Frequently Asked Questions (Curator Tool)

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This document is printed in Word and converted to an Adobe Acrobat .pdf format. In Word, press the Ctrl key and click the topic in the Table of Contents to jump to that topic; if you are viewing this in Acrobat, click the link.

[Refer to the online Curator Tool User Guide for a general overview of the Curator Tool. There are also many other documents on the GG website.]

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Getting Started

Question

Are there any self-paced tutorials or other materials to help me learn the Curator Tool?

Answer

Yes. Start by visiting the GRIN-Global training wiki page. See www.grin-global.org/index.php/Training.

Under the *Training Exercises* section, to practice some of the basic functions in the Curator Tool, follow the exercises recommended in the document: 10 Exercises for Becoming Familiar with the Curator Tool. In the same section, other exercises are listed.

Also, review the videos that are listed on the training wiki page.

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Question

What is My Basic Workflow?

Answer

Because GRIN-Global is so flexible, the easy answer to this question is "it depends." If you are a curator, your initial work may involve either entering new accession data into the GRIN-Global Curator Tool, or copying existing data from a spreadsheet or some other database source. If you process germplasm orders for your site, then you will regularly be reviewing incoming orders, pending orders being held for some reason or another, and orders shipped. Not everybody uses GG exactly alike.

There are multiple documents and videos stored online at the GG website.

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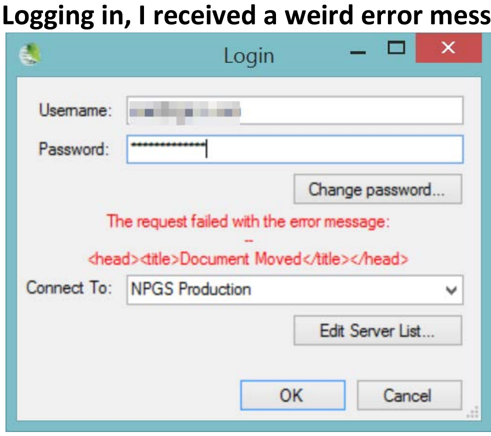
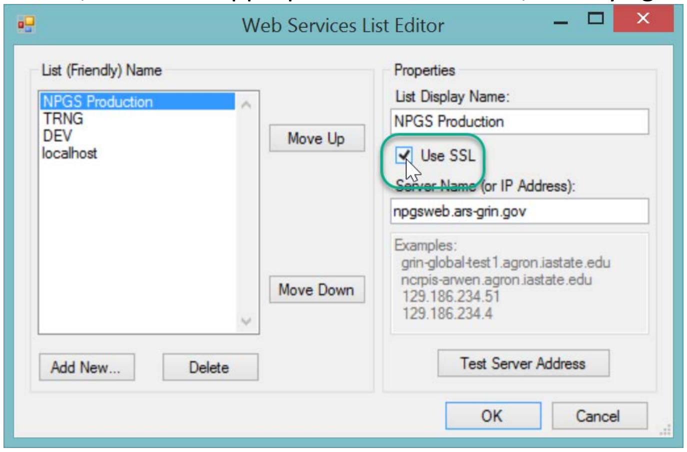
Question

Logging in, I received a weird error message "…Document Moved…" Why?



Answer

This message typically displays when the SSL checkbox has been unchecked. Click on the Edit Server List button, check the appropriate SSL checkbox, and try again.



Note: the Server Name shown is the USDA NPGS's address; this address is different for each GRIN-Global installation.

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Question

When I start up the Curator Tool, a disclaimer ("banner") displays stating that "You are accessing a U.S. Government information system…" which I know is not valid. Can the CT be configured differently?

Answer

Yes. The app_setting file contains an entry "GrinGlobalClient_loginBanner." The value for this record can be edited to whatever appropriate message your organization desires. The GG administrator must do this; this is not an end-user setting. Contact your GG administrator.

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Accessions

[Refer to the online Accessions Guide for complete details about GRIN-Global accession records and passport data.]

Question

How can I change the Maintenance Site for an accession?

Answer

First, understand how the **Maintenance Site** is determined. The site of the record owner is the Maintenance Site. Change the owner, the Maintenance Site will change to match the owner's site.

To change ownership (if you are the owner), select the record and then select **Change Owner…** from the menu. (You cannot change the ownership if you are not the record owner – you would need to request the owner to change the ownership.)

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Question

How is ownership determined for the Inventory records?

Answer

The owner of the Maintenance Policy specified for the Inventory record becomes the owner of the Inventory record. (Maintenance Policy is a required field.) Therefore, the creator of the inventory record is not necessarily the owner of the Inventory record. This last sentence has some important ramifications – even though you may have created an inventory record, you may not be able to modify the record until you receive the appropriate permission.

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Question

Can Accessions that are stored in-vitro be managed by GRIN-Global?

Answer

Yes. Several approaches can be used for keeping track of the inventory.

One consideration is that an *in vitro* (IV) inventory does not have a finite inventory. As long as you keep it alive, you could get an infinite number of plantlets from it. You could give the inventory record an **onhand** value of 1,000 to keep track of how many times it was ordered. Each time you can deduct from the onhand value as samples go out. At typical IV order might have 3 *in vitro* plantlets.

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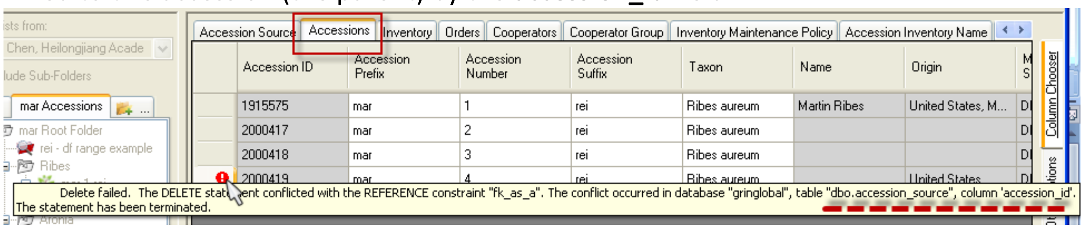
Question

I received an error message when I attempted to delete my Accession.
Why could I not delete the accession record?

In this example, the error message is indicating that an accession source record (the child) exists and is linked to this accession (the parent) by the **accession_id** field:



Answer

The accession had a child. If you want to delete the parent, you must delete the child first. Note that this had nothing to do with ownership or permissions – it simply is a basic tenet for a database – the database doesn't allow orphans!

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Question

What is Needed to Create Accession Data in GRIN-Global?

Answer

You have three alternative approaches:

(1) Drag and drop data from a spreadsheet. (Refer to the Importing New Accessions exercise on the GG Training page for practice and illustrations that show the detailed steps for dragging spreadsheet accession data in the Curator Tool.)

(2) Input the data, one record at a time (There are two ways to do this – either use the Accession dataview or the Accession Wizard. However, we recommend using the wizard since you can add data into the many related ancillary accession tables at the same time.)

(3) Use the Import Wizard in the Admin Tool to bulk load data. (Refer to the "Data Preparation Cookbook" for a complete overview and details. However, in many organizations, access to the Admin Tool is restricted to administrators. This tool is also primarily used for the initial "dumping" of data into GG, it is not recommended to use the Import Wizard on an ongoing basis. Why not? The Import Wizard bypasses some of the safeguards built into the CT. Also, the Import Wizard has not been updated to match the latest schema for all of its wizard dataviews.

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Question

How are Passport Descriptors handled in the Curator Tool?

Answer

In GG many inter-related dataviews handle the passport data. In general, passport data is stored in the tables accessed by the Accession dataviews. For a specific accession, the simplest way to display or edit its passport data is to select the accession record in the data grid and then start the accession wizard. Using the wizard, you can easily review the related accession dataviews where much of the passport data is stored.

There is a lengthy document available online that explains where the passport data is stored in GG: see Multi-Crop Passport Descriptors.

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Inventory

[Refer to the online Inventory Guide for complete details about GRIN-Global inventory.]

Question

I created an Inventory record but now I cannot edit it. Why? and what do I need to do to edit the record?

Answer

The owner of an Inventory record is determined by which **Inventory Maintenance Policy** record was used when the Inventory record was created. (The Inventory Maintenance Policy field is a required field for the Inventory record.) So even though you may have created the Inventory record, you are not necessarily the owner. The *owner of the Inventory Maintenance Policy record is also the owner all inventory records that are created using that policy*.

You can contact the owner and have him transfer ownership to you, or ask him to give you permission to edit the record.

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Question

What logic is used to determine if an inventory is available?

