can’t find a database to open, this means that the local ‘data connections’ file on your PC has no data connections or there is a connection but it is not available. If you had a successful connection before, this may have been from another copy of BRAHMS on a different PC with its own data connection setup. Data connection details are stored on your PC and are not stored in the database or software. Note that on networks, data connections can be shared by adding the connection to shared folder in your BRAHMS application.

The default Data Connection for any BRAHMS installation is the one called ‘Personal’ on the login screen. Unless this has been somehow edited, it will point to the file brahms.db located in your Documents\BRAHMS folder. This connection does not require any special installation – it comes with BRAHMS.

What is brahms.db? This is a complete BRAHMS database structure template in SQLite format. The brahms.db file delivered with BRAHMS is empty – it has no actual databases in it – but they can be created/imported.

If there are any problems with logging to personal, please the steps below. Unless you have been provided with another database, your best bet for initial testing, is to connect to the demo conifer database. Then you at least have a system to practice on.

- Log out of BRAHMS, go to your Documents\BRAHMS folder and delete the single file brahms.db.
- From https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/support/conifers - download the demo database for BRAHMS 8 and store this zip in your Documents\BRAHMS folder. This is the conifer demo database.
- Open this zip file to your Documents\BRAHMS folder. This will create a brahms.db file which contains the conifer database. You can delete the zip file.
- Now log into to BRAHMS again – choosing the data location Personal.
- Choose BRAHMS Authentication and use the user name Demo and password demo (in lowercase). These are the default log in details for the conifer demo database.

NB. If the log in results in the prompt: ‘Would you like to auto-update now?’, simply say Yes and proceed to log in again. This prompt would only occur if your software is more updated than the conifer demo as available on the website.
The database manager

Introduction

The database manager provides options to add, edit and delete database projects within a given data store. A given data store may have one or several databases. Creating and editing database projects is a lot easier than setting up data connections.

To make a new database project, the first decision to make is where to store your data. If you are testing BRAHMS, you can create a new database project in the default brahms.db personal datastore.

The following section assumes you are already logged in and connected to a data store.

Creating a new database project

Log into the default personal store. If the Database Manager form does not auto-open, select System > Manage Database projects. On this form, Select New and enter the project name and a few details as requested.

Creating a new project

If the store has more than one database, when you next log in to this connection, you’ll be asked to choose which database to load.
Connecting to the demo database

Introduction

The demo Conifer Database is available on: https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/support/conifers

The conifer database has been provided by Aljos Farjon, RBG Kew. The conifer database includes all published conifer names with nomenclatural details, IUCN conservation codes, TDWG geographic distribution codes, species descriptions and more. It also includes specimen data across the group, almost all referenced for mapping. The database also includes sample living collections data from Oxford Botanic Garden.


Connecting to this sample database

Quickest approach

- Download the zip file from https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/support/conifers
- Open the zip to create the file brahms.db
- Copy the file to your Documents\BRAHMS folder overwriting the default brahms.db file
- Log into Personal using the credentials:

  Authentication: BRAHMS Authentication
  User name: Demo (not case sensitive)
  Password: demo (lower case)

Connect to conifers in a different location

If you prefer to set up an entirely new connection to conifers, perhaps on a shared drive thus allowing multi-user access, follow these steps:

- Copy the downloaded demo database file to any folder location. You can optionally rename the file from brahms.db, for example to conifers.db.
• Select System > Manage Data Connections... then New and enter a connection name such as Conifer Database. The Connection Provider will be the default Local Filesystem.
• Use Browse for an existing file to navigate to the database file and then select Save and then Done.
• Sign out. When you next log in, change the Data Location to ‘Conifer database’ or as added above.

**Browse to locate the downloaded conifer.db sample database - then save.**

**XML import option**

If you would like to import the conifer database to another store type including MSSQL Server, you can do this by importing the conifer database XML. This will be provided on request.
Managing user accounts and permissions

Introduction

Users and database permissions/access information are included and copied within a given data store. Thus, if you copy a personal data store or an MSSQL Server .bak file to another location, the user information will also be included. Passwords are encrypted.

Do not copy a database to another user with only a Windows login as they won’t be able to use that. Include at least one BRAHMS login option. RDE files do not require user login details.

View and edit the database project members list

The database project members list is opened using System > Manage Users and Permissions. This User Management table lists all users with their database memberships. Users registered in the user list who have no database memberships will not be listed in this table. A user with access to three separate database projects will have three entries.

The database members table lists all users with database membership(s). There is one entry per user per database project. Thus, if the data store includes 2 database projects and a user has access to both, the user will be listed twice in this list.

As well as providing the user name, this list indicates whether they are a system administrator, and their project role as manager or user. In Edit mode, the Project Role can be changed. The names and other fields in this grid can be searched and filtered as in any other data grid. Passwords are encrypted and cannot be seen.

Note that the System Admin? option cannot be edited from this screen as this is a property of the user rather than database membership.

Editing the user list

Adding and editing users

To edit the user list, select the User List option above the database membership grid. This option is only available to System Administrators.

To add new user account, select the New user… option. The tab Add BRAHMS User asks you to add in the name details and whether they are Admin or not. The other options, Add Windows account and Add Domain User do not require that you add a user name/password as this information is known by the windows/domain
account. Select **Finished** after adding the name entry. **Login authentication** methods are further discussed below.

**A note on passwords**

Passwords are case sensitive and encrypted. If you forget a password there is no way to visualise it. The only solution is to get the system administrator to use the reset password option when editing a user entry.

**Passwords can be reset by the system administrator.**

If you are copying a database to another user, optionally delete your Windows/Domain account entries as these will be of no use elsewhere. Certainly, you need to make sure you add at least one BRAHMS user log in (ideally with Administration status) so that the user can log in. This is why the demo conifer database is distributed with the BRAHMS log in user: Demo + pw: demo.

**Assigning database access to a user**

Having connection access to a data store does not mean that you can open the database(s) within it. To have access to a database project or projects within a store, you must have access permission.

**In the above example, a data store includes only one available project. To provide the currently highlighted user (not visible on this screen) access to this database project, use the Add-> option.**

Thus, the task of the System Administrator (or in this case also the Database Manager), once users have been added to the user list, is to ensure they are given access to the appropriate database project(s).

**Users roles**

A user may be designated as an Administrator, Database Manager or a User. Access rights vary in each case.

When adding a new user, you can make that user a System Administrator by selecting that option on the new user form. Administrators have access to all options including adding and editing the user list.

A user can also be made Database Manager. This means that the user has access to the entire database and can assign user access to databases they manage.

**To set a user as a DB Manager, select Edit mode and then use the dropdown in the Project Role field.**
Login authentication methods

Three types of user login account are available. It makes no difference which is used to the options available in BRAHMS after log in. The login method does not influence the access and permissions settings.

BRAHMS User

The user can log in from any workstation using a BRAHMS user name. Must enter user name and the password. The default Admin level user name and password for the sample conifer database is Demo + demo. These credentials are distributed with the conifer database.

Local Windows Account

This is windows authentication on the user’s local workstation. No user name or password needed when logging in using Windows Authentication as you have already logged in to your PC.

Domain User

Domain users are assigned on institutional networks by the relevant IT person with access to the list of domain users. They can log in to any workstation on the institutional network. With roaming profiles, they will have access to their Documents/BRAHMS folder. No user name or password needed when logging in using a domain account as it uses Windows Authentication.

The Add Domain User options allow the database Administrator to add users from an accessible active directory domain. By entering your domain credentials, the domain users are listed as show above (personal details hidden). These can be selected individually and given access rights to databases.

Access and permissions

Introduction

This section refers to access and permissions within a selected project. In summary, each user can be assigned access rights to a selected database project. The same user may have different access rights in different database. Permissions are edited by the system administrator or database manager (for databases managed).

With larger projects where there may be many users, the need to control access and editing rights to specific categories of data becomes ever more important. For example, in a botanic garden setting, only some users may be able to edit your central species list – while others may only be able to view and query this list. Furthermore, only selected users may have rights to verify or change garden plant identifications.

The permissions and access settings can also be used to simplify the entire system for users who do not need to see the entire range of menu options. For example, a volunteer working on entering new museum accessions may have a BRAHMS interface that only shows the Rapid Data Entry menu.

A set of permissions can be created and saved as named permissions set. This set of permissions can then be assigned to other users.

Permissions influence the following features:

- The modules or components of modules that a user sees – modules can be completely hidden.
- Where access is provided, this can be set as Read Only or Read and Modify.
- Where Read and Modify access is given, additionally, users can be assigned access to Add, Mark records for deletion and Remove records marked for deletion.
- Additional features can be edited such as the ability to merge records or edit map points.
Editing users’ permissions

Once the user management table is opened using System > Manage Users and Permissions, select the Access/Permissions option. Options are divided across three tabs:

**Tab1 for Modules and Data:** In this example, a permissions set ‘Sample profile’ has been created. For example, the user has Read Only access to the Taxa module. Full access is provided to the Geographic module including the ability to Edit, Add and Delete records. On the other hand, in Preserved specimens, this user can Add and Mark records to delete but not finally delete those records. Various other settings have been provided. **Tab 2 for specific actions:** Various further settings can be edited per user profile.

**Tab3 for Events:** the options here control which users have permission to edit plant events.

**Access permissions to RDE folders**

Access to Rapid Data Entry folders is discussed in the section on Assigning permissions to RDE folders.
System broadcasting

The option **System > User Notification**... can be used to send a message to all currently logged in users, as long as these users are using the same client software. While this feature can be used to distribute any message to users, one of its key purposes would be to advise users to log out so that the system can be updated.

A shutdown notification will prevent BRAHMS being run until the notification is cleared. Access is re-enabled by deleting the file ‘notifications.json’, found in the BRAHMS installation folder, or by running BRAHMS from the command line using the ‘ClearNotification’ option.
BRAHMS setup options and language

Introduction

Setup options are accessed from System > Options... The options are gradually expanding, those currently available are listed below. Note that user permission options are used to define user level access and permissions.

System background

To set your BRAHMS application background image, select System > Options > Background Image. You can display background images from your own image gallery choosing the relevant BRAHMS setup option.

Language

BRAHMS is international with respect to the interface and the storage of data. Translatable resources files are used to manage interface components. This means that the entire system is easily translated to any language.

Formats for taxa names and authors

You can control how author names appear in calculated species names. For example, you may want to exclude authors or only include the lowest ranked epithet author name.
Note: If author names are excluded by default, you can override this on a name by name basis using the **Force Author options** found on the main Species form:

- **No force:** Alnus incana subsp. rugosa var. occidentalis
- **Force all:** Alnus incana L. subsp. rugosa R.T.Clausen var. occidentalis (Dippel) C.L.Hitchc.
- **Force last:** Alnus incana subsp. rugosa var. occidentalis (Dippel) C.L.Hitchc.

**Your institution code**

Registering the code of your institution. This is used in the system as your default code.

**Mapping**

The mapping tab is currently used to enter the location of the exe files for GIS options. By default, BRAHMS will try to locate the GIS installations using your computer’s registry entries but sometimes, this is not possible. The settings here assure that BRAHMS can locate the software.

- **GIS exe locations.**

**Modules**

The settings here can be used by individual users to control the main menu options they see. Note that the database manager may apply restrictions using the **Access and Permission** settings. The access and permission settings override the user module settings.
Banner image

The selected banner image appears through the system for example on all form headers. The image is stored in the file banner.jpg in the software Branding folder. After changing this file, log out of the system then re-login.

An example banner in use.

Supressing form banners

As form banners use up screen space, it can be convenient to hide these banners by default rather than hiding the banner manually from the opened form.

All forms have a Show Banner option. Form banners are on by default. Use the set-up option provided to hide banners by default.
Background image

Use the settings here to choose the application background image. You need to be online to use Bing images of the day.

*Background image set to Bing image of the day – the image changes roughly every 30 seconds.*

Font settings

The settings here control the font name and size used through the system.

*Choose any font and text size. You can restore the default settings.*
Grid Options

- Adjust tag colours for dynamic record colours
- Choose your preferred data grid line options
- Suppress column header sorting

Tag Colours

Tagging and editing tag colours are discussed in the Tagging section of this guide.

Data grid line options

Alter the appearance of your data grids.

Column sorting

Further information is provided in the section on sorting records.
Data grid fundamentals

Introduction to data grids and their performance

Data grids present data from your database tables on your screen in spreadsheet format. The grids come with a context enabled menu ribbon and toolbar options, rather like MS Office applications. The grids include data from the currently selected table but they also pull in data from related tables as required. For example, with Collection Events, many of the data columns you see are from related tables such as the taxa, geography and people tables. By default, data are not presented in any recognisable sort order. This is because the data are

Some data grids display data from many related tables. These table relationships and the data they present on your screen are managed by various layers of the BRAHMS system starting with the DBMS itself where the tables, their indexes and relationships are managed and then ending up as data on your screen. One of the functions of BRAHMS is to gather these data together, correctly related, and allow you to browse through your data.

A typical data grid, here from collection events. The data in this grid example come from several tables: Tags are stored in a user-specific tag table; collector names come from the people/name-strings table; and the taxa fields some from the family, genus and species tables.

As well as using the resources of the computer storing the database, often a server, these activities are optimised to take advantage of the resources of the workstation you are working on, notably the available RAM. With large databases, the data should be stored on an adequately resourced server. With personal databases, the database and BRAHMS software are likely to be on the same computer.

Clearly, the system cannot bring all the data from large tables into view or into your workstation memory at one time. There may be many millions of records in a single table. Rather, it pulls data from the database store as you move up and down the data grid. The process used is called data virtualization. In fact, more data are pulled from the database than you can see at one time and this smooths out the process of browsing.

If you page down through a large table, you will periodically see a small triangle of points displayed in the bottom right corner of the data grid. This indicates that the system is pulling more data from your database and supplying these data to the BRAHMS data grid. If you rapidly page up or down through the data, the data triangle appears more frequently. If the triangle seems to spin for a longer period, it implies the server is busy.

The data access triangle indicating that the system is busy pulling new data from your database into the grid.

If you are working with large tables, for example those with > 500,000 records, you will experience longer delays if you attempt to drag the grid vertical scroll bar up or down. This behaviour is well documented in virtualized data grids. In practice, it is not normally necessary to use the vertical scroll bar. In any case, to locate data effectively, you should use one of the filter/query options.
Working on a small screen?

Note: if you are working on a small screen, toolbars may collapse in the manner shown below.

![Normal screen.](image)

![Small screen. Where toolbars are collapsed as with Tag, Calculate and Import/Export above, clicking on the toolbar option lists the hidden toolbar options.](image)

Using data grid tables

Opening and closing tables in data grids

By default, BRAHMS uses versatile data grids with context sensitive toolbars to browse, locate, select, sort, edit, query and analyze your data. Data tables are opened using a single click on the selected menu entry. The use of forms is discussed in the editing section.

- On the Taxa menu, click once on Families.

When a table opens, the toolbar will usually change to Data Tools as this is where you will likely find what you need to do next. For taxa specific tools or if you want to open another taxa table, return to the Taxa menu - or another menu option as required.

- To close the table, select the X on the top left corner of the data grid. Alternatively use Alt+X

Opening multiple tables

See examples on https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#multiple

You can open and utilise different tables at the same time. The task here is to open the main family, genus, species and collection events tables.

- On the Taxa menu, click once on Families.
- Return to the Taxa menu and click on Genera. Repeat this now for Species. Note that each time you open a table, the Data Tools toolbar is activated – so you have to return to the Taxa menu.
- Finally, on the main menu, select Collections and choose Collection events.
Each table has a tab which can be selected to view the data in that table.

With the opened tables organised in this way, the problem is that you can only view one table at a time. The next task explains how to resolve this.

### Docking tables

See examples on [https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#multiple](https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#multiple)

Video: [https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#opendocklink](https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#opendocklink)

To view the tables opened in the last exercise at the same time, you can use the docking and undocking features. Each table can be detached from its centrally docked position and docked to the side, above or below another table – or dragged off the application to a different monitor. Forms, images, external web sites, maps, query tools and more are all dockable.

Positioning tables and other items takes a little practice as there are many potential docking options. It also depends on how many monitors you have available. The tasks here assume only one monitor – but if you have two or more, take advantage of these to display tables fully undocked.

- Using your mouse, drag table tabs to undock them. This can take a little practice to grab the tab correctly. When you drag any table to undock it, a series of yellow ‘docking boxes’ appear. The challenge is to drop the table on one of the docking options – the central box will redock the table as it was.
- As a first try, drag the genus and species tables and re-dock by placing and releasing your mouse pointer over one of the yellow docking points.

Here the genus table has been undocked and is floating above the other tables. And the species table is about to be docked to the right.

- You can repeat this process with the collection events table, docking elsewhere - or move it to a different monitor.
The various tables rearranged with collections events dragged off the main application

Dock position options vary depending on the windows opened. Some experimentation is required.

**Setting grid appearance**

*System Fonts and grid lines*

As discussed in the System settings section, you can configure grid font, text size and grid lines using the options on System > Options.

**Navigation and function keys**

*Navigation*

There are a few tricks to learn to move efficiently between columns and rows in BRAHMS data grids. Most of the functions used in v8 are similar to those used in Office applications such as Excel.

BRAHMS draws data from the data store into the grids, and presents your data with smooth scrolling and low-lag data virtualization, storing as much data as possible in memory. As you scroll up or down, BRAHMS retrieves the relevant data to memory and refreshes the opened grid.

- Select Collections > Collection Events to open the events table. Activate the grid by clicking in any cell. The default is read-only mode, nothing can be edited.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action in non-edit mode</th>
<th>Keys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Move to the next / previous column</td>
<td>Right / Left Arrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First/Last column</td>
<td>Home / End keys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First/Last row</td>
<td>CTRL Home / CTRL End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action in edit mode</td>
<td>Keys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move to the next / previous column</td>
<td>TAB / Shift TAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next /Previous row</td>
<td>Down / Up arrow or use Alt+Arrows in memo or numeric fields</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Function keys template – keyboard short cuts

You can see the Function Key assignments by selecting **Shift+F1** which opens the F Key template. Before selecting **Shift+F1**, click anywhere in a data grid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modifier</th>
<th>Key</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shift</td>
<td>F1</td>
<td>Toggle this list of shortcuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Add a new record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shift</td>
<td>F2</td>
<td>Toggle grid form visibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>F2</td>
<td>Toggle Sigma summary visibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F5</td>
<td>Refresh data grid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>F5</td>
<td>Remove any existing sorts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F6</td>
<td>Toggle records tag and move to next record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shift</td>
<td>F6</td>
<td>Tag all records in the grid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>F6</td>
<td>Untag all records in the grid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alt</td>
<td>F6</td>
<td>Filter on tagged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Toggle records delete flag and move to next record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shift</td>
<td>F8</td>
<td>Cycle column autofit widths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F9</td>
<td>Open a value look-up for a read-only field if available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shift</td>
<td>F10</td>
<td>Toggle grid cell content viewer visibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alt</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>Toggle grid cell content viewer visibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>F10</td>
<td>Toggle record viewer visibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>Toggle record viewer visibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F11</td>
<td>Toggle advanced query tool visibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shift</td>
<td>F11</td>
<td>Set current cell value as a quick filter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shift</td>
<td>F12</td>
<td>Append current cells value to quick filter list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>F11</td>
<td>Deactivate all currently applied filters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Toggle Reporter visibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Toggle grids print preview visibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Toggle edit mode for the current grid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F4</td>
<td>Copy field above (edit mode only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shift</td>
<td>F4</td>
<td>Copy and increment numeric field above (edit mode only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alt</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Copy and increment numeric field above (edit mode only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>F4</td>
<td>Copy current record to a new record (edit mode only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td></td>
<td>Go to first column</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Go to last column</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>Go to first row and column</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>End</td>
<td>Go to last row and column</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PgUp</td>
<td>Scroll up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PgDn</td>
<td>Scroll down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alt</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Toggle magnifier window</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alt</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Close the active grid view</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adjust, save and share grid column views

Video: https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#columnviewvideo

Adjusting data grid views

When you open a table, the default data grid fields will be visible. You can adjust the field views using the Column Management options. With any table opened:

- Select Grid Tools > Manage Columns…

The Column Management Tool allows you to select visible columns.

Note that on this form you can use the Select/Deselect all option to quickly edit the selections. For example, you can deselect all and then choose the columns you want one by one. Also note the Filter option which is useful to quickly locate fields in the list.

Another handy option is the Hide Current option on Grid Tools – this hides the currently selected field. If you click on this option again, it will hide the next column in the grid.

You can also right-click on any of the column headers. This opens a dialogue form with options to show hidden columns and alter the column order.

Saving data grid views

Multiple data grid views can be saved per table. Once you have designed a useful selection of fields, you can save this using the Save As option on the bottom of the Column Manager form. This will ask you to provide a name for the saved view. You can also save views using Save Layout on the Grid Tools toolbar.

Default view file types and folder location

By default, all saved view files are stored in your Documents\BRAHMS\Columns folder. In this folder, you may find the following file types:

- .lcv files are for your last column views, one per table.
- .dgc file are for your saved data grid views.
Deleting data grid view files

To delete any data grid view, go to the view file folder location and simply delete the physical view file.

Sharing saved grid views

As an institution, you will likely want to set up commonly used grid views for different tables and share these with all system users. To do this, you simply copy the grid view files from the default Documents\BRAHMS folder into the BRAHMS application folder Shared/Columns.

Views moved to the BRAHMS application Shared\Columns folder will be available to all users. These views have (shared) appended to the view name.

Selecting a saved view

On the Grid Tools toolbar, all saved views are listed and can be selected using the Layout dropdown. Here you will find, together with any views you have saved:

- Default Columns: returns the grid view to the system default.
- Last Auto-Saved: shows the view selected when you last closed the table.

Sorting records

See examples on [https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#sorting](https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#sorting)

The ability to sort records, vital for reporting, is also useful to simply locate records and to find errors.

Column sorting

Enable column sorting

With column sorting enabled, you can quickly sort data grids by clicking on a column header or, as discussed below, select multiple headers. However, in very large databases, you may want to prevent users ‘over-clicking’ on column headers, sometimes when they simply want to select a column rather than sort.

Column sorting can be enabled/disabled by default for all users using System > Options > Grid options
This option is found at the bottom of the page.

If disabled, a user can always override this when in an open table by selecting Enable header sort on the Sort option dropdown on the Data Tools toolbar.

**Sort on single or multiple columns**

If enabled, tables can be sorted on single columns by clicking on the header, **Shift + Clicking** on multiple column headers or using the Sorting Tool.

- Select **Taxa > Genera** to open the main genus table.
- Click once on the Family column header to sort A-Z. Click the same column header again to sort Z-A. Click a third time to remove the sort.
- You can combine as many columns as needed using **Shift + Click** on columns headers.

---

**Sort by Last Added and Last Modified**

You can quickly sort of the records in the current table most recently added or modified using the options provided on the Sort menu. These records will come to the top of the table.

Select one of these sort options to see the most recently added or edited records.
**Sorting species in Natural Order**

Species records can be sorted so that the names come in AZ order regardless of which epithets are added.

Species records can be sorted so that the names come in AZ order regardless of which epithets are added.

The names on the left are sorted by genus + species. Those on the right are sorted using the Natural Species Sort option.

**Saving complex sort commands**

- Now open the Sorting tool. Here you can add fields of any type to create complex sorts. You can save complex sorts using the Save option provided.
Using the sort form, any combination of character, numeric, date and logical field can be selected to sort your records. Complex commands can be named and saved for future use.

Sorting collection events by collector and number

Collection event field numbers are alphanumeric and thus, by default, sorting the field number column AZ gives an incorrect sort order.

As can be seen here on the left, sorting these Wilson, EH collections on Field Number gives a bad result. This is resolved using the calculated field # Field Number (sortable) shown on the right which pads the number field with zeros.

- To display this field, select Grid Tools > # Calc Fields
- You could now sort the collection events table on the Collectors + Field Number (sortable) fields but in reports, still refer to the column Field Number.

Date sorting

You can sort records on the audit fields Created By, Created On, Last Modified By and Last Modified On and such sorts are useful for a variety of purposes. When you add a new record, the data grid is auto-sorted on the Created On field. But you may find it useful to sort on this field (click on field header) at other times, perhaps in combination with other fields.

If you want to sort collection events by date, sort on year, month and day in that field order (shift-clicking on fields for multiple selections).

Tagging functions

See examples on https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#tagging

Video: https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#tagsandmaps
What are tags?

Tagging refers to the addition of a single character to the TAG field. This field is available in all tables in the first position. Tagging has multiple uses throughout BRAHMS with record selection and grouping. While the default tag symbol is *, you can tag records with different symbols or numbers. Each of these can be assigned a colour.

Tags are user-specific, thus one users’ tags do not interfere with those of another working in the same table. This is achieved by holding tags in a related table that includes the table name, the record GUID, the tag character and the user ID.

Select System > Options > Grid Views/Highlighting to edit the default colour options.

Clicking on the Tag toolbar option (or the F6 key) adds the selected symbol to the TAG field. The tag toolbar dropdown provides further options.

Tag all, counting, filtering, clearing and inverting tags

The Tag toolbar dropdown provides a list of handy tagging options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transfer tags</th>
<th>Copy tags to child or parent records, e.g., species tags can be copied to all collection events, specimens and det history records. Or you could tag all species of tagged collection events.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Count tags</td>
<td>A simple count of all tagged records.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filter on tagged</td>
<td>Show only tagged records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tag all</td>
<td>Tag all records in table – respecting any filters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clear all grid tags | Remove your tags from all tables – does not respect filters
Clear current grid tags | Remove your tags from the current table – respecting current filters
Invert tags | Tagged records are set to no tag; records that had no tag are tagged *
Tag with | Choose tag symbol from list

Tag groups

You can manage and save your tagged records using the Tag Group Manager. This allows you to save tags for any table to named tag groups. You can create as many tag groups as you need per table. See examples on https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#taggroups.

To create a tag group in any table:

- Tag the records using one or more tag symbols.
- Select Tag > Tag Groups on the Data Tools toolbar.
- Select New Group and add a Group name at the top of the form. Then Save the new group.
- Ensure the new group entry is selected in the left side pane of the form and then select Save Tags. This will add the tag details to the newly created group.
- Close the Tag Group form.
- You can restore these tags at any stage later on using the Load Tags option.

Creating a new tag group
An example of Tag Groups. In this example, records with Red list code EN VU and CR have been tagged with the symbols 1, 2 and 3 respectfully and these tagged records have been saved to a group called ‘Red List EN VU and CR taxa’

**Tag Transfers**

The ability to transfer tags between related tables opens up numerous options for record selection and processing. In summary:

- You can copy tags DOWN from a table to all the child records in related tables, optionally extending this to all descendant child records in all related tables.
- You can copy tags UP from a table to all the parent records in related tables, optionally extending this to all ascendant parent records in all related tables.

Select Tag > Transfer tags on the Data Tools toolbar.

Example 1. Tag some species records and then transfer the tags DOWN to all collection events and garden accessions of those tagged species. Or extend this to all specimens, determinations, garden plants, seed records, etc.

Example 2. Tag some species records and then transfer the tags UP to all genera of those tagged species. Or extend this to all genera, families and higher classification records for the tagged species.
Example 3. You may have created a tag group in your species table for ‘Medicinal plants’ or ‘Native species’. Having restored the relevant tags to your species table, it would then be possible to tag all living plants in a garden database that are medicinal or native. Equally, you could tag all collection events and the specimens.

Example 4. Creating a checklist for species in a map area. In collection events, you could use the map search to select collection event records. After tagging all the records in the grid (auto-filtered to the map search area), these tags could be transferred up to the species table. In the species table, you could now select the tagged records and use these to build a checklist.

**Tag matching records**

Using the **Match/Transfer** option, you can tag records in the open table that match criteria in a selected Excel XLSX table. This option is described in the **Match/Transfer** data section.

**Record Zoom and Cell options**

**Zoom option**

The Zoom option displays the contents of the current record as a vertical list of fields and data values in a side window. This is a handy way to see all the data added to the current record. You can select to include or exclude fields with no values.

It also provides a useful way to navigate to data grid columns - double-clicking on a field name locates the column. If the column is not currently visible, it will be set to visible.

![Record Zoom window](image)

The Record Zoom window. Double clicking on any field name in the Zoom window (here Family) locates the selected column in the data grid.

