Specify

Post Mortem We Sort 'Em

Specify Database Schema v2.4, October 2017
Specify Software Project, www.specifysoftware.org

Taxa and Determinations

References and Citations

Specimens and Preparations

Location and Geography

Paleocontext and Stratigraphy

Field Notebooks and Pages

Attachments

Specify WorkBench

Organizations and Collections

Actions and Transactions

Tissues and DNA

Storage Location

Agents: People and Groups

Specify Database Model

The highly-resolved Specify database schema is based on findings from a series of collections community modelling workshops organized by J. Humphries and funded by the U,S, National Science Foundation, Both Specify 6 and 7 use this schema for data, We have extended it several times and it will evolve as new data types and capabilities are added,

Essentially all of the Specify data tables that hold collections-related data are shown, those used for internal or system processing are not. Many relationship lines, especially those of the Agent and Attachment tables have been omitted to reduce the visual complexity of the model. The Agent table connects to most of the other tables in the diagram--those that have the fields "CreatedByAgentID" and "ModifiedByAgentID", which contain Specify user names logged for all new and edited records, Attachments are also linked in various places, Linking "[DataType] Attachment" tables show where external media and documents can be logically associated with data records,

Several relationships for the tables Division, Discipline, and Collection are also hidden, They have relations to many other tables and most of them indicate the scope of data in the target tables, For example, Addresses are scoped to Division--Address records are shared among Collections within a Division but not with Collections of other Divisions,

The cardinality of data table relationships is indicated by connector symbols at line ends, Symbols at the edges of the tables without lines indicate relationships not shown, Most data tables have two connections to Agent, Several data tables show where recursion is used to build parent-child relationships in hierarchical, tree-structured data, for example the tables: Taxon, Lithostrat, Storage Location, and Geography,

The Specify Software Project is supported by research infrastructure grants from the US National Science Foundation and with funds from the University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute. Current NSF is award is: BIO/DBI #1565098.
Specify Software Project, Biodiversity Institute, U. Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045, USA. E-mail: support@specifysoftware.org, www.specifysoftware.org, Tel: +1 785-864-4400