

The Biodiversity Heritage Library



Nancy E. Gwinn | BHL Executive Committee Chair | Smithsonian Libraries
BHL Annual Meeting and BHL Day @ The Field Museum | 17 March 2015



BHL is a vast library of life ...

BHL



**A Vast Library
of Life**

Created in 2006 ...

BHL



... with 10 US and UK institutions

With the goal of alleviating the “Taxonomic Impediment”

Specimen collections

Databases

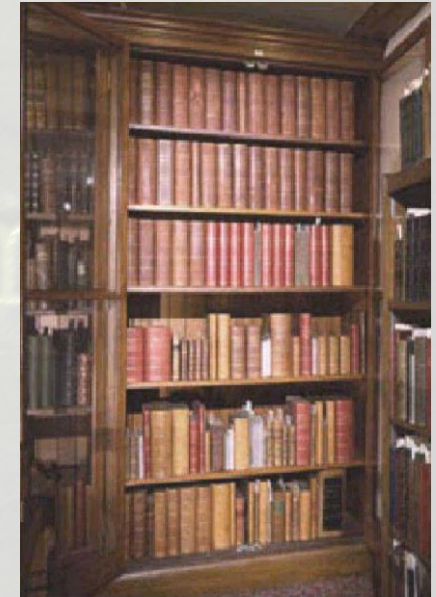
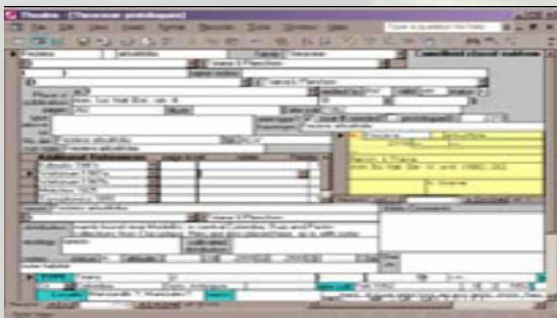
Publications

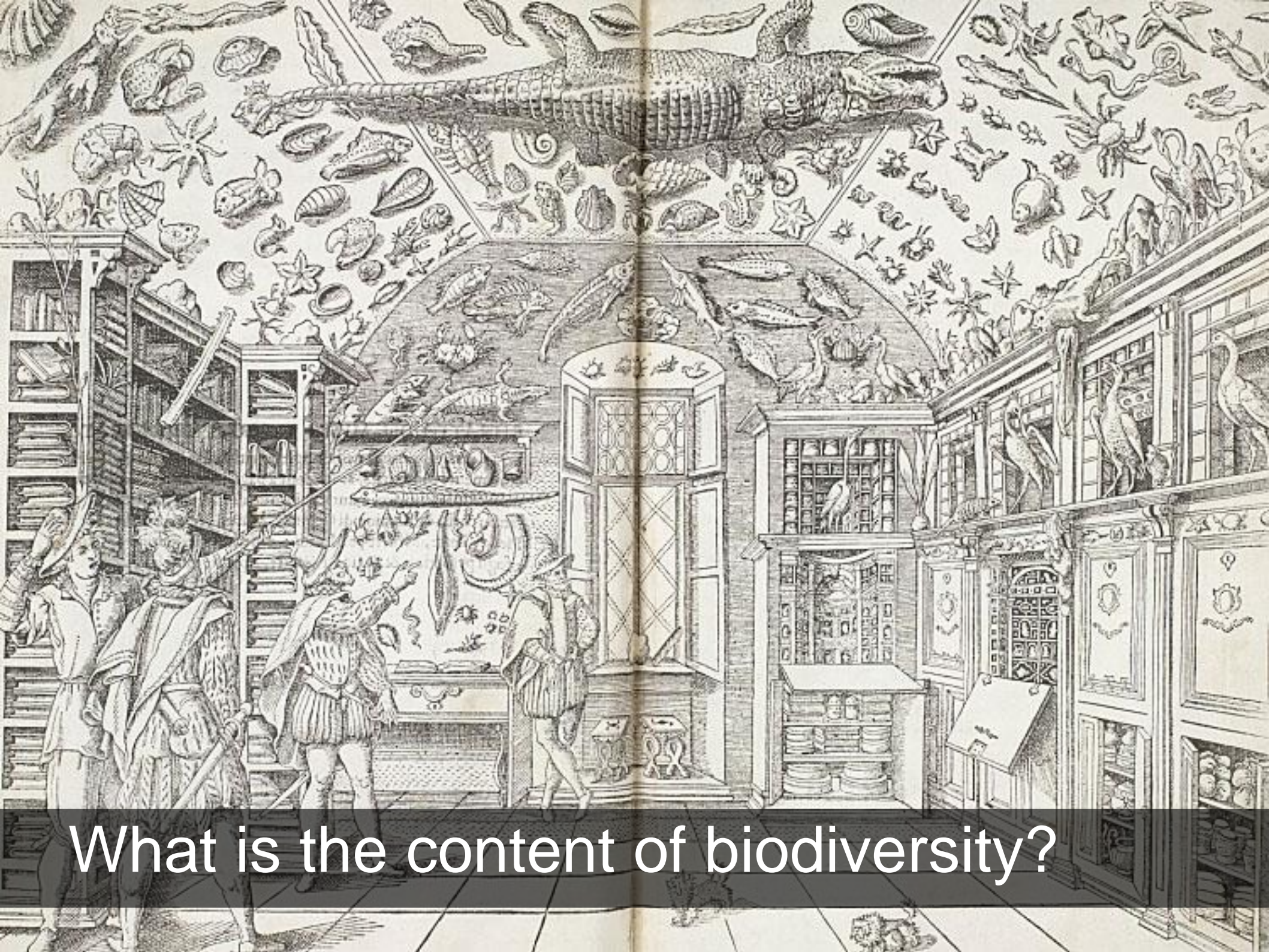
Observations

‘Gray’ literature

Index cards

Field notebooks





What is the content of biodiversity?



