Glossary of ZIMS Terms and Definitions

Definitions for data standard terms in ZIMS with selected glossary below.

Contact Species360 Support

Apart from a few exported lists of terms and - the terms and their definitions in ZIMS are available inside the application when you 'hover over' a term in a data standard drop down list.

Selected Glossary of Terms
Studbook Glossary of Terms (external document link)
Exported Terms and Definitions

Example for global status terms available inside of ZIMS:
Mouse over the terms in a list, you will see the definitions are provided in a pop-up box.

While not all terms are provided via this method, most of the relevant terms and definitions are provided and are translated into the various supported languages inside ZIMS.

SELECTED GLOSSARY OF ZIMS APPLICATION TERMS

To search this list, press 'ctrl+f' to enter your search term.

ACTIVE: The information is relevant at the time, usually indicated by a checkbox.

ALERT: A communication that provides a reminder, a notification or a warning for today or a future date or date range for an Animal Entity. Priority can be High, Medium or Low depending on the requirement of the Alert.

ANIMAL TYPE: There are six kinds of Animal Types. Each Type will be assigned one Global Accession Number (GAN).
1. Individual Animal – a single animal that can be identified individually
2. Group of Animals – a number of animals that cannot be identified individually
3. Egg – a single egg that can be identified individually
4. Group of eggs – a number of eggs that cannot be identified individually, numbers can be counted
5. Egg Mass – a number of eggs that cannot be identified individually, numbers cannot be counted, often bonded together until hatch
6. Fetus – a developing mammal after the embryonic stage and before birth.

APPLY TO ALL ENCLOSURE OCCUPANTS/INCLUDE IN ANIMAL RECORD: Allows information entered into an Enclosure record to also be added to the record of all animal entities that were in the enclosure on that date.

APPROXAFTER: A date is sometime after the date that is recorded in the date field. Used for estimating a date when the actual date is not known.

APPROXBEFORE: A date is sometime before the date that is recorded in the date field. Used for estimating a date when the actual date is not known.

APPROXVARIANCE: A date could have been sometime before and after the date entered into the date field. You can enter a variance of days, weeks, months or years.

AQUATIC: Refers to a Category for Enclosures or Life Support. An aquatic enclosure contains only water and no land or terrestrial features.

ASSIGN TRANSPONDER: Reserving a transponder for a specific animal entity so that it can be inserted at a later date. Most common use is for permit application when a transponder must be identified

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but may not actually be inserted. This transponder will not be available to insert into any other animal entity.

AUTO-INCREMENT LOCAL ID: This function is available as an Institution Preference and allows the next Local ID to automatically fill into the Local ID field.

AVAILABLE ANIMAL: An animal entity (individual, group of animals, egg, etc.) at your institution is available for placement elsewhere. Other institutions can search to find what animals you have listed as available.

BARRIER: An object or structure that keeps the occupants within the enclosure or tank and keeps guests and visitors out of where you don't want them. Examples of barriers are fences and moats for hoof stock, wire mesh for aviaries and glass walls for aquariums.

BASIC DETAIL: A field displaying the basic information that was entered on an animal entity, an enclosure, a life support, an institution, etc. The values are generally sourced from data entered during initial entry such as the accessioning screens for an animal entity and the Enclosure Add screen for an enclosure. Most of the Basic Detail can be edited from that screen. Some topics are edited from other fields.

BATCH: Performing the same action on multiple animal entities at the same time. Topics where Batch is available are observation, notes and attachments, weight and length information, training information and alerts.

BUSINESS RULE: Complex decision logic to ensure that something illogical is not done. They also drive warning boxes when you are trying to do something that may be interpreted as creating a data entry error. Business Rules were developed by the computer programmers to ensure proper technical functioning and by Subject Matter Experts with specific fields of knowledge to ensure proper animal and institutional functioning. An example of an animal entity related Business Rule is "You cannot release an animal to the wild that has already been dispositioned as a death." You cannot break a Business Rule.