**Cell option**

The Cell option on the Zoom dropdown opens a docked window displaying the value of that data field. The window content updates as you move field or record. Also see the copy options in the section **Copying cells and records.**
Here, the Zoom window is opened but filtered to show fields including the text ‘col’. Also, the Cell Zoom window is opened and conveniently docked below the Record Zoom.

Column summaries

See examples on https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#colsum

Totals entries for the selected column

The column summary option lists the different values in the selected column and providing the total number of records per value.

- Select Collections > Collection events.
- Locate and click in the column # Full Name and then select the Summary option on the Data Tools toolbar.

Here, the summary shows the number of collection events per species. Moving to a different column will update the summary – assuming Auto-update on column change is selected. Click on the summary columns to sort by field name or count.

You can now open any table and test this function in any column. As you click through different columns, the summaries auto-update unless the form option Auto-update on column change is disabled.
Application of filters

The Column Summary tool also allows you to select values to filter on. You can select one to many of the values in the summary list then **Apply Filters**.

The summary option can also be used to apply filters on one or more selected values.

Value merging

The summary tool also allows you to merge ‘same data’ values, typically where there are multiple entries (e.g. spelling errors) of the same value. **Value merging** is discussed in a separate section.

Calculated fields

Many BRAHMS database files include **calculated fields** (# fields). These store summaries of information about records in these tables, usually numeric totals or formatted text strings. Calculated fields are not auto-updated. Rather you must periodically use the **Recalculate** option on the **Data Tools** toolbar. This updates all of the # fields in the opened table.

Examples of numeric and string calculated fields are:

- # collection events per country in the country table
- # images per species in the species table
- # specimens per collection event in the collection event table
- Species full name in many tables
- Text date formats in RDE for specimens
- Gazetteer summaries in RDE for specimens

Calculated fields are read-only and are displayed using a different column header colour. The field name headers start with # as in ‘# Collections’ and ‘# Full Name’.

You can display # fields individually using the standard column selection options on **Grid Tools > Manage Columns**. Alternatively, enable all # fields at once using the toggle option **Grid Tools > # Calc Fields**.
Some example calc fields in the main species table.

Calculated date fields in an RDE file.

Tables can be sorted and filtered using calculated fields and these fields can be included in reports. They are often useful when producing reports.

Together with the long and short date fields, the RDE fields #Gazetteer Summary and #DGMS are useful when creating label reports.

An example of calculated fields in the main country table

- On the main menu, select Geo > Countries. Then on the Data Tools toolbar, select Recalculate and update the calculated fields as prompted.
- On the Grid Tools toolbar, select Manage columns to open the Column Management window. Here you can select the fields you want, to include some calculated fields.
Some of the #calc fields in the main country table.

**Tree views**

See examples on [https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#treeviews](https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#treeviews)

Tree Views provide an excellent way to locate, explore and filter data as well as tracking down spelling errors. The Tree View designer allows you to create and save your own views with up to 10 hierarchical levels, and as many views as you need per table. Once opened, you can then use the locate and filter options offered, for example 'filter on selection' when you click on any tree level.

This example shows a single level view to explore by genus. With 'Filter on selection' selected, clicking on a Tree View entry filters to that value and updates any linked data, in this case, the map. The windows have been docked and re-sized.

- In the demo Conifer database, select Collections > Collection events - select the Tree View option on the Data Tools toolbar. Default trees are provided for some tables.
- On the form, select Tree View Designer and choose Genus. You can construct views with any fields you need, and in any order.
- Optionally name and save this view – or simply load the view using the option provided.
- Select the option Filter on selection at the bottom of the form. Clicking on and genus will now set a filter to that name. Click on a genus to set the filter.
- Now, on the main menu, select Maps and choose ArcGIS in BRAHMS. This will draw a map of your selected genus based on the available collections. Do not restrict to Tagged only.
- Clicking on a different Tree entry will now update your data grid and map.

By default, the Tree View and the Map are docked together. You can drag the lower screen Tree View tab to separate it and arrange your windows as shown in the example above.

**Saving data to Excel or CSV**

See examples on [https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#exporting](https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#exporting)

Data are easily exported to Excel spreadsheets using the Tag -> Excel or CSV options on the Data Tools toolbar. Exporting works only with tagged records and will export the currently selected columns.
In this task, export specimen data from BRAHMS, sorted by family and species name, restricting the export to some columns and the filter selection to holotypes.

- Select **Collections** from the main menu and choose ‘Preserved Specimen’ using the Category drop down.
- Select **Specimens** to open that table.
- Now select **Grid Tools > Manage Columns** and here you can remove any columns you don’t want to export and sort the table as wanted.
- Locate the Type Category column and enter ‘Holo’ or ‘holo’ in the filter bar to apply a filter on Holotypes.
- Select **Tag > Tag all**
- You can now use the **Export** option to save the tagged records.

Using the grid filter option to restrict to specimens that are holotypes. This example from the Conifer database also restricts to China.

You can list all saved files using the **View** option on the Export Data toolbar section.

**Copying cells and records**

**Copy records**

In data grids, you can click on a record to select the record. You can use Shift Click to select groups of contiguous records or CTRL Click to select individual records – the same as in other packages. Selected records are displayed in a shaded colour. Copy the selection using Ctrl+C. You can then paste Ctrl+V these records elsewhere, for example to Excel. Be sure to select the correct paste option to format the data appropriately.

**Copy Cells**

You can copy the value of a cell to the clipboard using the toolbar option **Copy Cell Value**. The short cut key for this is Ctrl+K. This is a handy way to copy GUID and other data values.

Note that by using Windows Key + V, you can list recently copied data values on your clipboard. You may have to allow Windows to do this.

Use Windows+V to expose data recently copied to your clipboard.
Data grid right-click menu

A right-click on the data grid provides access to a handy list of options that are otherwise available on the Grid Tools and Data Tools toolbars.

Short cut menu opened using a right-click anywhere in the data grid. Some options relate to the current column or cell value.
Find, Filter and Query

Video: [https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#datagridfilters](https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#datagridfilters)

**Introduction**

Filter and query are one and the same thing in BRAHMS. They restrict the data in the opened table using one or a combination of selection criteria. You can then view, report, map, analyse or export these data. There are several ways to filter/query your data – as discussed below.

**Quick filter options**

*Filter to show your own edits*

To show only those records you (as the currently logged in user) have edited, select the Filter option dropdown have in place.

*Restrict to tagged*

The *Show tagged only* option (see above screen) filters on tagged records adding this filter to any other filters you may have in place.

*Display active filter criteria*
Queries using the data grid filter bar

See examples on https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#explore

Use Shift +F1 to open help with grid filter options.

- Open the main file collection events table using Collections > Collection Events.
- Enter values into the top filter row as shown below. You can use operators =, <, >, <=, => to combine values using capitalized AND/OR statements.
- You can also use keywords NOT =Null (or use <> NULL) to show non-empty strings or =NULL to show empty strings.

Using the grid filter row, you can add values to as many columns as needed.

Setting a barcode range using the grid filter row.

- You can use * to select ‘starts with’ and ‘ends with’, thus:

Setting a filter where collector name starts with ‘ter (left) or includes ‘ter’ (centre) and right, where the genus ends ‘illa’.
### Grid filter-bar syntax examples

- **cyn**: Entering cyn in the FAMILY column would include the family Apocynaceae, amongst others.
- **<> pinaceae**: Entering <> pinaceae in the FAMILY column would exclude the family Pinaceae.
- **NOT pinaceae**: Entering NOT pinaceae in the FAMILY column would (as using <> ) exclude the family Pinaceae.
- **"rus**: Entering "rus in the GENUS column would include all genera ending rus.
- **rus**: Entering rus* in the SPECIES column would include all species starting rus.
- **=excelsa**: Entering =excelsa in the SPECIES column would include all species named excelsa.
- **>2000**: Entering >2000 would include all entries > 2000 in the selected field.
- **<2000**: Entering <2000 would include all entries > 2000 in the selected field.
- **>=1800**: include only records that are greater than or = to 1800 in the selected field.
- **<=100**: include only records that are less than or = to 100 in the selected field.

**Using Conditional Operators**

The items in a column can be filtered according to more than one value by separating those values with the AND or OR conditional operators. These operators must be in uppercase.

- **AND**
  - include only records that are selected by all the filtering criteria. Thus entering vir AND sub in the species FULLNAME column would include entries such as Juniperus virginiana subsp. scopulorum.
- **OR**
  - include only records that are selected by at least one of the filtering criteria. Thus entering pin OR pod in the FAMILY column would include entries such as Pinaceae and Podocarpaceae.

Press **SHIFT+F1** to open help option for F keys and grid filter syntax examples.

**Queries using Selection and +Selection**

You can set filters on current cell values using the **Selection** and **+Selection** options.

- Open the main file collection events table using **Collections > Collection Events**. Set a filter on a cell value by clicking on the value and then the **Selection** toolbar. This option overrides any previous filters.
- You can add multiple cell-based queries using the **+Selection** option. As soon as you select **Selection** rather than **+Selection**, the filter will be again restricted to a single value.

Using the Selection toolbar options.
Building and saving more complex queries

Using the main **Query tool** form, you can design and save your own queries. Queries, which generate visible SQL commands, can mix and match fields of any type. Each command you add is saved unless you remove it from the list. You can then selectively enable and combine the one-line commands and optionally name and save combinations of commands.

- Select the ![toolbar option to open the main Query Tool. Use the various drop downs to add the query command(s) you want, using **Add** to add the command to the command list. The AND/OR settings should be adjusted if necessary.
- Use **Apply filters** to run the query.

![An example Query Tool form with previously used commands, three commands enabled. You can name and save a combination of query commands. The Query Tool form can be undocked and dragged off the application.](image)

![A further example Query Tool form with previously used commands, three commands enabled.](image)
Barcode searches

Barcodes can be used to locate records quickly and uniquely. In the main collection event or specimen tables, enable the barcode search toolbar using the Barcode Search option on the Collections menu.

In this example, 6 records have been located using the barcode search option. Barcodes would be normally be scanned into the search field using a barcode reader. However, you can also manually type or paste in barcode values.

As barcodes are scanned, assuming located, they are tagged with ‘B’. The number of B tagged records is indicated. As tags are user-specific, you can scan/tag barcodes without interfering with another users’ tags.

To view the selected record(s), use the filter option provided on the barcode toolbar.

In this example, 5 records have been located. Note that the filter option adds ‘=B’ to the tag grid filter box. If you continue to search for new barcodes with the filter on, the newly located records are added to the filtered list.

Executing an SQL command

In the current version of BRAHMS, the SQL features are under development. These will be extended to create a saved table of SQL commands with restrictions and command guidelines that include field selection. SQL commands will only be available to selected users.

The ability to use SQL commands and functions directly in BRAHMS opens up a further dimension of editing flexibility. It is never essential to manually issue SQL commands as discussed here. However, if you do, it can make certain types of task much easier, for example, when editing all of the records in an RDE file. Using SQL commands can speed up some editing tasks enormously.

For example, imagine in an RDE file with several 100 records, you want to replace all occurrences of the text ‘SN’, ‘sn.’ and ‘No number’ in the NUMBER field to a uniform ‘s.n.’ value. With the correct SQL command, the task can be done in seconds.

Meanwhile to test the concept and see what’s coming:

- Select Taxa > Species to open the main species table.
- On the Data Tools toolbar, open the main Query Tool and select the SQL tab.
- Edit the command area to: UPDATE species SET Taxstatus = ‘!!!’ WHERE taxstatus = ‘accepted’
• Select the **Execute SQL** option on the form.
• After doing this, select **Refresh Data** on the **Data Tools** toolbar – this will update your view of the data.

To reverse this edit,

• Edit the command area to: `UPDATE species SET Taxstatus = 'accepted' WHERE taxstatus = '!!!'`
• Again, select the **Execute SQL** option on the form and Refresh the data.

The completed SQL command tool will be available in the next BRAHMS release. We may initially restrict its use to RDE tables.

A more complex example which uses tags follows. This example sets the Boolean field NOTONLINE in the specimens table to True (1) for all tagged records:

```
update specimens set notonline = 1 from specimens as sp inner join (tags inner join brahmsusers as bu on tags.brahmsuserid=bu.brahmsuserid AND bu.username = N'\'myname\'' ) on sp.specimenid = tags.recordid
```

In the above example, the username ‘myname’ must be set to a BRAHMS user log in username. This is because tags are user-specific. The field NOTONLINE can be set to null, 0 (false) or 1 (true). Also be careful when using single quote marks not to use special quotes as generated by Word. Also note that to make the command more readable, the tables can be assigned shorter names. Thus ‘specimens as sp’ and ‘brahmsusers as bu’. This is not necessary but can make complex commands more readable.

By adjusting the table and field to edit, you can use the same command structure elsewhere. Thus:

```
update collectionevents set collectionyear = 1850 from collectionevents as ce inner join (tags inner join brahmsusers as bu on tags.brahmsuserid=bu.brahmsuserid AND bu.username = N'\'myname\'' ) on ce.collectioneventid = tags.recordid
```

Using the SQL screen, the SQL command can be split up on different lines to make more readable.
Find anything – anywhere

When you open any data grid, you can use the Find option to locate any text or a number in any grid cell. Cells that include your text are highlighted in yellow.

- To test, in the open database, select Collections > Collection events. Click anywhere on the data grid to activate the Find option and then select this to open the Search box. Ctrl+F also opens this option.

Using the search box navigation arrows, you can move to the next or previous matching cell. Alternatively, use F3 or Shift+F3 to move forwards and backwards respectively. Press Esc to clear the search and Esc again to close the option.
Adding and editing data

RDE vs Database
You can add new data records directly to your database or, alternatively, add new records to Rapid Data Entry (RDE) files and then transfer these data to your database. If you are adding just a few records, it’s usually easier to add directly to the database. For bulk additions, use RDE.

Edit mode
Data can be added and edited in RDE and in your main database tables. By default, tables are opened in read-only mode. To enable Edit mode, select the Edit option on the Data Tools toolbar or enter Ctrl+E.

The behaviour of the data grids changes slightly in Edit mode. For example, you will find that TAB and Shift TAB are needed to move through the fields rather than the left and right arrows.

Data are auto-saved whenever you exist a field or change a row. If you do not see the change in your grid, use the Refresh Data option on the Data Tools toolbar.

Details on how to use lookup functions are provided in a subsequent section.

Adding records
New records are added using the Add option on the Data Tools toolbar. You can add a single blank record – or add new records in batches as offered on the Add drop-down. Each new record is assigned a GUID primary key (not visible unless selected). Adding batch records is especially handy in RDE – and can be faster.

Editing larger text fields
Larger text fields (known as memo fields in v7) can be edited in the data grid itself or, by clicking on the field edit icon, in a separate text editor window.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Text</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| With Akebia 
forest (var. georgei; Latis potaninii; Sericoa, Sals, Lathraea 
on slope W-facing mountain slope in-greyly form. |
| On rivetbank in woodland with e.g. Arctach melrosysyn, Leptospermum montici, Hakea microcarpa, on alluvial sand with soil. |

Longer text fields can be edited in the data grid or in a separate text editor window.
Large blocks of text can be added and edited using the Text Editor. You can paste or drag and drop text to the Editor with no limit on text length or character set. Aside from the click-icon, you can use Ctrl+M or Ctrl+T to open the text editor.

You can also increase row height to edit large text fields in the data grid without opening a separate text editor.

What cannot be edited?

Some fields in data grid and forms cannot be edited. Mostly, these will be fields that are visible but belong to another table. In some cases, these fields will have specific lookup functions, an example is the species #Full Name field in collection and accession files. But in other cases, data from related tables must be edited in the relevant file. Examples are the species table fields Habit and Growth form which can be viewed but never edited in the living collection accession file.

Audit fields

When new records are added the audit fields Created By and Created On are filled. When a record is edited in any field the fields Last Modified By and Last Modified On are updated. These fields cannot be edited but can be used to apply filters and sorts.

The Audit fields are auto-updated as you add and edit data.
An example filter on the Created On field. When filtering on dates, use a valid date format. You can use functions as here: > 01/01/2009 AND <= 10/01/2009.

Viewing add/edit dates and name of person adding/editing in the main species file. You can sort on any of these columns and also use the Summary tool as shown here for the created-on date field.

Data forms

Video: https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#speciesformvideo

Forms are provided for most of the main grids. As well as being used for data editing, they also provide options to list related records and calculated fields. The data on forms update as you navigate to different grid records. Forms can be docked (default) as you like and re-sized. All form text is translatable.

In order to edit data on forms, you need to be in Edit mode. If you are not, data will not be saved and lookup options are not enabled.

The form icon indicates if you are in Edit mode or not.

Most forms have the option to edit data and then Save or Cancel the edits made. Once any edits have been made, the form is given a red surround.

As an example, select Taxa > Species and then select the Form option on the Data Tools toolbar. This opens the species table form, by default docked right.
Data can be viewed and edited using grids or forms. Forms can be resized, docked or dragged to separate monitors.

Summary of collections on the main species form.

Find and Replace

The Find and Replace tool on the Edit dropdown works in text columns that are not read-only.

The Find and Replace tool.
Find replace actions can be restricted to tagged records. They also respect your current filter settings. Thus if you have a filter on a family name, only records in that family would be edited. Find replace edits are recorded in the Edit History table.

An example in an RDE file adding in a country name to all records.

Find and Replace options:

- The 'With' term will be substituted for the 'Replace' term exactly as entered.
- Optionally restrict edits to tagged records.
- To replace null or empty values leave 'Replace' blank. To replace with a null value, leave 'With' blank.
- The 'Replace' term can contain '%' wild cards:
  - '%term%' is equivalent to 'contains term';
  - 'term%' is equivalent to 'starts with term';
  - '%term' is equivalent to 'ends with term'.
- To match only whole words, include spaces - for example '% term %' would locate 'term' only when prefixed and suffixed by a space.
- To use a '%' character in the 'Replace' term you can double it. Thus, to find the text '100%' you should use '100%%' as the 'Replace term (or '%100%%' for 'contains 100%'

Deleting records

Marking records for deletion

Records are first marked for deletion using the Delete option on the Data Tools toolbar or the default F7 key. This adds * to the DEL field and displays the record in a strikeout font. Repeating the action for a record marked for deletion will un-delete it. You can manually add * to the DEL field or, with appropriate permissions, use an SQL function. For example: UPDATE species SET DEL = '*'; WHERE taxstatus = 'uncertain'. This would mark the records for deletion. You could reverse this using the command UPDATE species SET DEL = ' ' WHERE taxstatus = 'uncertain'. Or simply use the toolbar option Delete > Clear Del tags. Records only marked for deletion are fully recoverable.

Removing records marked for deletion

To remove records marked for deletion, a second step is required. Deletion cascades to delete linked child records. Thus, if you delete a species that has linked collections, specimens, text and common names, these too would be deleted. The system advises you of the consequences of a deletion.
The species table with several records marked for deletion. To finally remove these records, select **Delete > Remove records marked for deletion**. This leads to a message box that lists the consequences of deletion. As a rule, deletion of a record leads to the deletion of all its child records.

In the above examples, the deletion of the species or the families would also delete the records listed in the message boxes. The deletion of three accepted family names in the demo conifer database would lead to the deletion of all the records as reported.

To test deletion in the conifer demo database, select **Geo > Gazetteer**. Optionally, you may could set a field view to include the # Collections and # Species together with the locality name.

• Locate the gazetteer ‘Bat Dai Son’ in Vietnam - mark for deletion. Then select **Delete > Remove records marked for deletion**.

Deleting this gazetteer record would result in the deletion of several collection events and their specimens and dets.
Merging data

Merging values

To merge different data values that represent the same thing, use the merge option provided on the Column Summary tool. This option does not merge records, rather it simply ensures that the different values you select are edited to the selected value. You could do this manually, record by record – but the column summary tool provides a convenient way to see and tidy such errors.

This option does not work on read-only fields. This includes those fields that are visible in a table but are in fact, related from another table. Thus, if you see multiple spellings of a collecting place name in the collection event table, make the necessary edits in the gazetteer table.

In the above gazetteer table example, there are two spellings of Alpes Maritimes as Major Admin names. The two values have been tagged - and to double check the records, a filter has been applied to the data grid records using the option provided on the Column Summary form.

The Merge to Selected option, in this case will make both spellings the same (Alpes Maritimes). Records themselves are not merged. The option can be used to merge many values at the same time. The currently selected record is deemed to be correct value.

Merge values or merge records

Merging values is useful in data fields where the data you are merging have no child records. Examples are multiple spellings of Habit or Red List codes in the species file and multiple spellings of a major area name in the main gazetteer table. However, whenever a record had the potential to have child records, the records themselves should be merged. As examples, this would apply to multiple entries for higher classification, family, genus, species, collector, country, gazetteer, garden areas, and institute names. The sample principle applies to merging collection events, plant accessions, plant plants and seed records. In each case, any child records, after a merge, would belong to a new parent record.

Merging records

Merging records is where 2 or more records are joined into one together with any children records. A typical example would be where there are two identical genera in the genus file, perhaps linked to different families. Merging these records means that all taxa connected to the incorrect genus or genera will be moved to the one you select. Another example would be merging place names (joining all collection events); merging species (potentially joining many types of records).
The genus Acacia, added 3 times under three families are merged to a single entry under the selected family.

Match/Transfer data – Excel to BRAHMS

Matching data introduced

The Match/Transfer option on the Data Tools toolbar can be used to match data between the currently opened table and a selected Excel XLSX file. You can use this option to tag records in BRAHMS that match those in the XLSX file. You can also transfer selected columns from the XLSX file into BRAHMS based on your match criteria.

The Match/Transfer option has multiple applications to match and import data.

If you have an Excel .xlsx file and you want to know which records in this file also occur in the opened BRAHMS table, you can use the matching tool. Matching allows you to choose the fields to match on. In some cases, there may be an obvious field to match on – for example a barcode (given that barcodes should be unique in your database). There may be other cases where you have a unique matching code, for example PlantID or a species code inherited from another database and stored in BRAHMS. Also see the section on GUID matching below. However, in other cases, your Excel file may have a series of fields to use to match on, for example Family + Genus + Species + Subspecies + Variety + Cultivar. Another example may be Collector name + field number + collection day/month/year + Country. The challenge is to choose the most appropriate match criteria.

Bear in mind that you may or may not be looking for a 1:1 match – this depends on your objectives and in particular, if you are planning to match and then transfer data.

A worked example of matching – specimen table

The following example illustrates how you can match data from an Excel .xlsx worksheet and the opened BRAHMS table. You can substitute this example with data from any .xlsx file you may have – in any BRAHMS table.

- In the conifer database, select Collections and under the Category Preserved specimens, select Specimens.
- As there may already be tagged records in your data file, it may be worth using Tag > Count tagged to quickly check.
- Tag some records with barcodes and then save these tagged records to Excel. Note that the data saved to Excel will be those columns that you had in your current view. In this example, you may simply choose to export the barcode field to Excel.
Select Tag > Clear current Grid Tags.
Select Match/Transfer on the Data Tools toolbar and locate your Excel XLSX file as prompted. In this example, you can match the records using the barcode as shown below.

Here, the example is only matching on the barcode. Note that the actual field name in SpecimenBarcode. You can use the Remove All option to unlink all the possible match fields and then manually choose. Note however that you could choose to match on all fields which in this case (as the data were exported directly from BRAHMS), would give the same result.

After selecting Match Excel to your data, the match success is reported. The number of matches is also reported. The matched records in your database table will now be tagged.

To illustrate the importance of appropriate matching, the same Excel file used above is here matched on collection year. Because the specimen table in BRAHMS has many collections from e.g. 1974, all have been matched. It may be that you want to tag all records from these years – in which case, this would be the correct choice. But not if you plan to transfer data (see below).
A worked example of matching – species table

If you do not have an obvious, single match field such as barcode, you can choose those fields that you consider will give the best match. In the below sample, records in the main species table are matched using multiple fields Genus, Species, Species Author, Subspecies and Subspecies Author, Variety, and Variety Author.

- In the conifer database, select Taxa > Species.
- As there may already be tagged records in your data file, it may be worth using Tag > Count tagged to quickly check.
- Tag a select of records and then save these tagged records to Excel. Note that the data saved to Excel will be those columns that you have in your current view.
- Select Tag > Clear current Grid Tags.
- Now select the Match/Transfer option on the Data Tools toolbar and locate your Excel XLSX file as prompted. In this example, you can match the records using the taxa fields as shown below.
- To further illustrate the matching process, open your saved Excel file and edit the data to make one of more records obviously not match.

One record has been edited to force a non-match between this Excel file and the database.

In this example, of the available fields in the Excel data file, only some are selected. In fact, as these data were exported from BRAHMS for this exercise, all the fields could be selected – or only #Full Name and the result would be the same. The matched records will now be tagged in your database.

**GUID matching**

If you are exporting data from your own BRAHMS database with a view to editing these data and transferring these edits back to BRAHMS, one useful trick is to include the Record GUID when saving to Excel. This field is unique and thus guarantees a 100% unique record match.
Including the Record GUID means you can easily match records on this single field. This can only be used if the data are being matched with the same database.

**Transferring data**

In matching records, you may only be interested to know which records match and to tag these matches. However, you may also want to import data from the external Excel file into the current BRAHMS table. This is achieved by ticking the **Transfer** option for those fields you wish to transfer. Note:

- Any field selected for transfer is not used for matching.
- The **Overwrite** option, if selected, will force overwrite existing values. If not selected, only null fields are updated.

In the above example, the excel file is matched on a selection of taxa fields. Three fields have been selected for transfer, forcing an overwrite. Also note that the Excel file includes some differently named fields (e.g. “Habit (from John”). These have been appropriate mapped to the correct field in BRAHMS.
The data provided in the Excel file have now been added to BRAHMS.

**Excel to BRAHMS field matching**

When importing data from Excel, for example into an RDE file or when using the Match/Import tool, BRAHMS has to know how to map or match your Excel columns to the correct fields in BRAHMS. For example, you may have a field in Excel with the column heading ‘Decimal Latitude’ that you want to go to the standard BRAHMS field ‘Latitude’. Or you may have a field in a different language such as the Portuguese ‘País’ or the Chinese ‘家’ that you want to map to the BRAHMS column ‘Country’.

You could edit your Excel fields to have standard BRAHMS field headings. But this is not very useful as:

- you would need to do this for each Excel file and
- you would have to know the correct BRAHMS field names in each case.

The good news is that field matching is managed by the Excel to BRAHMS template file `ExcelColumnMatchTemplate.csv` which can be found in your BRAHMS folder. This is a basic file with two columns, one for the Excel column heading, the other for the BRAHMS column heading.
An example matching template ExcelColumnMatchTemplate.csv showing a selection of match fields.

You can edit this file directly, adding or removing entries. However, BRAHMS automatically updates the template when you use matching. Allowing BRAHMS to update the template guarantees that the BRAHMS field names are correctly assigned. Note:

- Multiple variations for the same field may be given, all pointing to the correct BRAHMS field.
- If you open this file directly in Excel, you may find that some Excel fields with accents are displayed incorrectly. However, if you open the file using Notepad, they will be displayed correctly.

Managing edit conflicts

An edit conflict occurs when one user displays data in order to edit it, and then another user updates the same data before the first user’s changes are written to the database. In this case, there is a danger that whoever updates the database last overwrites the other user’s changes. Although in practice these conflicts are quite rare, in systems with many same-time users working on the same type of data, they can occur.

While it is not possible to prevent users trying to edit the same record, BRAHMS will prevent these conflicts by not saving data that has changed since it was retrieved. Typical example:

- User A opens the species table including a record on *Passer domesticus*. User B also accesses the same record. Thus, both users have the same record in their respective data grids at the same time.
- User A saves a change to the record. The edit is now in the main database but is not displayed in user B’s data grid (unless by chance, user B decided to us the Refresh option).
- User B edits the same record on *Passer domesticus* and saves it. However, the last modified date/time in the database is now later than that which user B started with which enables the system to issue a warning and prevent user B overwriting the edit made by user A.
Data verification

Introduction

Data verification allows users with access to this function to mark records with a verification status. This function can be used for all records in any table. Records can have multiple verification status entries. It is possible to review the status of records, optionally restricted by status code and/or the user who provided the status.

Providing permission to edit status codes

Users must be given permission to edit status codes by the database administrator(s). This setting is found on the main Permissions form opened by selecting System > Manage Users and Permissions and ensure the settings are applied appropriately for the selected user.