Answer

The Inventory record representing the sample lot which is to be distributed should have the two fields "**Is Available?"** and "**Is Default Inventory?"** set to **Y**. Inventory availability is explained in detail in the "*What Determines Accession Availability*" section in the online Inventory Guide.

(In Edit mode in the Curator Tool, selecting (checking) the box inputs a "Y" value, whereas an unchecked box contains an "N.")

Note: An Accession record has a Status field. When that field is set to "Inactive," then it should be assumed that the accession cannot be ordered. However, there is a bug in the current system – there needs to be a check to disallow any Inactive accessions from being ordered.

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Question

Why are two fields - "Is Available?" and "Is Default Inventory?" used to trigger availability?

Answer

"Is_Available" indicates the sample is viable and in sufficient quantity to distribute. The "I**s Default Inventory?" distributable** field is used to indicate that this inventory is to be distributed first whenever an accession has multiple inventory samples available for distribution. Curators should set both columns to "**Y**" for the sample to distribute.

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Question

In GRIN, users did not see accessions when they were not available – in GRIN-Global , they do. Why?

Answer

In GRIN, the default was to not "include historical and unavailable accessions in the search." However, the user could change that by selecting the include checkbox. The opposite condition is the case for GRIN-Global – all accessions are shown by default. However, the user can change the default by selecting the "Exclude unavailable accessions " option (click **Search Options** to display the option).

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Summary of Flags That Determine if an Inventory is to be Displayed (or not) on the PW

Question

A collection may have "black box" records which are not to be viewed by anyone. Is there a mechanism for hiding records that should always be hidden?

Answer

Currently this can be hardcoded within the programming, but there is a trac request to provide some means for doing this within the Admin Tool or via an **is_web_visible** column in the accession table

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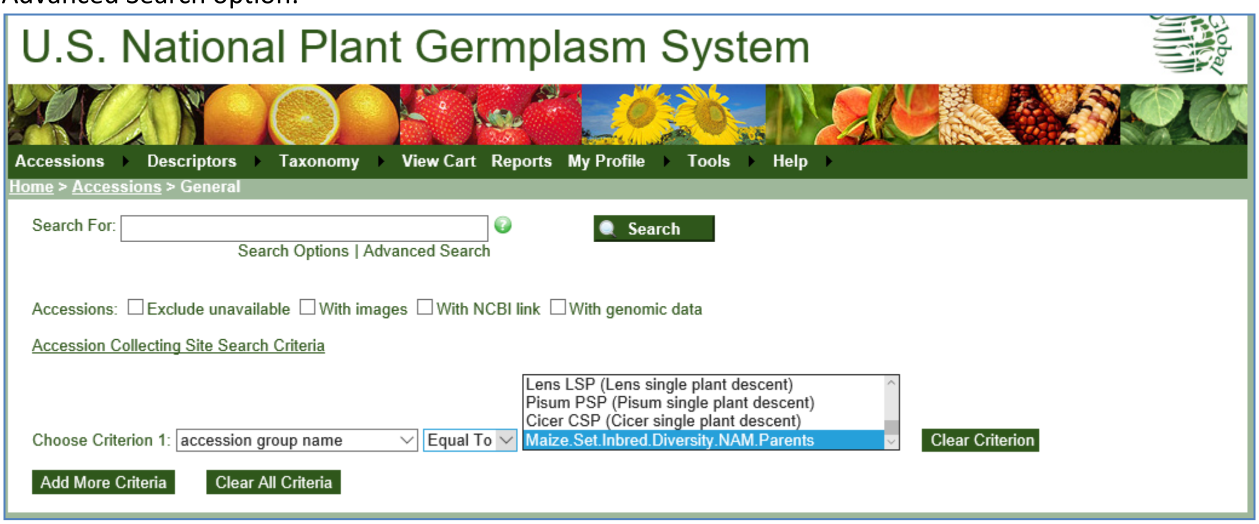
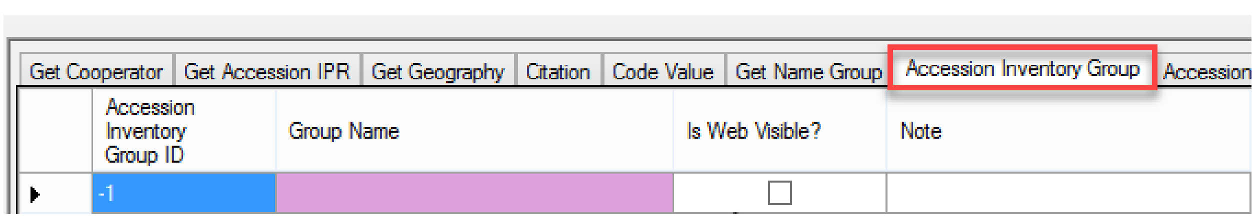
Question

What does the field "Is Web Visible?" in the accession_inv_group table control?

Answer

A curator can set up a group of accessions for whatever reason, and then make that group name visible or not. When the flag is set to visible, a Public Website user will see the name displayed under the Advanced Search option:





Complete directions are in the online Inventory Guide.

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Question

What affect does selecting the Is Web Visible? field in the accession_source or accession_inv_attach records have?

Answer

Checking the **Is Web Visible?** field creates a value of “Y” for the field.

In the **accession_source** record, selecting the field indicates that the source data (latitude, longitude, etc.) is to display on the Public Website accession detail page. Alternatively setting it to **N** hides sensitive locality details from the public.

Note that taxonomic species listed under the CITIES I,II or III lists or the US Fish and Wildlife Threatened or Endangered species designation automatically have sensitive locality details hidden for any accession having that taxon.

The **accession_inv_attach** table has a similar field – when the **Is web visible? field** is selected, the field will contain a **“**Y’’ which in turn denotes that the image will display on the Public Website page. If not selected, the attachment will not display.

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Question

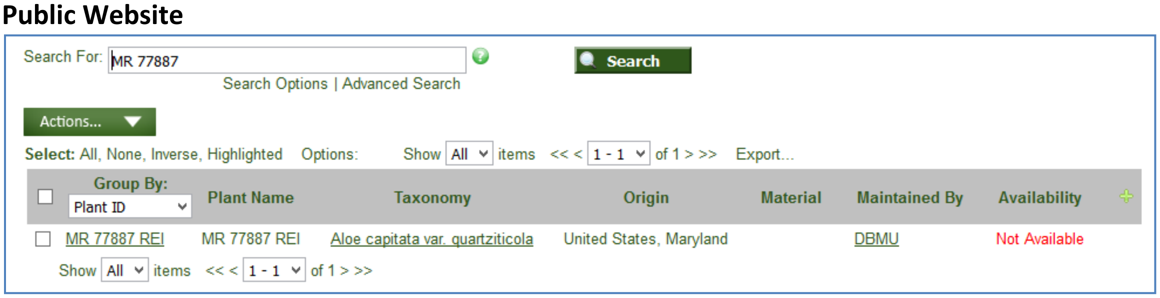
For Rare or Endangered species (or Noxious Weeds), I don't want to "publish" specific accessions in the GRIN-Global Web pages – is this possible?

Answer

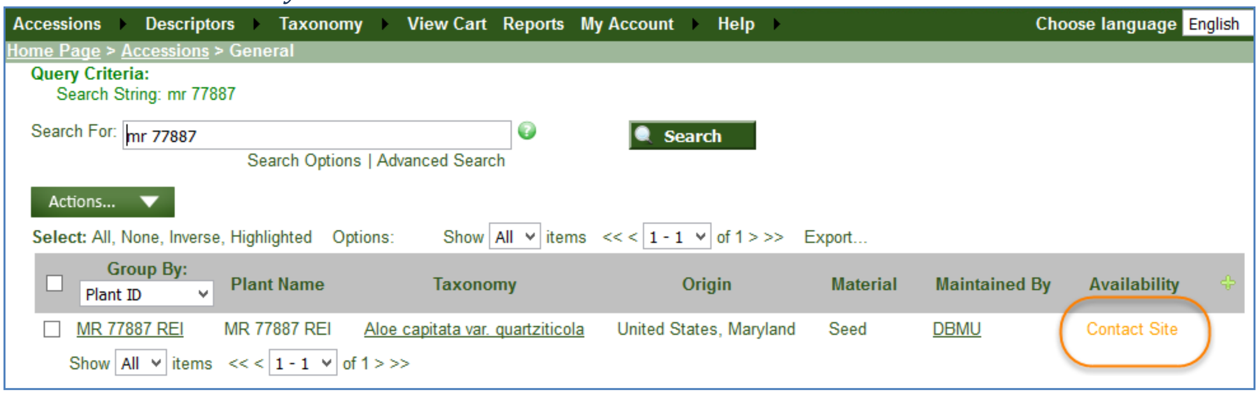
There is an “**Is Web Visible?”** field in the accession record. When set to “N,’ the accession However, in the programming logic for the Public Website, there is a special case that has been coded to hide accessions for a specific site. The site is “NSSB.” This site is treated as a special security site for accessions that are not to be shown to the public and are for internal use only.