BY CATCH: Animals captured from the wild that were not your original intent to capture but you have decided to keep them and add to your institutional collection.

CHARACTERISTICS: Distinguishing traits or qualities of a species that help define it. Traits included are Scientific Name, Natural State, Collective Noun, Range Description and Habitat.

CHILD ENCLOSURE: In the Enclosure Tree, an enclosure that is tiered under another enclosure. In the following example Carnivore Canyon is a Child Enclosure to Training Aquarium and Zoo; Underground Tunnel is a Child Enclosure to Carnivore Canyon.

CLOSE OUT: Used to make groups inactive. Usually used when the count gets to 0.0.0, but groups can be marked as Closed Out even if members remain in the census count. You cannot perform any actions on groups that are marked as Closed Out and they will no longer appear in reports during a time frame when they were marked as Closed Out. Usually used for historical entries on groups migrated from the ARKS program.

COLLECTION: Different sets of related animals that are associated as a group. Usually your primary reason for having an animal or group at your institution. ZIMS has 15 different types of Collections. Commonly used Collections are Main Collection (your exhibit and breeding animals), Education (animals used for educational programs) and Research (animals held specifically for research projects.

COLONY: A large number of animals that live together in close association and often act with mutual purpose. Numbers may be estimated but are difficult to actually count. Inventory counts are usually "1".

COMPONENT: A self-contained part of a Life Support, usually a manufactured object. Some examples of components are pumps, filters and ozone generators.

COMPONENT INVENTORY: A list of the components and details about them such as the Manufacturer, serial number, storage location and if they are attached to a Life Support.

CONTRACEPTION: A method to prevent or limit reproduction. The methods may be through management (separating the sexes), hormonal administration (oral contraceptives or implants), immunological injection (PZP or Improvest® vaccines) or surgical (vasectomy, castration, hysterectomy, tubal ligation).

CURRENT (global): Includes all animals currently owned or held by Species360 members, or those in transit between Species360 members.

CURRENT (local): Includes all animals that your institution has reported you currently own or hold.

DATA STANDARD: A prefilled, system generated list that allows the User to make a selection. The terms in the list were developed by Subject Matter Experts and they help eliminate data errors caused by free text entries. Data standard lists are often filtered by what you have in focus or by what you selected in a previous field on the screen. For example, during an accession the Terms Data Standard is filtered by what you chose as the Source, so a Term of Purchase would not be in the list if you selected a Source of Collected from Wild. Most Data Standards allow a single selection from the list although a few allow multiple selections to be made.

DEPARTMENT: How Departments are defined is up to your institutional desires. Currently you can assign a department name and a department head. When you are creating ZIMS Staff you can assign them to a department and then search for department members. Functionality will increase in Release 4 when Plans, Protocols, Tasks and Requests become active.

DEVELOPMENT MILESTONE: An accomplishment made while growing older. For a bird an example of milestones would be the development of down, color change of eyes and the development of spurs. For a mammal example of milestones could be eyes and ears opening, eating solid food for the first time and the development of horns or antlers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The date that the current status of a permit became effective. For example, if you submit a permit on 4 June 2010 then the Effective Date would be 4 June 2010. If additional information is requested on 10 August 2010 then you would update the status to reflect this and the Effective Date would be 10 August 2010.

ENCLOSURE: Where an animal entity is held in your institution. How detailed you define your enclosures is up to your institutional desires, some institutions only record the major areas of their facility and others will assign Enclosure Names to small cages, tanks and even sky kennels.

ENCLOSURE IDENTIFIER: Usually a shortened version of the Enclosure Name, Enclosure Identifier is often used in-house to refer to enclosures. For example, the Enclosure Name may be West African Plains Hoofstock Exhibit, but the Enclosure Identifier would be just the initials of WAPHE.

ENCLOSURE LOCATION: A free text field for where an enclosure is located within your institution. The location for a hoofstock exhibit could be Northeast Corner and the location for an aquarium could be Opposite Entry Door.