Editing verification status codes

Verification record status options will normally be added to the BRAHMS Lookup List table. This means that users will have to select one of these values from the record verification form dropdown. If entries are not made here, users will be able to freely add their own status codes.

You can add as many status options as you like. To add or edit these, select Management > Lookup lists. Entries must be added here with the Field Name set to RecordStatus (case sensitive).

In the event of an edit conflict, the system issues a warning as above.
Adding and deleting verification records

In any open table, open the verification tool using the Record Checks option on the Data Tools toolbar. The Verified By name (current user) cannot be edited. Select a Record Status and optionally add a comment – using Add Verification to add the record. Use Delete Verification to remove a verification entry.

A given record may have multiple verification records. Records are sorted with the most recent at the top of the list.

Reviewing verifications

The verification history for individual records can be seen by opening the Verification History tool window and moving through the data grid. However, to review all records with a verification entry, you can use the following procedure to tag records:

Open the Verification History tool and at the bottom of the form, select a ‘Tag records having’ setting. This may be records with ‘Any Status’ entry or it may be restricted to a selected Status code. You can choose the tag character to use, optionally clearing all existing tags beforehand.

An example where all records with a Map Error status code will be tagged with ‘!’
Records with map errors have been tagged with ! It is also possible to tag records that have different status codes using different tag symbols and thus record highlight colours.

Track and reverse changes

See examples on https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#edithistory

Introduction

All database changes, including those made in RDE files, are tracked in an edit history table. This feature tracks all record editing; who made the changes and when, together with the original and edited values. All changes, including those in long text strings, can be reversed using the Undo option.

Field level changes and undo

The Edit History Form Field level tab lists the edits made to the current field. Here, you can use the Undo option to reverse edits – opting to go back as many stages as you have recorded.

By selecting the Edit History option, all edits for a record can be seen together.

Accessing the main edit history table

All record additions, last edit dates and edits are centrally recorded in the Edit History table. To open the central edit history table, Select Management > Edit History.
An example screen with a column summary on the Record Type column. There are two categories of Action: Create and Update. In this screen shot, a grid filter has been set to show updates only.
Lookup fields and values

Introduction

Why use lookups?

Rather than typing in data values, wherever possible, an existing value can be selected from a dictionary or list already in your database. Why type in a species name when it’s been entered before? As well as speeding up data entry – this also reduces typing errors and enforces data standards.

In the ideal world, you would have as much clean and useful data as possible added to your database from the start. One of the challenges when creating a new database or optimising an existing one is locating and importing useful data – or tidying up your existing data and thus increasing its value.

In practice, your data dictionaries tend to grow over time, gradually becoming more valuable. In some cases, relevant data such as lists of taxa and places or the more obvious standard lists such as IUCN Red List status codes or Habit categories can be imported from other sources, perhaps as exchanges with other BRAHMS projects. But in others, you can gradually develop lists and refine these as you go.

In summary, having well-organised tables of lookup fields and data values is an invaluable asset for healthy database development.

Two categories of lookup in BRAHMS

Two main categories of lookup are used in BRAHMS:

a) All of the large tables have their own specialized lookup option, for example, for taxa, geographic and collector names. These lookups are discussed in the relevant manual sections such as that for finding taxa names.

b) Lookups that use data stored in your central lookup fields table. This single table holds lookup values for any data field that you have opted to register in your lookup dictionary. Examples are habit, language, colours, specimen categories, map accuracy codings, biome types, etc.

This section focuses on the use of the central lookup fields table.

The central lookup field list

Introduction

The central lookup list is used throughout the database and across all tables. Any field registered in the lookup list will be available in your system with the lookup values you add.

The lookup list consists of two related tables, one storing the list of registered fields with relevant settings for these fields. The other table holds the actual lookup values for each registered field.

To open and edit the central lookup field list, select Management > Lookup Fields.

The lookup Fields table stores a list of all registered lookup fields and provides a mechanism to edit their properties and the lookup values. The Lookup table does not store values for taxa, places, collectors and the other main tables as these already have their own special lookup functions.
Example entries in the lookup field list filtered on ‘threat’ – these are 2 of the fields used for conservation assessments.

Description of the Lookup Fields table structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tag</td>
<td>Standard BRAHMS tag field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Del</td>
<td>Standard BRAHMS deletion field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#Field values</td>
<td>Calculated field: number of lookup values for a field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Name</td>
<td>The name of the field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must Choose</td>
<td>User must choose one of the lookup values – no free text entry. If this option is not selected, the user can choose a value but also add a new value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must Choose in RDE</td>
<td>As above but applies only to the field when in an RDE file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use Append mode</td>
<td>Multiple lookup values can be selected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Append separator</td>
<td>Separator between multi-values, e.g. a comma or semi-colon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Nullable</td>
<td>Null values are not permitted – thus the use must select a non-null value. If this is not selected, the user can set a field to null.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Default value</td>
<td>If Null values are not permitted, a default value should be added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Comments</td>
<td>General notes about a field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fields</td>
<td>Added when and by whom, last modified when and by whom.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above listed field settings allow you to refine and control how users will use the lookup fields. Note that these settings can be controlled to allow different rules for the same field in the main tables and in RDE.

Which fields to register as lookup fields?

The decision on which fields to add to your lookup list is a project level or personal one. There are no hard and fast rules. However, fields that have a large number of value options, for example more than 1000 are unlikely to be good candidates. Also, although you can add a ‘notes’ field (e.g. Habitat Text) as a look up, as notes will almost always be different, you may not find this useful. However, if you have a common occurrence of some note values, you could selectively add these to the lookup list and then ensure that these can be edited in the table. However, bear in mind that presently, the max length of a lookup list value entry is 128 characters.

Registering a lookup field

To add a new field to your lookup list, select Management > Lookup Fields and the use the Add option on the Data Tools toolbar.
Selecting a column to add to your lookup list.

- Select the **Type** first. This tells BRAHMS which table you are listing fields from.
- Fields already registered are not listed in Add field **Column** dropdown.
- The same field may be used in multiple tables but it will only be registered once in the lookup list. Thus, the settings and values added for a given field will apply in all tables where that field exists.
- Only character fields are listed. Excluded are date, Boolean, and numeric fields. Calculated fields are not available. It also excludes fields like Tag, Del and Audit fields.
- As a rule, A) do not add lookup lists for fields that have their own specialised lookups. For example, do not add a lookup for the fields ‘Species’ or ‘Species Author’ in the species table. B) avoid adding lookups for fields that have a very large number of values as these tend to slow up activities in that table.

When you select a new field value, the existing data values for the new field are listed on the form together a count of the occurrences of the values. You can use these existing values to help develop your lookup list - selecting some (Add ->) or all (Add All) of the current values to your lookup list.

In the above example, the LLORIGIN field is not yet registered in the lookup list. This data column already has many values in the Collection Event table. These are listed here with a count of the number of occurrences per value. At this point, you could choose to some or all of these values to develop the lookup list for this field. You can also add new values by typing them in. Bear in mind that the existing values may include entries that you do not want to include in your clean lookup list. Rogue values (e.g. spelling variations) ideally ought to be edited in the data table at some stage.

Manually adding a new value to the lookup list.
The order of lookup values as presented when you are selecting a value is controlled by the **Sort Order** field. You can adjust this order on the values form using the Move Up and Move Down options.

**Editing lookup field values**

Use the **Show Field Lookup Values** option to list values currently registered for a field.

To edit values, ensure you are in **Edit mode** and then select the **Edit Values** option.

When editing values, you can add new or remove values and alter their sort order.

**Listing all lookup values**

To list all lookup field values across all fields, select the **Lookup Values** option on the Lookup Fields drop-down.
You can save these data to Excel or print using a custom report.

**Adding lookups for custom fields**

Lookups can be added for custom fields in the same way as for any other field. Where possible, custom fields, as well as being available in data grids, are added to a special tab on forms.

**Field value table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tag</td>
<td>Standard BRAHMS tag field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Del</td>
<td>Standard BRAHMS deletion field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent value</td>
<td>Some lookup values exist in a hierarchy of values e.g. plant events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sort order</td>
<td>The list order for the lookup values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>The lookup value itself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value description</td>
<td>A description of the value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Values</td>
<td>Calculated field: number of values for the current field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Comments</td>
<td>Other comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fields</td>
<td>Added when and by whom, last modified when and by whom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Deleting a lookup field**

Entries can be deleted from the lookup list in the normal way – mark for deletion and then remove. When you delete a record, all associated lookup values are deleted.

**Editing lookups directly from the database tables**

Rather than editing the lookup fields and values from the Management menu, a convenient way to register and edit these values is when you are working in a data table. Here, you can use the Edit option dropdown Edit Lookup Values on the Data Tools toolbar. A non-Admin user needs permission to do this.
Use Edit Lookup Values on the Edit dropdown to create or edit lookup lists when you are editing a data grid.

This opens the same edit options described above.

**Importing lookup values**

Look up values can be imported from Excel tables. Some tables are provided by the BRAHMS project for a range of data categories. But you can also develop your own lookup lists. For example, you may have lists of values for biomes, soil types, insect wing colours or flowering stages. Rather than adding these manually to your lookup list table, you can import them from existing Excel tables.

- To import values, select Management > Lookup Lists. Click on the Management menu again and select Import from Excel, locating your Excel file as prompted (XLSX files only).

![Excel table ready to import]

When importing, ensure that minimally, you have the Field Name, Abbreviation and Value fields matched as shown above. The right screen shows the data in the Excel table ready to import.

**Using lookups**

**Activating a lookup**

Firstly, you need to be in Edit mode. Once in Edit mode, you can activate a lookup using the F9 or Ctrl+L keys or by using the Lookup option on the Data Tools toolbar.

![Data fields with lookup icon]

In edit mode, fields that have lookup functions are indicated with the lookup icon as shown here for the genus and author fields.
Fields that have values in your lookup table (see below) have a drop down or lookup button added to the field.

If you are using a form, the lookup is activated by clicking on the relevant lookup button next to the field or by using a dropdown. Whether you have a dropdown or button depends on the field in question and also on the lookup field settings. For example, taxa and author names always have a button as these consult special lookup functions. Fields which are set to ‘append mode’ lookup (see below) will have a button allowing multi-value selections.

**Single value selections and dropdowns**

As soon as you add any entries for given field to your lookup list – and you are in edit mode, the data field in the data grid and on the form displays as a dropdown rather than a free entry text box. Depending on the settings in your field list table, users will be forced to choose one or more values or also be able to type in new values.

In the left side example, no entries have been register in the lookup list for Provenance Type. Hence the field can be freely edited. The right-side example shows the field after one or more entries have been registered and the user is forced to select one of the dropdown options.

**Multi-value selections**

If an appropriate field is set to Append mode, this means that you can select multiple values to add to the field. These will be separated by the designated separation character.

In Append mode, the lookup button assembles the existing values to a list box where they can be selected.
Multi-value lookups can also be used in the data grids.

Transferring lookups from one database to another

1. Open the database with the good lookup settings.
2. Select Management > Lookup Fields > Lookup Values (drop-down option). Tag all records and export tagged to a suitably named Excel file using the Export Tagged option.
3. Select Management > Lookup Fields. Tag all records and export all records to Excel.
4. Log in to the new db. Select Management > Lookup Fields > Management menu again > Import from Excel.
5. Step through the import wizard - all the field setting in the Wizard should be correctly matched. Complete the import.
6. Again, select Management > Lookup Fields.
7. This time, select the Match/Import tool on the Data Tools menu.
8. Locate the Lookup Field file exported above in step 3. The match settings should be as in the screen below, matching on fieldname, transfer and overwrite all others.

Using the Match/Import tool
Adding custom fields

Introduction

BRAHMS databases and the tables they contain are provided with a defined structure. However, as well as choosing the data columns you see in your data grids, you can add new data fields specific to your project, selecting the field name, type and size. These custom fields become a permanent part of your database unless you subsequently opt to delete them. This also applies to RDE files.

Adding and editing custom fields

As an example, open the main species table or another table you may prefer. Select Grid Tools > Manage Columns. On this form, you have the option to add Custom Columns, choosing the field name, type and size.

If the field is of type Text and you set Max. Chars to NULL or 0, this creates a text field with no maximum length (equivalent to a v7 memo field). You can set the default position of these fields using the Up Down Top Bottom options.

Custom field data in grids and forms

Data in custom fields can be edited in the same way as all other fields. You can also add lookup lists.

Custom fields appear in your main data grids, assuming they are selected for inclusion in your data grid view. They have a different font to standard fields.

Where possible, custom fields can also be edited on forms.
**Viewing custom fields for all tables**

All custom fields from all tables are registered in a central table opened using **Management > Custom fields**.

![Snapshot of the central custom fields table.](image)

**RDE files and custom fields**

In the case of RDE files, when you run the importer, the system checks for custom fields. If there are custom fields added to the RDE file and these are not already registered in BRAHMS, you are offered the chance to register from the RDE import wizard. If you do not register the field(s), the data in those fields will not be imported.
Rapid Data Entry

If you have not downloaded the sample RDE file RDE_Bolivia_JRIWood.zip, do this now, and open the zip to the folder Documents/BRAHMS/RDE.

Note: if you have problems seeing RDE files in your manager, refer to the RDE troubleshooting section.

Introduction

While data can be entered directly into BRAHMS, RDE is recommended for entering larger numbers of records and also as a first step when importing or transferring data from other software packages such as Excel. RDE files are entirely separate mini-databases linked to your main BRAHMS database.

As well as storing data, RDE files can store images and have the same functionality as your main database files to track and undo changes.

RDE is perhaps the most widely used BRAHMS component and databases are often built through the importing of different RDE files.

RDE data are stored in portable SQLite databases. Although RDE files appear and are used as one single table, behind the scenes, they in fact comprise several related tables which allow you to link images to the RDE records and also keep track of all edits. RDE file have a ‘.rde’ file extension. NB for BRAHMS v7 users, RDE files are now contained in one single file.

You can store data in one or more RDE files and use these data to create summaries, maps, reports, manage images, and in general, use many of the BRAHMS tools and functions. Some users continue to work in RDE as it does all they need. However, RDE files are more like Excel spreadsheets with BRAHMS features and a series of separate RDE files does not constitute a ‘database’. Data held in separate RDE files cannot be combined for reporting or mapping - unless the RDE files are merged into a single large file – a process which is possible but inefficient for long term data management. Most projects gather or add data to RDE files – and then transfer these files into their database.

Portable and flexible

RDE files are completely portable. They can be copied to any PC and/or exchanged with other users. You can store them on memory sticks and open the file(s) from there from any BRAHMS database.
An example of RDE files stored on a USB drive.

RDE files are also very flexible in that you can add new custom fields and choose default field views – exactly as you can in the main database tables.

RDE file categories

RDE files are available for different categories of data. Currently these include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RDE file category</th>
<th>Used for entering or transferring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gazetteer</td>
<td>Geographic data only – names of places.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxonomy</td>
<td>Taxonomic data only – names of all taxonomic ranks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specimens</td>
<td>Collection events including taxonomy, geographic data and fields for museum specimens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observations</td>
<td>Observations – collection events only. Note that observations can be added to specimen files leaving the physical specimen related fields blank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Accessions</td>
<td>Botanic garden accessions only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plants</td>
<td>Botanic garden accessions with extra fields for plant records derived from the accessions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Events</td>
<td>Botanic garden plant events – things that happen to plants over time, observations, inventory, checking, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entity Names</td>
<td>Adding plant entity data – yet to be documented.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This list is likely to be extended for other data categories.

Managing RDE files

The option Rapid Data Entry > RDE File Manager opens the RDE file manager. This table lists all the RDE files that you have access to. This will include files in your default storage folder Documents\BRAHMS\RDE and files in other RDE folders that have been registered and that you have access to.

A sample RDE manager showing files located in different folders.

Normally, you will create an RDE file for a particular task, for example, for logging data from a field trip, entering data for selected specimens, gathering data for a botanic garden inventory, etc. If working in a larger museum, your project may have numerous RDE files stored across different folders each of these with different access permissions.
Unlike v7, RDE files themselves do not have to be registered in the manager. Their presence in a registered RDE folder already ensures they will be listed. RDE files of all categories are listed together.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manager option</th>
<th>What it does</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toggle Archive Flag</td>
<td>Set Is Archived true/false</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hide archived files</td>
<td>Do not list archived files</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refresh List</td>
<td>Force update RDE list from your BRAHMS/RDE folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open RDE file to view/edit (or double-click the file name in the manager)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delete</td>
<td>Physically delete an RDE file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edit</td>
<td>Edit details about the RDE file (meta data)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy RDE</td>
<td>Make a copy of an RDE file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create RDE</td>
<td>Create a new RDE file of a selected category</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Registering RDE folders

RDE files can be stored in any registered folder. New folders are added using the Add option of the left panel. Folders can use UNC paths or drive letters. Only project/database administrators have access to the folder management options. Administrators can also assign access permissions to one or more non-admin level users.

Assigning user permissions to RDE folders

All users with access to the RDE module, regardless of their database role, have access to their default Documents\BRAHMS\RDE folder. Beyond this, non-admin and non-manager users need to be given access to folder(s) by the system administrator or database manager.
To assign user access to an RDE folder:

- Ensure the folder is added to the RDE manager folder list. Clearly the folder has to be accessible to the user(s).
- Select the folder in the top part of the screen. Note that the default local Users folder cannot have user assignments. It always belongs to that user.
- At the bottom of the lower screen, use the drop-down to select users to add to the selected RDE folder. Only non-Admin users are listed. The drop-down may have a blank line at the top.
- You can provide many users access to the same folder.
- An Admin level user has access to all folders by default.

Creating new RDE files

When creating a new RDE file, you must first choose the RDE category from the list provided, provide a file title and optionally add any comments. When creating a file, you can opt to add blank records. Using the column manager, you can select the default columns to display and the column order.

You can also add your own custom fields if any fields you require are not available in the default list. Once you create the file, it will be added to the RDE manager list.

An example RDE folder listing various RDE files. Note that any valid RDE files in this folder will be auto-listed in the RDE manager. If you copy an RDE file and send to another BRAHMS user, it would then appear in their RDE manager list, as soon as they drop the file into their RDE folder.

When a new RDE file is created, the default folder will be Documents\BRAHMS\RDE unless a different folder location is selected.
Creating a new RDE file

Deleting RDE files

If an RDE file is deleted from your computer, it will auto-disappear from the manager list. If you use the BRAHMS delete option in the data grid, this will also delete the physical file from your computer.

RDE files can be deleted using the standard two-step delete function. But you can also delete the file from your PC using your file manager. RDE files moved to a non-registered folder will not be listed in the manager.

Opening and adding data to RDE

To open any RDE file, double-click on the file name or use the Open option on the RDE toolbar. As with all other tables, you need to switch to Edit mode to be able to edit the data. To optimise RDE entry, you will use your lookup up lists as described in the section Using and editing lookup lists.

It will also be useful to be familiar with the keyboard shortcuts as described in the section Grid navigation basics and keyboard and function keys.

In Edit mode, all data in the RDE file can be edited. Use the Edit History option to view and optionally undo any edits.
Quick Value Selection Tool

When you are in an opened RDE file which already has data added, you can use the Quick Data Selector tool to help add or update data values in the file.

Once opened, and you are in Edit mode, the tool lists all values in the currently selected column. These values are only listed from the current RDE file, not the main database.

- The Filter option on the Data Selector is used to locate the required value.
- Double-click on a value adds the value to the RDE field.
- Set the Clear filter option to clear filter when you move column/row.
- Auto-move to the next field or row after making a selection.

The Quick Data Selector tool can make working in RDE files more efficient. The data values listed auto-update as you move columns.

Optimising data entry using RDE

The following points can be considered to optimise data entry in RDE files:

- Ensure that the visible fields and their order in the file is optimal for your project.
- RDE is more efficient when you can use lookups. If your database has good dictionaries of species, geographic and collector names – together with other custom lookups, data entry will be faster and more reliable. With good lookups, you are then in a position to force selection for a defined list or allow the data entry person to add new entries.
- The Quick Value Selection Tool is very handy in RDE. This tool lists all the values in the current RDE file for the current column allowing rapid selection of a value. The tool window can be configured in a number of ways to speed up data selection.
- Use F4 to copy the last field and Ctrl+F4 to copy an entire record. In general, learn to use the short cut keys provided in Shift+F1.
- If adding map data, open the ArcGIS map window (ideally on a separate monitor) to see your map data dynamically update and easily check for map point errors.
Importing to RDE from Excel tables

Video: [https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#lcexceltorde](https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#lcexceltorde)

Data and images can be imported from .xlsx tables into RDE using the *Excel Data Import Wizard*. This tool allows you to locate and open an Excel .xlsx file, then match the columns in the file to your opened RDE file. The matching between Excel and RDE columns can be adjusted as necessary to pull in as many fields as possible. This process also allows you to import data from custom fields – assuming the custom fields have been added to your RDE file. It also means that field names in foreign languages can be mapped to the standard names.

The above screens show the matching process and the data processed and ready to import to RDE.

The data now transferred into the RDE file.

Excel to RDE field matching

When importing data from Excel into an RDE file, BRAHMS has to know how to match your Excel columns to the correct fields in BRAHMS. For example, you may have a field in Excel with the column heading ‘Decimal Latitude’ that you want to go to the standard BRAHMS field ‘Latitude’. Or you may have a field in a different language such as the Portuguese ‘País’ or the Chinese ‘国家’ that you want to map to the BRAHMS column ‘Country’. The process of field matching is described in the section on Excel to BRAHMS field matching.

Excel to RDE matching and transfer

As well as append data to an RDE using the Excel to RDE importer, you can also add data to existing RDE records using the Match/Transfer function. For example, you may already have an RDE file with many records and then acquire some useful additional data you would like to add to this RDE file. As long as you can match the records in RDE to those in the Excel file, you can do this.

Adding images to RDE files

You can add one to many images to each record in your RDE file. Images can be dragged onto the standard image viewer or imported from Excel worksheets.

When importing from Excel, this will add one record per image to your RDE file. An example use is when digitizing data from specimen labels. Thus, a folder of specimen images (with label data) may be imported to an RDE file, the images can be opened in RDE, perhaps using a second monitor, and the data from the labels added to the file.

All aspects of image management including RDE related topics are discussed in the images section of this guide.

Copying an RDE file

To make a copy an RDE file, use the RDE Manager toolbar option Copy RDE. This option creates a copy of the file and it will auto-be added to your manager list. You can send an RDE file to another person.
RDE file import analysis

RDE file ‘analysis’ refers to the process of quality control, allowing you to assess data in your RDE file that are new to BRAHMS. This refers to the data that would be distributed to the various different BRAHMS tables as the RDE file is imported. Examples are family, genus, species and country names. The checks made depend on the category of RDE file you are working with.

Analysis make use of Boolean flags added to your RDE file – these flags can be switched on/off using the Show analysis flags on the main Rapid Data Entry menu. An analysis is run using the Analyse RDE file option.

In the above example for a specimen RDE file, the analysis flags are visible. As this is a specimen RDE file, there are many flags, one for each data field that will end up in a separate BRAHMS table. In the visible screen above, all the localities and three species are flagged as new entries (i.e. not in the database). Using the tick box in the yellow grid filter row, you can easily set filters to show just the new entries for any column or combination of columns.

While analysis flags do not need to be made visible, they are a useful guide to help with assessment of RDE data quality. As further discussed below, the analysis always takes place when you transfer an RDE to BRAHMS. Thus, running a separate analysis is optional. Also, as discussed below, when importing to BRAHMS, a textual summary of the RDE table content is provided.

Transferring RDE files into BRAHMS

To import the RDE data into BRAHMS select Transfer RDE to BRAHMS. This opens the RDE Data Wizard. As a first step, if need be, you can optionally select Restrict all import operations to tagged records.

The first stage of the import runs the data analysis. As well as marking up the flags in the data grid as discussed above, it generates a report and activity log. The log can be saved to an Excel table.

The final stage runs the import itself. This stage adds the RDE data to the various main database tables, providing feedback as it proceeds. Large RDE files will take some time to process.
The final stage of importing transfers the data into BRAHMS.

A closer look at RDE files for collection events and preserved specimens

RDE files for specimens, be they animals, plants, fungi, microorganisms or any category of natural history data, share a number of features in common. This section lists a few points to consider when planning data entry.

RDE files for specimens are fundamentally collection event records storing the collector and field number; the collection date and place; the identification (albeit preliminary); and descriptive texts under various headings.

A record may be an observation or another type of entry with no physical specimens. In this case, the record will have no entry in the Institute code field. If the record has no entry in the Institute code field, it is considered to be simply a collection event record with no physical specimens. And if the file is transferred to BRAHMS, it will add collection event records – but it cannot add specimens.

Specimens and the Institute code

If the RDE file has a museum code (or equivalent) in the Institute code field, this implies that the collection event record has a physical specimen stored at that location. When these data are transferred to BRAHMS, the event will be added together with a specimen record. Certain fields in the RDE file are clearly part of the specimen record – rather than the collection event itself. These fields, any of which may not be available, include Specimen category, Barcode, Accession#, Folder and Box barcodes and several fields related to type status. Any of these fields, if added, would be stored in the specimen table – linked to the collection event itself. For more details about specimens and their determinations, refer to the section Collection events, Specimens and Determinations.

Adding multiple specimens per collection event

If you want to add multiple specimens per event at one time – for example, you have knowledge that the event resulted in several specimens (duplicates in the botanical world), you must copy the event record and then edit the Institute code for each different specimen. You may also know the specimen category, barcode and accession # for each specimen – and these data can be entered as available. Specimens may have type status (holotype, isotype, etc.) and, as discussed further below, may have more than one determination.

When the data are transferred to BRAHMS, only one collection event will be added. The event is recognised by the collector, field number, date, location and identification fields. If any of these are different, the system will add a separate collection event record. RDE records are easily duplicated down using Ctrl+F4 – then edited as required to change the fields that apply to the different specimens. You may have more than one entry for the same museum code.

In summary, when you import an RDE file, the system checks the data and populates the various related tables in BRAHMS. For example, if your RDE file includes a family name not already stored in BRAHMS, that family name would be added to the family table. Data can easily be edited in BRAHMS after import. However, as a rule, it is always better to try to remove the ‘big errors’ prior to importing, for example mis-spelt country, family or genus names.
Adding multiple determinations per specimen

Importing RDE files for living collection data

Introduction

Living Collection RDE files are designed to batch add data for accessions and plants – and also to transfer data from other formats via Excel.

Although these files import in the same way as other RDE files, a number of special conditions arise. Living collection RDE files may include data for the accessions and also the plants themselves. Given that there may be more than one plant record per accession, the RDE file has to correctly link these data.

Create a new RDE file

To create a new RDE file, select Rapid Data Entry > RDE File Manager – then choose Rapid Data Entry > Create new RDE file... choosing the category ‘Living Collections’ and choosing a file name as prompted.

When you create a new RDE file for Living Collections, you can see there are a large number of potential fields that could be imported. These include data fields for the Acquisition itself and fields for plant records. These are all listed in the two images below.

When you create a new RDE file, you can set the default visible columns. Fields that are not visible are not removed from the file and can be made visible later on when you are editing the file. Once your new file has been created, it is auto-added to the RDE manager, ready to open and edit.

Select the columns you wish to use from the field list. Columns can be made visible later on if you decide you need them. Excluded columns are not removed from the file, only hidden. If you require a data field that is not provided in the list, you can add this as a Custom Column.
These RDE fields apply to the Acquisition part of the record including its wild origin. All fields except the Acquisition # itself can be blank.

These RDE fields are those that apply to plant records. If you are not importing plant data, these will be left blank. If you are importing plant details, all can be left blank except the Plant ID.

Section of an RDE file all ready to be imported. Bear in mind, RDE files will only import the data you provide. Fields can be left empty or exclude from the visible columns.

**Import data from Excel to RDE**

If you have data in MS Excel to transfer to BRAHMS – this can be done using the **Import from Excel** option on the RDE menu. Refer to the rules for accession and plant numbering below.

This process is also described on the video: https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#lcexceldtorde
Manually adding data to an RDE file

Once you are in Edit mode, you can freely add data to your RDE file. To speed up data entry, it is always useful to have as many lookup lists as possible in your database. Editing lookup lists is described in the section on lookups. Thus, rather than type in a value, you will be able to select it from a lookup function.

An example RDE file with data added.