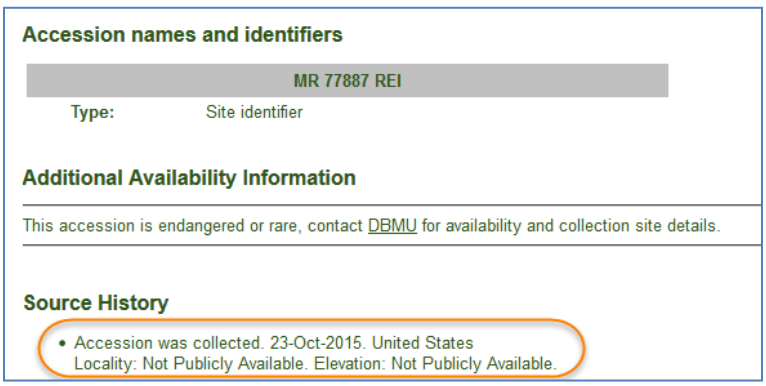
Also, GRIN-Global handles accessions whose species are considered to be noxious weeds, rare, or narcotic with special handling. The GG program looks at the **taxonomy_species** table’s **restriction_code** column for the values (WEED/RARE/NARCOTIC). GG doesn’t allow the accession to be available if the species record has one of these values. When an accession is a NARCOTIC species, it is always displayed with red text: “Not Available.” For WEED/RARE accessions, when they have inventory, the accession will be listed with “Contact site.”

Public Website



When There is Inventory





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Orders

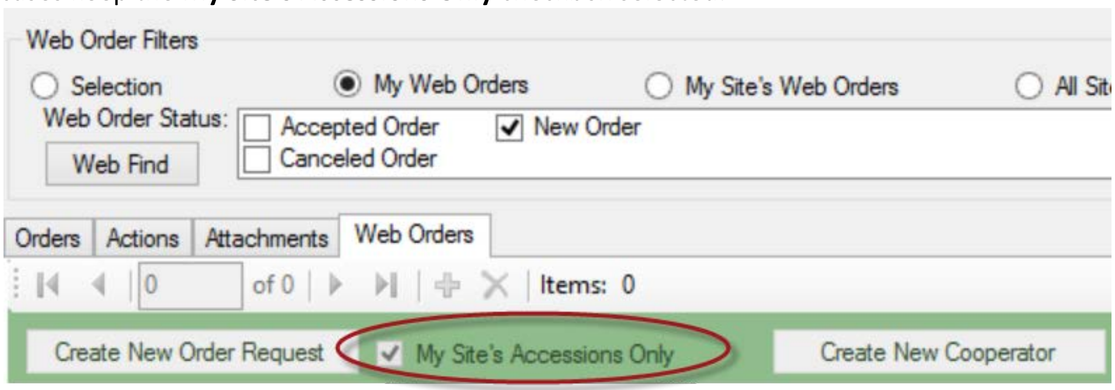
[Refer to the online Order Processing Guide for complete details about processing and managing GRIN-Global germplasm requests ("orders").]

Question

What happens to an incoming order which requests germplasm from more than one site?

Answer

The incoming order is automatically emailed to all of the sites that are responsible for the germplasm requested in the order. When processing incoming orders using the Order Wizard, you will in almost all cases keep the **My Site's Accessions Only** checkbox selected:



Also be aware that after someone has processed the initial order for their site's germplasm, the Web Order is no longer considered a "**New Order**" but rather an **Accepted Order**. Therefore, when using the Web Find feature, remember to also select the **Accepted Order** checkbox whenever you know multiple sites are involved (especially when you do not initially find the order when only the **New Order** checkbox was selected).

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Order Wizard: Determines Which Inventory Items are Used

Note: the Order Wizard is being revised

Question

How are the Inventory Items determined for an Order?

Answer

There is an algorithm applied to the accession's inventory records to choose the best one. The algorithm is based on is_distributable, is_available, and where the inventory is located. Basically it uses the following logic:

1) Find an inventory marked as distributable and available from your site
2) Find an inventory that is marked as distributable from your site
3) Find an inventory from your site
4) Find an inventory marked as distributable and available from some other site

5) Find an inventory marked as distributable from some other site
6) Find any inventory record for the accession

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Question

If we cancel a web order, are we expected to follow up with the customer via email to let them know that the order was cancelled, or will the system automatically send an email letting them know that their order was not accepted?

Answer

Currently the Order Wizard does not automatically send a cancel notice when the web order is cancelled. So ideally you will send the user an email letting them know that their order was not accepted.

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Question

(Order question) In GRIN classic, I could add items for which I did not have any inventory or accession records. I seem to be unable to do that in GG.

I tried adding the accession record, but GG does not accept the format I had been using for introductions that have not yet been assigned a permanent H number (i.e. N13-3). In GG, does each item need an inventory record?

Answer

Yes, in GG all items must link to an inventory. If you have an Accession ID and no physical inventory records, you can link the order to the default inventory record that is system generated for each accession (the "**" inventory record). If you do have an accession ID either, then you will need to create a accession. You could have one accession record expressly made for that purpose – as an "holding" accession whenever you need to point to one to link items when a real accession ID doesn't exist yet.

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Cooperators

Cooperator Ownership

Question

Who Owns an Incoming Cooperator on a Web Order?

Answer

When an incoming web order requesting germplasm from multiple sites is processed, whoever initially processes the web order and creates a new cooperator record is the de facto owner of the cooperator record. If another site needs to adjust the cooperator record, the original processor should either transfer ownership or adjust the permission levels on the record.

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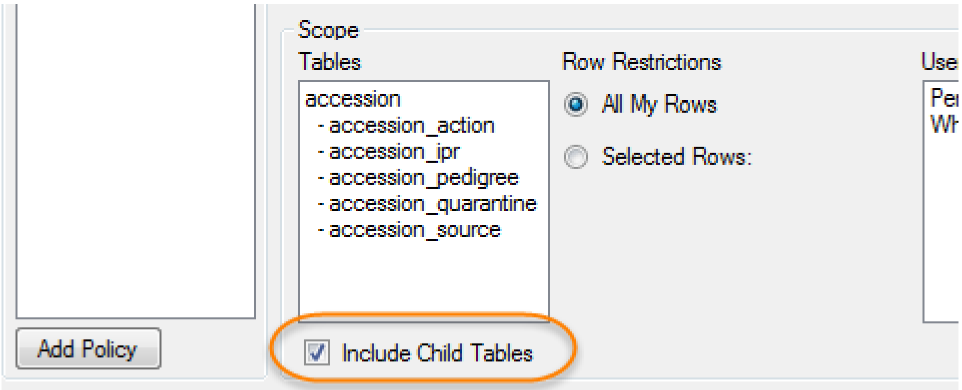
Ownership & Permissions (Security)

Question

What is the “Include Child tables” option supposed to do?



Answer

The "Include Child tables" option is supposed to do what you think it should do. Unfortunately, this feature is not functioning properly. Although it is feature that was tested extensively, in some cases it does seem to work okay (but not consistently). The USDA GG development team is looking into this issue and will be addressing permissions and making some changes to the code. In the meantime, you will need to go to the child table (as well as the parent) and establish permissions as you want them.

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Question

I created an Inventory record but now I cannot edit it. Why? and what do I need to do to edit the record?

Answer

The owner of an Inventory record is determined by which Inventory Maintenance Policy record was used when the Inventory record was created. (The Inventory Maintenance Policy field is a required field for the Inventory record.) So even though you may have created the Inventory record, you are not necessarily the owner. T*he owner of the Inventory Maintenance Policy record is also the owner of any inventory records that are created using that policy.*

You can contact the owner and have him transfer ownership to you, or ask him to give you permission to edit the record.

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Question

How does GRIN-Global handle security so that data is not accidentally or intentionally altered or deleted?

Answer

GRIN-Global has built-in security capabilities which the GRIN-Global administrator can enable or disable. Furthermore, the administrator can designate ownership and permission rules that determine who can read, update, and delete records. There is detailed information about this for users in the Curator Tool Users Guide. Administrators should read that section as well as the additional security information explained in the GRIN-Global Admin Guide.

