

**TL-2 (Taxonomic Literature, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition) Online. IDC Publishers. 2004. For subscription information, contact IDC at their main office: POB 11205, 2301 EE Leiden, The Netherlands; phone: +31 (0)71 514 27 00; fax +31 (0)71 513 17 21. North American customers only: IDC Publishers Inc., 39 Joanna Drive, Foxboro, MA 02035; Phone 508-698-9707; Toll free 800-757-7441; Fax 508-698-0148**

*TL-2 (Taxonomic Literature, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition) Online*, created by IDC Publishers with support from the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT), is an impressive digitized resource and a welcome tool for plant taxonomists. The print resource *Taxonomic Literature, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, is a standard reference list of plant taxonomic literature from 1753 to 1940, with special emphasis placed on the period from 1870 to 1914, a time of many achievements in the field. Frans A. Stafleu and Richard S. Cowan compiled the original seven-volume print set over the course of fifteen years (1973–1988); later Frans A. Stafleu and Erik Menega added six supplements. The finished product resulted in approximately 10,000 pages, listing about 30,000 works. All authors who published at least three generic plant names during the covered time period were included. The compilers focused on books, pamphlets, and other bibliographically independent literature.

Entries in the print source are in alphabetical order by author with brief biographical information, such as birth and death

dates and nationality. Entries also include herbaria information, references to relevant bibliographical and biographical sources, composite works, and other information. Entries for specific works by each author follow. The original print publication included two indexes: one for names and another for titles. The additional search capabilities of the online product have greatly increased the ease of use of this resource, and expanded the ways in which the source can be utilized.

Users have three search options: database search, full-text search, and browse. Choosing "database search" brings up a separate search window (which can be blocked by some pop-up blockers). Options for searching include surname, birth year, year of death, "lived during" year, TL-2 number (each entry is numbered in the original print source), title, and publication year. Boolean ("and" and "or" only) searching is available. Users can specify up to four search conditions in each search. Results from the "database searches" include the author name, birth and death dates, a link to the PDF file of the TL-2 page containing the author details, TL-2 number, a link to the PDF file of the TL-2 page containing the details of the work, the short title of the work, and the year or years of publication. Other information included with many of the search results are links for ordering the work on microfiche or in paper. Clicking on these links adds the work to a "shopping list" on the right-hand side of the page. Users can add to this "shopping list" as their searches progress, sav-

ing the final ordering process for the end.

The "full-text search" uses OCR (Optical Character Recognition), and there is a disclaimer on the search page, which reads: "Tests have shown the resulting index to be useful, but we cannot guarantee that all occurrences of a word will be found when looking for that word." One-word searches were found to be very reliable, but phrase searches (enclosed in double quotes) did not seem to be func-

tional at all. Result lists for full-text searches bring up lists of links to volume and page numbers on which the searched word can be found.

Choosing the "browse" option shows a list of TL-2 volumes and supplements. For each volume and supplement there are links for the introduction, the bibliographic entries, the title index, and the name index.

*TL-2 Online* has the potential to be a useful tool for researchers in plant taxonomy, especial-

ly those that refer to the print version on a regular basis. The reasonable price (150 euros) and the expanded search capabilities make this an attractive purchase for those in the field. (Note also that access is free to members of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT).)

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