Rules for accession and plant numbering in RDE files

In general, accession and plant numbering are controlled by your system format settings option for living collection accession numbering. In RDE files the following rules apply:

**Acquisition numbering**

1. If the Acquisition # is blank, it will not be imported.
2. If the Acquisition # field starts with “RDE”, this is a signal to the importer to auto-generate the next available number for the current database. The Acquisition #s must however be made unique, for example using ‘RDE1, RDE2,…’ or ‘RDE0001, RDE0002,…’ or ‘RDEabc,…’ or as you wish.
3. On importing, the RDE Acquisition #s are converted to the numbering system assigned in your configuration setting. Thus ‘RDE1’ may be converted to ‘2019-00050’ and RDE2 to ‘2019-00051’.
4. If you add an Acquisition # entry lacking the text string ‘RDE’, such as ‘12345’ or ‘2019-100’, it will be added as entered, assuming it is new to the database. If it is not new, it is not added.
5. As described below, you can repeat an Acquisition # in the RDE file if you have multiple plants to import. Note, if repeating an accession entry (i.e. multiple plants), the accession details need only be entered in the first record.

**Plant ID numbering**

1. If the Plant ID field is blank, no plant record is added for the accession.
2. If the plant ID field is set to ‘*’, a plant record will be added for the current accession and the Plant ID will be auto-calculated using ‘2019-100*1’, ‘12345*1’, etc.
3. If the Plant ID is added as a string as in ‘0012345’ or ‘2019-50*1’, it will be added as entered, assuming unique.
4. If the Acquisition # is repeated in the RDE file, for example, there are 3 records all with Acquisition# ‘RDE0001’, and each record has Plant ID set to *, this would result in one accession record with 3 linked plant records.

**Transfer all or restrict to tagged**

Once your RDE file is ready and with the RDE file still open, select Rapid Data Entry > Transfer RDE to BRAHMS…
At this stage you can optionally restrict the transfer to tagged records.

After running the analysis which creates an import log which you can view/print, you can proceed as prompted by the Import Wizard to import the data.

The analysis reports on the status of your RDE file import. In this example, everything in the above list is new to the database and will thus be added to the relevant dictionary.

The complete import history for a given RDE file can be viewed from the RDE manager after the RDE file is closed.

Images in RDE files

Linking images

You can link 1:many images to each record in RDE. Images can be stored in any accessible folder. Images are viewed and linked using the Images option on the Data Tools toolbar. This opens the Linked Image Viewer.

Images can be dragged onto the viewer – or you can use the Link option provided. The images and the image link details are stored in separate tables in the RDE file. Bear in mind that behind the scenes, RDE files are in fact mini databases with several related tables.
As discussed in the section [Images from Excel](#), images can be imported from Excel along with other data.

An RDE record with a linked specimen image and another record with 2 habit images.

**Importing images from a selected folder**

If you have a folder of RDE images, you can import these to an opened RDE file – creating one new record per image in the selected folder.

To append images from a selected folder, use the **Import Images** option on the **Rapid Data Entry** toolbar.
Example: opening an RDE file, mapping and printing labels

Video: https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#labelstoppt

Reporting in BRAHMS provides almost limitless power to generate lists, labels, charts, cross-tabs and more. You can print reports directly from BRAHMS or send the outputs to documents, excel, pptx and elsewhere.

You are encouraged to experiment with report design and you can also open and use a sample provided for printing basic museum labels. Clearly, each institution has label design preferences, hence, it will be necessary to learn how to use the report designer.

This example opens an RDE file of specimen data prepared by J.R.I. Wood (Oxford) from his field work in Bolivia. To proceed with this task:

- First download the file RDE_Bolivia_JRIWood.zip and open the zip to the folder Documents/BRAHMS/RDE. The zip file includes an RDE file of specimens and a report template sample for labels.
- Log onto BRAHMS – choosing any project and select Rapid Data Entry > RDE File Manager. This will list any RDE files located in your BRAHMS\RDE folder.
- To open the RDE file, double-click on the RDE manager entry ‘John Wood Collections 2018’.
- Explore this RDE file using the Column Summary option on the Data Tools toolbar and, optionally, you could design a Tree View.

An example Tree View designed to show geographic data including locality notes.

- To map the file, select Mapping > ArcGIS in BRAHMS. Initially, if no records are tagged, no points will be plotted. To map the entire file, remove the mark from Tagged only on the map toolbar.

The RDE file mapped with the Tagged only option deselected. If you now tag some records, you can use that option to restrict the map to tagged.

To produce some labels, you will need to tag some records as the reporter only works with tagged records. If you wanted to print labels for the entire file, use the Tag all option on the Tag dropdown – otherwise manually tag some records.
To open this report, select **Reports** then **File > Browse** and locate the report file ‘RDE specimen labels.mrt’ which was provided in the zip file downloaded above.

To view the labels, select the **Preview** tab.

On the **Preview** tab, you can choose various output options including MS Word. If exported to MS Word etc., your labels can be edited prior to printing.

If you wanted to explore reporting options more fully, you could now select **File > New** and choose one of the report wizards such as standard report wizard. In no time, you can create a new report template such as the one shown above.
Example: importing taxa from Excel or IPNI to RDE and BRAHMS

This exercise demonstrates how you can pull in a list of taxon names from Excel or IPNI to RDE – and then transfer these data into a BRAHMS database. The exercise starts with an import from IPNI (International Plant Names Index) but you can substitute the IPNI approach with an Excel file as discussed in the next task.

- While logged in to any database, select **Rapid Data Entry > RDE File Manager**.
- Again, select **Rapid Data Entry** and choose **Create RDE** … be sure to choose the category ‘Taxonomy’ and giving the RDE file a suitable title.
- You can adjust the default columns or add new ones if needed but otherwise, proceed to **Finish** to create the new file using the defaults.
- Open the file (double-click your new entry) and from the **Rapid Data Entry** toolbar, select **Import Data from IPNI**.
- Enter the name of a genus at the IPNI prompt (or a different search criterion as needed) - then **Search**.
- Once the name list is assembled, select **Import BRAHMS records to RDE**. There will be a delay as the data are transferred into the RDE file – if you have a lot of records, this may take some time.

![IPNI Data Importer](image)

**Showing the data searched using IPNI for the genus Vatica - and then transferred to RDE.**

The next stage, should you wish to do so, is to transfer these RDE data into your database. Normally, before doing so, the data would be checked and edited appropriately. This is one of the functions of RDE. If you are logged into the Conifer demo, you can import the data there.

- With the RDE file opened, select **Rapid Data Entry > Transfer RDE to BRAHMS**. You can use the option **Analyse RDE file** first but in fact, the analysis always takes place when you run the transfer option.

![Rapid Data Entry](image)

**After running the Data Analysis, you can review the Import Report and apply filters as here showing subsp. This indicates these records are new to BRAHMS.**

![Data Analysis](image)

**The import log includes more detail and can be saved to a text file.**
Before deciding to transfer the RDE file into your database, you can also use the option **Show analysis flags** on the RDE menu. This displays a series of Boolean flags indicating the status of the data about to be imported. If a record is ticked, this means it’s a new entry. You can set filters on these flags using the grid filter bar.

The RDE analysis flags indicate the same information provided in the report with new entries flagged up in the various tick boxes. You can use the grid filter row to set filters, for example, to show new families.

Once satisfied the data are good to go, you can then **Select Next** on the import tool and select **Run** to **Import the data**.

Showing the data now added to the main species table, here sorted by **Created on**.
Example: importing your own sample data using RDE

Video: https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#importingfromexcel

This exercise encourages you to work with your own data, perhaps a list of taxa or better still, some specimens. These may be animal or plant data, whatever you have. The task is to transfer these from an Excel XLSX table into a BRAHMS Rapid Data Entry (RDE) file. Your data can be for any of the categories currently listed in the RDE manager when you create a new RDE table.

- Select Rapid Data Entry > RDE File Manager.
- Click again on the Rapid Data Entry menu and then choose Create RDE... choosing the appropriate category. If you want to add collection data, this will be Specimens. Give your file a Title such as Field trip 2018 or My Orthoptera collection.
- On the next step of RDE file creation, you choose the default fields to display in the RDE file. You can also add custom fields using Custom column Editor on the left part of the screen. You can alter the default field order at this stage using the Move column options (clicking to the left side of the field to move to activate this).

If you now double-click on your RDE file, it will open as an empty file.

Adding custom columns to a new RDE file. Note that setting the char size to 0 for a text field create a max length character field.

If you now double-click on your RDE file, it will open as an empty file.

The yellow row at the top of this empty RDE file is the grid filter bar - not used for data entry.

At this stage you can switch to Edit mode and manually add records. But in this example, we discuss how you can import data from and XLSX file. The next steps assume you have some data in a XLSX file to import. We recommend at this stage that your XLSX file has a maximum of about 1000 records for testing.

On the Rapid Data Entry menu, select Import from Excel... This opens the Excel import wizard. You can select the XLSX file and then match the columns between your XLSX and your RDE files.
As an example, the RDE file includes a field Latitude which is matched to a field LAT in the XLSX file. By matching the fields, you will import the data correctly. Where fields have the same names, they should be auto-matched.

Of course, the data have to be broadly in the correct format before transferring to RDE. For example, collection event dates are stored in the 3 numeric fields Collection Day, Collection Month and Collection Year. So, if your XLSX file has this in a date field, you would need to convert the data to 3 numeric fields first. Also, for mapping, map data in the Latitude and Longitude fields should be decimal format and negative for South and West.

Troubleshooting

If you have old versions of RDE files (data structures out of date) within your RDE folders, these may prevent you from seeing any RDE files – including new ones. In such cases, please delete the old RDE files and the new RDE will appear in your RDE file view. Old RDE files may have been created in a testing phase.
Mapping your data

Introduction

Mapping options include dynamic links to the in-built ArcGIS and externally, by passing data to ArcGIS, Google Earth, DIVA, QGIS and GeoCAT.

You can map your data directly from BRAHMS as long as the data table includes the equivalent of Latitude and Longitude fields. Currently, this applies to all collection events, the botanic garden plant tables and the equivalents of these in RDE tables. Mapping options are provided as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map option</th>
<th>Installation required</th>
<th>Must be online</th>
<th>Base maps required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRAHMS ArcGIS API</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ArcGIS / ArcMap</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QGIS</td>
<td>Yes free</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diva GIS</td>
<td>Yes free</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GeoCAT</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Google Earth</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Download details for any required software and base maps are provide below.*

The choice of mapping tools depends on your objectives. For example, the built-in ArcGIS API is especially good for viewing and editing data, locating errors, map searches, certain calculations, and creating map images that can be added to reports. If your objective is to produce high quality maps for publication, you will likely choose QGIS, Diva or ArcGIS. Links to Google Earth are being developed mostly for analysis. GeoCAT is used to calculate EOO and AOO.

The main mapping changes in v8 (coming from v7) are the addition of the in-built ArcGIS API; the map location editor tools; and that all map point data are stored only in decimal degree format. Data entry in different units is reviewed below.

Map points

All map points for latitude and longitude are stored in decimal degree format with negative values for South and West. We no longer use the v7 NS and EW fields. However, as with v7, you can choose to add data in Degree Minute Seconds (DMS) Decimal Degrees (DD) or Decimal Minute (DM) format. Point data can be entered to 10 decimal places. The resolution of points can be stated using the coded LLResolution field. These codes can be used to select map points and also to control the format of calculated map text strings.

Mapping related fields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latitude</td>
<td>Latitude of the point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longitude</td>
<td>Longitude of the point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLResolution</td>
<td>Coded resolution of map data ranging from 1 to 8 (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLOrigin</td>
<td>Coded origin of map data (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLDatum</td>
<td>Geodetic Datum value e.g. WGS84, NAD83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QDS *</td>
<td>Quarter Degree Square value e.g. 2830CB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># DGMS</td>
<td>Calculated field for labels e.g. 16° 19' 59.998&quot; N, 96° 35' 59.999&quot; W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tag</td>
<td>Standard BRAHMS field – but can be used to control which records are plotted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cultivated  Standard BRAMS field – can be used to control which records are plotted


**Sources of vector and raster base maps and other map layers**

There are numerous sources of map data available on the internet. [http://www.diva-gis.org/Data](http://www.diva-gis.org/Data) has numerous layers with global coverage. Excellent raster and vector maps are also available on [http://www.naturalearthdata.com/features/](http://www.naturalearthdata.com/features/).

Global raster and vector map data are freely available on [http://www.naturalearthdata.com/features/](http://www.naturalearthdata.com/features/) and [http://www.diva-gis.org/Data](http://www.diva-gis.org/Data) as well as on many other sites.

You do not need to download base maps and layers if you are using the in-built BRAHMS ArcGIS mapper, Google Earth or GeoCAT.

Thus as an example, if you wanted a vector (line) map for the world country outlines, you can visit [https://www.naturalearthdata.com/downloads/](https://www.naturalearthdata.com/downloads/) and choose Cultural (large scale data for the most detailed map) and download the Admin – O Countries file. There are many types of base map available for download under the cultural, physical and raster sections and you can pick and choose as relevant.

Once any downloaded data are extracted (always a good idea to organise your base map data in well organised folders), you can use these data to draw layers in *e.g.* QGIS or Diva. Examples are provided in the relevant sections below.

**Adding and editing map points**

*Introduction*

The map location editor can be used in RDE and in the main tables for collection events and botanic garden plant points. This can be tested in the RDE file opened above. You can use the map location editor to add a new map point or edit an existing one. You need to be online to use this feature in BRAHMS.

The editor opens an online map form which updates as you move through the data grid. Records with existing Latitude and Longitude points will be mapped using a single point on your selected base map. A right-click on the map resets the point position and either auto-saves this to the grid or awaits confirmation with via the Save option.

Although data in BRAHMS are always stored in decimal degree format, you can manually enter data in degrees minutes and seconds or in decimal minute formats. However, the ability to select or edit the point on the map reduces the need to type in data.
Opening the map point editor

To open the map point editor, you can either use the standard lookup in the Latitude or Longitude fields or alternatively, use the **Map point editor** option on the map toolbar. This latter option can be used from any field in the current record. It does not require you to be in edit mode although you do need edit rights.

Once opened, the location editor can be used to edit points and altitude in your data grid.

The map location editor displaying the current point, set to Auto-save. In this mode, a right-click on the map will update the Latitude and Longitude values in the data grid without using the Save option. This screen has no zoom and is displaying the entire globe.

The same point displayed at very different zoom levels.
### Location editor settings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base map</td>
<td>Choose base map that best suits the editing task in hand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto-zoom on/off</td>
<td>If selected, as you move to different records, the map zooms to the current point using your zoom scale setting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoom to marker</td>
<td>Zoom to current point based on your Zoom Scale setting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoom Scale</td>
<td>Choose the optimal zoom setting. Maximum shows a world map.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reset Zoom</td>
<td>Reset the zoom, if adjusted, to your current setting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map units</td>
<td>Select the entry mode for manually editing data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lat Long checked</td>
<td>Mark a record as ‘map checked’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto-save</td>
<td>If selected, a right-click on the map will adjust the point and save the map point change.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Selecting the optimal zoom level

The optimal zoom level will vary from task to task. You can adjust zoom by double-clicking the map, using your mouse wheel or using shift + drag box around the area of interest. The speed of screen update depends on the number of map tiles the system needs to download. As a rule, the closer you zoom in, the slower the system will respond as you move to new records. Also note that different base maps influence speed. Some experimentation is needed to check the optimal settings.

### Sorting by collection date or by latitude + longitude

If you sort the data grid by collection year then month then day, you can then scroll down the data grid to follow a collector’s itinerary. This can be a useful way to resolve collection locations and field number sequence errors.

If you sort the data grid by latitude and longitude, as you scroll down the grid, the points will follow the geographic sort.

### Location searching

The internal Map Point Editor, dynamically connected to your data grids, has a location search tool. Localities can be searched for by name or part of a name, adding a region or country to help improve the results listed. Clicking on the suggested locations list adds a blue suggestion marker to the map. A right-click on the map adds the map reference to the data grid. The location search is very similar to that provided in e.g. Google Earth.

### Calculating distances with the Map Point Editor

It is often necessary to adjust a map point position based on a distance measurement, for example where collection locality notes say ‘20km west along route 249’. This is done using the internal Map Point Editor Distance Measurements option. Distances can be calculated in different units and the corrected point can be auto-added to your data grid.
After drawing a polyline, a right-click on the map will update the data grid map reference.

**Map using the ArcGIS API**

See examples on [https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#mapping](https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#mapping)

Video: [https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#mappingvideo](https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#mappingvideo)

Video: [https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#gardenmapping](https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#gardenmapping)

**Introduction**

The in-built ArcGIS API provides a wealth of handy mapping features which you can take advantage of without installing any further GIS software. However, you do need to be online. Some advantages of the in-built ArcGIS tool:

- No installation required;
- data points are highlighted on the map as you browse through your data grid;
- clicking on a map point locates the grid record, an excellent way to locate errors;
- maps are auto-updated as you apply grid filters;
- calculation of Extent of Occurrence (EOO);
- selectable base map including world imagery;
- map tagged only or map all, exclude cultivated records;
- apply map point colours based on tag colours;
- search maps;
- save map as a png file and import to a document.

**Preparing some sample distribution maps**

- Select **Collections > Collection events** then select the **Mapping** toolbar followed by **ArcGIS in BRAHMS**. If no filter is applied, by default, this will plot all **tagged** records. To plot records, tagged or not, adjust the **Tagged only** option. The map window can be dragged to another monitor and made full screen size.
A map displaying all conifer collections (no filters applied). The setting here does not restrict to tagged records and a dark gray base map is selected. The current record (Kenya) is highlighted on the map.

Here, a filter set on New Zealand with the base map set to World imagery, the point colour has been changed and the current grid record is highlighted.
In this example, the collection events are docked below the species table which is set to show accepted names only. The Taxa menu Link Grids option has been selected. Thus, moving to a new record in the species grid will update the collection events and the map.

An example using the main query tool to define a rectangular grid area. This is a useful way to save a commonly used search similar to ‘grid box’ searches in version 7.

This example, taken from The Morton Arboretum database, shows gardens plants filtered on Plant Status = ‘A’ (Alive) and Planted Year before 1995. The Column Summary shows the number of plants per taxa.
Map searches

Using the **Draw search area** option on the Map toolbar, you can drag a search area and then use **Search drawn areas** to apply the search filter.

This example shows a map searched directly using the search tools. The data grid is updated accordingly. The **Column Summary** tool, here docked left, is displaying the number of collection event records per taxa within the selected area.

Map Auto-Zoom

By default, maps will zoom to display the boundaries of the selected data points. However, it can also be convenient to disable Auto-Zoom to be able to display species distributions on a fixed area.

With the ArcGIS **Auto Zoom** disabled, you can plot different taxa without changing the current base map area.
**Map point colours**

You can respect record tag colours by selecting the Use Tag Colours option on the map itself. Tag colours can be defined from System > Options > Tag Highlight Colours.

**Locating and editing map errors – some hints and tricks**

Most museum or garden databases with geo-referenced data include errors. Map data errors have many potential causes and correcting these is often a priority for projects.

The above map is from a gathering of data mostly from Brazil. The errors look a lot worse than they are as the vast majority can be fixed by simply adjusting the north-southing and/or the east-westing of the points. This would be done by ensuring any points known to be ‘west’ have negative longitude value.

1. Set a filter
2. Use a map search plus SQL command
Setup for ArcMap, QGIS, DIvA

While BRAHMS does its best to locate these programs in your computer registry, some installation locations are harder to find. Thus, you can explicitly link the start-up exe or bat files for these GIS packages.

Select System > Options > Mapping to hardwire the locations of the start-up files.

Setting GIS start-up locations.

Mapping using ArcMAP

Introduction

If you are an ArcGIS/ArcMAP user and have this software installed on your local PC or network, you can connect from BRAHMS, passing data to new or existing map projects. As discussed below, assuming the BRAHMS data output file is added as a data layer in your project, the map points will be added to your map dynamically.

Map points and the arcmap_data.csv file

Map points in BRAHMS are stored in main collection events file, the living collections table and in the main gazetteer - together with other map related fields. When you create maps, the relevant data from all tagged records are used to create the csv file arcmap_data.csv. As discussed below, this file can be included in your map project.

The arcmap_data.csv file includes fields gathered from BRAHMS, these depending on the category of data being mapped.

A selection of the fields available in the arcmap_data.csv
Fields passed to ArcMAP

The full list of fields passed to ArcMAP when mapping collection events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Record ID</td>
<td>GUID for exported BRAHMS record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collector</td>
<td>Name of collector(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Number</td>
<td>Collection event number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Day of collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>Month of collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Year of collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Family name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genus</td>
<td>Genus name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Species name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subspecies</td>
<td>Subspecies name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variety</td>
<td>Variety name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forma</td>
<td>Forma name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivar</td>
<td>Cultivar name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Country for the collection event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Area</td>
<td>Major admin division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Area</td>
<td>Minor admin division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locality Name</td>
<td>Locality name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locality Notes</td>
<td>Locality notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevation</td>
<td>Elevation in m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latitude</td>
<td>Decimal latitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longitude</td>
<td>Decimal longitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLres</td>
<td>Map resolution (usually coded)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLorigin</td>
<td>Origin of map data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLDatum</td>
<td>Geodetic datum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QDS</td>
<td>Quarter Degree Square value</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further fields can be added on request.

The full list of fields passed to ArcMAP when mapping living collections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Record ID</td>
<td>GUID for exported BRAHMS record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PlantID</td>
<td>Plant ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Status</td>
<td>Plant status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GardenLocation</td>
<td>Garden location name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grid</td>
<td>Grid code/number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subgrid</td>
<td>Subgrid code/number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GardenBed</td>
<td>Bed code/number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PlantYear</td>
<td>Year of planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PlantMonth</td>
<td>Month of planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PlantDay</td>
<td>Day of planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Family name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genus</td>
<td>Genus name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Species name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subspecies</td>
<td>Subspecies name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variety</td>
<td>Variety name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forma</td>
<td>Forma name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivar</td>
<td>Cultivar name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CommemorationCategory</td>
<td>Commemoration category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NeedsLabel</td>
<td>Plant marked for label requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latitude</td>
<td>Decimal latitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longitude</td>
<td>Decimal longitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLres</td>
<td>Map resolution (usually coded)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLorigin</td>
<td>Origin of map data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLDatum</td>
<td>Geodetic datum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QDS</td>
<td>Quarter Degree Square value</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further fields can be added on request.
RecordID and data editing

The **Record ID** is the GUID identifier of the record in BRAHMS. This means that selected data can be edited using GIS tools and then transferred back to BRAHMS, updating the table accordingly. For example, you may have used some tools you have added to or developed in ArcMAP to check and adjust map points. By exporting the revised Latitude Longitude points together with the GUID, you can then easily update your database using the [Match/Transfer tool](https://www.brahms.org/). This would equally apply to data returned from a hand held device.

Opening a new or saved ArcMAP project

To open ArcMAP, use the **ArcMAP** option on the Maps toolbar. Note that this option will not be enabled if you have selected Tagged Only and no records are tagged. Mapping output will respect filters. Thus, you can set a filter (in the example below a country name) and/or restrict to tagged records.

The ArcMAP option will not be enabled if you have selected Tagged only but have no tagged records.

![Opening ArcMAP with no project selection.](image1)

![Selecting an existing project.](image2)

Left. Opening ArcMAP with no project selection. Right. Selecting an existing project.

![Add Data option on the ArcMAP toolbar](image3)

Here, an existing project has been opened and using the **Add Data** option on the ArcMAP toolbar, the BRAHMS output file `arcmp_data.csv` is located. Note that you may need to register this data folder so that ArcMAP can locate your csv data file.
At this stage, you could open this table by right-clicking on the csv and select Open. The next step is to correctly register this csv data file as a map layer. To do this, right-click on the csv and select Display XY Data.

Ensure the Longitude and Latitude fields are correctly selected. Using the Edit option, set the Geographic Coordinate System as required — the default used by BRAHMS is World WGS 1984.
With `arcmap_data.csv` correctly registered, the point data passed from BRAHMS will automatically update when a new map is produced.

The above map produced from the Red Butte Garden database was created by applying a filter to their garden locality named ‘Floral Walk’ and plotting directly to ArcMAP.
Mapping using QGIS

Introduction

QGIS is a mapping package – freely available on https://www.qgis.org/en/site/ (or just search for QGIS). BRAHMS can connect and pass data to QGIS – but you have to install the QGIS software locally first.

Map points and the qgis_data.csv file.

Map points in BRAHMS are stored in main collection events file, the living collections table and in the main gazetteer - together with other map related fields. When you create maps, the relevant data from all tagged records are used to create the csv file qgis_data.csv. As discussed below, this file can be included in your map project.

The qgis_data.csv file includes fields gathered from BRAHMS, these depending on the category of data being mapped.

Fields passed to QGIS

The fields passed to QGIS are the same as those passed to ArcMAP. Refer to the section on Fields passed to ArcMAP.

RecordID and data editing

The Record ID is the GUID identifier of the record in BRAHMS. This means that selected data can be edited using GIS tools and then transferred back to BRAHMS, updating the table accordingly. For example, you may have used some tools you have added to or developed in QGIS to check and adjust map points. By exporting the revised Latitude Longitude points together with the GUID, you can then easily update your database using the Match/Transfer tool. This would equally apply to data returned from a hand held device.

Opening a new or saved QGIS project

To open QGIS, use the QGIS option on the Maps toolbar. Note that this option will not be enabled if you have selected Tagged Only and no records are tagged. Mapping output will respect filters. Thus, you can set a filter (in the example below a country name) and/or restrict to tagged records.

The QGIS option will not be enabled if you have selected Tagged only but have no tagged records.

Left. Opening QGIS with no project selection. Right. Selecting an existing project.
Having opened a new project and added a map layer (here a global raster map), the next step is to add the data points layer as exported from BRAHMS in the `qgis_data.csv` file.

To do this, select **Layer > Add Layer > Add Delimited Text Layer**. Here you can locate the file `qgis_data.csv`. The X and Y fields should pick up Longitude and Latitude.

Once added, you can save the project with the registered data layer.

Once the csv file has been registered, any new map you plot from BRAHMS using the saved project will display the points from the supplied csv file.
Mapping using Diva GIS

If you have diva installed (www.diva-gis.org/download), you can plot maps there using the same procedures used in v7. Unlike QGIS, it is not possible to pass and plot the map points directly. Instead, after opening Diva, you need to pull in the map points as discussed below.

Once Diva is opened (you may have chosen a saved project with existing map layers):

Add the map layer(s)

- In DIVA, select **Layer > Add layer** and locate a .SHP file to plot.
- Select one or more vector or raster SHP files.
- To select a different area on your base map, use the toolbar and drag a rectangle on your map. This can be done at any stage.
- To change the properties of a map layer such as the thickness of the map coastline, double-click the small map layer rectangle in the left DIVA margin and then dbl-click the small rectangle on the resulting properties form and set the layer properties as prompted. Note that these actions can be carried out on any layer listed in the left margin.

Add your map data points as a layer

- To add your map data, select **Data > Import points to Shapefile > From Text file (TXT).**
- Click on the Input file option and locate the map file that you created above. The default input map name is divagis_data.txt located in your Documents/BRAHMS folder. The field delimiter is a comma.

Once you are at this stage, select Apply on the Diva form and your points will appear.

Mapping to Google Earth and GeoCAT

Assuming you have installed Google Earth on your PC, you can plot map directly using the option on the Mapping toolbar. GeoCAT is online and requires no installation. As with other mapping options, be sure that the Tagged only option is set as needed.
Mapping to Google Earth

The species *Pinus balfouriana* plotted from the demo conifer database. Clicking on the data points displays selected field values.

Mapping to GeoCAT

The species *Pinus balfouriana* plotted to GeoCAT from the demo conifer database.
Image management

See examples on https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#images

Introduction

Images can be linked to any record in BRAHMS. You can link multiple images to the same record. Information about your images is listed in the central images table. For example, images could be linked to species, entities, collection events, specimens and living plants. However, you may also consider linking images to people, places, garden locations, other taxa ranks such as families and genera, in the latter two cases, these would be representative images.

The images themselves may of any image file type – and may be registered in BRAHMS as physical file paths or as URL links. If a registered image cannot be located, the system will be unable to display it. Typically, images are of preserved specimens (insects, herbarium, fossils), illustrations and habit shots such as garden or wild collected plants/animals. But equally, they may be images of maps, people, landscapes, etc.

The links between images and data records in BRAHMS are maintained in a separate table which is not one you can open. This table holds the GUIDs of the image records and the GUIDs of the data records to which the images are linked.