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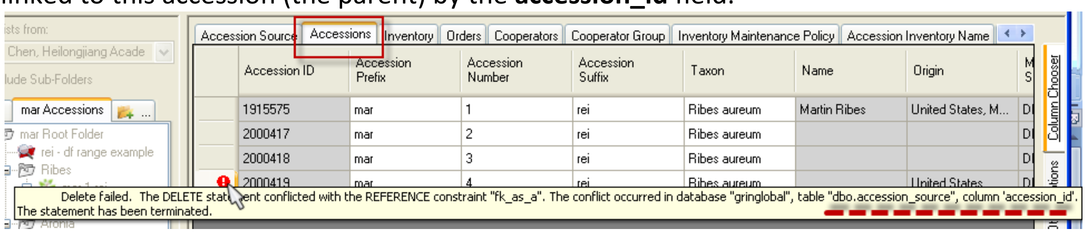
Question

I received an error message when attempting to delete my Accession.
Why could I not delete the accession record?

In this example, the error message is indicating that an accession source record (the child) exists and is linked to this accession (the parent) by the **accession_id** field:



Answer

The accession had a child. If you want to delete the parent, you must delete the child first. Note that this had nothing to do with ownership or permissions – it simply is a basic tenet for a database – the database doesn't allow orphans!

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Search

New Search

Question

In the Search Tool, is each new search against the entire database, or just the found records from the previous search?

Answer

Each time you click the "**Search Now!**" button, a new search is invoked. That is, the last query results are discarded and the entire query criteria (what you see in the textbox) is resubmitted to the SE as a new search.

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Question

If a person configures a search in the Search Tool, is it possible to store the text search somewhere within the GG interface for future use?
(Other than copy the text and save in a local file?)

Answer

Yes. Starting with Curator Tool version 1.8.3, a second type of folder is available, a dynamic folder. In creating the dynamic folder, you drag or copy the code text generated by the Search Tool and add that to a Dynamic Folder's Search Criteria in the Curator Tool. For more details, refer to the *Dynamic Folders* section in the Curator Tool User Guide.

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Question

When I searched with the List of Items button selected, and I supplied only a single column of accession_prefixes, the search didn't find any records, yet I know there are some. Is there an alternative?
(This question was raised by a genebank that has some accessions with a prefix only for their identifier.)

Answer

As an alternative, select the "**Any words**" button. The search will find the records since the accession_ prefix is one of the fields that is searched.

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Question

In the Search Tool, what is the best format to search for a particular date?

Answer

The format depends if you are using the mathematical operators **= < >** or if you are using ***LIKE***. The following two clauses both returned 29 records (in a training database)

@order_request.ordered_date = '3/3/1993'

@order_request.ordered_date LIKE '1993-03-03%'

The second style accepts the % as a wildcard but not the ***.** I like using the first format when setting up a "between" situation >= dataX and <= dateY such as:

(@order_request.ordered_date > '2012-12-31' AND @order_request.ordered_date <= '2014')

…returns 2013 records.

In the following example, January 2015 records are returned:
(@order_request.ordered_date > '31-Dec-2014' AND @order_request.ordered_date <= '31-Jan-2015')

The following are valid searches:

@accession.created_date like '2015%'
@accession.created_date like '2015-09%' [4-digit year and 2 digit month]
@accession.created_date like '2015-09-05%' [4-digit year; 2 digit month and 2-digit day]
@accession.created_date like '2015-%-05%'

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Reports

Question

I do not see any reports/packing lists listed in the Order Wizard Printing dropdown. What do I need to do to see them?

Answer

Refer to the *Reports Displayed in Dropdowns* section in the CT User Guide for a full explanation. In short, most likely you need to edit a .txt file on your PC. The complete pathname/filename is :

C:\Users***yourusername***\AppData\Roaming\GRIN-Global\Curator Tool\AppSettings.txt

A line similar to the following must be included in the text file:
(if there is already a line there with a leading "#" - remove the # symbol (which comments the line) and you should be set)

OrderWizardCrystalReports = Order-Packing by Accession.rpt; Order-Packing by Inventory with Origin.rpt; Order-Packing by Inventory.rpt; Order-Packing General.rpt; Order-Packing Inventory by Accession.rpt; Order-Packing Picking List by Inventory.rpt; Order-Packing Picking List by Plant.rpt; Order-Packing NSGC.rpt; 3x3_Packet_Label.rpt

After you edit and save the .txt file, you need to close/restart the Curator Tool.

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Question

Why can't I see reports in the Order Wizard Printing drop-down?

Answer

One possible reason is that **ReportsMapping.txt** file on your PC needs to be edited with a line change. This file on the PC associates CT reports with dataview file(s). If you see some reports in the CT, but when in the Order Wizard do not see any reports listed in the Printing dropdown, add the following two lines to the **ReportsMapping.txt** file:

OrderWizardCrystalReports = Order-Packing by Accession.rpt; Order-Packing by Inventory with Origin.rpt; Order-Packing by Inventory.rpt; Order-Packing General.rpt; Order-Packing Inventory by Accession.rpt; Order-Packing Picking List by Inventory.rpt; Order-Packing Picking List by Plant.rpt; Order-Packing NSGC.rpt; 3x3_Packet_Label.rpt

The fix may be as simple as removing the # in front of existing code. The # is sysmbol which comments the rest of the text behind it.

#Order Wizard Crystal Reports...

The **ReportsMapping.txt** file is stored at:
C:\Users*yourname*\AppData\Roaming\GRIN-Global\Curator Tool

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Question

When I install the Curator Tool, Crystal Reports (CR) is also installed. Does that mean I can use CR Crystal Reports to design my own reports?

Answer

Not really, The CR version bundled with the Curator Tool is a viewer version, similar to Adobe Acrobat Reader. In Reader, you can only display a PDF, but you cannot create a new one. The same is true with Crystal Reports in the CT – CR is there to view the reports. However, your site or organization could purchase a developer copy of Crystal Reports and write new reports which then can be distributed and made accessible to the CT users.

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Database (/ Schema) Questions

(GRIN is the USDA legacy system that precedes GRIN-Global. Questions comparing the two systems are often raised by GRIN users.)

Question

How can I determine where a GRIN field is located in GRIN-Global?

Answer

Refer to the GRIN-Global online data dictionary. Use the “**DataDictionary with GRIN fields”** tab for the Its third column lists the equivalent GRIN field name.

The schema between the two systems are very similar, but not exactly the same. One change that NPGS users will immediately notice is that the GRIN-Global schema uses lengthier, more descriptive field names.

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Question

What text is stored in the accession_source note field?

Answer

The Accession_Source Note field holds the text that was stored in GRIN’s **src.cmt** field. (All of the GRIN **cmt** columns were changed in GRIN-Global to **Note**.)

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GG Record Ownership Differs from GRIN

Question

Why do my site’s records have different Ownership information from what was stored in GRIN?

Answer

When the rows from GRIN are moved to GG, the GG **owned_by** field is set to the cooperator number (in GRIN, “**cno”**) of the “site” cooperator since current GRIN is based on site level ownership; in GRIN there wasn’t a “row by row” ownership model.

Since GG is based on individual level **owned_by**, when the GRIN data is converted to GG, a script is run to set the individual rows based on curator in the **im** (Inventory Method) table and other defaults.

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Herbarium Specimens

Question

Why doesn't the accession voucher table have a Voucher Type field?

Answer

A herbarium specimen can be seed or a fruit. (A note for NPGS GRIN Users: The accession voucher table only holds herbarium samples now so there is no need for a voucher type. The other vouchers (images, links) are handled in the inventory attachment table.)