ENCLOSURE NAME: How an enclosure is referenced. The Enclosure Name often provides some information about the enclosure but it is recommended not to use species as the Enclosure Name, such as Babirusa Barn, because over time the species held in the enclosure may change and you might now hold ocelots in your Babirusa Barn.

ENCLOSURE TREE: Arranging your enclosures and tanks into a hierarchical tree by using Parent Enclosures and Child Enclosures. The number of branches in the tree is unlimited.

ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENTS: Measurements taken on a terrestrial enclosure.

ESTABLISH DATE: Used for group accessions. It is the date when the group was initially formed. For a group that is collected from the wild it would be the collection or accession date, whichever you prefer. For a group that is received from another institution it would be the date that the group was originally formed at the other institution.

ESTABLISH TYPE: For group accessions it is whether the group was initially formed in the Wild or in Captivity.
FEED LOG: Keeps record of what food was fed, what amount was fed, what amount was consumed and what amount was left over. Feeding Logs can be recorded for both animal entities and enclosures.

FORCE SINGLE SESSION: The User can be signed into ZIMS on only one computer at a time.

FULL (Acquisition or Disposition): The transaction has happened to the entire group. This is usually the initial acquisition and final disposition of a group.

FURNITURE: Anything other than plants that is put into an enclosure or tank. Furniture can be items that assist with routine care such as hayracks and feed troughs, items used by the enclosure inhabitants to encourage natural behaviors such as ropes and fake caves, or simply something that makes the enclosure more natural looking.

GENETIC TRAITS: The known or relevant to husbandry traits for a specific taxon that are genetically driven. For example, golden-lion tamarins have a tendency to exhibit diaphragmatic hernias and some species often carry genes for albinism.

GLOBAL VIEW: A view of a record that does not include institutionally specific information such as collection, enclosure and responsible party. If you have never physically had the animal or legally owned it, this is the only view of it that you can see.

GLOBAL ACCESSION NUMBER (GAN): The one-time number that is assigned by the program when you have completed a successful accession of an animal entity. This number does not change as the animal moves from one institution to another and keeps the single global record intact.

GLOBAL ADMINISTRATOR: Species360 staff member who adds the member institutions and keeps the taxonomic information up-to-date.

GROUP: A number of animals or eggs, usually of the same species, that cannot be distinguished individually or that you have chosen to management as a single unit. A group receives a single GAN. The numbers in Groups can usually be actually counted or fairly accurately estimated and the actual count of the group is shown in the inventory.

GROUP DEATH: The entire Group has died on the same day.

GROUP TRANSACTIONS: Actions that can be performed on a group such as Merging and Splitting.

HAZARDS: Information about how hazardous the taxon could be to humans including threat level and type of hazard.

HOLDING INSTITUTION (HOLDER): The facility that physically has the animal and is responsible for its care. Holding Institutions have edit rights for most screens relevant to the animal. This facility may or may not own the animal legally.

IMPLEMENT TRANSPONDER: A transponder is inserted into the animal. It may or may not have been previously Assigned to the animal.

INACTIVE: The record is not relevant at the time. The best example is marking a staff member Inactive if they go on leave for a year. If they are marked as Inactive (ie the Active checkbox is unchecked) they will not have access to ZIMS.

INCLUDE IN ACTIVITY REPORT: Checking this box means that you want the information entered on the screen to be included in an Activity Report when one is generated for the date range that includes the date recorded on the screen.

INCLUDE TAXON BELOW: The taxonomy in ZIMS is arranged in a tiered hierarchy with Sub-species placed underneath Species, and Species placed underneath Genus. If you wanted to find all members of the Family Spheniscidae, you would enter that as the taxonomy and select Include Taxon Below. If you wanted to find only what Species are found in the Genus Spheniscus then you would enter that as the taxonomy and select Include Taxon Below. If this is not checked then you will find animals only at the level selected.