Images can be viewed from the main image table itself file, clearly one image per record, and/or from any other table where records have image links.

Viewing images

The image viewer is opened from any BRAHMS or RDE table using the Images toolbar option on Data Tools.
If any images are linked to the current record, these will be displayed in the viewer with thumbs in the lower part of the form.

The image viewer has a number of controls below the main image:

Options, left to right:
- Flip image horizontally, Flip image vertically
- Rotate left 90 degrees, Rotate right 90 degrees
- Reset
- Open image in your default image viewer
- Fit content within bounds
- Fill bounds with content

Image viewer function keys:
- Shift + Mouse Wheel: zoom
- Ctrl+ Mouse Wheel: pan
- Alt + Mouse Wheel: drag rectangle to zoom

There is also a zoom/pan image explore option:

The slightly obscure icon bottom right is used to open the View Finder. This provides a zoom/pan image explore option.

The View Finder in use.

**Manually linking images**

Images can be linked to or unlinked from any record in BRAHMS when using the Image Viewer. As an example, linking images to a species record:

- Select **Taxa > Species** and then on **Data Tools**, select **Images**... to open the Image Viewer.
- Here, you can either use the **Link** button or drag image(s) to the Image Viewer.
To link images to a record, you can drag the image (or images) from your file manager onto the BRAHMS Image Viewer.

Alternatively, use the Link option at the bottom of the image form. Use Unlink or Unlink all to remove the link(s).

The main image library

The main image table in BRAHMS is opened using Images > Image Records. Images themselves are never added to your database, inflating its size. The image table only stores references and meta data about the images.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field name</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Image file</td>
<td>The file name of the image</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directory</td>
<td>The folder location of the image file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Image URL</td>
<td>The full URL of the image</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File Type</td>
<td>The type of image file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File Size</td>
<td>The image file size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Image Type</td>
<td>User defined classification of your images (scan, painting, illustration, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Image Caption</td>
<td>Free text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foto Prefix</td>
<td>Used to further reference an image source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foto Number</td>
<td>Used to further reference an image source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foto Suffix</td>
<td>Used to further reference an image source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>Numeric value to indicate image priority within your project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Image Date</td>
<td>Date image taken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copyright</td>
<td>Free text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Online</td>
<td>Yes/No field to optional prevent uploading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>Free text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uploaded to BOL by</td>
<td>Who uploaded image to BRAHMS online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uploaded to BOL on</td>
<td>Date image uploaded to BRAHMS online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fields</td>
<td>Standard fields for who added/modified image record</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Image table fields.

Image file metadata

Images may have additional information embedded within the image files themselves – data stored in the image header. These data are exposed when you view images directly in the image library.
The image data is likely to include a lot of camera settings but also data such as image date/time, copyright, keywords and GPS data, depending on your camera facilities and settings.

Image location and file names

Images may be located in any location including in media libraries and cloud servers. Images may be referenced in any standard way include UNC paths. Rather than referring to physical file names, you can also refer to URLs. Using URLs implies your images are accessible online. The great advantage is that you will be able to view the images even if you do not have access to server path, for example, you may be using BRAHMS in a different location or country.

It is good planning to think through your image file naming strategy. Avoid using spaces in image file names as these are not easily managed if you are publishing images online. Image file names can use different languages and international character sets.

File names may use any language script.

The following are examples of valid file names and URL paths:

C:\MyImages\00015343.jpg
H:\SharedDrive\Images\00015343.png
\myfiestore\MuseumFiles\InsectImages\AASY00ww4046_12089.jpg
http://medialib.naturalis.nl/file/id/L.2436411/format/large

Using image URLs

You can store images as URL references, the advantage being that your images can be viewed from any location.
Importing images and image links from Excel

If you have many images to link to data in BRAHMS, it will more efficient to use the Image Import Wizard tool rather than manually linking the images via the Image Viewer. This tool has been designed to make it as simple as possible to link your images to any record in any BRAHMS table.

To use this option, all you need is an Excel (xlsx) table that has a column with the image file names (or URLs) and one or more columns that will allow you to match the records to your data records in BRAHMS.

The Image Import Wizard tool has two key functions:

a) to import images and image meta data into BRAHMS, matching your excel file image field names with those used in BRAHMS.

b) To link the images to the appropriate records in the currently opened BRAHMS table, using your selected record matching criteria.

To open the image import wizard tool, select Import/Link images on the Data Tools toolbar.
In the top image matching section of the form, you can match your Excel columns with the appropriate image data column(s) – these are the image data that will be imported and linked to matched data records.

As a minimum, the Image File name or a URL is required: if the filename also contains the full directory/folder path there is no requirement to match the folder separately as it will be automatically separated from the filename. All other image fields are optional.

If URL entries are added to the Image File field, these will be treated as URLs and processed accordingly.

Note. The image import can be processed even if the image files are not currently accessible.

In the lower section, you can match your Excel columns to BRAHMS data record columns – this controls which images will be linked to which records.

Ensure the columns selected match the correct records in your database. For example, if you are linking images to specimen records based on the barcode, ensure the Excel file has a column with the barcodes. In the example here, the match is made between the Excel field 'Plant Name' and the BRAHMS field # Full Name. Any field or series of fields can be selected.

Note. Make sure any columns you want to use in matching are visible in the grid before using this tool.

**Importing images from Excel - examples**

*Image import example 1*

**Snapshot of a sample Excel file with demo image details and also a field to use for record matching, in this example ‘Species name’. Note that the imagefile field includes the full path name of the images. In other cases, file and directory names may be held in separate fields.**
In the above example, the user has matched the image fields to be imported. Note that it is not necessary to add the Directory name - in this case, the image file includes the full path. The records are being matched using an excel field called Species name and this has been matched to the BRAHMS field #Full Name.

Image import example 2

The excel file here includes barcodes that can be used to match to records in the BRAHMS specimen table. The other fields such as family, genus, sp1, in this case, need not be used for matching as the barcode is sufficient. The image file and directory names here are held in separate fields.

The selected image and matching settings.

Note that record matching may involve using several fields – you can select any group of fields that you feel will match records correctly. You may have exported data from BRAHMS to Excel including the record GUID – and this on its own would be sufficient.
As the data are imported, the Status is updated. Status options are:

- **Unmatched**: the importer is unable to match the data to a record in the current BRAHMS table. For example, a barcode cannot be located.
- **Matched**: the importer is able to match the data to a record in the current BRAHMS table. However, it is unable to add an image as the image data are not correctly available in the Excel file. Note that the image file itself is not accessible, this will not stop the import.
- **2 Matched**: (2 or more) the importer has located more than one potential record match and the process cannot proceed.
- **Imported**: the image is successfully added to your image table and the image linked to a data record.
- **Exists**: the image data have already been added and will not be added again.

### Importing images from Excel to RDE files

As discussed in the [RDE sections](#), images can be transferred from Excel files to RDE. When transferring RDE files to BRAHMS, the RDE image data are added to the main database.

If your Excel file includes image references as physical file names (path + file name) or URLs, these can be imported to and viewed in the RDE file. If there is more than one image, the entries should be comma or semicolon separated or on different lines.

By default, BRAHMS checks for the fields Imagelist or Images and auto-selects either if they are available. Otherwise, you can select the image field using the field selector provided.

In the above Excel table, the column Imagelist includes physical file and URL references.
Documents and Dynamic WebLinks

Documents

Multiple documents of any type can be linked to any record in BRAHMS. This could be a PDF material transfer agreement or collection permit linked to a specimen, accession or transaction; a protologue description linked to a species; a sound file linked to an animal entry; or perhaps a video or slideshow linked to a botanic garden greenhouse record.

Linking pdf, docx, wav, pptx and xlsx documents to a species record. Media and documents can be opened using the Open option or double-clicking on the linked entry.

Dynamic Weblinks

You can dynamically link your database to external websites as provided on the WebLinks toolbar. WebLink options will soon be configurable in BRAHMS, allowing you to add the websites that you find most useful. WebLinks are available from many of the BRAHMS tables, especially when there is a species name in the table. As an example:

- Select Taxa > Species to open the main species table.
- Select Weblinks > Google Images or WebLinks > POWO (Plants of the World Online)
In this example, the POWO website has been opened on Podocarpus taxifolius, a synonym of Prumnopitys montana. Moving data grid records auto-updates the open weblink page. The species form is opened on the synonyms tab and the various windows are docked.

An example with 2 weblink sites opened at the same time. Linked weblink windows can be dragged to different monitors.
Examples with the ant genus Acromyrmex, top Google Images, lower using AntWeb.
Biblio module and Literature

Introduction

You can store references of any category (books, journal articles, websites, etc.) and then link these to any record in your database. For example, you may want to link a book, a book chapter, a report or journal article to a species or to a selected text entry for a species.

As discussed below, reference entries can be stored as complete reference text strings with no attempt to divide the text into the component fields – or you can store the reference using the separate fields for author, title, journal, pages, year, etc.

Page numbers can also be added to the record that links a database record to the literature entry. Thus, you might enter the details for a book or manuscript once as a reference for many species. The record that links the species to the book will include the page numbers and other details about the nature of the literature link.

Adding and editing literature entries

Select Biblio > Literature List to open the main table for literature. On the same Biblio menu, you will find table of literature categories and journal listings.

Viewing reference entries in the main literature table.

The Full Reference field can be used to quickly add a complete reference string – without needing to add data to the separate fields – although data added to separate fields provides greater control. The Full Reference field is auto-updated from the other fields IF an entry is made in the TITLE field.

Linking literature entries to data

Literature links are created using the Literature option on the Data Tools toolbar.

This option allows you to select any item from your main literature list and link this to the current record. You can link multiple literature links to any record, optionally adding the relevant page/plate numbers, the link status (for example ‘Synonymy’) and comments.
An example showing the Literature link option opened. This option lists all existing links for the current record and allows you to add/remove links.

**Linking literature to taxa text entries**

Literature links to taxa text descriptions can be made directly in the **Taxa > Taxa Descriptions** table.

_In Edit mode, use the form Edit option to edit the text and/or literature links._
The species form Text option – with the edit option in use. Here, you can add/edit the text entries as well as linking literature entries.
Personal names and authors

Introduction

Personal names including those of authors of taxa are stored in a central list of people names. This list, however, acts as a stand-alone dictionary and is not related to other tables. The table called ‘Assembled name strings’ is the table that is used in relations with other tables. The following section explains how these tables are edited and used.

People table

The people table is opened from Management > People. You can add names to this table individually, filling in fields as available. The table is also updated when you import RDE files.

Fields such as Title and Forename are optional and are often not added. The main fields are Initials and Surname. If used as a tax on author, the field Abbreviation must be added. Other fields such as Staff Member can be added and have their uses for filtering.

The people table itself is a stand-alone table. It has no relations to other tables in the database. Thus, names here can also be deleted with no impact on the rest of your database.

Assembled name string table

Introduction

The assembled name strings table is opened from Management > Assembled name strings. Unlike the People table, this table is used in database relationships. The entries you see in this table are those that appear throughout the database as single or joint collector names, authors and author combinations, names of determinators of specimens and reference authors.
Some example name string entries.

The entries in this table are added using a name selector. The name selector is opened from any screen where there is a requirement to add a name string. There are two main categories:

- **Standard name strings** - single or multiple names, for example collectors and additional collectors.
- **Taxa author strings** – single authors or author combinations.

**Adding standard name strings**

The following example uses collector names in the Collection Events table.

In the above screen, using a lookup in the Collectors field, the name ‘Farjon, A.’ is located in the Name Strings list. As it already exists, it can be selected.

In the above screen, using a lookup in the Collectors field, the joint series ‘Farjon, A.; Laubenfels, D.J. de’ is located in the Name Strings list. As it already exists, it can be selected.

If the name string you need does not exist, you can add a new string combination from any name registered in your people names table:
Using the Name List Creator, you can add multiple names to create new name strings.

If the person name is not registered in your people name list, you can add this:

### Adding a new person from the Name List Creator form.

### Editing taxa author names

#### Selecting an existing author or author combination

If the author string required already exists, you can locate and select this using a lookup option in the author field you are editing:

### Locating and selecting an existing author string. If the author or author combination is not located, select New.
Creating and formatting new authors or author combinations

When constructing a new author string, as a first step, the author abbreviations must be assembled into the right side window using the Add/Remove options.

If the person name/abbreviation is not in the list of available people, you can add a new name.

Adding a new person name on the fly.

Use the formatting tools to construct the required string. Here Gordon has been set as the Basionym author and the ‘ex’ option selected for Hildebr. creating the string (Gordon.) Lindl. Ex Hildebr.
Note how the string is now formatted when the authorship options are edited as above.

**Misapplied, ambig. and Hort. Entries**

Quick options are provided to select the entries ‘misapplied’, ‘ambig.’ and ‘hort.’ as author entries.

**Using sensu and adding suffix text**

Author selections can be prefixed sensu and have a suffix added:

Use the formatting options provided to create a string such as **sensu Carrière 1890**.

**Is Author**

Note that the Assembled Name strings table has a flag to indicate whether an entry is an author string or not. This field is used to filter selections when selecting author strings.
Is Author can be updated manually of by using the option to update all tagged records.
Designing reports

Best to use a large monitor and a mouse when working with report design.

Introduction

Rather than providing a fixed set of reports, BRAHMS provides tools that allow you to design and save your own report templates. These templates can then be used to produce almost any imaginable report output starting from basic lists and labels to more complex designs with indexes and calculated summaries.

BRAHMS is dynamically linked to a third-party reporting tool called Stimulsoft. We chose this as it is rich on reporting features and many of these can be controlled from within BRAHMS. Those interested to explore to full extent of its capabilities are encouraged to refer to https://www.stimulsoft.com/en/documentation/online/user-manual/ or to download from: https://admin.stimulsoft.com/documentation/Stimulsoft_Reports_User_Manual.en.pdf.

While the design steps in the examples that follow may seem daunting, once mastered, you will be able to design almost any report you need. It’s satisfying to conquer reporting and it makes your database efforts all the more worthwhile. We encourage you to test and explore the reporting features which go well beyond those introduced in this section.

Report templates

A report template is a report design file. Each template is a single file with a .mrt extension. Templates can be given any sensible name (‘My RDE label’, ‘Genus Index’, etc.) and stored in any folder. They can be shared with other users.

Report templates are associated with a category of data and must be used with that category of data. If you design a report template for use in RDE specimen tables, it would not be possible to use this template in another type of RDE file or in the main database. Once designed, a given template can be used as often as is needed against any data in the appropriate table. For example, a report template designed for a specimen RDE could be used for any specimen RDE file you create. After creation, templates can be edited as needed.

There is no special table in BRAHMS to register report templates (as there is in v7). When you open the reporter, you can choose the template to use from the File options – recently used or browse to locate.

The reporter is accessed from any table using the Reports option on the Data Tools toolbar. NB the Print Preview option is an entirely separate and more limited tool for creating quick tabular summaries based on your current field selection.
The icons on the left side are used to create reporting ‘bands’ and add other features such as images to your report. The menu at the top includes the main design, layout and preview options. The lower Properties tab displays all the available properties for the currently selected item (here the page properties). The Dictionary tab (not selected here) displays the available data table(s) and fields.

Using the Setup Toolbox, you can add many more tools to the left margin and further explore the reporter capabilities.
Preparing a basic taxa list

This preliminary example creates a tabular report with the family, genus and species names, but only printing the family and genus names when they change. Most of the steps in this example are discussed in more detail in the next report example. This first example uses minimal formatting.

Tagging the records for your report

The reporter is opened from any data grid using the Reports option on the Data Tools toolbar. When you open the reporter, BRAHMS only passes data from tagged records - thus, be sure to tag records to process before you select Reports. If you want to process all records in the current file, you must tag all the records.

- On the main menu, select Taxa > Species then use Tag > Clear Current Grid Tags.
- If you want to restrict this report to show only names where Taxon Status is Accepted, apply the appropriate filter. Then select Tag > Tag all (you can use any character).
- Select Reports to open the report designer.

The report designer, with the Dictionary tab selected, open and ready to use.

It’s always a good idea to save your report design from the outset, giving it a sensible name. Then you can just use the top left Save option as you proceed.

Adding the data to your report

- Select the Dictionary option and drag the Species table icon onto the report surface. This opens a field selection form.
Select the fields FamilyName, GenusName and CalcFullName and sort these as shown above.

This will add a DataSpecies report band as shown above. You can already Preview this list. After previewing, return to the editing mode using the Page tab. Previews may take some time to generate.

Next, adjust the field widths.

- Click on the FamilyName entry within the band and reduce the width by dragging the right edge or using the properties tab Width option. Resize the other fields allowing less space for the family/genus names but more space for the full species name. The widths can be refined later. You can also set field widths using the Position properties for the fields.

The next stage is to sort the data appropriately. Note that sort commands are stored within the report itself.

- To sort the data, double-click on the top of the newly added data band and choose the Sort option.
- Use Add Sort to add sort entries for the FamilyName and the CalcFullName.

As the CalcFullName includes the genus, it is not necessary to add genus to the sort list.

Previewsing the report will now display these data correctly sorted.

In order to print the Family and Genus names only when they change:

- Click on the {Species.FamilyName} field on the report and then select Properties.
- Under the Text Additional options, set ProcessingDuplicates to 'Merge'.
- Repeat this for the GenusName.

If you Preview now, you will see that the edited fields appear once per name.

The table will look better if all the fields are aligned at the top of the cells. To do this:

- Select the fields one by one or shift click to select all three. Then use the Align Top option on the Home toolbar.
Using the Align Top toolbar option.

- **Save** and **Preview** the report.

Finally, for this basic list, set the font of the family and genus names to **Bold** by selecting these two fields and using the **B** font control on the main toolbar. Increase the font size slightly for the family and genus.

A sample of the final report. You could easily save this to a Word document using the Preview Save option.

**Preparing a species list with page set up and conditional formatting**

This example is based on the sample conifer database as it has Red List data (IUCN codes). But you may use another database as appropriate. Or replace the IUCN field with another as suits.

**Tagging records for your report**

The reporter is opened from any data grid using the **Reports** option on the **Data Tools** toolbar.

Be sure to tag records to report on before you select **Reports**. If you want to report on all records in the current file, you must tag all the records.

- On the main menu, select **Taxa > Species** then use **Tag > Clear Current Grid Tags**.
- Apply a filter to show only names where Taxon Status is **Accepted**. The easiest way is to click on the word Accepted in the Tax Status field and then on **Selection** on the **Data Tools** toolbar. You can choose a different filter if appropriate.
- Now select **Tag > Tag all** (you can use any character).
- Finally, for this first stage, select **Reports** to open the report.

The report designer is now open and ready to use.
Report bands

Report bands, central to report production, are like containers, each with a different function. Examples bands are Page Header and Footer bands (similar to Word Document headers and footers); The Title band which is printed once at the start of a report; Header and Footer bands which are associated with your Data band (an example use is to print table report column headers); Group Headers and Footers (an example use is to print a Family name at the start of a list of taxa in that family); and the Data band which will output data for each row in your BRAHMS data grid. There are other bands but these are the key ones. As well as adding content to bands, they are highly configurable with formatting features.

Adding a title band

As a first step with the report design, add a title band with some text. All the band options are listed down the left side of the blank report screen. The title band icon is show below.

If you hover over this icon, the tooltip text explains its function.

- Click once on the icon and then click on the report surface – or drag the icon onto the surface.

Either way, you should see the Title band added to your report, and extended to the full-page width. If you wanted to delete the band, selected it and press the Delete key. By default, the band will fix itself to the top of the report. You can increase the band height by dragging the lower edge of the band down or by editing its properties.

You can refer to and edit the properties of this band by clicking on it then choosing the Properties option on the lower right side of the designer. A Right-Click on the band provides further options including access to its Properties. For example, the properties can be used to format the band background with a gradient colour fill.

To add text to this band, you must add a text box component using the Text icon.

- Again, click or drag this icon and create a text area in the title band. You can create the text area anywhere on the report surface then later, drag it to the Title band.

When you add the text box, this auto-open the text expression editing tool. You can type the required text into the Expression area and save using OK.

Click or drag the Text icon to create text box inside the Title band and add a report title.

Clearly, there are a few tricks to learn here. Once added, you can re-open the text editor by Double-clicking the text box.

Formatting options for the text box itself, and the text it includes, are found on the Home menu, the Layout menu and/or in the Properties options for the text box. For example, to centre the text box in the title band,
use Layout > Align > Centre horizontally. But to centre the text within the text box, use the Home > Alignment options.

**Add an image to the Title Band**

To add an image or logo to the Title Band, select the Image toolbar option on the left list of icons and click in the title band. The image can be positioned and re-sized. In the image properties options listed on the right pane, select the AspectRatio to ensure the image keeps the correct shape if re-sized. Also, you will need to select Stretch to ensure the image is re-scaled to fit the size you choose for the report.

![Image added to Title Band](image.png)

Title moved to side with the font edited and an image added to the Title Band. Adjust the properties as suggested above.

**Saving the report**

At this stage, it will be best to save your report design work. Use File > Save, choose any folder and give your report template a name. You could at this close and then re-open the report to continue editing. To open a saved report, choose File and you will see your recent reports or be able to browse to locate them. Unlike with v7, there is no central reports manager file. Report files can be exchanged with other users.

**Adding page numbering**

In this example, you can add page numbering to a page footer - similar to a Word Document footer. You could equally add to a page header.

Click on the left margin Page Footer icon then click on the report surface (or drag the icon as above). The footer ban will by default auto-locate to the bottom of the design surface page. NB. you may need to scroll down to see this.

![Page Footer Band](image.png)

The page footer band is different to a data summary footer. Scroll down to see the added band.

As with the Title band, the properties of the Page Footer band are highly configurable.

To add the page number using the format ‘page of total pages’:

- Select the Dictionary option on the left panel and choose System Variables. Here locate the entry PageNofM.
- Drag this variable onto your Page Footer band. It will be added into a text box feature.
- Use the various formatting tools to align the text and set the font features. Ensure the text box width is enough to show the text.

If you Double-click the text box to open the text editor – and then choose Expression, you will see that the variable PageNofM is enclosed in braces as in {PageNofM}. 

---

Report produced as a sample for the BRAHMS v8 guide

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BRAHMS v8 introduction and guide
In this example Page Footer, the line tool has been used to add a horizontal line below a further text box and the page numbering. The items are positioned appropriately and the colour and font adjusted. Some experimentation is needed.

Save your report design before proceeding.

Adding the data band

The data band is the most important band as this is the link between your data and the report. This band can be added in two ways, either using the data band icon on the left side or by using another approach from the Data Dictionary. Here, the latter option is used.

- Select the Dictionary tab. Here you will see the current BRAHMS data table listed.
- Drag the Species table icon onto the report surface (not the yellow Species container icon above it).
- As you drop this onto the report surface, a dialogue opens offering the chance to select which fields to include. At this stage, only select the 3 fields: CalcFullName, IUCN and ProtologueCitation. There are other ways to add data fields to the data band but this is a convenient method for now.
- Adjust the field order using the arrows provided to move the ProtologueCitation above IUCN.

When adding the Data Band, you can also select the fields to include. The selected fields can be adjusted later if necessary.

The properties of the Data Band can be adjusted as with the others. To do this, ensure you click on the Data Band itself rather than either of the text boxes within it. Then choose the Properties tab. There are numerous properties for data bands but at this stage, it’s not necessary to alter these unless you wish to experiment. If you click on either of the text boxes within the Data Band, you can then set the properties of each text box, for example the font.

By default, each field is given equal space. This can be adjusted to give the species name a lot more space than the 2 letter IUCN code. You can drag the field edges to re-size or use the properties options to set the widths.

Here, the field widths have been adjusted. Also, the text for IUCN has been adjusted right using the align tool.
By double-clicking on the IUCN field, it becomes possible to add literal text to the expression. In this example, the expression {Species.Iucn} has been enclosed in square brackets [[Species__Tagged__lucn]] which will print e.g. [VU]. NB Be sure to add any text outside the {}.

However, the square brackets need to be suppressed if there is no IUCN Red List value. Otherwise you will end up with the ugly [] appearing in your report. This can be achieved by adding the following syntax to the expression (You can copy the full expression and paste this into your report):

\[
\text{IIF}(\text{Species.Iucn} \neq \text{""}, \text{"[", ""]\text{Species.Iucn}})\text{IIF}(\text{Species.Iucn} \neq \text{""}, \text{"], ""})
\]

The handy IIF function is used to control what is printed. Looking more closely at \(\text{IIF}(\text{Species.Iucn} \neq \text{""}, \text{"[", ""]})\), this translates to ... if the Species.Iucn field is not blank (\(\neq\) means not = to), then print “[” otherwise print “". Thus here, the function is used twice for the [ and the ] brackets.

The height of the data band controls line spacing in your report. The width of the individual text boxes can be adjusted.

Save your report design before proceeding.

**Adding a Group Header**

Group header bands are used to group data by one of more fields. In this report, it will be useful to group the data by family name. To add a data grouping header:

- Click once on the Group Header icon and then click on the report surface – or drag the icon onto the surface.
- If the newly added band is below the Data Band, drag the band up and release it above the Data Band.

You now need to assign a what is termed a ‘condition’ (in this case a data field) to the Group Header band and also, add the data field to include in the report.

- Firstly, to add the group ‘condition’, double-click on the band to open the data source (in the case the species table) and choose the field FamilyName. You will then see this added as a ‘condition’ in the band header. When you add a text condition, the default sort for he grouping is AZ Ascending.
- Secondly, add a text box to the group header band. Double-click this, choose a Data Column and add the FamilyName.

The Group Header Band showing the Condition Species.FamilyName and with the FamilyName added to a text box as a printable field. The family name font and position has been adjusted.

**Progress this far**
**Sorting the data**

Separate to the group sorting, the data in the data band will need a sort order added. This can be one or more data fields added to the data band but in this case, the report only has to be sorted by the CalcFullName.

- Double-click on the top of the Data Band (not on one of the text fields it contains).
- Choose the Sort option and then choose the field CalcFullName.

![Sort option being used with the Data Band.](image)

- Use the Preview option to check your report – and it’s a good idea to Save the report design again.

**Adding a condition to the data band**

For this report, you could optionally colour the reported records depending on the Red List values, for example, printing the CR, VU and EN categories taxa in different colours. To do this, it is necessary to add one or more Data Band ‘conditions’. Conditions can be used in a wide variety of ways –this example sets a row highlighting condition.

- Click on the Data Band header to select this. Take care to select the band rather than one of the fields it contains. Then select the Conditions option on the toolbar.
- Select Add a condition choosing the Highlight Condition option.
- Set the Column value to Species_Tagged_Iucn

![Three highlight conditions added to the field Species_Tagged_Iucn](image)

**Adding a border box around the data band**

If you now select the Rectangle option on the left side toolbar, you can carefully position and size a rectangle with the required line style and colour to fit around the data band items.

![Detail showing the red dotted rectangle. This was set to red for this screen but edited back to a light grey colour.](image)
Close up of report detail. A rectangle has been positioned in the data band surrounding the three fields – and the line style properties adjusted.

**Combining text with date fields**

Here is an example of how you can combine literal text with datetime fields,

```
Date Record Created: {LivingCollection.AddedOn.ToString("dd/MM/yyyy")} Date Last Modified: {LivingCollection.LastModifiedOn.ToString("dd/MM/yyyy")}
```

To achieve: Date Record Created: 10/01/2020 Date Last Modified: 05/03/2020

**How to upper case a data value**

To upper case a data value, use the function ToUpperCase() as in the example here:

```
{ToUpperCase(LivingCollection.FamilyName)}
```

**Print report or save to a document**

In **Preview** mode, you can choose the required output, either printing directly or saving the report to one of several file formats including Word and Excel. One advantage of saving to a document is that the report can be further edited prior to final printing.

The final report layout
Designing a specimen label

Following on from the previous section on creating a list report, creating a label report template introduces a few new aspects to report design. This example assumes you have mastered the basic of opening the reporter and creating report bands. Unlike the list report above, this report template will only have a Data Band. The Title, Page Header and Group bands are not needed. Designing labels introduces the use of page columns, the ability to combine fields in expressions, the use of HTML tags, conditional clauses and the use of calculated fields.

The example here reviews label production in the main specimen table. You can design a label in an RDE file using the same steps but the field names will change to an RDE prefix. You cannot design a single label template for both RDE and the main specimen tables.