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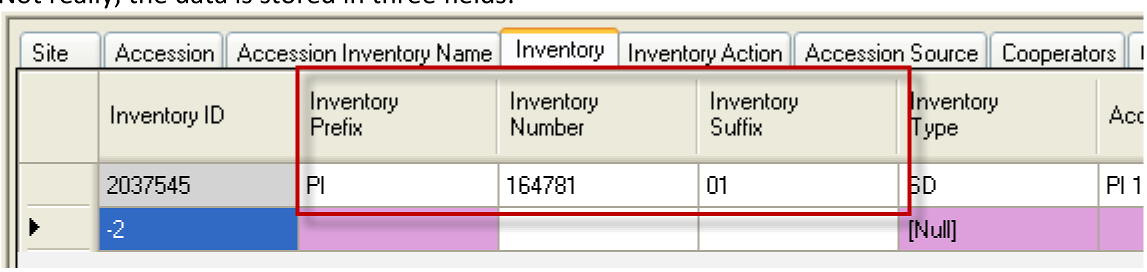
Question

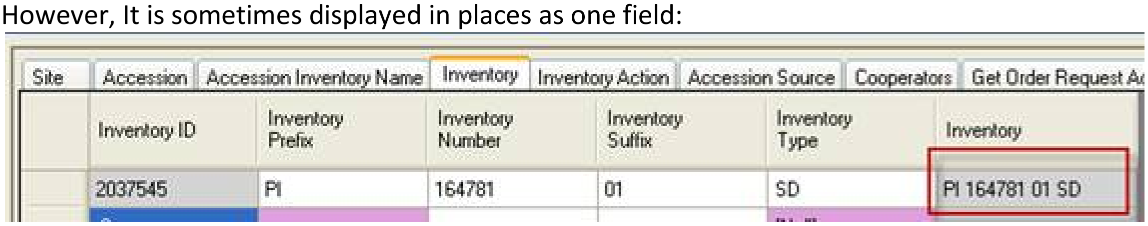
In GRIN, the fields " IVP," "IVNO," and "IVS" stood alone. Are they now treated as a combined (single) entity?

Answer

Not really, the data is stored in three fields:



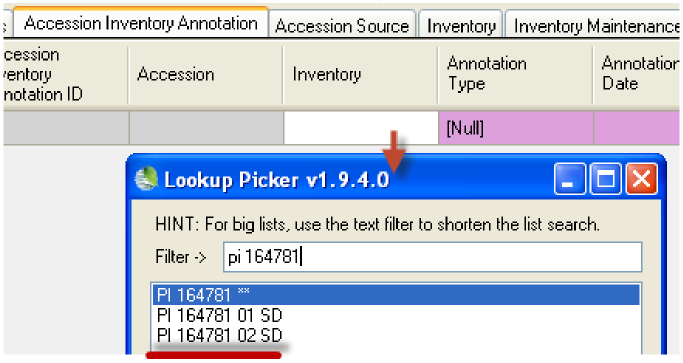
However, It is sometimes displayed in places as one field:



The two screen captures were taken from the same record in the **Inventory** dataview.

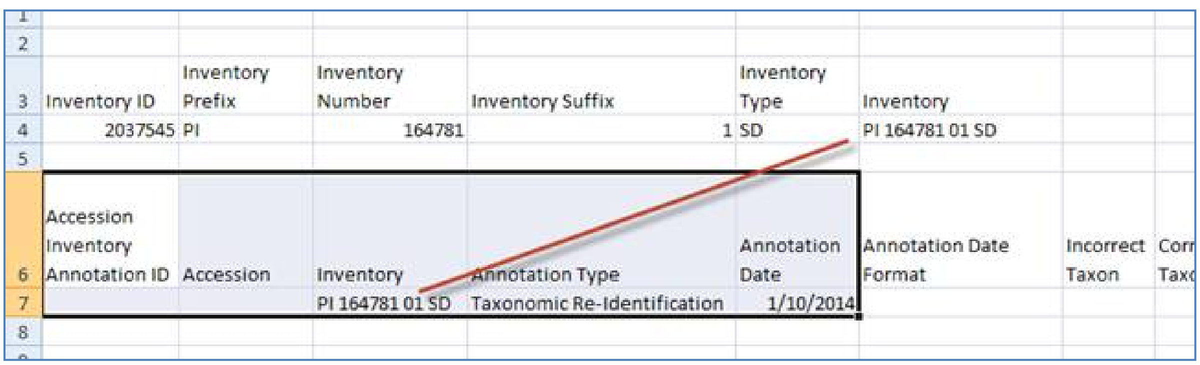
Notice in the second screen the **Inventory** field "appears" to be one field. But also notice the field is gray colored. The gray is indicating that you cannot edit this field – in fact, this field was created by the programmer to combine the four fields that comprise the Inventory Key: **Inventory-Prefix**, **Number**, **Suffix**, and **Type**.

Why? Because you will see this combined field elsewhere. For example, the lookup picker windows will reference the Inventory this way:

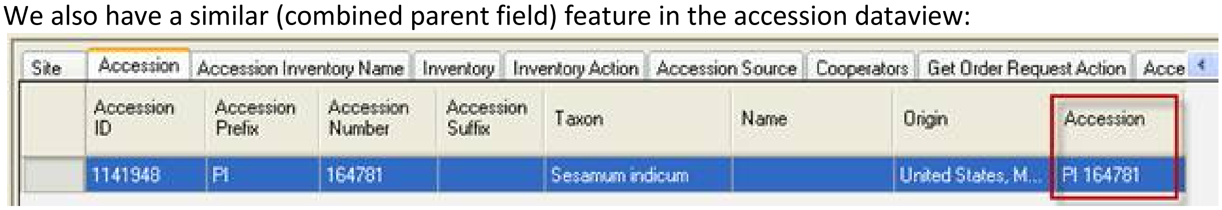


Suppose you wanted to drag and drop *inventory actions* from a spreadsheet to the CT (to update the child inventory action table). The combined Inventory field makes the drag and drop operation much simpler. In the illustration below, I am showing in the bottom half the fields necessary for updating the **Accession Inventory Annotation**. (To get these fields I dragged a blank Accession Inventory Annotation record from the CT in the Excel sheet.)

For **Accession Inventory Annotation** records, the Inventory field, the combined field, is a required field. You now can get that combined field easily, whereas before you would have had to do some Excel concatenation of the four individual fields to get this. Therefore, when adding child records to the CT from your spreadsheet, you can use this combined field to match up the parent inventory with the child records.



We also have a similar (combined parent field) feature in the accession dataview:



Again, this was included in the dataview to enable users to add child records easier.

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Question

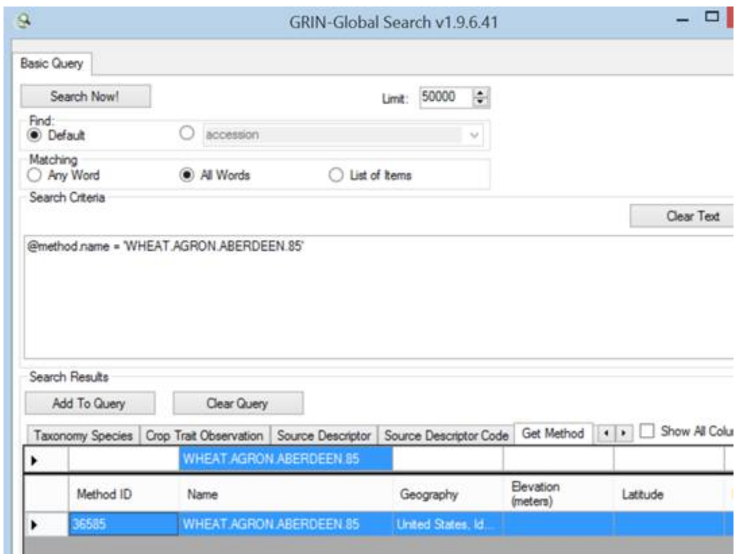
Where in GRIN-Global are studies or environments defined?
In GRIN Classic, traits are observed in studies or environments.

Example:

Crop: WHEAT
Trait: Growth Habit (HABIT)
Studies or environments: WHEAT.AGRON.ABERDEEN.85

Answer

See Methods (Search Tool screen shown here):



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Miscellaneous Curator Tool

Question

Any way to internally increase the Curator Tool's font size?

Answer

No. To increase the font size, you might try changing the screen resolution (in Windows).

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Question

In the Curator Tool, I sometimes cannot select a row – only a field. Why?

Answer

The CT has a feature for copying the contents of a cell or a range of cell, similar to Excel. If you press the Alt key, you are in this "BLOCK" mode. Highlight a range of cells, then press Ctrl+C (the Copy command). Paster wherever – in a spreadsheet, email, Word doc, etc. If you ever unintentionally press the Alt key, press **Ctrl + C** to return the interface back to normal (not necessary to paste, but you must press the Ctrl+C).

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Question

Can a Curator Tool dataview be modified to include additional fields?

Answer

Yes, but this is a task reserved for the GRIN-Global administrator. You should contact your administrator if you need to track additional data. It may be that there is already a dataview with a field for your data. If not, there are considerations that must be made in changing the GRIN-Global schema (the tables and fields).

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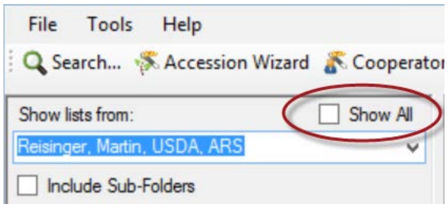
Question

I am still not clear about setting up Lists ("Folders"). Can I see how others use lists?