INCOMPLETE ACCESSION: A bare bones accession that is created so that data can be recorded in a record prior to being fully Accessioned. These Accessions do not show up in reports (except the Notes will display in the Activity and the Daily Report) but they can be searched for. Incomplete Accessions cannot be dispositioned until they are fully Accessioned.

INCOMPLETE DISPOSITION: This is created when a necropsy is recorded in the Medical module prior to the death being recorded in the Husbandry module.

INDETERMINATE: The value in the field will never be known. Serious efforts have been made to find this information but it could not be found.

INDIVIDUAL (ANIMAL): A single animal that can be distinguished from others.

LEGAL NAME: The name that an institution legally operates under. May be different than the name that it is commonly referred to.

LIFE SUPPORT: Life Support is used to sustain life or to improve the quality of life by providing for the needs of the animals. Generally related to an indoor enclosure/tank or exhibit and most often used in aquatic enclosures. Life Supports are comprised of various components and can be attached to one or more enclosures or tanks.

LIFE SUPPORT TREE: Displays the active life supports, the components that are attached to them and the enclosures that the life support is attached to in a tiered hierarchical view.

LIFE STAGE: The various stages of life that an animal passes through as it ages. For example, some of the Life Stages of a bird could be egg, hatchling, juvenile and adult.

LIMIT ACCESS BY IP NUMBER: A User can sign into ZIMS only from recorded IP addresses.
LOCAL VIEW: The information that you can see for animals that have physically been at your institution or at a non-Species360 member institution but you had ownership of them. Local View includes institutionally specific information such as collection, enclosure and responsible party.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATOR: The person that has the responsibility of managing ZIMS at your institution. They can add ZIMS Users and Staff, create ZIMS Roles, add locally used institutions and keep the address and contact information up-to-date.

LOCAL ID: A number assigned to an animal entity at the institutional level. ZIMS requires that this number be unique within your institution. Local Accession numbers had previously been required to help link the animals in the global database.

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MERGE ENCLOSURE (ACTUAL PHYSICAL MERGE): Enclosures are Merged when two, usually smaller, enclosures become one, usually larger enclosure. An example for a terrestrial enclosure would be removing a fence between two pens to create one large pen. An example for an aquatic enclosure would be removing a divider between two tanks to create one large tank. You can chose to retain the enclosure name of one of the source enclosures and the other source enclosure will be marked as Removed. Or you can create a new enclosure name for the merged enclosure.

MERGE ENCLOSURE (CLEANUP ERRORS): Enclosures are Merged for Data Quality Reasons when one of the enclosures is incorrect. For example, Quarantine 01 is actually the same enclosure as Quarantine Room 1. Quarantine 01 needs to be merged into Quarantine Room 1 to correct the mistake. Records for all the animals recorded as being in Quarantine 01 will be corrected to Quarantine Room.

MERGE GROUPS: Groups are merged when two separate groups are put together to form one group. You can chose to retain the GAN of one of the source groups and the other group will be marked as Closed Out. Or you can create a new GAN for the newly formed group.

MNEMONIC: A unique shortened form of an institution's name that is assigned by the Global Administrator when they enter the institution into the database. Species360 mnemonics are up to nine digits and are often easier to remember than the complete institutional name.

MODULE BOX PREFERENCES: Available as both an Institution Preference and an Individual Preference, this allows the grids to open as expanded when the User opens a record.

MOVEABLE ENCLOSURE: An enclosure or tank that is small enough to be picked up and fairly easily moved from one location to another, or one that has been manufactured or modified so that it can be moved such as being on wheels.

MY TRANSACTIONS: Displays all the transactions for an animal/group that involve your institution. Starting screen for additional transactions involving the animal/group.

NOTES: Free text data entry for gathering additional information or recording details that are not available in other fields or screens.

OBSERVATION: Recording an event that has been observed over time. The Observation screen gathers more information than is recorded for a simple Note. The location of the Observation, the time of day and the duration, who observed the event and the quality of the observation are collected along with the free text details regarding the Observation.

