**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE LIBRARY**

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

Meeting, February 1-2, 2014

Lorne, VC, Australia

MINUTES

Attending:

Members: Ely Wallis-Chair (Australia), Jiří Frank-Vice Chair (Europe), Nancy Gwinn-Secretary (Central), Dr. Cui Jinzhong (China), Abel Packer (Brazil), Anne-Lise Fourie (Africa)

Guests: Martin Kalfatovic and Connie Rinaldo (Central); William Ulate (Central) by phone Fabiana Montanari (Brazil), Lui Fenghong (China)

**ACTION ITEMS**

**BHL Secretariat**

1. Set up a global BHL listserv -- Secretariat. All to help develop the list of participants.

2. Enrich the Global BHL webpage in “About BHL” with more description of each node and metrics about their contributions-- BHL Central

3 to add Node collections to the portal as "collections." . BHL Central

4. Improve and assess needs for ingest of appropriate global content digitized, but not in the portal; inventory what is available and create a timeline. BHL should become THE repository for current biodiversity literature available in open access.

5. BHL Central to develop Macaw to include article-level metadata.

6. Training needs:

a. Create a space on the wiki for training materials

b. Complete documentation of Macaw -- BHL Secretariat

c.develop a list of what is needed for training aids with input from all.

7. Martin and Nancy to explore the possibility of BHL becoming the official repository for federal biodiversity research publications.

8. Invite Chair of Global Coordinating Committee to the BHL Central meetings.

9. William, Martin and Connie to develop an agenda of technical items for discussion at the BHL Central meeting in March. No face-to-face meeting of technical group at this time.

**BHL Europe**

Develop a more organized and shared marketing plan. BHL Europe has a person who can help with this and work with a group from the nodes. The BHL wiki has a calendar of events that anyone can post things on.

**BHL Australia**

1. Ely to draft a call to technical users using API's on the BHL website to tell us of problems with the current functionality or things they'd like to do. Martin will put the call out on the blog

2. Australia will begin to create videos on processes and workflows and a BHL Basic (what BHL is).

**ALL**

1. Attract new nodes: missing are India, New Zealand, Russia, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Latin America. If anyone makes an approach to any institution in these areas, please let the others know.

2. Need to start a process of thinking about what we would want BHL to look like if we were to build it today.

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**Node Presentations**

The first day consisted of reports from Global Nodes, adding to the presentations made the previous day during a workshop at the Melbourne Museum.

BHL Central -- Martin Kalfatovic

BHL Central Members Council currently has 15 paying members including the Encyclopedia of Life. The University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana and BHL Singapore will be joining soon. Affiliates include the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, which recently came under the wing of Drexel University, The Field Museum Chicago, and recently the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum.

The most recent metrics:42.8 millionpages

132.7 thousand volumes

94,000+ segments (articles, book chapters, papers, etc.)

Scanning has dropped off as funding has diminished: 7,963 vols. - past 12 months

14,562 vols. - previous 12 months

A question: why would there be appropriate titles in the Internet Archive but not in BHL? Probably because there is no MARC record available; if no metadata is available, the item can't be harvested.

In 2012, the 14 members supplied to BHL activity the equivalent of 14.193 FTE, not counting the Secretariat or Technical staff; this is valued at $1,239,000 of staff and other costs

From 2007-2013, the BHL portal saw 3,628,088 visitors. Users come from 233 countries (none from North Korea or Chad).

Flickr held 85,512 images as of Oct. 1, 2013, with 18.4 million total views.

BHL is now available through the Digital Public Library of America and has become the 8th most frequent referrer to the BHL site, or 71% of the new users.

**New Grants**

The Smithsonian has received a planning grant from the Sloan Foundation, of which $10,000 will come to the BHL for exploring how BHL content can be used in the area of knowledge management.

The Smithsonian's Women's Committee has awarded the Libraries $14,000 to create biodiversity-related exhibitions online. The topics will be Women Naturalists, Latin American Naturalists, and Flora & Fauna in Black America and the BHL-E platform will be used.

The Missouri Botanical Garden has received $125,000 from the Institute for Museum and Library Services through the "Digging into Data" program (see below).

**Other News**

The Smithsonian has established the SI Transcription Center to crowdsource transcription of manuscript material. The Libraries has contributed several field notebooks for transcription.

The Macaw software is in test mode at Harvard and the NY Botanical Garden and the U. of Pretoria will start soon. Users can now upload to a cloud server, after which the files go to the Internet Archive and then the BHL: portal. Brazil is having problems. A discussion followed on how to organize scanning and metadata processing. Australia is scanning and capturing segment metadata, but the metadata isn't being uploaded. Macaw needs a module to do this: one is in progress.