Answer

Yes. it's simple to do so. By default, you can share the lists from everyone in your site. With one click, select the **Show All** checkbox, and you can see the lists of anybody in the organization:



(By default, you are able to see lists of other users who have the same **Site Code** as you.)

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Question

There are two folder types – I am not sure what the differences are between the two types or when to use them.

Answer

The online guide Dynamic Folders explains the differences in detail. It includes the following table which summarizes some of the ways to use the lists:

Situation	Folder Type
Keep track of a list of constant records which you are working on from one day to the next	Static
List of orders processed on a specific day	Static
Maintain a list of all accessions for a specific Taxon	Dynamic
Review a subset of a site's inventory based on a certain criterion	Dynamic
Track orders based on specific criteria	Dynamic

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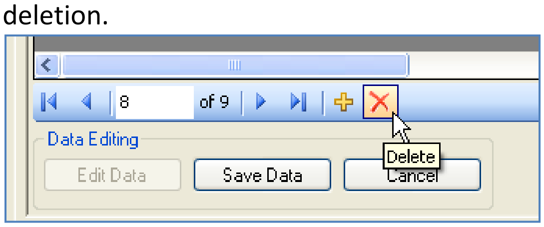
Question

Is there a method for deleting multiple records?

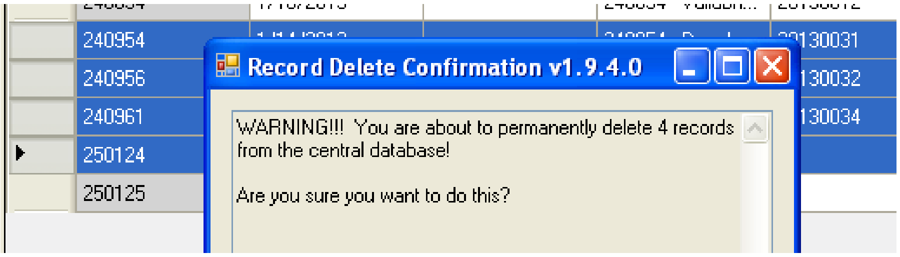
Answer

Yes, you can delete multiple records, but not by using the red "X" button.

With the red X button, you can only delete one record at a time. You will not be asked to confirm the deletion.



Instead of using that button, select the records to be deleted, and then use your keyboard's Delete key. An advantage in using this method is that you will be prompted to confirm before you can delete the records:



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Query Paging Size

Question

What size should my Query Page Size be?

Answer

The CT's Query Paging Size setting controls the size of the data "chunk" that the CT is communicating with the server. Its unit is rows of data. When set to 1000, the CT asks the server to send records 1000 at a time. This size affects how fast the server responds and how much time it takes to transfer a chunk of data across the network. If it is too large, say 10,000, you risk the operation timing out before it is finished. When it is too small, say 10, more time is spent on the overhead of requesting and sending each block of data which slows the operation down.

The page size is set to a small number of rows is to ensure no time-out errors for very slow internet connection speeds. Generally, with good network connections, increasing the page size will only help and not hurt you. (In the CT, click on the **Other Options** tab at the right to change the setting.)

Note

Beginning with CT version 1.9.6.43, the default 100 second timeout for data requests was removed from the Curator Tool (CT) to enhance CT network connectivity and performance. The CT will now wait forever to receive a response from the Middle Tier.

If you begin to experience a "'server timeout" error, that error is indicating that you are asking for so much data in one round trip that the server cannot deliver that size package in the time allotted. At that point you should reduce the page size until you no longer receive that error.

Slow response time is often due to a bottle neck at the server and internet connection. You can try increasing the page size more, but you will probably not see much improvement in response time.

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Clear All Dataviews

Question

Is there a quick way to remove all of the dataview tabs from the Curator Tool?

Answer

Yes. Select **Tools | User Settings**

Note that invoking this command also removes any other user settings, such as the colors for your alternate rows, the paging size, and other settings on the Other Options tab.

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Modified by

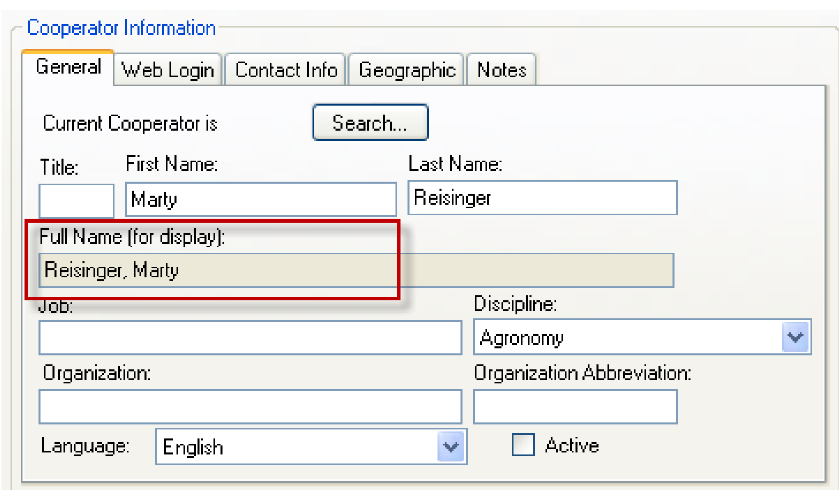
Question

Where does the information for the Created by and Modified by fields come from?

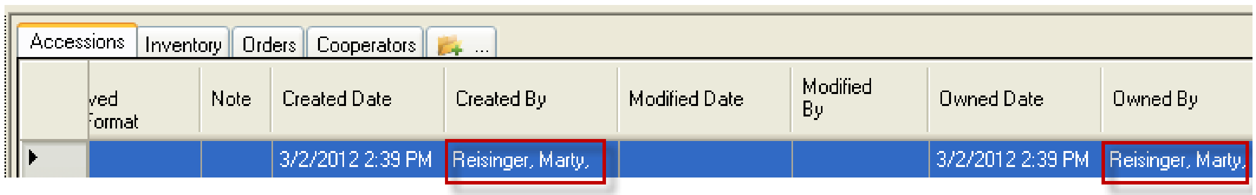
Answer

The information in GRIN-Global comes from the user's demographic data inputted by the GG database administrator when the user was added to the system.

The following screen is an *administrator* screen. (Standard CT users will never see this screen.) The **Full Name** field was automatically generated by GRIN-Global when the administrator entered the user's First and Last names:



The following screen from the Curator Tool illustrates a new Accession record being created by that same user:



(The source for the fields is the cooperator_lookup.)

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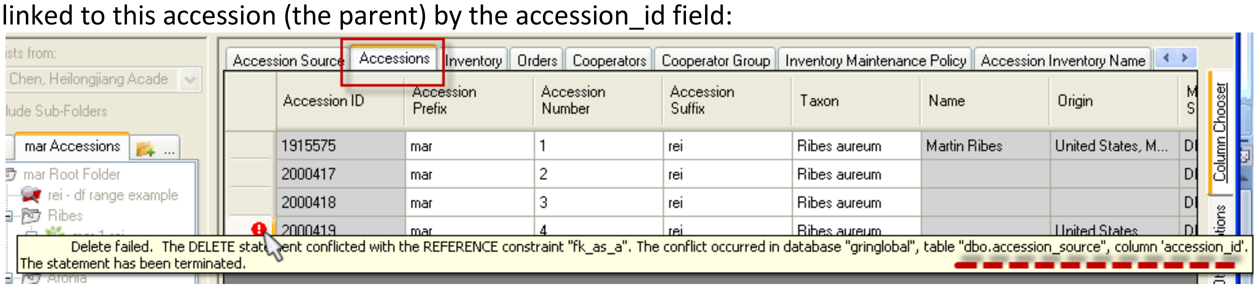
Question

I received an error message when attempting to delete my Accession. Why could I not delete the accession record?