OWNERSHIP TRANSACTION HISTORY: A global view of all the institutions who have had legal title to the animal/group.

OWNING INSTITUTION (OWNER): The facility that has legal ownership of the animal entity. If the Owning Institution is not also the Holding Institution, then the only edit rights they have is ownership.

PAGINATION SIZE: The number of lines that appear in results grids. Relevant screens: All results grids

PARENT ENCLOSURE: In the Enclosure Tree, an enclosure that is above another enclosure in the tiered hierarchy. In the following example Training Aquarium and Zoo is a Parent enclosure to Carnivore Canyon and Desert Dwelling. Carnivore Canyon is a Parent Enclosure to Underground Tunnel and Desert Dwellings is a Parent Enclosure to all of the DD Exhibits.

Enclosure Tree View
- Training Aquarium and Zoo
  - Carnivore Canyon
    - Underground Tunnel
  - Desert Dwellings
    - DD Exhibit 1
    - DD Exhibit 2
    - DD Exhibit 3
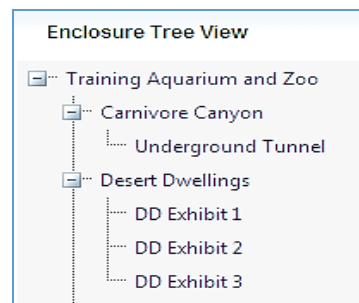
PARTIAL (Acquisition or Disposition): The transaction is happening to only some members of the group. This includes splitting a group, acquiring more members of a group, dispositioning some members of a group.

PENDING TRANSACTIONS: A list of transactions between your facility and other ISIS member facilities that have not yet been confirmed by both sides. The By My Institution tab means that you need to take actions, such as accepting an animal that was sent to you. The By Other Institutions tab means that another facility needs to take action, such as confirming that they received an animal that you sent to them.

PERMIT: An authoritative or official certificate of permission, a license to do something. Permits can be local, regional or global in scope.

PERMIT NAME: A unique word or phrase that identifies a permit and allows for searching by it. How permits are named is by the preference of the institution.

PHYSICAL HOLDER HISTORY: A global view of all the institutions where the animal/group has been physically held.

PLANNED TAXA: A record of your institution's future plans for species in an enclosure, including the desired sexes and the target year for the species to be in the enclosure.

PREFERENCES: Sets defaults for some fields and affects functionality of the application. Allows Users to customize the ZIMS application to meet their needs. Not all preferences are available as Institution and Individual Preferences. Individual Preferences will over-ride Institution Preferences.

PREFERRED: Used to indicate which identifier, common name synonym or taxonomic name synonym that you favor. Your preferred common and scientific names will be displayed in the Basic Detail and on reports for local view.

PROVISIONAL: This type of data must be reviewed and accepted before it becomes part of the animal's record. There are limited reports where you can select to include Provisional Data such as Activity Report and Daily Report.

RANGE: Used for estimating a date if you knew the date was sometime between two specific dates. For an estimated date Range, you record the first possible date (From date) and the last possible date (To date). The program will automatically calculate the midpoint and will fill it into the date field.

REQUIRED: The field must be completed before you can save the record and move on. Required fields are marked by a red asterisk. If the User tries to save and a Required field is not completed, the field border becomes highlighted in red. You cannot successfully save a screen until all Required fields have been completed.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY: The staff member, Team or Department that has primary accountability for the animal, enclosure or life support.

ROLE: The function or position someone is filling at your facility as it is related to ZIMS. Various Roles are assigned different access to view or edit ZIMS screens. ZIMS deploys with a list of Species360 template Roles that are not editable. When new functionality is deployed, Species 360 will update these Roles as we deem appropriate. When creating custom Roles you can select from these templates and edit as you wish, or start without a template and create the Role access as desired. Custom Roles are not updated when new functionality is released.