Tagging the records for your labels

To create labels for preserved specimens, you have to open the main specimen table and tag the appropriate records. As introduced in the previous section, the reporter is opened using the Reports option on the Data Tools toolbar.

- On the main menu, select Collections and select the category Preserved specimens. Now open the main Specimens table. Use Tag > Clear Current Grid Tags and then tag the records to produce labels for.

Create the report template page layout

- Select Reports to open the report.

Assuming you wish to print labels in two columns:

- Select Page > Columns and set the value to 2. This would also be the time to set the paper size if necessary.
- In the lower left pane, select the Dictionary tab and drag the Specimen table icon (not the yellow drum) to your report design surface. By default, this will position itself at the top of the left column.
- When you drag the specimen data source, you will be offered the chance to select fields. For this report, do not select any fields at this stage.
- Drag the Data Band down to increase its height. The precise height can be adjusted later to obtain e.g. 6 labels per page. To help visualize the layout, add a rectangle to the report using the rectangle icon on the left side. Size this to almost fill the data band area.

Here, the report page (left) has 2 columns, a Data Band has been added for the Specimen data source. A rectangle has been added to provide a visual reference. This rectangle may be removed later. The Preview (right) at this stage displays the rectangle layout.
Adding text for the top of the label

Assuming you want to include some text to the top of the label, perhaps “Flora of” or your herbarium name, follow these steps:

- Click or drag the Text icon onto the Data Band. You can now edit the contents of the text box and set properties such as font, text size, alignment and colour.
- To edit the content of the text box, double-click the Text Box or click on the Text Box then select the **Text** button at the top of the **Properties** options.
- Use the **Home menu** options to set font, size and other basic features.

The text is centrally aligned within the text box and the text box itself is centred horizontally using the Layout menu option.

Adding data fields

The label design starts by looking at taxa names which present the most complex part of the label design.

The easiest way to add a data field is to select the **Dictionary** tab in the lower left pane, expand the Specimen options, and then to drag the required field to the design area. This process adds the data field within a text box. The alternative is to add a text box and then insert the data field. This is possible, but there are more steps to take.

- Drag the field FamilyName from the dictionary to the label surface. Adjust the position of the text box and set the various properties as required. You will want to set the font to about 10 point. Make sure the text is adjusted left.

The start of the label template with the family name added. Note that the final positioning can be done towards the end of the design process.

Combining field names in a text box

Some elements printed on labels require that data from more than one field is combined into a single text box expression. For example, genus + species + author. Multiple fields can be added to the same text box to create:

\{(Specimen.GenusName)\}(Specimen.SpeciesName)\{(Specimen.SpeciesAuthor)\}

- Drag the first field name (GenusName) on to the report design. This will create the initial text box. Then drag the fields SpeciesName and SpeciesAuthor to the same text box. The reporter will prompt how to append these fields with a series of positioning icons – choose the one with the small red hatched box to the right of the black hatched box – this adds the field to the last added field.
- Once these 3 fields have been added, double click the text box and then choose the **Expression** options.
The reporter will auto-trim these fields, removing trailing spaces between the fields. However, you must add a
single space as in: {Specimen.GenusName} {Specimen.SpeciesName} {Specimen.SpeciesAuthor} . Although you can add
this now to learn and test, this string will be replaced with a more complex one given below.

Using HTML tags
In order to print the species name with possible infra-specific names together with
authors, part in italic font, part not, it’s possible to add some simple HTML mark-up
tags. The ability to add these tags opens up options for setting multiple font settings
within a single expression. The available tags are listed below the dictionary entries.
HTML tags can be manually added to your expression.
The tags are always enclosed in angle brackets <> and they are placed outside the {}
braces. There must always be an opening and closing tag. Thus, using the italics tags <i> and </i>, you can add:
<i>{Specimen.GenusName} {Specimen.SpeciesName}</i> {Specimen.SpeciesAuthor} This will print the genus and

species names in italic font but not the author name.
If you are using HTML tags, you must ensure the text box property AllowHtmlTags is selected.

Using condition clauses to print the full taxa name
When printing species names with infra-specific elements and/or cultivar names, it is necessary to add some
conditional clauses. For example, if there is a subspecies name, you will want to print the text ‘subsp.’ or ‘ssp.’
before the name - but not if the name is blank. For cultivars, you will want to add quotation marks.
The easiest way to do this is to use the IIF() function. This function evaluates a Condition, and if the Condition
returns true, the expression will return Value1. If it returns false, it will return Value2. The syntax != in
programming means ‘not equal to’. Note also that all programmatic components are enclosed in { }.
IIF(condition, return value if true, return value if false)
An example: {IIF(Specimen.Subspecies != "", "ssp.", "")}
Here, if the field Specimen.Subspecies is not equal to blank, it returns “ssp.”, otherwise it returns an empty
string. Using this, you can now develop the complete expression for all possible species epithets as follows:
<i>{Specimen.GenusName} {Specimen.SpeciesName}</i> {Specimen.SpeciesAuthorName}
{IIF(Specimen.Subspecies != "", "ssp.", "")} <i>{Specimen.Subspecies}</i> {Specimen.SubspeciesAuthorName}
{IIF(Specimen.Variety != "", "var.", "")} <i>{Specimen.Variety}</i> {Specimen.VarietyAuthorName}
{IIF(Specimen.Forma != "", "f.", "")} <i>{Specimen.Forma}</i> {Specimen.FormaAuthorName}
{IIF(Specimen.Cultivar != "", "'", "")}{Specimen.Cultivar}{IIF(Specimen.Cultivar != "", "'", "")} {Specimen.CultivarAuthorName}

Using this expression avoids printing ssp. or var. or f. when there are no names of these ranks. You can replace
“ssp.” with “subsp.” or as required. Also, the function encloses cultivar names in single quote marks. Cultivar
names are not printed in italic.
It looks complex – but in any case, you can simply copy this entire expression to the species name text box in
your report – replacing the {Specimen.GenusName} {Specimen.SpeciesName} {Specimen.SpeciesAuthor} that you
added above.

The text box area can be sized appropriately later – it does not have to be large enough to see the entire expression in
design – only on display. If your HTML tags are not correct, make sure the text box property AllowHtmlTags is selected.
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Adding geographic data and other notes fields

Geographic data can be added field by field (Country, MajorAdminName, MinorAdminName etc.) allowing you to format the data exactly as you wish. Alternatively, take advantage of the calculated field CalcFullGazetteerText. This calc field includes all fields from country to place name with locality notes, pre-formatted. It does not include the map reference.

- Using the same methods as above, drag CalcFullGazetteerText from the specimen dictionary list to the design surface.
- Size the text box to be large enough (height) to include the longest text you will encounter.
- Important - select the property WordWrap (under Text Options).

NB. To print fixed size labels and thus, a constant number per page, easy to guillotine, the text box should be sized deep enough to fit the longest text you expect for the field. The alternative is to size the text box for e.g. one line – and set the property CanGrow to true. However, if you opt for CanGrow, the labels will most likely not be equal size in the columns. WordWrap is import though, otherwise, text over one line will not be visible.

You can combine CalcFullGazetteerText and CalcLatLongText in a single text box adding the HTML tag <br> between these to create a new line.

{Specimen.CalcFullGazetteerText}<br>{Specimen.CalcLatLongText}

Some example output including the taxa and geodata.

Further items could be added to the same text box as used for the geographic data including text notes for habitat and the specimen description.

{Specimen.CalcFullGazetteerText}<br>{Specimen.CalcLatLongText}<br>{Specimen.HabitatText}  {Specimen.PlantDescription}

The way you decide to arrange this will depend on personal preference. You may wish to include line breaks with <br> or just spaces between items. Remember, if you are using HTML tags, you must ensure AllowHtmlTags is selected in the Properties. Some trial and error testing will be needed to get the correct text box sizes and fonts.

Adding collector name(s), field number and date

In this example, the collectors and field number are added to a shared text box. Drag the field PrincipalCollector and FieldNumber from the dictionary to the label surface to create a single text box. To do this:

- Open the data dictionary on the left side and expand the Specimen Data Source. Drag the PrincipalCollector field to the design surface and roughly position and resize the text box.
• Now drag the FieldNumber on top of this text box. A red box appears and a small form opens to request if and how you wish the fields to be joined in the text box. Choose the option with the small red shape to the right of the grey shape.

By editing the properties of the text box expression, you can now add a space between these fields and optionally add a text string such as ‘No.’.

• Finally, drag the field CalcLongCollectionDate to a new text box. Position this to the right. You may want to right align the text.

Preparing a transaction list

This example shows in summary how to produce a transaction packing list for loans, exchanges and similar. Transaction reports use the same techniques are the previous examples. One difference is that they refer to two separate data sources – the transaction record itself and the linked specimens. This requires the addition of two data bands.
The Title band includes a logo, some constant text entries plus a few fields taken from the transaction record including the address summary (sent to/received from), the transaction number, a calculated summary of the transaction and the ‘attention of’ field.

A data header and data band have been added to list data from the LinkedSpecimens data source. Fields can be chosen as required.

A partial sample preview of a transaction.
A closer look at taxa and related data

Video: [https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#addingspeciestext](https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#addingspeciestext)

Introduction

BRAHMS has separate tables for Higher Classification, Families, Genera and Species, the latter including infra-specific names and cultivars. All ICN and ICNCP ranks are covered. There are also separate tables to store author names, common names, plant uses and text descriptions.

The main taxa tables

Higher Classification

The higher classification table, by default, stores taxa names from Kingdom through to Order. Further taxonomic levels can be added as custom fields.

You can define further custom higher classification taxonomic levels as needed for particular taxa groups.

Families and genera

The family and genus tables, in addition to storing the names of families and genera themselves can be extended with custom fields as needed by your project. Each name can be assigned an authority and be linked to publication details. Further nomenclatural fields are available such as taxon status, validity, legitimacy and nomenclatural notes. There are further fields for common names, museum location code, specialist name(s) and more.

Institutional codes such as the family and genus herbarium codes can also be viewed in the species table. For taxonomic projects, families and genera may be assigned types and may have synonym links. These tables also have various calculated fields to display totals for linked collections, images, seed accessions, living plants, etc.
Managing columns in the genus table. If entirely new fields are required, these can be added as custom fields. Data fields are also inherited and displayed from the higher classification and family tables.

Species and lower ranks

Species and infraspecific names are stored in the species table. A wide range of default fields are available from ranks between genus and species such as genus section and series through to all the infra-specific, grex, trade and cultivar names. As with the other tables you can extend the table by adding further taxon levels as custom fields.

A selection of fields available in the main species table. If entirely new fields are required, these can be added as custom fields. Data fields are also inherited and displayed from the higher classification, family and genus tables.
Finding names and using taxa lookups

Family names

Family lookup.

When looking for a family name, for example in RDE or in the main the genus table, typing in the Find box selects matching family names - pressing Enter or double-clicking on the selected record selects the family at the top of the list and adds this to your data table. Note that you can also use the yellow grid filter boxes. Choosing a family will also add ranks above the family name (Order and higher classification fields) if these are available.

Genera

Genus lookup – you can add a few letters of the family and genus to locate the name quickly.

When looking for a genus name, for example in RDE or in the main the species table, typing in the Find box selects matching genus names - pressing Enter or double-clicking on the selected record selects the genus at the top of the list and adds to your data table. Note that you can also use the yellow grid filter boxes. Choosing a genus name will also add ranks above the genus name (Family and higher classification fields) if these are available. To optimise searching, you can add a few letters of the family and genus names. After some practice, you can learn to enter the minimum number of characters to reach the required record. Clearly, the more extensive the taxa dictionaries are, the more letters you will need to enter to select the correct record.

Species names

Species lookups – you can add a few letters of the genus and species epithets to locate the name quickly.
With species lookups, you can add a few genus and species epithet letters, experimenting with the optimal selection to get to required record. The right-side example is searching on the species epithet alone. Bear in mind that the yellow grid filters can also be used. As the species table is more complex than most, there are a number of other rules to consider to help locate names quickly, all requiring a little experimentation. As a rule, you can enter any part of any name epithet to locate a name. If you are explicitly looking for a plant cultivar name, add a single quote before the name or part of the cultivar name.

As these data are hierarchical, if you know the species, it is not necessary to use a lookup in the family or genus field as the species lookup will add data to all these fields as well as higher classification.

**Entering parts of name epithets, as shown above, can locate a name quickly**

**An example using a single quote to locate cultivar names starting with ‘whit’**

**Here some genus letters have also been added.**
Adding a new species

You can add new species to your database either directly or via Rapid Data Entry (RDE) files. RDE is normally used when you have many new names to add. In this example, add the new names directly into your database using the data grid and/or the species form.

If the new names are in families or genera not yet stored in BRAHMS, you need to add these first. For example, to add a new genus:

- Select Taxa > Genera and then use the Add option on the Data Tools toolbar to append a blank record.
- Select Edit on the Data Tools toolbar to switch to editing mode – then type in the new genus name.
- To select the family name, use the lookup function (F9 key) in the Family field.
- Now select Taxa > Species and then use the Add option on the Data Tools toolbar to append a blank record. Enable editing mode by selecting Edit on the Data Tools toolbar.
- New data can either be added directly to the data grid or using the species form opened using the Form option on the Data Tools toolbar.
- Using either the data grid or the form, add a few new species records, adding as much detail as you want.

Editing a species author name

For further details on this process, refer to the name strings section on Editing taxa author names.

Author name abbreviations are stored individually in the main People table. However, the author name compilations that link to taxonomic names come from the ‘Assembled name strings’ table. Both tables can be opened under the Management menu. Authors of taxa may consist of formatted combinations of names as in ‘(Poepp. ex Endl.) Tiegh.’. You can edit names from the grid or from the species form. Author names are held in a separate table and thus cannot be edited directly in the grid or form. You have to use a lookup function.

- Select Taxa > Species to open the species table and locate a species to edit. Ensure you are in Edit mode. Go to the species author field and in Edit mode, press the F9 key to activate a lookup.

Synonyms

A name may have one or more synonyms. Synonyms may, optionally, be marked with an appropriate taxon status (e.g. Syn or Synonym) and be assigned to a synonym category (homotypic, heterotypic, basionym as examples). The calculated field #Syns shows the total number of synonyms linked to a name.

The easiest way to make one name a synonym of another name is to use a lookup in the field Synonym Of.
In this example, *Podocarpus* currentname has 2 synonyms. The name *P. oldname1* also has 1 synonym linked.

Synonyms can be also listed and edited from Synonyms tab on the species form.

Synonym links can also be edited from the Synonyms tab on the species form.

Further details about synonyms can be added to the text fields Synonym Note and/or Nomenclature Note.

**Common names**

Common names can be linked to family records and to the main taxa table. A taxon entry may have numerous common names across its range and each these can be recorded with notes about name origin, meaning, language and folklore. Common names can be listed directly by open the common names table – or by using forms on the main species/entity tables. Names can be added directly to the table and/or from the forms.
The common names table has the following structure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field name</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tag</td>
<td>Standard field for tagging records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Del</td>
<td>Standard field for deletion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CollectionEventId</td>
<td>Link to a collection event (and thus location/species)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SpeciesId</td>
<td>Link to a taxon name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EntityId</td>
<td>Link to an entity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common name group</td>
<td>Names can be organised into groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common name</td>
<td>The common name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homonym</td>
<td>Differentiate between identical names</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name rank</td>
<td>A numeric code to rank names by preference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suppress</td>
<td>A flag to suppress (offensive) names when publishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>The language of the common name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dialect</td>
<td>The language dialect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>The source of the name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etymology</td>
<td>The meaning of the name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview</td>
<td>Notes on interview (e.g. with local people)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folklore</td>
<td>Name folklore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>Other comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GeoNote</td>
<td>Geographic notes (especially where no linked collection event)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fields</td>
<td>Standard audit field (who/when added/edited)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Text descriptions

Free text descriptions can be stored and linked to different taxa levels (currently family, genus, species and infra-taxa). Text can be added under any category such as Description, Distribution, Ecology, Uses, Conservation, Taxonomic notes, etc. You may want to store several descriptions for a species – from different sources. Each entry can be linked to a reference source.

With the species form open, select the Texts tab. You can add new entries as well as edit or delete existing entries.
To add a new entry, use the button adjacent to the species name.

All text entries are stored in a special table which you can also edit directly using Taxa > Taxa descriptions.

Further taxa options

Name editor

The name editor allows you to update all or tagged dependent names. For example, you may have a species named maxima in the genus Cattleya which is incorrectly spelt or has to be changed for another reason. The species may have dependent names (subspecies, varieties, formas, cultivars or ranks). This tool allows you to edit the name of the species (or any other selected rank below genus) for all or tagged records. You would use the tagged option if you were separating names into different groups.

A hypothetical example where the species named maxima in a particular genus could be quickly edited for all dependent names, in this case, a series of cultivars.

Orthographic checks

This tool provides a way to quickly check names that have potential spelling errors. It does this by sorting names A-Z and then checking for names with the number of character differences you select in the Match
**Tolerance** setting. Records which vary with 1 character are tagged 1. Those with 2-character differences are tagged 2, etc. After processing, a filter is set to show the tagged records.

An example check showing records with 1- and 2-character differences. It is then the decision of the person checking the data if the differences are valid or mistakes.

**Taxonomic Name Resolution Service (TNRS)**

The TNRS service provides another mechanism to check names. His is run from the main species table using the TNRS option on the Taxa toolbar.

To use this option, Tag the names to check, Select the TNRS option on the main Taxa menu and copy the names from the generated BRAHMS text area into the TNRS Names to Check box.
Listing all related taxa names using from the Infra+ tab

From the main species table, use the Infra+ tab on the species form to list all names with the same species epithet within the current genus. Here, you can also access descriptive text linked to any of the taxa in the list.

- Select Taxa > Species and then open the species form – then select the Infra+ tab.

Note that you can restrict the names listed to selected ranks. The fields displayed in the grid can be adjusted using a right-click on the grid header. The Taxon Descriptions option opens any text descriptions as available.

Extend tags to related infra taxa

The option Extend tags to related infra taxa will tag all records of names that belong to the same species as any currently tagged records.

In this example, all records of Abies Alba have been tagged based on the tagged record in the left screen.

Tag synonyms of tagged records

The taxa menu option Tag synonyms of tagged records tags synonyms of any tagged records.

In this example, synonyms of Dacrycarpus kinabulensis have been tagged.
**Collection events**

**Introduction**

Collection events refer to the data describing an item found in a specific place usually by a known person on a known date. A collection event may result in physical specimens (living or preserved). An event may also refer to an observation, a literature citation or any other source of data. Collection events themselves are not physical specimens.

To access collection events, select **Collections > Collection Events** on the main menu.

![Image of collection events table]

Some records from a typical events table. Events keep track of the collector(s), field number, collection date, locality as best known, descriptive text about the location, habitat and the item itself and the identification the item is known by (the ‘selected determination’). You will not find an accession number or barcode as these belong to physical specimens. Many other event fields are not visible in this screen.

![Image of collection events form]

The collection events Form provides access and editing tools for linked specimens and their determinations. With this event for a plant collection, there are 6 specimens distributed to various herbaria. The specimens are types with the holotype at Leiden. Each specimen may have 0 to many determinations.

**Collection categories**

The Category option on the Collection toolbar is used to further define the toolbar options for preserved specimens, living collections, seed banks and others. In all cases, data for the events themselves are stored in the same table.
Selecting a specific collection category alters the toolbar menu options.

Links to living collections and seed accessions
Collection events are also used to record the wild origin for living plants and the collection passport data for seed accessions. For example, in a botanic garden, if the wild origin of a plant is known, the living accession entry will be cross referenced to a collection event.

Geographic data, maps and elevation
The collection event location will be defined as accurately as possible. Details gathered from older specimens may be rather vague, to country level while these days, collections are often geo-referenced with pinpoint accuracy using a GPS map reading.

Locality names and the gazetteer table
Collection events link to an entry in the main gazetteer or places table which is opened and edited using Geo > Gazetteer. The gazetteer table stores a link to the country table and then the names of major and minor administrative areas and a locality name if known. Map and elevation data can be added. The gazetteer record may only have a country name – the other data may be unknown and left empty.

The collection event record has a link to the gazetteer locality. In the collection event table itself, you can store locality notes and map/elevation data. Map and elevation data stored here always take priority over these data in the linked gazetteer record.

Map data
The use the map editor is discussed in the relevant map section.

An example showing units in DMS (form banner) but stored in Decimal degree format.

Elevation
Elevation data are stored in m and if added to the grid, should be added in m. units. NB a new editor is being added to allow m or ft. On the Map point editor, elevation can be added in m or ft and if using ft, the data are auto-converted to m.
An example where the altitude is entered in ft but stored in m.

Selected determination

Collection event records include a species identification – and this name is known as the selected determination. An event may have one or more specimen vouchers – and each of these in turn may have one to many determinations. The name you choose to use for the event can be selected (see below under Determinations).

Projects and expeditions

The Projects/Expeditions table stores details on the start and end dates, funding, team members, deadlines and notes about projects and expeditions. Each entry can be assigned a short text code.

This table is mostly used to group together collections linked to a funded project - or all collections (preserved and/or living) made on a named field trip or expedition. An expedition may take place over a number of years.

Collection events can be linked to Project/Expedition records. The project/Expedition fields: Category, Project/Expedition Code, Project Name, and Team can be viewed in any table that has a relation to collection events including the Plant Acquisition and Plants tables.

Collection events can be linked to Project/Expedition records. They can also be viewed in related tables including plants and preserved specimens.

Project/Expedition records are linked to collection events using a lookup on any of the relevant Project/Expedition fields.
Museum and herbarium specimens

Preserved specimens

Specimen records

If a collection event leads to vouchers being taken, these specimens will eventually be deposited in a museum/herbarium collection. They may be formally mounted and incorporated to the collection. Examples are birds, insects, fungi, ferns, higher plants – or indeed any form of preserved natural history collection.

Each specimen is linked to one collection event. Many of the fields seen in the specimen table data grid are inherited and displayed from the collection events table. However, others are specific to the specimen including the category of specimen, the institute code where it is deposited, accession number, barcode and various other fields including details for type material.

The options for specimens are available when you select the category ‘Preserved Specimen’ on the Collections menu.

Adding/editing specimens

Specimens can be added to the specimen table directly using the standard Add option on Data Tools.

Adding a specimen directly to the specimen table.
Alternatively, you can add a new specimen when using the collection events form.

**Duplicates**

Sometimes, material is duplicated to more than one institution, especially the case with plant material. In this case, there will be two or more specimen records linked to the same collection event but with different specimen level details (where deposited, barcode, etc.). There is no limit to the number of duplicates you may store for a single collection.

A collection with 4 specimens deposited at different institutions. The related event record is stored once. Only one of the specimens has a barcode.

**Specimen and type categories**

These lists are held in separate tables.
Museum boxes and folders

Some museums (including herbaria) organize material in boxes which may have barcodes and location details.

Example list of barcoded boxes with a filter set to show contents with Lichens. Screen taken from Naturalis herbarium database.

In herbaria, specimens are organised into folders – and these folders themselves may be barcoded and registered in your database. The folders may be in a known box. Individual specimens can be associated with a folder.
Determinations

Introduction

The identification of a specimen may change. An expert in the taxa group may provide a new name, perhaps on a museum visit or by returning a loan. When a new determination is provided, a determination record is added to the specimen. This is better than editing the existing determination record as it ensures that previous dets are maintained.

A collection with several specimens may accumulate different determinations linked to each specimen. A decision must be taken as to which name to select as the correct one. This is referred to as the selected det and the name is stamped into the collection event.

Editing specimen determinations

The collection event form includes options to add, delete and edit determination records.

After adding a new determination record, you have the option to set this determination as the ‘current determination’ of the specimen. Also, using the option Set as Selected Collection Event Det, you can choose the determination as the name to use for the collection event itself.

To access the determinations table directly from the main collection menu, ensure you have the category ‘Preserved Specimen’ selected then select the Determinations option.
# BRAHMS for Botanic Gardens

**Introduction**

The living collections module within BRAHMS manages data and related media for botanic gardens, arboreta and other horticultural projects. The module, which already takes advantage of all standard features to edit, query, report, map, export and publish online, adds comprehensive features for garden accessions and plants and their management. As these data are fully integrated within BRAHMS, it becomes possible to develop a comprehensive system for both management and research.

| **Taxa** | An infrastructure of taxa from higher classification down to infra-specific levels, cultivars and hybrids. Storing synonymy, common names, trade names, groups, series, grexes, patent IDs, descriptions, native distribution, hardiness, shade tolerance, water requirements, conservation status and further horticultural details. |
|**Gardens** | Garden name(s) and details, especially useful for multi-site projects where each garden/site may have its own configuration requirements. |
|**Garden Layout** | Garden locations are recorded from defined garden areas or theme zones down to pinpoint map locations with options to record bed, grid numbering and map shape files. |
|**Institutions** | Comprehensive lists of institutions and addresses of suppliers and donors or those receiving material through purchase or transaction exchanges. |
|**Accessions** | Storage of accession records including details of the type and quantity of material received, who and where from, the original or derived source, and the initial identification. |
|**Propagation** | Propagation details for all plants including cuttings, grafts and seed - linking this to production propagation to supply garden plants. |
|**Plant records** | Storing plant records, linked to accessions, with all details of plants in the garden from planting out to their disposal, loss or death. |
|**Plant events** | Events for plants. Examples are plant maintenance and stock-checks; name changes; observations on leaf flush, flowering, fruiting, disease and cause of death. |
|**Plant requests** | Requests are logged in the plant management requests file with their ongoing status. |
|**Label requests** | A table showing label requests, pending or otherwise, used to control label print runs. |
|**Transactions** | The management of incoming material, garden exchanges and other transaction categories as defined. |
|**Collection Events** | Details about what was collected when, where and by who. Collection events are used to record the wild origin of plants and other collected material such as herbarium specimens. An herbarium specimen or other material with garden origin will have an event linked to a garden plant. |
|**Vouchers** | Vouchers and related materials can be stored for original wild collections and/or established garden plants. |
|**Images and Documents** | Images and documents associated with Accessions, Plants, Vouchers, Transactions, etc. These can be physical files or media library URLs. |
|**Legal/Permits** | Details of all permits and related documentation for the acquisition, use and exchange of material, evidence of due diligence and restriction requirements. |

*Summary of the key components used in the living collections module.*
Changing the collection category to Living Collection reveals the relevant menu options for these data.

The key tables and relationships associated with the Living Collections module.

**Getting started with the living collections module**

There are a number of procedures to consider to get started and to optimise your use of this module:

*Import default living collection lookup lists*

You can import (from Excel) commonly used lookup values related to living collections. These will be added to your custom lookup dictionary.

The Plant and Acquisition tables have many fields suitable for use with custom lookups. You can use these to speed up and standardise data entry and editing tasks. By defining custom lookups, you can force users to select from pre-defined lists rather than type in free text. An example would be with plant status codes where
you may establish a list with values Alive, Lost, Dead, Disposed and Not Found. Another example is with Provenance Type. Most gardens use a standard coding system: W, G, Z, U. As these are single letters, frankly it’s faster to type in the letter rather than use an elaborate lookup. However, you will probably not want a user to add an incorrect value such as ‘Y’ and the lookup system can also prevent wayward entries by enforcing selections. Different projects have their own coding system. Normally, you will want to ensure that if a value is selected, it comes from your list of options rather than being entered as free text. This keeps the database in good shape and avoids multiple entries that refer to the same thing.

Most gardens share a common set of lookup values for many standard fields, for example U W G or Z for Provenance Type.

Details on managing lookup lists are provided in the section on Lookup lists.

Acquisition and Plant ID numbering

The setup options for these are discussed in the relevant sections below.

Keeping your species data in good shape

Information about taxonomic names from higher levels down to infra-specific ranks is provided in the main taxa section of this guide. For botanic gardens and horticultural projects, the priorities for name management tend to be different to museum and research projects. There is a greater emphasis on storing names of cultivated plants, hybrids, common and trade names for families and species, succinct descriptions of the natural distribution of taxa and their horticultural properties. You can store as many facts about species as you want. For example, you can add multiple common names, conservation status, CITES and red list details, range, habit and hardiness.
Acquisition records
(previously known as Accession records)

Acquisitions vs Plants

Left. An Acquisition may lead to several garden plants. Right. A selection of the fields available in the main acquisition record.

Acquisition records were previously known as Accession records in BRAHMS. They include details of the type and quantity of material received; from who and where from; the ‘received as’ species name; its wild origin if known; and other details about the material, as available.