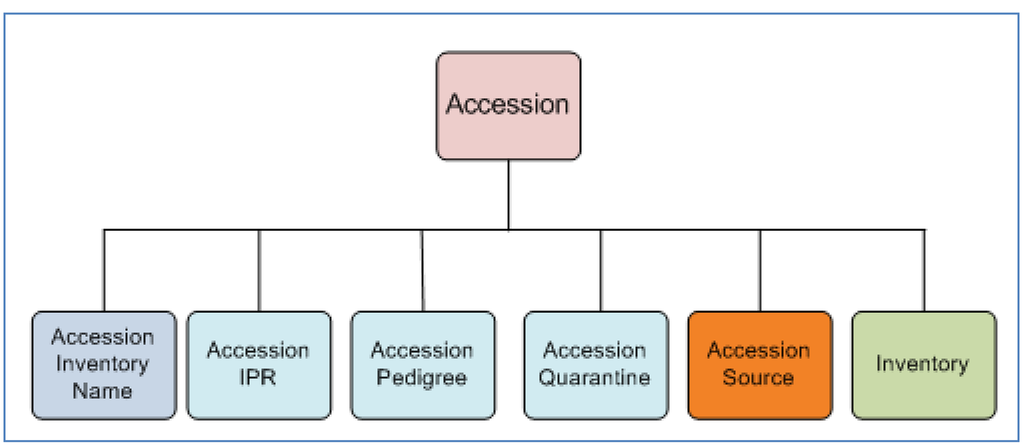
Answer

The database doesn't allow orphans! The accession had a child. If you want to delete the parent, you must delete the child first.

In this example, the error message is indicating that an accession source record (the child) exists and is linked to this accession (the parent) by the accession_id field:



If a Source record was created for the Accession record, in order to delete the accession , you would need to delete the source record (and any other children records) first.



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Question

When I start up the Curator Tool, why do I receive an error message and get frozen at that point?

Answer

It could be that when the Curator Tool was installed, it was not completely set up properly. (The installation process is affected by the native security built into Windows and the Curator Tool.) Whoever installs the Curator Tool on your PC (someone with Windows administrator rights) should be sure to complete the step where they start up the Curator Tool and select "**Make database accessible to all users**" from the **Help** menu.

Links to the generic and the U.S. NPGS installation guides are here and on the GRIN-Global project website

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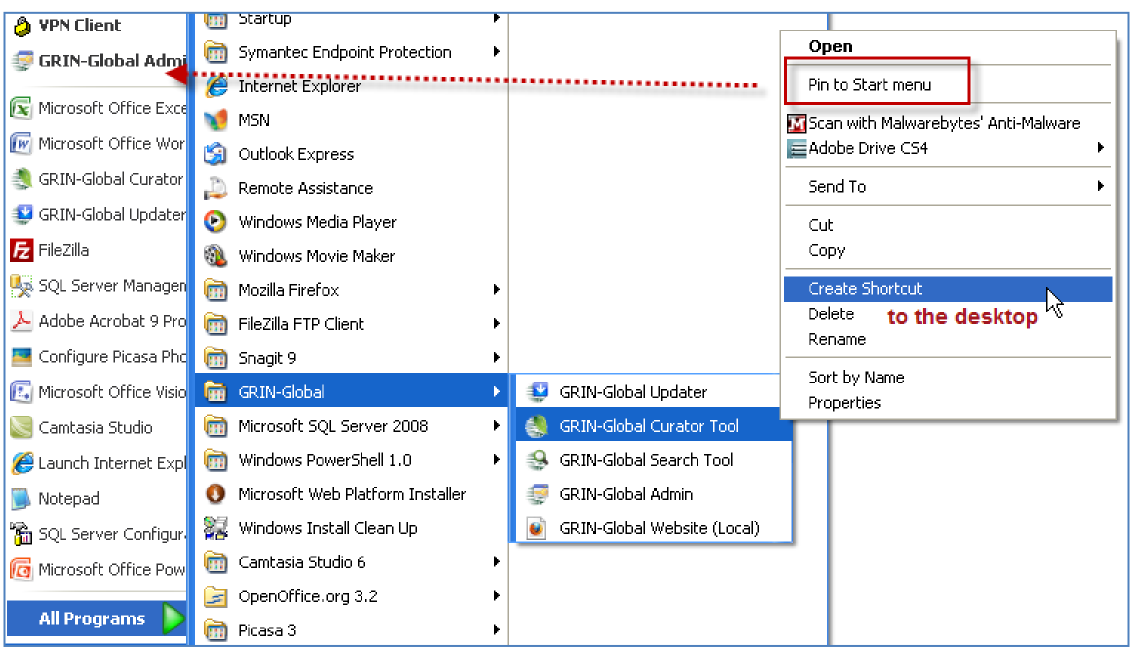
Question

How do I add a GRIN-Global icon on my desktop or pin the shortcut on my Start menu?

Answer

Select Start | All Programs | GRIN-Global. Highlight the GRIN-Global program for which you are adding a shortcut, then right-click. Select either Pin to Start menu, or Create Shortcut (desktop shortcut), or both.



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Taxonomy

Taxonomy Synonyms (is_accepted_name)

Question

What does the term “is_accepted_name” indicate?

Answer

The current_taxonomy_species_id always points to the “accepted” name. In the database, when the accepted name is true, the taxonomy_species_id field equals the current_taxonomy_species_id.

When they differ, the different current_taxonomy_species_id is indicating that either a name change has occurred (a name used previously has since been replaced by a better name agreed upon by taxonomists) or that it represents a synonym.

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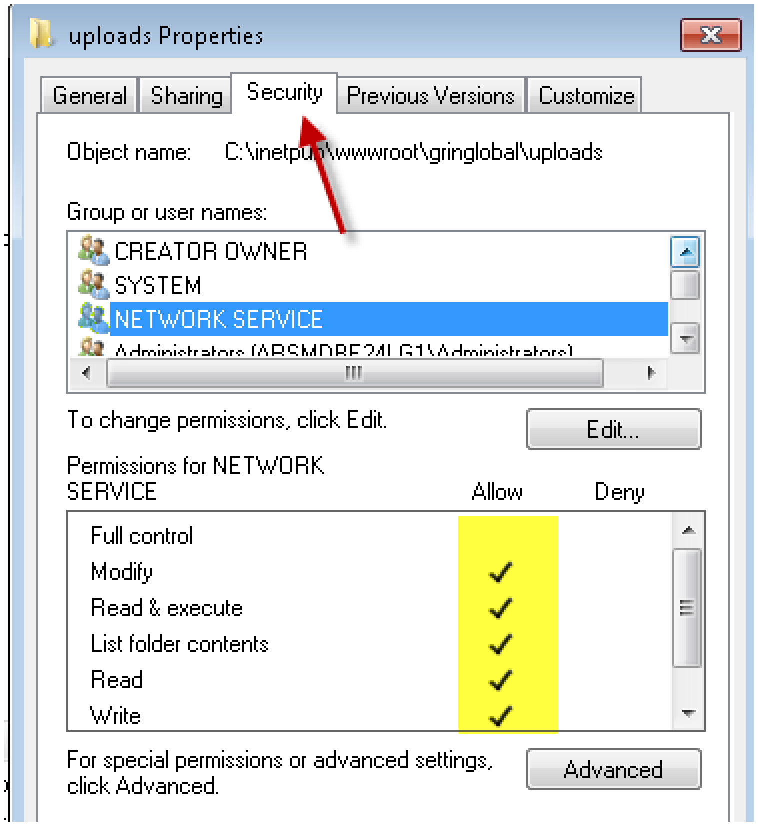
Question

Why does my exporting from web user fail? I get the message “Parsererror” when trying to export data from the web user interface.

Files will not export -- instead an error box pops up: “The page at 142.165.167.238 says:
Request failed: parsererror Undefined
The error occurs on all pages where I try to export. The error appears immediately after I click the export button.

Answer

Give your web server default **AppPool** (in many cases it is **NetworkService**) the read/write..permission to the **inetput\wwwroot\gringlobal\uploads** directory:



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Crops, Traits (Descriptors), and Codes

Traits: Editing Titles and Descriptions

Question

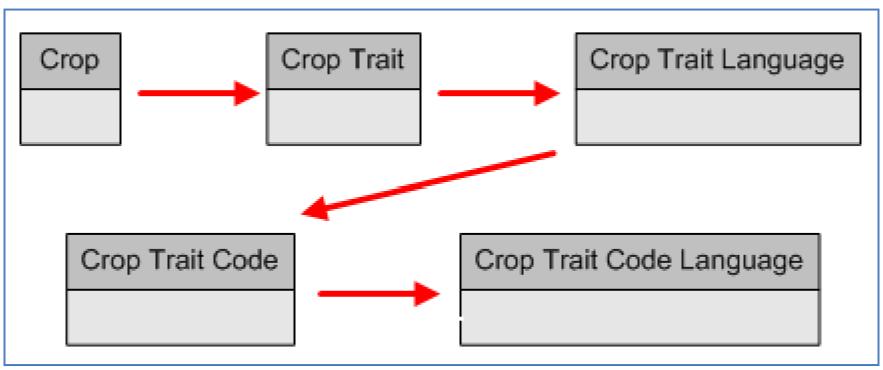
How do you add crop descriptors?
I have been trying to add descriptors (crop_trait) and codes (crop_trait_codes) to one of my crops. I can add the crop_trait, but not the description, that area is grayed out. I can add the crop_trait_code, but not the code description, also grayed out.

