

WHO DOES WHAT RESEARCH? KFWF SURVEY ON UK VEGETATION FIRE RESEARCHERS

Ioanna Tantanasi and Julia Mcmorrow

School of Environment Education and Development

Aim

To develop an 'Who does What' online resource of UK vegetation fire researchers.

Context

- A resource was needed to help signpost England and Wales Wildfire Forum (EWWF) and other stakeholders to relevant UK-based vegetation fire researchers, especially after the Knowledge for Wildfire (KfWf) project finishes in Sep 2016
- Built on Prof. John Dold's 2012 survey of 31 researchers
- Funding obtained from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), 04/04/15 – 07/09/15 to produce an online resource for the KfWf website, www.kfwf.org.uk
- Two deliverables: (i) a 'Who does What' spreadsheet of UK-based researchers who work on different aspects of vegetation fire; (ii) interactive map.

Method

- Desk survey of similar online resources. Webmaster consulted on technical issues
- Two rounds of EWWF consultation

Envirobase info

- Two rounds of researcher consultation, based on John Dold's 2012 survey and the KfWf contact list. Snowballing process; asked researchers to pass it onto others.
- Analysis of feedback after each round of consultation

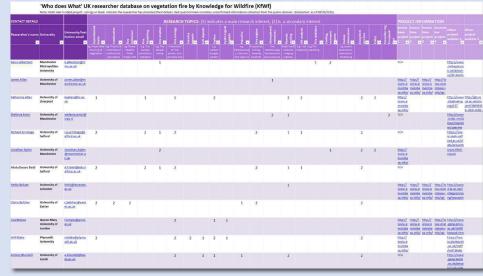


Figure 2. Prototype of 'who does what' UK-based researchers database on vegetation fire by KfWf as featured on the website. It is available for download from the Knowledge for Wildfire 'website http://www.kfwf.org.uk/researchersdatabase/

'Who does What' UK fire researchers database

- Spreadsheet of 73 UK and 2 Eire-based researchers working on vegetation fire, listed against their specialist topics (Figure 2).
- Contact information: University, email, link to their webpage.
- Project information; links to relevant Envirobase projects and other project web pages supplied by researchers
- Downloadable as searchable Excel file from KfWf website



Figure 3: Interactive map with a pop-up window of researchers topics and contact details. The arrowhead at top of pop-up window is used to access other researchers at that University

Figure 1: Example of an Envirobase project page

- Data mining of Envirobase (http://www.envirobase.info/) for project and researcher information (Figure 1). Provided quality control for projects, as all listings were funded by UK Research Councils or Government agencies and were recognised by the Living With Environmental Change (LWEC) partnership.
- KfWf steering group consultation on final version of 'Who does What' database and webpage.

Interactive map

- Map (Figure 3) links to a postcode field in the spreadsheet.
- Click on a highlighted location to open a pop-up window showing the specialisms and contact details of researchers
- Zoom in and click arrow at top of pop-up window to access other researchers at that University
- Map and spreadsheet both available from: http:// www.kfwf.org.uk/researchersdatabase/ (Figures 3 & 4)



Higure 4. How NERC science can neip webpage with link to the 'Who doe what' database of UK-based vegetation fire researchers.

Challenges

- A one-off, snap-shot in time; some unconfirmed data and omissions due to timing and short duration of project.
- Send us your feedback. Database may be updated if future funding is available.
- Data after 31/01/2015 is not included on Envirobase.
 It is now an archived resource
- Interoperability on different platforms and browsers.

Acknowledgements

- EWWF for feedback.
- Researchers for providing data.
- NERC Impact Accelerator
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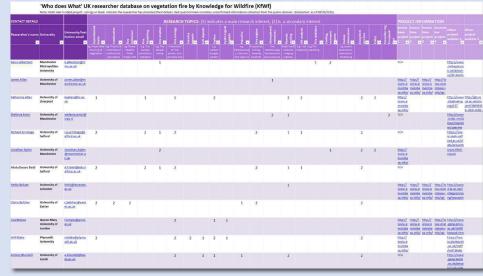


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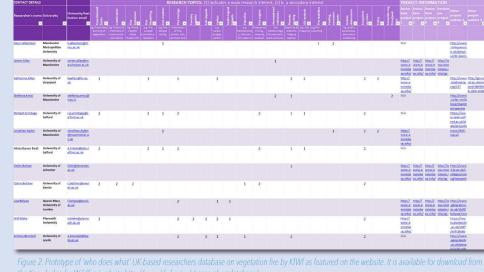
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KfWf

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