**BHL Africa -- Anne-Lise Fourie**

Two more Kenya institutions have joined BHL. In South Africa, institutions are sending digitized content to the U. of Pretoria to check standards. The Steering Committee has met twice, but regional representatives haven't taken real responsibility for action in their areas. There is a need for more frequent meetings.

**Grants and Social Media -- Connie Rinaldo**

There are 4 grants currently. Two are about to finish:

1. Connecting Content -- an IMLS grant to link field notes, specimens, published literature and metadata. Several institutions have been involved, with the California Academy of Sciences in the lead. Connie demonstrated the work of the MCZ-Harvard with the William Brewster collection. They are not providing location data for species that are endangered.

2. Art of Life -- an NEH grant to the Missouri Botanical Garden to broaden the audience for BHL content by finding an automated way to locate illustrations in natural history literature and provide metadata for them. The work also includes enhancing existing tools to enable sorting and editing, integrating tagging applications so users can edit descriptive metadata, and integrating user-generated metadata.

The two new grants are:

1. Purposeful Gaming and the BHL -- an IMLS grant to the Missouri Botanical Garden to develop a game that will encourage crowdsourcing to supplement enhancement of content, specifically correcting OCR and transcribing field notes and seed catalogs.

2. Digging into Data -- another IMLS grant to MOBOT to explore integration of text mining, visualization, crowdsourcing and social media. One use might be to find species traits for EOL's Traitbank. This is just starting and will run for 18+ months.

Social Media – there were 1.4+ million visits to BHL website from social media platforms to 2013, but numbers are falling off because of staff departures. Social media is more in maintenance mode. A question: how important was the amount of effort going into social media vis-a-vis the benefit reaped. One big benefit is feedback from, say Flickr, and the stories people tell. It might be most beneficial to put more effort into putting metadata into other discovery tools like DPLA or the Summon discovery layer platform, which libraries are installing to allow for one search across many databases.

Another question: why do we need audiences outside our basic community? Broader audiences help with fund-raising and help to establish the "brand," even within one's own institution.

A discussion ensued about the education market, which we haven't yet cracked.

BHL Europe has a Historian ap for teachers to use to create packages for students.

BHL China has trouble downloading BHL, even the website home page, so they haven't been able to develop anything.

BHL Africa reported that in South Africa, there is a push to teach younger students about the environment, they are planning a big section on botanical illustration

**Encyclopedia of Life -- Nancy Gwinn**

At the recent EOL meeting in Canberra, two activities were demoed: Traitbank, which is up and running, to assemble similar traits from across species for comparison purposes, and Theme Portals, which is intended to be a money raiser. EOL is testing the possibility of designing portals for other institutions to provide for their users "powered by EOL" using EOL and other content. The Wildlife Conservation Society was the first test, with a portal to promote the Bronx Zoo. EOL Executive Committee members espoused support for BHL.

**Biodiversity Library Exhibitions – Jiří Frank**

Jiří reported on the current status of the BHL-E exhibition software and the group discussed the idea of having a "Treasures of the Global BHL" online exhibition. Connie Rinaldo volunteered to coordinate. Jiri agreed to train whoever will curate the exhibition and Ely might have someone to do that.

**Global Library Management – Martin Kalfatovic**

Martin reported that as William Ulate will devote full time to his position as BHL Technical Director as well as remaining the contact point for global technical issues. BHL Central is proposing that the Vice-Chair of the Members Council take on the responsibility for coordinating global activities, except for technical aspects, which would remain with William.

**Election of Officers**

Ely Wallis, Jiří Frank and Nancy Gwinn were re-elected to two year terms in the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary, respectively.

**Bylaws**

The Bylaws review was referred to the Executive Committee

**Upcoming Global Technical Meeting**

After much discussion of what the technical issues were, the group decided that it would not be cost effective to hold a face to face meeting of the global technical group this spring. Starting with the items below, William, Martin and Connie will begin to develop a technical agenda, then work with the BHL Central Members in March to clarify.

Some of the issues were:

1. Development of Macaw for article ingest and other improvements

2. Need for Scan Selection Tools (i.e. bid list, monograph deduper) -- but this would be a new project

3. API development -- are new web services required? are the current app’s adequate? Technical users should be asked for feedback before proceeding.

4. What are common tools that could be built as modules to add to other node websites?

5. Speed of BHL website loading for China (MOBOT will investigate)

6. Data synchronization. BHL Europe will start work toward this in March. BHL Central will no longer send data on hard drives or discs to other nodes.

7. Synchronization of metadata -- needs to be rolled out more widely.