Answer

You could not edit the descriptions because you were not in the corresponding language dataviews where these descriptions can be edited. There are two additional dataviews that are part of the "big picture," and these are the dataviews where you can add the titles and descriptions for the Crop Traits and the Crop Trait Codes. (The reason why these additional dataviews are necessary is to allow GG to handle titles and descriptions in *any* language in the GG database.)

See following illustration:

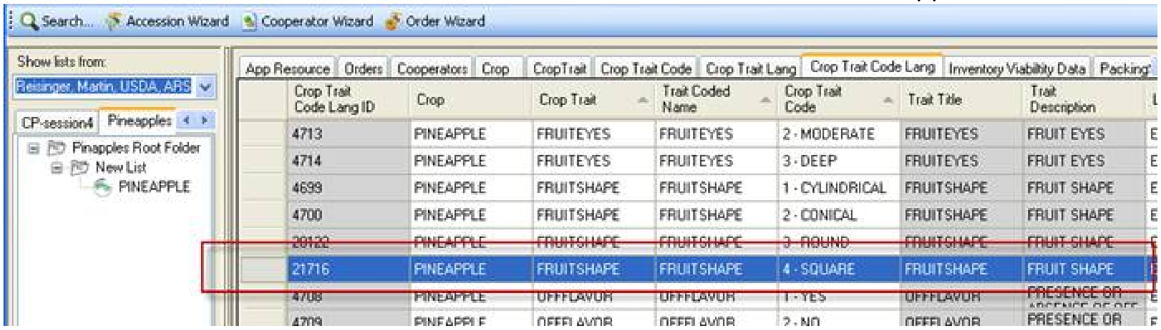
Crops and Crop Traits Overview
There are five crop-related dataviews that need to be considered when setting up the crops and crop traits. The following illustrates the general flow in inputting /editing data in the crop-related dataviews that you should follow in establishing new crop traits:



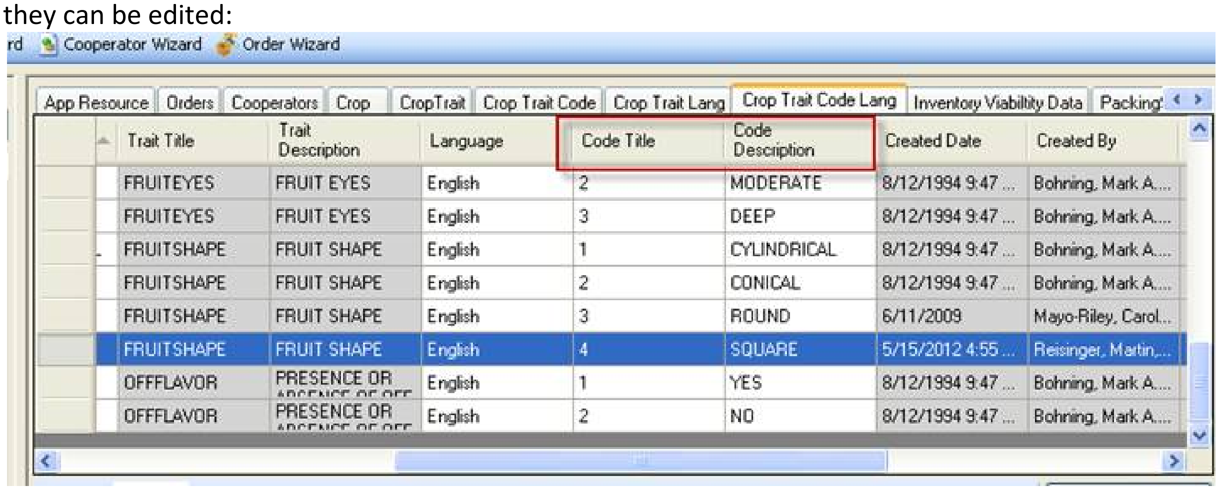
The **Crop** dataview is the "grand" parent dataview. That is, if you don't have the crop defined in the Crop dataview, you cannot enter in any of the traits related to the crop or the various possible code values that each trait can handle. Conversely, you cannot delete a crop from the Crop table if it has traits associated to it. Similarly, traits cannot be removed from the Crop Trait dataview unless all of the dependent data in the children dataviews has been removed first.

So the direct answer to the question "...I can add the crop_trait, but not the description, that area is grayed out. I can add the crop_trait_code, but not the code description, also grayed out..." If you open the two ...language dataviews, you will be able to edit the descriptions.

Here's the final result after a new FRUITSHAPE Code Value is added for Pineapple:



In the Crop Trait Code Lang dataview, the Code Title and the Code Description are not grayed out, hence they can be edited:



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Question

How can I determine what are all of the possible coded values for a trait?

Answer

I can see all the codes available by using the **Crop Trait Codes** dataviews. You do not even need to use the Search Tool, because of the way the Crop items work. See How2 Display All Codes for a Crop Trait for complete details.

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Traits: Relating Traits That Apply Universally to an Accession

Question

If an accession has multiple inventories, will we need to copy these "passport-like" traits repeated for each inventory?

Answer

No. Use the Accession's system inventory (**) record to connect passport-like traits to the accession. This saves you from copying a trait to all of the inventory records. An example of this is the race trait in maize.

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Excluding Crops

Question

If I have two or more crops in my GRIN-Global database, how can we "block" out a crop to Curator Tool users who will not need to be reviewing that crops' information? For example, genebank wheat users do not need to see the maize information. Is this possible?

Answer

Unfortunately, you can't exclude by CROP at this time. However, as an alternative, the administrator can set up exclusions by Taxonomy Family (Families). The admin would use the CT to search by taxon – in the Family Dataview. He can search and pull the Accessions records of that family (or families) into the CT from the Search Tool, and then invoke the security permissions to "deny" (Read/Write/ Update/Delete) all of those accession records to specified users. The excluded user would then no longer see records of that Family.

Ultimately ownership is the way to control access to those accessions. After other higher priority issues are handled, the GRIN-Global development teams intends to review the current security model. It is possible that one of the things that could change is the concept that Taxonomy should drive the "default" owner of the accessions.

In the meantime, an administrator could write a SQL script and use SQL Server Management Studio to set the owners for specific records.

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Images

Note

In the USDA NPGS, as of July 2016, it is not recommended to store images on the GG server. (A new image wizard is being developed. Also, there is a plan to reorganize the image filing structure on the server.

Question

How do you load images into GRIN-Global?

Answer

Images can be attached to accessions and inventories via the accession_inv_attach dataview. For complete instructions, refer to the *Image Handling* section in the Curator Tool User Guide.

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Installation Questions

Question

What do I need to install in order to access GRIN-Global?
"It depends." Here are the typical configurations:

Configuration	GG Components Installed on User's PC
Your organization's GRIN-Global data is stored on a server. You will use your PC to input and edit the data on the server. You need to install the Curator Tool.	The Curator Tool (CT). (During the CT installation, the Search Tool, "Lookup tables," the Crystal Reports Viewer, and a copy of SQL Server Express will also be installed.) A CT self-extracting (.exe) installation file is available on the USDA GG website on the downloads page. (https://npgsweb.ars-grin.gov/gringlobal/downloads/)
Your organization's GRIN-Global data is stored on a server and your organization is using the GRIN-Global Public website. You are not intending to add/edit GG data – *you just want to view data* .	No GG components are required on the user's PC – only a standard browser (such as Internet Explorer, Firefox, or Chrome) is needed to access the Public Website.
Your PC will serve a dual purpose: you will input and access the GG data, but the PC will also be the repository for the data. This is a very rare situation.	GRIN-Global Updater Program*; The Updater will generally install the GG Admin Tool; a database product: (SQL Server, Oracle, MySQL, or PostgreSQL); and a basic GG database. Some additional prerequisite Microsoft software is also loaded during the GG installation process

* The GRIN-Global Updater program must be installed first before the GRIN-Global *server* components are installed. Complete installation directions are in the Installation Guide. Links to the generic and the U.S. NPGS CT Installation guides are here and on the GRIN-Global project website.

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Question

What version of GRIN-Global is the latest?

Answer

GRIN-Global is comprised of a suite of programs. (See Configurations.) The best resource for the latest version is on the GRIN-Global website "Downloads" page. Note that the U.S. GRIN-Global development team is continually working on the software to improve its performance and add requested functions. The software will continue to evolve to meet the needs of global genebanks.

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