To see all the fields available, the best procedure is to select Collections > Acquisitions, assuming the Category ‘Living collections’ has been selected, then select Grid Tools > Manage Columns. Here you can scroll down the entire field list. An acquisition record is always one species. Once processed and propagated as needed, perhaps over several years, an acquisition will then potentially lead to one or more garden plants.

Acquisition numbering

Acquisition numbering systems vary from project to project. A common approach is to use a sequential number combined with the acquisition year, for example 2015-01, 2015-02, ... .

Acquisition number formatting is controlled from the settings on System > Options > Living Collections > Acquisitions. Here, you can opt for free text entry (no rules) or choose from a set of rules to define numbering. These rules apply when new acquisition IDs are added to the system.

Adding a new Acquisition record

To add a new Acquisition record, open the main Acquisitions table on the Collections menu and use the Add option. You can optionally do this with the form opened. The Acquisition ID will be auto-calculated depending on your configuration settings. The number of fields you add is optional but minimally, you should add the species name. For this it is best to use the lookup for the Received As Species name as this will also set the Current Species Name which can be edited if different.
Locating a species is efficient, even when you have many 1000s of names. Refer to the section on locating species names for some hints.

If you want to record determination edits more formally, use the Identification tab on the Acquisition form. Here, you can record multiple names for an Acquisition, with details of who provided the name changes.

Source/Wild origin

The source/wild origin of an acquisition can be registered from the Source/Origin Tab on the acquisition form. This links the acquisition to a an existing or a new collection event. The acquisition record also has text fields to describe the origin.

Supplier/donor details

The names and address of institutions, plant and seed suppliers, and others you have links to are added to the main address table under Management > Address Book. The table can be edited directly in the data grid and/or using the form.
An example entry in the Address Book

A section of the Acquisition table form showing the lookup option for supplier names.

**Calculated fields for accessions**

As with many other tables, the Acquisition table has some handy calculated fields which can be updated using the **Recalculate** option on the Data Tools toolbar. Calc fields can be selectively enabled using Manage Columns or you can view them all using **#Calc Fields** on the Grid Tools toolbar.
An example showing some of the calculated fields in the main acquisition table, here sorted by the total number of linked plant records.

**Plant summaries per acquisition**

A quick way to view all plant records for a given acquisition is to use the **Plant Summary** tab on the Acquisition form. This provides a summary of the acquisition origin and a grid list of the plant records.

The visible plant list fields can be adjusted by right-clicking on the grid header. Grid filters can be used.
Propagation

Introduction

New plant acquisitions (seed, bulbs, cuttings, living plants or another types of propagule) may be planted directly into a collection in the garden or kept in propagation to grow on before moving to a permanent garden site. Plant material, clonal or otherwise, may be collected from existing garden plants to further propagate.

All propagation records are managed in a single table opened under Collections > Propagation.

Propagation data

The propagation table can be used to store basic production propagation data and/or more detailed records known as trials. Propagation records are linked to a plant acquisition or to a known plant. The details recorded for each propagation record depend on the type of material being propagated.

Some details are common to all types of propagation. These fields include: Initial material condition; start and completion dates; propagated by, for who and date required; quantity requested; finish height and container size; propagation location; start and finish quantity; result % and result quality; container type and number.

When adding new prop records, a Propagation number is auto added. Other details are specific to the type of material being propagated.

Propagation lookups

To bring the propagation module to life, you will want to ensure you lookup dictionary is appropriately updated. With appropriate access rights, you can add lookups for any of the prop fields either directly from the propagation table (Edit option dropdown) or from the lookup list manager on the Management menu.

Adding / editing lookup values from prop table directly. Further information about editing lookups is provide in the section on setting your lookup data.

Lookup options for propagation can also be imported from Excel. Sample data can be provided by the BRAHMS project on request.

Propagation location field names

In addition to the main propagation location name (e.g. a nursery or greenhouse name), you can define up to 6 additional propagation location headings, examples are Sub Area, Bench, Row, Frame, ...

To define these, select System > Options > Living Collections > Prop Location labels
Unwanted propagation location headings can be hidden.

Your selected propagation locations fields will appear in the main grid and on the form.

**Seed, Cuttings, Grafts**

**Seed propagation**

For seed propagation, the form provides a way to keep track of how seed is processed and the germination/emergence success rates. The number of days between stratification treatments and the % germination success are auto-calculated.

An example showing more stratification and Emergence records.
Cuttings propagation

Some of the fields provided for cuttings.

Graft propagation

Some of the fields provided for grafts.

Extending the propagation table structure

Using the Grid Tools > Manage Columns > Custom Columns option, you can extend the structure of the main propagation table, adding custom fields as needed.

A text field 'My Propagation Notes' has been added and positioned below the field Propagation Number.
**Propagation to plants**

From the propagation table form, when in **Edit** mode, you can **Add plants** to the garden. This function uses the standard plant addition form which allows you to choose the number of plants, their location(s) and label requirements. When plant records are added, the Propagation Number is added to the plant record(s) – providing a link from the plant back to its propagation origin.

![Image of Brahms software interface](image)

**Generating new plant records directly from the propagation table.**

The Propagation Number field in the main plants table provides a link back to the origin propagation record.

**Adding propagation records from the plant table**

You can also add propagation records directly from the plant table. This would be used when gathering seed, cuttings or other material directly from plants in your garden. In Edit mode, select the **Propagation tab** on the plant form.

This option allows you to select the propagation material *e.g.* cuttings and then opens the main propagation form. The parent plant is added to the propagation record. Further propagation details can be added later by editing the propagation record in the prop table.
Adding a propagation record directly from the plants table.

The parent plant ID is added to the propagation table.
Gardens, Garden locations and plant locations

Introduction

The garden location setup allows for single and multi-site gardens.

Garden plants can be linked to a garden location record. These location records are in turn linked to garden records thus creating a hierarchy. Gardens and garden locations can have map references and map shapes files, the name of the responsible curator and other details as appropriate.

The way the garden location tables and fields are used varies by project. Different gardens have their own way of classifying the locations, their purpose and sub-divisions.

Gardens

The gardens table is opened using the Gardens option on the main Collections menu (when in living collections mode). As discussed below, you can associate a user with an entry in this table, restricting their access to data from other gardens.

The Garden table is essentially a list of gardens used by your project. A single garden site will have one entry here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Name</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tag</td>
<td>Standard tagging field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Del</td>
<td>Standard deletion field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#Images</td>
<td>Calculated field: number of linked images</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Name</td>
<td>Name of the garden site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Code</td>
<td>Code if one is provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Status</td>
<td>Status code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curator</td>
<td>Name of area curator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fields</td>
<td>Standard audit fields</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Restricting access by garden

In multi-site projects, they may be a requirement to restricted access and editing rights on a user by user basis. For this purpose, the main User table has options to manage these restrictions if required.

Under System > Manage Users and Permissions use a lookup option to associate a user with a selected garden name/code. If you select Allow Garden Section, that user would be able to override the selected garden name. Otherwise, the user will be restricted to see and edit data from their assigned garden.
Garden localities

The garden localities table is opened using the Garden Locations option on the main Collections menu (when in living collections mode). These records can be linked to the garden entries as discussed above using a lookup in the Garden Name field. Localities can be classified into functional areas, categorised into zones and assigned a garden locality code. Further fields are defined below.

Locations can also be assigned a Locality Classification which can be used to indicate the overall purpose of the location. The examples above are provided by The Morton Arboretum.
Using locality table form, you can list plants per location. A Right Click on the form grid header allows you to choose the visible fields. Moving through the main grid updates the plant list.

Using locality table form, you can map plants per location. Moving through the main grid updates the map. Various options are provided to filter plants on the form. The garden locations form can also draw shapes (garden areas) based on the file name added to field KML File.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Name</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tag</td>
<td>Standard tagging field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Del</td>
<td>Standard deletion field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#Living Alive</td>
<td>Calculated field: number of linked plants with status Alive (or equivalent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#Living Other</td>
<td>Calculated field: number of linked plants with status other than Alive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#Families</td>
<td>Calculated field: number of families in location (from plant record links)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#Genera</td>
<td>Calculated field: number of genera in location (from plant record links)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#Taxa</td>
<td>Calculated field: number of taxa in location (from plant record links)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#Wild Derived</td>
<td>Calculated field: number of plants with Provenance Type = W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#Cultivated derived</td>
<td>Calculated field: number of plants with Provenance Type = Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#Images</td>
<td>Calculated field: number of linked images</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Name</td>
<td>Name of the parent garden (from Garden table)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Code</td>
<td>Garden code — optional (from Garden table)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locality Classification</td>
<td>For example, Landscape collection, Horticultural collection, ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Area Name</td>
<td>Name of a garden sub-division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Location Name</td>
<td>Name of the garden location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Location Code</td>
<td>Location code if one is provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location Status</td>
<td>Status code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspect</td>
<td>Location aspect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grid</td>
<td>Location grid reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latitude/Longitude</td>
<td>Map reference fields also with datum, resolution, origin...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevation</td>
<td>Min and Max altitude</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KML file | Shape file
Prefix | Text prefix for area name (can be used in e.g. reports)
Curator | Name of area curator
Comments | Comments
Audit fields | Standard audit fields

**Plant table location fields**

In addition to the above location options which store details about garden areas – more precise details are added to the plant table itself. Different gardens have their own system for recording plant locations using up to 6 subarea fields which can be defined using the configuration option.

An example Plants table showing some of the location fields, sorted by Location name + Grid + Sub Grid. NB. Use Shift Click on header fields to sort on multiple fields.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Name</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garden Name</td>
<td>From Gardens table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location Name</td>
<td>From parent garden locations table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subarea 1</td>
<td>As configured (see below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subarea 2</td>
<td>As configured (see below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subarea 3</td>
<td>As configured (see below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subarea 4</td>
<td>As configured (see below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subarea 5</td>
<td>As configured (see below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subarea 6</td>
<td>As configured (see below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sequence</td>
<td>Sequence (e.g. for inventory or trail)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latitude /Longitude</td>
<td>Map reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevation</td>
<td>Min/Max altitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Location Notes</td>
<td>Free text</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Garden location subareas**

The plant table itself has 6 plant location properties that can be used to manage plant locations in your gardens. These fields are, by default, named Subarea 1 - 6 and sit below Garden->Area->Locality in the location hierarchy. You can rename some or all of these fields to suit your own purposes. You can also disable (remove) these fields from use in grids and forms or make them visible or hidden as required in data grid views. For example, your garden may use a grid location system so you may want to rename Subarea 1 to ‘Grid’ and Subarea 2 to ‘Sub-grid’. You might then disable the other Subarea fields.
Configuring the plants table locality fields.

Plant records

Introduction

The main plant file stores details of all plants that are or have been growing in the garden with details including the plant status (alive, disposed, etc.), planting date, garden location, vouchering, label requirements, identification changes, commemoration or sponsorship details, and mortality details.

Plant records in turn are linked to an acquisition record which holds all the information about the origin of the plant, the supplier and/or wild origin, its propagation history and the species/identification.

Plant numbering

Plant numbering is treated in a similar way to acquisition numbering although there are several different options. For example, you can use the Acquisition ID as the basis for the Plant ID or you can use various types of incrementing numbers such as Plant year + Incrementing sequence for that year. Plants can use numbers or letters when in sequences.
Editing the plant table

Adding new plant records

Editing plant records

Opened from Collections > Plants - assuming the Category Living collections has been selected. In Edit mode, all non-lookup fields can be edited directly in the grid or on the form.

A plant grid with a filter set on a single Acquisition. This Acquisition has several clones planted in different grid areas. Only a selection of the available plant table fields is visible in this screen. Field views are set using Grid Tools > Manage Columns.

The Plant table form opened. As there have been unsaved edits, the form has a red surround and the Save Changes option is enabled. This form has several tabs with different functions.
Plant status

Introduction

The plant status field is a key data field in the plants table as it informs whether a plant is alive/active or otherwise. The process of editing this field is often referred to as deading/resurrecting plants. Deading is when a plant is deemed to be dead, lost or otherwise disposed of. Resurrecting is when a ‘dead plant’ is re-discovered and/or found to be alive.

Configuration for Alive status

As certain calculations refer to the plant status code, BRAHMS has to know which code you use to represent a living plant in the plant record Living Status field, for example ‘L’, ‘A’ or ‘Alive’. To edit this code or text, select System > Options > Living Collections.

Setting status codes for accessions and plants. The code for living plants is used by BRAHMS with a number of calculations and settings. The code for dead/disposed is less important in this setup bearing in mind that you may have several codes representing dead, disposed, not found, etc.

Hide dead plants by default

The option Default to displaying living plant records only is used to hide non-living plants by default when the plant table is opened. This setting can be over-ridden when in the plants table itself.

When working on the main Plant table, you can override the default setting to view living plant only (if this has been selected).

Registering status values in your lookup list

You should the values you want to use to the LivingStatus field in your Lookup dictionary. There is no limit to the number of added values, the simplest approach being to add one value to represent living and another for dead. However, you may wish to refine the codes for non-living, for example lost, disposed, etc. You can use codes or words up to 15 characters in length.

An example lookup with just two entries. To understand how to edit these values, refer to the section on editing your lookup lists.
Registering reasons for changing plant status
Separately to the living status codes themselves, you need to register the reasons for changing plant status. When editing plant status, often referred to as deading and resurrecting, the system enforces you to provide a reason. The reason you provide may be simply be ‘Deading’ and ‘Resurrecting’. On the other hand, you may wish to provide a more detail list of options.

Example entries added to the lookup list.

Confirming or changing plant status
The plant status field cannot be edited directly in the data grid. This is to enforce users to provide a reason for the edit. Thus, a small form is used to add the change reason and optionally, add some additional notes. It is also useful to record who made the edit and when. All changes to this field are logged as plant events, thus keeping a record of all status changes made to a given plant. To edit the status, you can:

- use a lookup in the data grid field;
- use the option provided on the Plant Form;
- use the Dead/Resurrect tool on the main Collections menu.

Each of these options leads to the same tool to edit plant status. However, when accessing the tool from the plant form, you can only edit the current plant record. Accessing the tool using either of the other options allows you to edit the current or all tagged records.
In this database, the status codes used are L for Live/active and D for dead/inactive. You can apply a change to a single record or skip through all tagged records. When editing tagged records, you can set the status change reason for each plant.

You can also use this option to confirm plant status. If the plant status is not edited, the Change button stays as Confirm. A plant status event confirm event is added.

All plant status changes are recorded as plant events. The Events tab on the plant form can be set to show status changes only.

**Plant stock quantities and adjustments**

Plant stocks refer here to the quantity of individual plants for a given Plant ID rather than the number of plants in an acquisition group. A single Plant ID may refer to a group of plants which may subsequently be split up and
planted out to different locations, thus receiving their own plant IDs. Some plants may also be distributed in a transaction to another garden or institution.

**Plant stock data fields**

Plant stock quantities are stored in the plant table fields:

- **Initial Stock**: refers to the initial number of plants represented by a single plant ID record
- **Stock Removed**: the amount a stock deducted in one or more activities (splits, transactions)
- **Remaining Stock**: a calculated field based on the above fields.

Column selection in the plants table with a filter on ‘stock’.

A series of plant records showing stock levels with a filter set to initial stock > 5

**Manually adjusting stock levels**

You may need to manually adjust stock levels following stock checking. This is done using the Stock Check option on the Collections Toolbar.
Reasons for altering stock levels can be entered. You can process a series of tagged records. All adjustments are added to the plant events table.

Plant locations in garden
A description of plant location data is provided in the Garden Areas and Locations section.

Moving tagged plants
To change the location of a single plant, you can simply edit the location data from the plant table grid or form. To move multiple plants from one location to another, it will be quicker to tag the plants to move and then select the option Tag -> Move... on the main Collection toolbar.

The tag -> Move option is only enabled if one or more plant records is tagged.

An example plant move form. When plants are moved, the Tag is updated to 'M'.

Managing plant identifications
Verification of names
Name verification is important as it provides visible details about when a plant identification was verified – together with the quality of the verification. Verifications vary in their reliability, for example, they may be based on sterile material rather than fertile.
Verifications are added as plant events. The most recent verification record is also added to the plant table itself as shown below:

All verifications are added to the plant events table and can be viewed from the plant form:

Note that the Events tab has the option to restrict the event list to Verifications only.

Setting up the events lookups for verifications
In order to use the verification system, you must set up the plant event lookups following the pattern below. You can change all the values except the EventType must be ‘Identification’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LookupValue</th>
<th>ParentCategory</th>
<th>FieldName</th>
<th>SortOrder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identification</td>
<td></td>
<td>EventType</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Verification</td>
<td>Identification</td>
<td>EventGroup</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial Verification</td>
<td>Identification</td>
<td>EventGroup</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sterile Material</td>
<td>Partial Verification</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Specialist</td>
<td>Partial Verification</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor specimen</td>
<td>Partial Verification</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By specialist</td>
<td>Full Verification</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unambiguous species</td>
<td>Full Verification</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Editing verifications
Verifications are done using the Verify Name… option on the Collections menu toolbar. If name verification status is changed, you can request new labels if required. The verification form also has a Change … option top right providing access to the name change form.

**Changing identification**

The identification (i.e. taxa name) of a garden plant is held in the parent Acquisition record. If an Acquisition has multiple plants cloned across a garden, these will have the same identification. If you edit the identification of an Acquisition record, this will change the name of all plants related to that Acquisition.

Within the plant table itself, there are further plant identification options. These allow you to:

- **a)** Confirm a plant ID is correct (true to name).
- **b)** Edit the name of the plant(s) belonging to the Acquisition. If there is more than one plant, they will all be changed.
- **c)** Decide that a one or more plants linked to an Acquisition has/have the wrong name and separate it/these to a new Acquisition.
If a name is confirmed, a confirmation event is added to the plant Events table including the date and confirmation person. All plant events, including confirmations, are listed from the Events tab.

If changing a plant name, appropriate warnings are given if there is > 1 plant linked to the same Acquisition. If there are > 1 plants and you opt to split the Acquisition, a new Acquisition record is auto-added with the newly selected species name and the selected plant is linked to this new Acquisition.

**Bulk name changes**

In the event that a species name is changed in the main taxa table, this may require that one to many living collection acquisition records are also changed. The species change may impact on all or only some of the related acquisitions. For example, a species may become a synonym of another name or it may be split to different taxa.

To update acquisition records, open the living acquisitions table and select the **Bulk Name Changes** option on the Collections menu toolbar.

**Bulk Name Change form**

Using the options provided opposite the existing name, you can lookup the name to be changed, set that name to the name of the current acquisition record, and filter the acquisitions to the currently selected name.
After selecting the New Name, you can then select Change to update the acquisition identifications for all or tagged records.

A prompt asks you to confirm the name change.

When acquisitions are changed, the records are tagged ‘N’ and a determination record is added for each edited record. Also, the relevant plant records are tagged ‘N’ and a name change event is added to each plant. The plant record tags can then be used to control label printing as required. Plants are edited regardless of their living status.

Collecting vouchers from garden plants
Specimens may be collected from garden plants for reference, checking identification and for other research purposes. Links can be created between the garden plant and the Collection Event tables allowing you to track which plants have vouchers. Vouchers may be of any type (herbarium specimens, DNA, wood samples, fruit or flower specimens, etc). These links are cross referenced within BRAHMS.

A given garden plant may have many vouchers collected over time. The flowering and fruiting status of collections can be added, thus helping you to determine if further collections should be made.

Vouchers are linked to plants using options provided on the Living Collections Plant Form Identification tab.

The plant table and form showing the Identification > Plant Vouchers tab. This plant has 5 linked vouchers. Options are provided to Link and Unlink vouchers. In this example, a filter has been set on the calculated field #Voucher Total to show plant records with >= 3 vouchers.

Linking vouchers will open the form to locate a collection event. If the collection event has 1 or more linked specimens, these will all be added to the plant – voucher list.

Calculated fields for plant records
The species and plant tables have a number of plant-related calculated fields refreshed using the Recalculate option on the Data Tools toolbar. As with all tables, you can either selectively add calculated fields using Grid Tools > Manage Columns or switch them all on using #Calc Fields on the Grid Tools toolbar.
An example in the main species table where the calculated fields #Living Alive is set to visible. This calculates the number of living plants per species. Calculated fields are updated using the Recalculate option on the Data Tools menu.

**Sponsorship, commemoration and tributes**

Individual plants can have commemoration texts added.

It would also be possible to design and save a data grid field view showing the relevant fields as shown here. This would allow sorting, filtering and rapid editing of these fields.

**Tagging in the plant table**

The use of tags in the plants table is fundamental to many operations. Tagging in general is described in the manual section on Tagging functions. A few example uses of tags are provided here.
Using tag groups with plant records

The **Tag Groups function** can usefully be used with plants to create groups of plants of special interest. Any selection of plant records can be tagged and this then used to create a named plant group.

Tagging plants based on tags in other tables

Another handy feature used throughout BRAHMS is the **Tags > Transfer Tags** tool which transfers tags from a table to any related tables. Thus, you may have a set of tagged records in the species table (perhaps restored from a tag group you have created such as ‘Native taxa’). You can then use **Tags > Transfer Tags** to copy the tags to all plant records of the tagged species. Read about [transferring tags](#).

Plant Events

**Introduction**

Living collection plant event records are used to record things that happen to plants from their acquisition through to death or disposal. Examples are plant status changes, plant movements, fertilizing, mulching, making safe, spraying and tree surgery. You can also store observations such as flowering and fruiting times. As each event has a date, these can later be reviewed and used to analyse phenological and other patterns.

Events are stored in a separate file linked to the main plant file. A plant record may have many registered events, sorted chronologically. Although stored in a separate table, all events can be quickly listed from the main plant form.

The events table is often the largest and most actively edited table in the living collections module. The choice of which events to record is entirely a decision for each project.

**Event categories and other fields**

Events are categorised in a user defined, 3-level hierarchy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PlantID</strong></th>
<th>The event record displays some fields from the parent Plant file including the ID itself, the species location.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Event Types</strong></td>
<td>This is the top grouping level – thus there will usually be a small number of entries. Examples are Inventory, Maintenance and Observation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Event Groups</strong></td>
<td>These are division of the main event types. Thus, for maintenance, you may have entries such as Fertilizer, Herbicide and Mulching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Events</strong></td>
<td>These are the final category which would be, for example, the different types of mulching such as bark-chips, pine-needles or limestone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Event Date</strong></td>
<td>Separate into Day Month and Year fields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Result</strong></td>
<td>Where relevant, a text or numeric entry relating to the event, for example a measurement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Registering your event categories in the lookup list

Entries for all three levels should be registered in your lookup list.

Sample lookup list entries for plant events.

Typically, the top-level Event Type will consist of a short list. One of the entries may be ‘Maintenance’. This is the top level in the event hierarchy. Note that the Field Name is set to Event Type and there is no entry needed in the Parent Value field.

Event Groups are also registered in the lookup list. Each entry has an Event Type as a parent. The parent event type is added to Parent Value field as shown above. The example here lists entries for ‘maintenance’. One of the maintenance-related entries is ‘mulch’. Note that for ‘mulch’, the Field Name is set to Event Group and the Parent Value is set to ‘Maintenance’. Finally, the entries for the field Event are listed, here for ‘mulch’. Note that the Field Name is set to Event and in this case the Parent Value is set to ‘mulch’.

This set up will then allow you to correct use the lookup options when adding and editing events.

Editing Plant Events

Events can be edited directly from the main Plant Events table opened using Collections > Plant Events.

Events can be added and edited directly in the events table. If you add a new record, you are prompted for the plant ID. Several fields from the plants table are displayed but cannot be edited in the events table.

Alternatively, you can edit events using the main plants table form - Events tab.
When using this form, events are listed for the current plant record and these update as you move through the data grid. You can add and edit events here too.

When editing events, the lookup option for the event entry uses a hierarchical value selector. The top Find option allows you to enter efficient strings and with some practice, you can minimise typing to locate the required entry. The example here uses ‘m’ to restrict to maintenance, ‘c’ to restrict to chemical and then ‘h’ to find herbicide. Clearly, how you search will depend on the values added to your look up list.

Creating an RDE table for plant events

While events can be added directly to the database, if there are many events to add, it will be faster to use an RDE file plant events file. This is a spreadsheet which can be edited, checked and then imported to your database. The process of using RDE (Rapid Data Entry) is described elsewhere in this guide.

There are two ways to create RDE plant event files:

a) Create a file directly in the RDE manager using Rapid Data Entry > Create new RDE file, choosing the category ‘Plant Events’.

b) In the main living plants table, use the tool Tag -> Events RDE which can be found on the Collections menu.

The advantage of using the collection tools option Tag -> Events RDE is that the RDE file is created pre-populated with the plant records you want to record data for.

- Open the main plants table using Collections > Plants (this assumes the collection category is set to ‘Living Collection’).
- Tag the records to include. Typically, this may be for a selected garden area. To do this, apply a filter for a selected garden area (or several garden areas) – and then use Tag > Tag all.
- You can now use the Collection menu tools option Tag -> Events RDE.
Use Tag -> Events RDE to create an RDE file pre-populated with the plant records you want to work with. This file can then be edited with the event details (observations, maintenance, annotations, status checks, etc.). After checking, the file can then be transferred to BRAHMS.

Transferring Event RDE files to BRAHMS

When you import a plant events file to BRAHMS, the new events will be added and linked to the correct plant records based on the Plant ID. If the Plant ID is not located, the event record will not be imported.

As well as adding events with the event type, group and event, RDE event files can also be used to:

- Change plant status (Alive, Dead, Lost, etc.)
- Change plant identification
- Indicate that a label is required

Plant requests

Requests (plant actions requested) can be logged in the plant request file. Request lookup selections are managed in the same way as events, replacing the Field Name as appropriate. As the lookup lists for requests and events may differ, these are added to the lookup list separately. Requests can be edited directly from the main Plant Requests table opened using Collections > Requests. Alternatively, you can edit requests from the main plants table using the Requests tab on the form.
Producing plant labels

Introduction

As a rule, two main categories of labels are produced in botanic gardens: Engraved labels and those printed on special paper/plastic for potting and similar, both of these often on specialised printers. Both categories may have several sub-types based on the precise type of label needed, including label size. This section discusses all aspects of label production from the initial request to the final production.

Some key points:

- Using the in-built reporter, labels can be printed directly from BRAHMS or saved to one of several formats such as Excel or PDF. These reports will be based on one or more report templates that you design.
- Data for labels can alternatively be exported directly to Excel, based on one or more data grid column views. Such exports may be required for certain types of engraving printers.
- You can add as many label categories as you need, each associated with a report template or a data view. These are stored in a dedicated Labels table.
- Labels are often required, not only for new plants but when plants change name, have their name verified, or are split to new areas. The tools that offer these functions in BRAHMS include a direct link to label production for the relevant plants.
- Labels can be printed directly or alternatively, added to a central label request table. Direct printing bypasses the label requests table. The enabling of direct printing is an option in the labels table.
- Permissions can be assigned on a user by user basis as to who is allowed to request labels. Thus, a garden with many horticultural staff may wish to restrict this function to selected users and thus more tightly control the build-up of e.g. engraved label requests.
- Labels added as requests are processed from the request file and their status changed from pending to processed.

Setup options and label types

As a first step, you need to register your categories of label in the Label table. Select Collections > Labels to open this table. This assumes you are using collection category ‘Living Collection’.

Some example entries in the label table.

The report output template (.mrt) files and/or any data grid column view (.dgc) files must be stored in the application’s Shared\Report Templates folder. The order labels are present on BRAHMS forms can be controlled (see below). To link .mrt or .dgc files, use a lookup in the Output Template Filename field.
When using a lookup, select the file type you are looking for (.mrt or .dgc)

The reporting options integrated with BRAHMS are described in the reporting section of this guide.

You can design multiple reporting templates for different categories of label and either print directly or export to different formats.

**Permission settings**

A permission setting is provided on the User Access and Permissions form, Specific Actions tab to allow a user to request labels.

If this option is not set, users will be able to use direct label printing but will not be allowed to add requests to the label request table.

**Requesting labels**

Label requests can be made directly when adding new plants and also using the Request labels... option on the Collection tools menu when the plants table is opened.

**Adding new plants**
Your label categories, as registered above, are listed on all forms that have a link to label printing, here Add Plants. Labels are listed in the order as specified in your label table. You can choose the number of labels to print per label category per new plant.

