

Dear NOW Community,

I'm very happy to announce The NOW book, which hopefully will be ready for the 25th anniversary of NOW database coming up in 2021. Please contribute! We hope that this will become classics.

The editors for this this anniversary volume will be Isaac Casanovas Vilar (lead editor), Christine Janis, Juha Saarinen and Lars van den Hoek Ostende. Syntheses of old work are as welcome as new results or perspectives, an important requirement is that they would builds on NOW data in some ways.

The call for contributions is now open, please send your expressions of interest to the editors by the end of November the latest (a few lines outlining the idea is enough). Attached is a letter from the editors with more details. The call is primarily intended for you, your teams and collaborators, but anyone outside the NOW Board who might be interested is most welcome, so do encourage anyone who you think may have interesting content to propose chapters.

With the book and the NOW anniversary coming there will most certainly be a NOW meeting in 2021. The location and timing is not decided yet, would anyone want to host the meeting, ideally in Europe? The last NOW meeting was in Bratislava in 2018, there were about 20-30 participants, now with the anniversary and the book the meeting may get a bit larger. These are warm interactive get togethers covering both – the database development and scientific content. So please do get in touch if you are willing to host the anniversary meeting in 2021.

In other news, all is well on the NOW factory floor, times are intensive as usual, some major and a lot of smaller data development, data curation and database functionality projects are ongoing. We just started major synchronization of higher-level taxonomy, revision of Eurasian time units as well as synthesis of the global Pleistocene material following the initiatives from Bratislava 2018 are ongoing. A few weeks ago a major update of body masses by Juha Saarinen was released, around a thousand of estimates were updated, so now is a good time to download the latest NOW version if you are working with body masses.

Other than that, incorporation of two big datasets with specimen-level information, the Turkana and the Siwaliks, is moving forward. Those ongoing undertakings are big and will take time, Kari Lintulaakso is doing wonderful work there.

Coming up in the pipeline is the second South American expansion, following the curated South American release that we did with Darin Croft this summer. Revision of Australia is due to start relatively soon. NOW also has quite a wonderful chunk of Eurasian Paleogene data entered a while ago and sitting in the draft mode. That needs quality checks before it can be released, but willing experts are lacking for this task. Any ideas? Any volunteers?

New coordinators are and will be joining the Advisory Board in relation to expansion of NOW coverage in time and space and the new Emeritus Board. Welcome to Samantha Hopkins – the regional coordinator for North America and interactions with MioMap. Dimitris Kostopoulos has taken larger responsibilities and is now the regional coordinator for the Eastern Mediterranean, as well as the taxonomic coordinator for Eurasian and African bovids. As for the Emeritus Board, it's being formed and Mikael has ideas for interesting special tasks that this board could undertake, stay tuned.

Very happy to have you all on board and looking forward to what the future brings. Please get in touch if you have ideas, complaints, suggestions or anything curious in mind. Hope to see many of you in the meeting in two years, if not earlier.

Greetings from surprisingly sunny Helsinki,  
Indrè

## NOW 25 years anniversary book: call for contributions

Dear Colleagues,

as you know, the NOW database has grown up. Indeed, it will turn 25 years in 2021. To celebrate that we are preparing a special volume – The NOW book.

We are considering publishing the volume in **Springer's Vertebrate Paleobiology and Palaeoanthropology Series**

edited by Eric Delson and Eric Sargis, pending a successful approval of our book proposal. This series has published notable volumes, including the recently issued “Methods in Paleoecology” by Croft et al. These are hardcover books with good quality and some color pictures. We are trying to raise funding to make the whole volume open access.

We are currently preparing a plan for the book to be submitted for consideration to Springer, outlining tentative chapters and contributors. This is why we are opening the **call for contributions**. If you alone or together with any collaborators would like to contribute a chapter, **please send an e-mail to the editors (contact details are below) indicating your interest by November 30, 2019**.

Ideally these should be paper-length chapters (20-30 printed pages) focusing on the evolution of Cenozoic land mammal faunas and ecosystems. Chapters would mostly address issues in evolutionary paleoecology, but other topics are welcome. The only mandatory requirement is that the data are derived from the NOW (even if modified, emended or expanded). Chapters may be entirely original research, or they can build on previous works, such as providing an updated review of a particular question. In addition, there will be two special chapters, one on the history of the NOW (led by Mikael) and one on the structure and contents of the NOW (led by Indrè). All the Coordinators of NOW will be invited to be co-authors on this chapter, around 100 co-authors are expected on this chapter. Last but not least, Kay Behrensmeyer will write the opening foreword for the book.

**The deadline for the full chapters will be by late 2020**. We will be happy to receive your proposals (as well as discuss possible topics for the chapters). Ideally, we need to have a tentative table of contents before 2020, so **please send your proposed contributions by the end of November at the latest to isaac.casanovas@icp.cat** .

Thanks in advance for joining us in this celebration, it is going to be an awesome volume, you can be sure of that.

Sincerely,

Isaac Casanovas Vilar <isaac.casanovas@icp.cat>

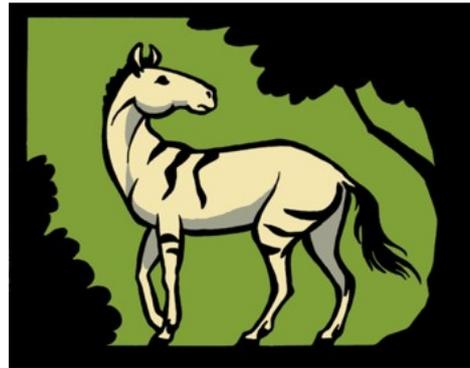
Christine Janis <christine\_janis@brown.edu>

Juha Saarinen <juha.saarinen@helsinki.fi>

Lars van den Hoek Ostende <lars.vandehoekostende@naturalis.nl>

Editors of the volume

## The NOW Database



Picture © Aino Martiskainen