ROLE TRIMMING: The screens that are visible when a User is signed into ZIMS depend on what Role they are assigned and only those screens that are allowed for viewing or editing for that assigned Role are visible.

SEARCH SCOPE: The depth or reach of the search you want to do. A Local search Scope looks only in records for animals that you have had physically at your facility or had legal ownership of, or both. A Global search Scope looks at all the records in the worldwide database.

SHORT NAME (ENGLISH): An often abbreviated English name of an institution that is entered by the Local Administrator.

SHORT NAME (LOCAL): An institution's name that is used locally. Can be added and edited by Local Administrator.

SOURCE: The way you acquired the animal entity. ZIMS has six types of Source: Another Institution, Collected from Wild, Rescued, Appeared, Birth Hatch Conception and From Lay. What is available for the Terms is driven by the Source that is selected.

SPECIES HOLDING: Shows a listing of institutions that currently hold a specific taxon and the number of males, females, and unknown sex of those animals.

SPECIES WANTED: Taxon that your institution wants to acquire. Can be found under both Institution Information and Taxonomy.
SPLIT: To separate or divide one group into two groups or remove an individual from a group. You will retain part of the group under the original GAN and create a new group or individual with a new GAN.

SUBSTRATE: What your terrestrial animals walk or fly over and what is at the bottom of your aquarium tanks. Examples are gravel or charcoal in the bottom of your aquarium, concrete or fake grass in your aviary, corncob or shaving for your reptiles and real grass or rubber matting for your hoofstock.

SYNONYM: A different word or phrase that refers to an institution or a taxonomy. For a taxonomic synonym you can indicate if it is your preferred synonym for the common or scientific name.

SYSTEM GENERATED: A list that cannot be edited locally such as Actions Dropdowns and Data Standards. Also includes details that are entered on specific topic screens (such as permit details) that appear under the Notes and Attachments tab.

TAXONOMY CHANGE: A species is designated with a new Genus or Species name that is different than the one in the ZIMS Taxonomic List. The Global Administrator will make the change in the Taxonomic List when there is documented scientific evidence for the change.

TEAM: How you define your Teams is your institutional preference. There are six team types that are system generated. How you name your Teams is also institutional preference. Staff members can be assigned to Teams, and Teams can be responsible parties for animals, enclosures and life support.

TERMS: The conditions by which an animal entity is accessioned or dispositioned. The Terms are driven by the Source selected for receiving an animal entity. Indicating the physical location and ownership of the animal are included in Terms.

TERRESTRIAL: An enclosure that contains only land, or one that contains land and water features. Often the occupants can go back and forth between the land and the water.

TRACKING: How detailed you follow the make-up of your group. You can Track by sex type, life stage, both or have no tracking beyond a census count.

TRAINING EVENT: Recording a single training event that is part of the behavior/routine defined in Training Information.

TRAINING INFORMATION: Defining the behavior/routine that is being trained, the purpose of the training, and updating the status of the training.

TRANSPONDER INVENTORY: A list of your transponders and their status such as assigned, available and in-use. All transponders must be recorded in the Transponder Inventory before they can be assigned or inserted into an animal. The only exception is those transponders that were in animals that were migrated into the system from ARKS4 data.

UNDETERMINED: The value of this field is not known at this time.

USER: Someone who is assigned a Role in ZIMS. You cannot use ZIMS unless you have been assigned a role as a User.

VARIANCE: See ApproxVariance

WALKTHROUGH: An enclosure that allows visitors to walk into the enclosure and be in close contact with the occupants. Common in many aviaries and kangaroo/wallaby exhibits.

WATER BODIES: Water features in a terrestrial enclosure. You cannot take water quality measurements on a Water Body.
WATER QUALITY MEASUREMENTS: Measurements taken on the water in an aquatic enclosure.

Related Documents:
Accession
Disposition Term Definitions
Enrichment
Data Standards

Identifiers
Definitions

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* Species360 Organizational name change added on 07/18/2016