The Print/Request labels… toolbar option in the plants table allows you to run through all or all tagged records, choosing the label requests. You can also apply the same request to all tagged plant records. The Request option can disabled on a user by user basis by adjusting the user permissions.
When direct printing is enabled, the print option appears on the label form.

Processing label requests

When labels are requested, they are added to the plant requests table. The requests table can be opened in a special mode for processing label requests.

Pending label requests are displayed in this table together with the label type and quantity.

To process these pending requests, select the Print labels… option.

The print option asks you to select which category of label to print.

Processing Report generated labels

Assuming you have added the report template, that template will be added to the Output to text box and you proceed to print. Otherwise, you will have to use the lookup option to select a template. Labels can be printed directly or saved to one of several file formats.

Processing Engraved label requests
Choose a label category for engraved labels.

Selecting ‘Output to’ will prompt you to choose a saved .dgc file. Refer to the section on creating an engraved label view. Note that you need to change the file type selector to .dgc.

After selecting Print, save the Excel file as prompted in the required folder.
Images and Documents

Images

Images can be linked directly to species, garden plants or indeed, to any other database record. Physical image files can be stored in any accessible location. You can also link images as URLs. Images can also be added via RDE and you can import images from Excel. For more details, refer to the image section of this guide.

Image management is discussed in the image section.

Documents

Multiple documents of any type can be linked to taxa, accessions, plants or any record in BRAHMS. Examples are material transfer agreements, collection permits or perhaps a video or slideshow linked to a botanic garden greenhouse record. Refer to the section on linking documents.

Adding phenological observations

Introduction

The phenology options enable you to record phenology events for individual plant records. These are indicated by adding the present or absence of a selected phenology event by date. Any phenology event can be registered, examples being flowering, fruiting, seed set and leaf flush. Phenology events can then be summarised by month.

Setup options

Register event lookup options

Events in BRAHMS are stored in a 3-level hierarchy: EventType, EventGroup and Event. While not strictly necessary to register event look categories, we suggest you add EventType and EventGroup as described below.

- **EventType**: This value should be set to Observation.

- **EventGroup**: This value should be set to Phenology with parent value Observation.

- **Event**: Event values are automatically added when you add phenology traits on the Plant Form (see below).
Permissions

Users can be given permissions on System > Manage Users and Permissions as follows:

- Can add phenology observation event traits directly from the Plants (Living Collection) form?
- Can delete phenology observation event traits directly from the Plants (Living Collection) form?

The permissions dictate whether a user can add or remove phenology traits. Any user with access to the living collections module can add/edit phenology data but not necessarily add/delete traits.

Adding and deleting phenology events/traits

To add a new phenology event, choose the date and select Present/Absent for the listed trait, optionally adding a short note. All measurements can be added as either Present or Absent. All events, including phenology events, are deleted from the plant form main Events tab. A user with the appropriate permission can add a new trait in the New Trait text box.

Traits can be added and deleted from this form.

Summaries and charts

All phenology observations for a given plant can be listed from the Observations tab. These observations are stored as plant events and thus, can also be listed on the events tab together with all other events for the plant record.

Observations can be listed and viewed graphically.
Mapping plants

Mapping garden plants and their origin

Video: [https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#gardenmapping](https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8videos#gardenmapping)

Mapping the location of garden plants only requires that your plant records have a latitude/longitude value. These can be entered in different units but are always stored in decimal degree format, negative for South and West. You can store these data with up to pin-point accuracy.

Using the internal ArcGIS mapper, you can map the plant locations, dynamically linked to the data grid. These mapping options are discussed in the section on the ArcGIS internal mapper. You can also dynamically map your data to other GIS including QGIS, ArcMAP and DIVA GIS.

You may have your own garden base maps to add as map layers – or use map layers available online including world imagery maps. If your map data are available on a map server, you can also add your own map to the ArcGIS API.

Garden data plotted to ArcMAP and the internal ArcGIS mapper

In this example from The Morton Arboretum, a filter is set on garden location ‘Morton East Woods’. The Betulaceae are tagged in red – and the map is set to map Tag colours.
As with other map points, garden plant map points can be added or edited using the Map Point Editor. This function is described in the section **Adding and editing map points**.

A right-click on the map moves the point and adjust the stored data point.

**Exporting to Excel and CSV**

Data from any table are easily exported to Excel or CSV files.

Video: [exporting to Excel/CSV](#)

Tagged records are easily opened in Excel or as CSV.
Transactions – recording the movement of materials

Introduction

Transactions monitor incoming and outgoing loans, gifts, exchanges, and other transaction categories as you define. They maintain a permanent record describing the movement of physical specimens, plants or other items.

As well as providing longer term benefits that come from tracking the movement of collections, the transaction module has immediate practical uses: printing lists, pinpointing the whereabouts of particular collections; balancing specimen numbers in herbarium exchange schemes; listing loans overdue; and preparing transaction period activity reports. The module also provides a logical platform to record in-coming determinations. As specimens return from loans, revised determinations can be efficiently updated and fed into the main database.

Frequently, the need to record which specimens are being dispatched on loan is an incentive to databasing collections, providing a realistic way to making a start with this often massive and daunting task and at the same time doing something of immediate practical benefit. To make full use of the transactions module you do not need to have a fully databased herbarium – you can start today.

Herbaria using barcodes can make good use of these with the transaction module. Barcodes are used to select individual specimens. Barcodes:

- Provide extra precision with the handling of collection materials.
- Save time selecting collections for dispatch and recording returns.
- Can be included on specimen lists providing an unambiguous specimen reference.

Adding a sample transaction

The demo database does not include transactions data but you can test by adding a dummy transaction record and linking some specimens to it. Normally, barcodes would be used for certain tasks here, for example selecting material to link to a transaction or marking material as returned. As you do not have the barcoded material, we can use alternative methods.

- Select Management > Transaction categories. This table includes the categories of transaction you wish to manage. This example will choose ‘Loan requested from you - then returned’ therefore you don’t need to add a new category.
- Select Management > Transactions to open the main transactions table. Select Edit to switch to edit mode. You can enter some details into the grid using the F9 lookup key in fields such as Category and Institution Name. You can also use the Form to edit the transaction details.

- Select Collections and choose the Category Preserved Specimen from the dropdown. You can then select Specimens to open that table.
- Now tag some specimens to link to the newly added transaction. You may want to use Tag > Untag first to ensure nothing else is tagged. For example,
In this example, data grid filters have been added for Institute Code and # Full Name to select all specimens at FHO of Agathis ovata. These records have all been tagged using Tag > Tag all.

- Finally, select the main Collections menu again and then use the option Tag -> Trans. This will link the tagged material to the selected transaction. You can see the result by returning to the transaction file and opening the form on the Data Tools menu.

Linked specimens listed on the main transaction form. Determinations can be edited here as material is returned.

Barcode scanning is normally used to link/unlink material as well as mark material as Returned.

Note also that images linked to specimens can be published to virtual loans via BRAHMS online.
Permits and permissions

Introduction

The Legal option on the Data Tools toolbar provides access to all details on permits, permissions and other issues related to the legal status of material and its movement.

The options provided here relate to the legal status of materials in your collection allowing you to store details on permits of different types, including links to related documentation such as material transfer agreements and notes on due diligence. Entries can be categorized as Nagoya (2014 onwards), CBD (1991 – 2014 ) or pre-CBD.

Permits and Permissions records can be linked to physical specimens, plants or seed collections.

A sample permits and permissions form. Documents associated with the record can be dragged to the lower panel.
Collection, Nagoya, Import, Export, Research and Phytosanitary

The following heading for permits is provided: Collection, Nagoya, Import, Export, Research and Phytosanitary. In each case, you can add permit numbers, the issuing authority, dates and notes. You can also link documents such as PDF or scans to each entry.

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Nagoya Protocol on ABS entered into force on 12 October 2014. It provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. See https://www.cbd.int/abs/about/

Due diligence

‘Due Diligence’ entries can be added for any permits and permissions entry with the date, the name of the person undertaking the due diligence and notes. Documents can be linked.

Species protection and legal status

CITES, Red List and other notes about species are added to species records directly.

"The main species table filtered on accepted names, sorted by family+ species. A column view named 'red list' has been saved and is here selected."
Publishing online with WebConnect

Introduction

Many projects are under increasing pressure to publish their data online or simply want to share their data with the wider community. This section explains how you can create and edit your own websites and upload your data and images directly to BRAHMS online. The module connecting BRAHMS to BRAHMS online is known as WebConnect.

You do not have to be a website techy to develop a basic website. However, the more knowledge you have, the more you can develop. WebConnect provides a blank blackboard upon which you can use any valid HTML, CSS and jQuery constructs.

BRAHMS online

BRAHMS online (BOL) is a unique website service created for the BRAHMS project. It is used to publish BRAHMS databases online and/or to describe and promote your project. BOL websites can be richly developed with text, images, hyperlinks, tables, file downloads and indeed any standard website feature. Websites can be linked to one or more BRAHMS databases and the online data query tools search these data and present the results in flexible text pages and data grids. You can see example screens and websites on: https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/publishonline/bolfeatures and https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/publishonline/websites

An example of a content rich, BRAHMS online website: http://brahmsonline.kew.org/msbp - the website site design and data uploads were processed via WebConnect.

BRAHMS online servers

BRAHMS online websites can be be developed and published on any computer where the BRAHMS online system is installed. You can create websites on the BRAHMS server located in Oxford (requires license) or on another server that has BOL installed. Many projects choose to install BOL on a server within their own institution.

Server location influences the URL address of your website. You may want to install BOL on your own server and register a meaningful Domain Name System (DNS) for the server such as http://newworldfloras.org and thus be able to have a URL such as http://newworldfloras.org/ericaceae. Read more on e.g. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domain_Name_System.
**BRAHMS WebConnect**

WebConnect is the software that connects your BRAHMS system to BRAHMS online (BOL) allowing you to develop and edit websites and upload selected data and additional resource files. Using WebConnect, you can manage security settings, control access, logins and downloads. Web design uses bootstrap with each site having its own CSS file. WebConnect options are accessed in BRAHMS from the **PublishOnline** menu.

**Signing in**

To sign in to WebConnect from BRAHMS desktop, you need a username and password. The username and password are the same one you receive when you register on the BRAHMS website. Furthermore, unless you have been assigned the role of Administrator within BRAHMS online, you will need to have been given manager access to one or more websites.

![BRAHMS Database](image)

If you have not done so, register on [https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/Account/Register](https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/Account/Register)

Once you have registered on the BRAHMS website and have received your password, you can use these credentials to log in to WebConnect directly from BRAHMS desktop. To do this, select **PublishOnline > Sign In**.

![WebConnect Authorisation](image)

*Your login screen will look similar to this one, assuming you are using BOL on the main BRAHMS server. If BOL is installed on another server, the BOL server address will be different.*

Once you have connected successfully, any projects you have access to will be listed in the Project dropdown.

![WebConnect](image)

If you do not have access to any websites, it will not be possible to proceed. To gain access, the BOL administrator needs to link your login credentials to one or more website projects.
Managing website projects

Create a new website project

For users with Administrative access, select **New Project** on the Publish Online toolbar. If you do not have admin access, ask the BOL administrator to create the website for you and give you permission to access and edit the website.

The Project ID will be used to form the final part of the website URL on the BOL server. In this case, the website URL will be [https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/mymuseum](https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/mymuseum). If BOL is installed on your own server, the URL will reflect that. You may also define domain addresses such as [http://brahmsonline.kew.org/msbp](http://brahmsonline.kew.org/msbp)

Editing a project

Description and access permissions

The **Edit Project** options are the same as those found when using adding a new project. You can add a project description which may be useful for web browsers picking up your website details; the contact name and email; and a default image copyright message which is displayed under each data linked image. There are also options to:

- Restrict downloads to users who are registered and logged in.
- Restrict searching to users who are registered and logged in.

If both these checkboxes are ticked access is restricted to signed-in project members only. With only one box ticked, access will not require project membership but will require the user to be signed in.

You can also disable a project. If disabled, the project is taken offline but it remains editable through web connect.

Virtual themes

It is possible to pre-filter the data viewable through this projects website by providing virtual theme criteria below. You can add one or more families, genera, countries, major administrative areas or collectors in any required combination. For example, you may want a single family/genus in a single country or multiple families/genera in a single country or a single family/genus in multiple countries or multiple families/genera in multiple countries.
The use of virtual themes allows to link a database to a website but restrict the data that are visible/searchable. Thus, you may upload one large institutional database and then develop several specialized websites against that database. For example, a museum database may have data from all plant or animal orders or families and the portal may search all these data. However, you could also develop a specialized website for the family 'Anacardiaceae' by adding a virtual theme.

**Project members**

The options on the Project Members tab allow you to control who has access to your database. Any user registered on the BRAHMS website can be added as a member or a manager.

A user added as a **Manager** will have access to edit the website details. You only need to add users as **Members** if you are controlling access to search your data online. When the two 'Restrict' checkboxes on the **Project** tab marked with ** are both ticked, members added here will have access to search and/or download data.

**Delete a project**

If you delete a project, this will delete the website together with all of its associated website design images and any related documents. This will NOT delete any databases or data images associated with the website.

**Website design**

**Introduction**

Website design is based on a bootstrap/CSS framework directed at responsive, mobile-first front-end web development. You can also use jQuery. You can add multiple webpages and organise these in a hierarchical menu structure.

Web pages are added to a data grid with one record per page. Each page will be displayed on your website menu – either as a main menu item or as a child record of a main menu item.
Creating and editing web pages

Opening the website editor
To create and edit web pages, select Edit Web Pages on the Publish Online toolbar. This opens a data grid with one record per website page.

The above screen shows a newly created website project. By default, a page is added with menu text ‘Home’. The Page URL is set to ‘Index’ and the default language is ‘En’. On the right panel, the Live Site View displays the page online.

Editing the HTML
To edit the page, select View/Edit Page HTML mark-up at the bottom of the screen. This action opens up the text editing area into which you can add any html mark-up you wish, optionally basing this on a bootstrap framework.

When text is edited the Save options are enabled. Once saved, the live website is updated.
An example page being edited for the BRAHMS home page.

**Adding new pages**

To add a website page, select **New** at the bottom of the data grid. Edit the **Menu Text** and the page **URL** in the data grid fields. Do not use spaces in the **URL**. Pages can also have a page order which will control their position in the menu. They may also have a Parent **Menu** value. If the Parent **Menu** is left blank, the page will appear as a top menu item. If you add a parent menu value using the dropdown provided, the page will appear as a sub-menu item of the parent page. Example uses of the Parent **Menu** option can be seen in the BRAHMS website example below. The Auth. Only and Members Only options are discussed below.

**Web Pages** added to the main BRAHMS website showing the use of the Parent **Menu** field. Clicking on any record in the grid (=web page) will update the Live Site View on the right.
Using CSS

Please note that this guide is not intended to provide instructions on editing HTML or CSS.

Website layout and formatting can be controlled using the CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) file. CSS describes how HTML elements are to be displayed on screen, paper, or in other media and the correct use of CSS saves a lot of work. The CSS effectively provides a Stylesheet for your website. It helps to separate document content from document formatting and styling, reducing website complexity and making it far easier to edit and change all your website pages at once.

To open and edit the CSS file for your website, select the Project CSS tab next to the Live Site View tab.

Project files – documents and images

Section in prep.
Database maintenance

Re-indexing databases
Re-indexing can increase the efficiency of a database, especially after heavy editing.

SQLite databases
Select System > Manage Data connections ..., highlight a local file system (database (Personal, Conifers or any SQLite database you may have created) and then select Edit > Re-index.

MSSQL Server
We have not yet automated this process from BRAHMS but in the meantime, database admin can run the following query script against the relevant database(s) – this script is for 2012 or later.

EXEC sp_MSforeachtable @command1="alter index all on ? REBUILD WITH (FILLFACTOR=80, STATISTICS_NORECOMPUTE=ON);"
GO

Execute the above query against the database to optimise. This could be set to run as an automated (overnight) query on servers.

Backing up your data
Introduction
Backing up is the process of copying valuable files to a safe place in a systematic way. There is only one way to absolutely ensure the safety of your data – rigorous adherence to a regular program of backing up of your data. It is a nuisance to backup but this is a much better alternative than the loss of your data.

Be warned that some projects get their fingers burned badly before they take backing up seriously. Years of hard work can be lost in different ways - here are some possibilities:
• A computer may be stolen.
• A computer disk may malfunction or crash with loss of all data on that disk.
• Files on a computer may be deleted by mistake.
• Files may be corrupted by a hardware fault or a power failure.
• Data files may be progressively damaged by an undetected software fault.
• You may make one or a series of complex editing errors.

Copy your files to a different disk/storage media. If you backup to the same storage media (e.g. your hard disk), all your eggs are in one basket. Do not continually backup to the same backup file, this overwriting the last backup. If you do this, you may end up overwriting a good backup with bad data.

Creating backups - which files?

Minimally, you need to backup files that have been edited.

Backup your main database file(s). This will be the database or databases as registered in your database connections (SQLite, MSSQL Server, PostgreSQL files).
• Backup your RDE files – there are always SQLite files, only one file per RDE.
• You should also keep copies of report templates – wherever these are stored.

Backup rotation and frequency

In the ideal world, you should never overwrite a backup, but rather, keep a continuous record of your data as it changes right from the start in a growing series of archived backups. A continuous series of backups is your strongest defence against data loss. Should an unexplained, perhaps systematic error creep into your database, you may need to step back in time, backup by backup until you find the beginning of the problem. In many cases, however, this may be unrealistic – disks will be re-used and backups overwritten. Try to rotate storage media in a sensible way. Always keep at least some regular backups that are not overwritten. The frequency of backing up depends on the rate of data entry. If you are editing your main database every day, you may want to back up every day. RDE files should always be backed up after a data entry session.

Automated backup on server

Server administrators can set up scripts to automate database backup creation.
Annex 1. Upgrading BRAHMS v7 to v8

Checking your v7 database

Please follow each of these steps carefully. Errors in v7 will cause the transfer to fail.

- Your BRAHMS 7 version should be 7.9.14 (August 2019) or later. The version is displayed on your log in screen. Earlier versions must be upgraded.
- Log into a copy of your v7 database. While not essential, it will be better to use a database copy as some minor changes are made to the database structure.
- Select **Admin > Project configuration > Indexing** and make sure the setting is **Machine** rather than **General**. If it was General, switch to Machine and re-index your database.
- Re-index your database. If any data errors are reported (e.g. month value 13), you should fix these now. For example, you may get a message box indicating errors in some fields as follows:

```
DE Month, LAT, LONG, GAZ LAT, GAZ LONG
```

If you see such warnings (indicating incorrect numeric values), follow the screen message to locate the data and remove these errors. Such errors may cause the transfer to v8 to fail.

The re-index in v7.9.14 or later checks for further errors and irregularities. For example, it may be that older v7 databases have rogue link file records; rogue entries in the ‘people link’ file; or incorrect synonym links in your species file. Follow the screen instructions to correct reported errors.

- Select **Admin > BRAHMS tables, record totals and database integrity**.

If your database has any errors, these must be resolved before you transfer. If you do not remove these errors, the transfer will fail. If you need help with this stage, contact the BRAHMS project.

Adding a database description

Select **File > Database manager** and ensure you have added entries to the fields:

- **DESCRIP** (short description of your v7 database)
- **COPYRIGHT** (if applicable)
- **TERMSOFUSE** (e.g. "Data not for commercial use")
- **CREATEDBY** (e.g. your institute or personal name)
- **CREATEDON** (this can be approximate)

This information will be transferred to v8 and can be edited there later on. If these data are missing, the transfer will request that you return to v7 to edit one or more of these fields.

Checking your v7 link files

Link file fields (custom fields) are transferred to v8. This is a good time to look over your various link files to check if you have unwanted or redundant fields. You may want to remove any redundant link fields prior to the transfer although this can also be done in version 8.

Checking text descriptions

Taxa text descriptions from your v7 family, genus and species files are stored in a different way. Certain v7 memo fields in these files have been moved to a new table in v8, the **taxa text descriptions** file.

- The following fields are no longer stored in the v8 family and genus files themselves: DESCRIP, DISTRIB, DIAGNOSTIC, WEBLINKS, WEBNOTES, NOTES01-NOTES05.
- The following fields are no longer stored in the v8 species file itself: DESCRIP, DISTRIB, WEBSITE, WEBNOTES, USES.
These various memo fields are transferred to the new table in v8. However, before exporting your data, you must run the option Admin > BRAHMS v8 data transfer > Prepare taxa text for transfer to v8. Otherwise, data in the above fields will not be transferred. This option does not remove data from the v7 fields – rather it copies the relevant table in v7.

Folder preparation

Create a folder on your workstation to gather the v7 XML transfer files. Any folder name/location can be used. An example is c:\myv8xmlfiles.

Creating the v7 xml transfer files

Log into v7 in single user mode and select Admin > BRAHMS v8 data transfer > Transfer data to v8…

The v7 transfer form.

This phase is where your data are transferred to XML files. Primary and foreign keys are created as new GUID fields. The file creation will take some time with large databases but you can watch the progress in your XML folder as the files build up. Large tables are split into multiple XML files numbered 000, 001, 002, etc.

The recommended settings are the defaults. However, if exporting a very large database for testing only, you can de-select the options Transfer track changes and Transfer record create details as these may significantly increase the export time.

Select Process data to generate the XML files. Progress is reported as it goes through the various v7 tables.

A sample of the types of file you can expect to see in your XML folder

Choice of data store for your v8 database project

With no further installation, you can transfer your v7 data into an SQLite data store. SQLite is more suited for smaller databases.

If you are transferring a large database, it will be better to import your data to MSSQL or PostgreSQL. Instructions on setting up an MSSQL Server or PostgreSQL databases are provided separately.

Although an SQLite data store can store more than one database project, we recommend that you create a new instance of the data store for substantial projects. Thus, while you could import your v7 database into the
default brahms.db SQLite data store or to the store holding the conifer database, it makes more sense to create a separate instance of the SQLite data store.

### Importing v7 xml transfer files to v8

- Log into v8 using the settings as below – unless you have a BRAHMS username and password assigned.

- Select **System > Manage Database Projects** ... Then Select **Import** and navigate as prompted to locate the `DatabaseProject.xml` file in the XML folder created above.

- If you want to speed up the initial import, you can opt to exclude Edit History data – bearing in mind that these data can be imported later on. Otherwise, select the default option **Import Everything**. NB: Edit History includes record addition date, added by and track changes details as recorded/available in v7.

- Select **Save** to initiate the import.

**Importing progress is displayed.**

If the import process fails, you will have to delete the XML folder and start again. This implies that there was an unresolved error in your v7 database. The import process is all or nothing.... If you are unable to resolve the issue, contact the BRAHMS project.

Once the import has completed, you can **Load** the project. The XML transfer files can be deleted.
Annex 2. Key differences between BRAHMS v7 and v8

While derived from earlier versions of BRAHMS with respect to much of its functionality, v8 is an entirely new system with updated technologies and data store. BRAHMS v7 users will recognise many of the tools and functions in v8 as well as the broad layout of the menus. However, as listed here, there are fundamental differences between these systems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project management</strong></td>
<td>The BRAHMS project now has additional management support from Oxford University Innovation (OUI) who provide licences for BRAHMS, ensuring users get the correct package and support. <a href="https://innovation.ox.ac.uk/licence-details/brahms/">https://innovation.ox.ac.uk/licence-details/brahms/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Museum management</strong></td>
<td>V8 is no longer restricted to botanical data. The concept of herbarium specimen is replaced by preserved specimen (i.e. museum specimen). <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#nathistory">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#nathistory</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data storage</strong></td>
<td>Data are no longer stored in DBF and FPT files but rather in a choice of stores that are fully up to date with respect to technology and have no meaningful limit to table size. Current options are SQLite, MSSQL Server and PostgreSQL. V8 databases can store and cross reference millions of records. <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#performancevideo">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#performancevideo</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International</strong></td>
<td>BRAHMS v8 is international with respect to the interface and the data. Data are stored in Unicode with no restriction on the character data stored across languages. <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#language">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#language</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Temp files folders</strong></td>
<td>There are no longer any temp file work folders. Instead, personal files such as RDE files, saved files, column views and exported data are saved in your BRAHMS folder in Documents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary and foreign keys</strong></td>
<td>All table key fields use 32 hexadecimal digit GUIDs. They cannot be duplicated and thus remove the danger of duplicating primary keys. Database integrity is assured both by the BRAHMS software and by the DBMS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>File and field names</strong></td>
<td>Table and fields names have been updated to be more meaningful. V8 is no longer restricted to 10-character field names.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Modular system</strong></td>
<td>BRAHMS v8 has a flexible, 3-tiered and modular architecture opening up options for shared development. The user interface (UI) is independent of the services and data store access and therefore could relatively easily be substituted by other technologies such as a web-browser UI. <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#modular">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#modular</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interface</strong></td>
<td>The new system uses ribbon toolbar technology (context sensitive menus and toolbars) similar to that used in MS Office applications – making it highly intuitive. <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#v8menus">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#v8menus</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Help</strong></td>
<td>Improved help is built into v8, backed up by online support and training video clips e.g. <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#mappingvideo">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#mappingvideo</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NULL values</strong></td>
<td>It is possible to store NULL values in all tables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Species table and field names</strong></td>
<td>The fields SP1, RANK1, SP2, RANK2 and SP3 have been dropped. V8 has separate fields for species, subspecies, variety, forma and cultivar. Formatted taxa names include the appropriate ranks. The size limit on these fields has been increased. <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#taxonnames">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#taxonnames</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Higher level classification table</strong></td>
<td>A new table is added for taxon ranks above family. <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#taxonnames">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#taxonnames</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extract files</strong></td>
<td>V8 does not have the equivalent of extract files. Instead, your selections are seen in the main tables after applying a query.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queries and filters</td>
<td>Query and filter functions are one and the same thing. Both now use standard SQL commands and have exactly the same result. There is no longer a fixed menu of query commands. You can design and save your own commands. <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#explore">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#explore</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Views</td>
<td>Tree Views are now available in all tables. You can also design and save your own multi-level Tree Views. <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#treeviews">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#treeviews</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link file fields</td>
<td>Link fields in v7 are now referred to as custom fields. These fields can be added to all tables and rather than being treated as add-ons, they become a more integrated part of your database. For example, they are added to the main data grids rather than optionally appearing below the grid. <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#custom">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#custom</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lookup list</td>
<td>The v7 custom look up list table is now separated to two tables: look up fields and look up values. The field list includes meta data about the lookup fields such as whether there is forced lookup or free test entry is permitted. The values table has entries for all lookup values – abbreviations are no longer used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tagging</td>
<td>Tags (adding a symbol to the TAG field) in v7 were added to the main data files. Thus, on networks, one person’s tags could interfere with those of another. In v8, while, as before, tags appear in the main tables, they are held in a user specific tag table. Thus, all tags and tag functions are now specific to each user. <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#tagging">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#tagging</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excel</td>
<td>V8 has much improved connectivity with Excel. You can open Excel xlsx files more easily and transfer the data into BRAHMS. You can also save data more easily to xlsx files. <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#importing">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#importing</a> <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#exporting">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#exporting</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memo fields</td>
<td>The concept of memo does not exist and you will not see ‘memo’ in the data grids. However, the text fields that replace them are effectively the same in that they store any length text strings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening and docking multiple tables</td>
<td>Unlike v7, you can open as many tables as you need at the same time. These tables can be docked in different ways to optimise viewing. You can use multiple monitors to display tables, forms, images, maps and other windows. <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#multiple">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#multiple</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dynamic web links</td>
<td>You can now open multiple external website links at the same time and these will auto update as you scroll through your data grid. <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#weblinks">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#weblinks</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapping</td>
<td>In addition to the v7 mapping options, v8 includes has in-built ArcGIS API mapping to display your data. Map points and grid records are connected allowing you to locate the current record or map point, very handy for finding map errors. <a href="https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#mapping">https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/software/v8#mapping</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDE</td>
<td>The concept of Rapid Data Entry (RDE) remains. RDE files continue as portable and flexible flat files for data transfers and capture. RDE file structures are now identical to the tables they represent; you can hide and reorganise fields but not remove them; each record has a GUID providing 100% connectivity after import to the main database; RDE data can be edited and used to update data that have already been imported.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAHMS online</td>
<td>Website design and data uploading are more fully integrated in v8. For example, you can see your web page updates online as you edit the HTML.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>