



The *Botalista* projet

(<https://botalista.community>)

A management software : *Botalista.software*

an association : *Botalista*

Often seen as mere leisure spaces, the Botanical Gardens are key players, both for the conservation of plants and their genetic resources as well as for research and education, and are actively involved in solving major environmental challenges for and with society. While the vast majority of Botanical Gardens are now equipped with computer tools for the management of their collections, these do not meet certain needs and above all do not allow the connectivity and compatibility necessary to promote the exchange of knowledge, information sharing and the enhancement of collections nationally and internationally.

Based on this observation, in search of a transferable solution, and rich in experience of more than 20 years in the field of information systems, the Conservatory and Botanical Gardens of Geneva have taken the initiative to develop, in close collaboration with the Botanical Gardens of the City of Paris, Bordeaux and the University of Bern, a new management software called *Botalista.software*, meeting all the needs expressed by the consulted Botanical Gardens.

Botalista.software : a collaborative, accessible and modular management software

Designed as a global and modular community tool, *Botalista.software* wants to be able to manage all the business processes related to the activities of a Botanical Garden: living collections, Index seminum, seed bank, *ex situ* conservation projects, herbaria, etc. The modular design of *Botalista.software* allows deployment tailored to the needs of Botanical Gardens and their users.

Multilingual, *Botalista.software* allows users to access various data thesaurus (nomenclature, protection status, ecological values, etc.) but also to share information. A complete and regularly updated thesaurus of Latin names via the international project "World Flora Online" (worldfloraonline.org) will also be available.

Thanks to web services, information sharing will be possible within the user community via the "*Botalista Data Share Center*".

Botalista.software is a web application requiring no installation on workstations and therefore accessible from anywhere and on any device.

Among the various modules offered by *Botalista.software*, "*Botavista*" will offer a web interface for dissemination for a Botanical Garden, but also a web interface aggregating, with the agreement of each partner concerned, all the information from the community of the Gardens using *Botalista.software*.

Botalista.software : an open source management software

Botalista.software is an open source management software developed under the Apache v 2.0 license (<https://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0>).

The Botalista association (see below), following the decision of the City of Geneva to grant it the enjoyment of *Botalista.software* while retaining the intellectual property rights, is responsible for the maintenance and development of the source codes of the software.

Two versions of *Botalista.software* are available :

- **Community Edition – CE** : a version where source code is freely available for those who wish to install and use *Botalista.software* on their own IT infrastructures;
- **Enterprise Edition – EE** : a version subject to payment of a user license (see the catalog of services of the Botalista association), reserved for members of the Botalista association and where a part of the source code is closed. This version is deployed as Software as a Service (SaaS), ie the Botalista association makes *Botalista.software* available to its customers via the Internet and regularly provides automatic updates. For this EE version, the Botalista association also manages all servers, application and security softwares. The EE version is therefore a so-called “turnkey” solution.

Botalista association : the association of users of the *Botalista.software*

The non-profit association *Botalista* aims to promote and manage the heritage, didactic and scientific collections of plants in the Botanical Gardens, at national and international levels, as a support for their activities in the fields of education, research and conservation, necessary for a good understanding of the issues of the importance of biodiversity for our society and for actions in their favor.

The tasks of the *Botalista* association are as follows:

- unite the members of the association around *Botalista.software*
- develop and apply a strategy ensuring the economic sustainability of the association
- provide IT services related to *Botalista.software*
- seek funds from patrons and sponsors
- develop and manage the IT design of *Botalista.software*
- maintain and develop *Botalista.software*
- pool the IT resources necessary for the operation of *Botalista.software*
- provide training services to *Botalista.software*
- conclude any convention useful to the achievement of its goals
- promote the *Botalista* project.

Through the *Botalista* association, the member Botanical Gardens are therefore directly involved in the governance of the Botalista project.

Can become a member of the *Botalista* association Botanical Gardens having legal personality, or the legal person to which they are attached, using, or agreeing to use *Botalista.software* for the management of their collections.

Botalista association : the association in charge of the *Botalista.software*

The City of Geneva, at the origin of *Botalista.software*, has granted its rights to the *Botalista* association representing the Botanical Gardens that use *Botalista.software*, while retaining the intellectual property rights.

As such, and in accordance with its statutes, the *Botalista* association will be in charge of maintaining and developing *Botalista.software*, both in its “Community Edition - CE” version and in its “Enterprise Edition - EE” version (see above).

The coordination of *Botalista.software* developments is ensured by the Technical Commission of the *Botalista* Association, each member of the *Botalista* Association having the right to a representative on this commission. The Technical Commission is responsible in particular:

- synthesize the needs of *Botalista.software* users
- quantify the needs and possible developments
- to advise the prioritization, in consultation with the person in charge of IT developments, of the corrections and evolutions to be made to *Botalista.software*
- to offer and cost IT services
- participate in the tests of *Botalista.software* before the release of new versions.