For BHL ...

A global project that encompasses

Technology



Libraries



Science

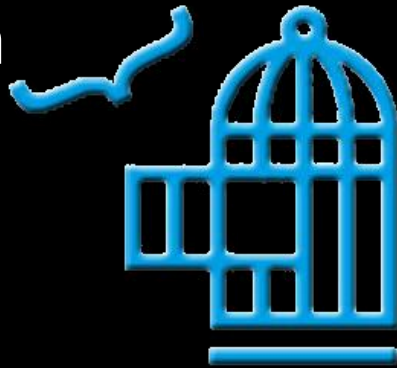


BHL



Committed to open access...

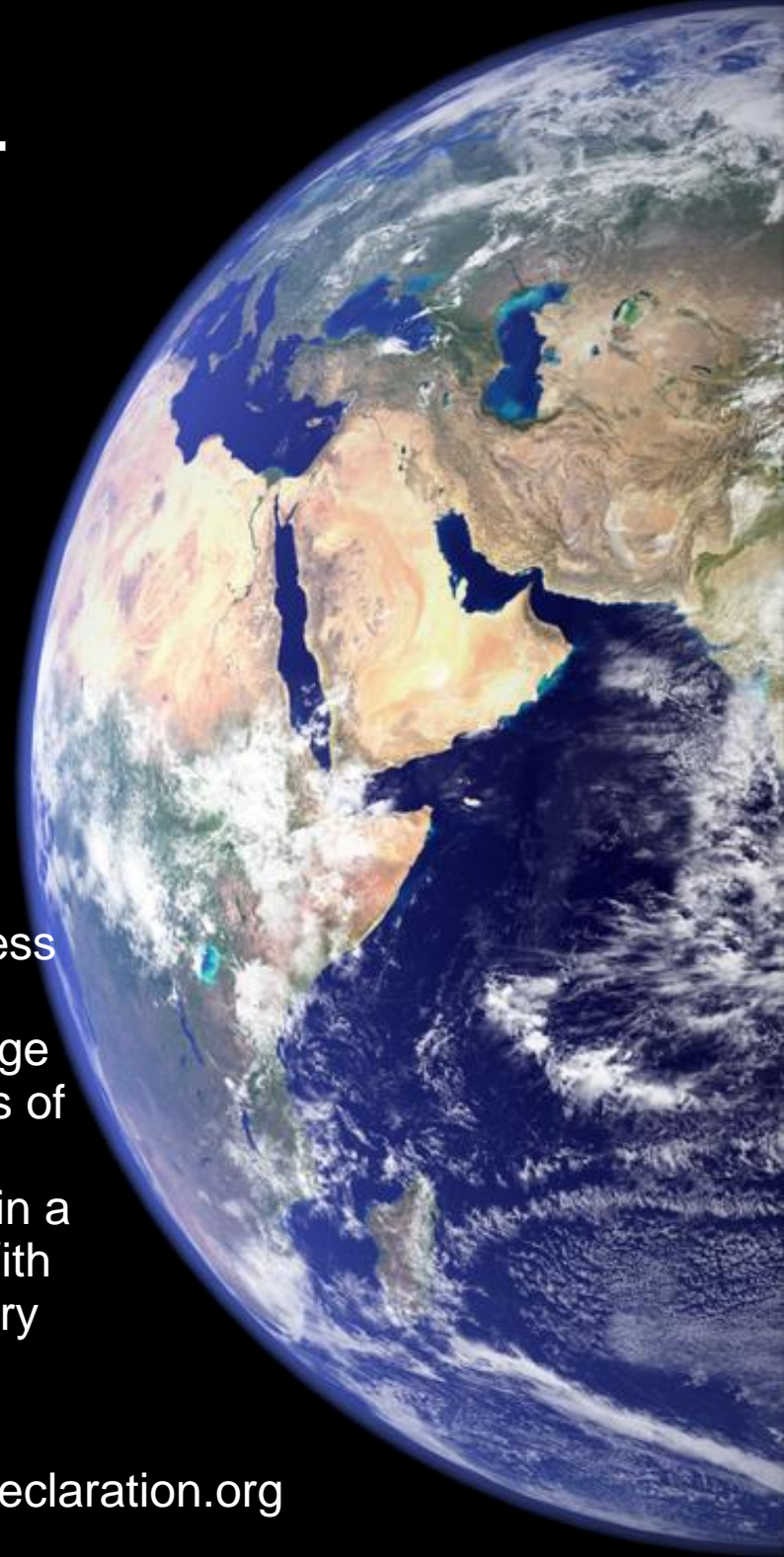
Bouchout Declaration Signatory



Our natural world is a source of food, water, resources, protection and enjoyment that our society needs. The richness and complexity of nature, and the speed of new discoveries made possible by genomic and digital technologies, challenge us to find new ways to benefit from and be better custodians of the natural world. Digital information management systems can bring together the wealth of information now dispersed in a myriad of different documents, institutions, and locations. With such systems, we can harness the benefits of rapid discovery and open up our legacy of over 260 years of biological observations.

<http://bouchoutdeclaration.org>

/



BHL has now grown to 23 members and affiliates

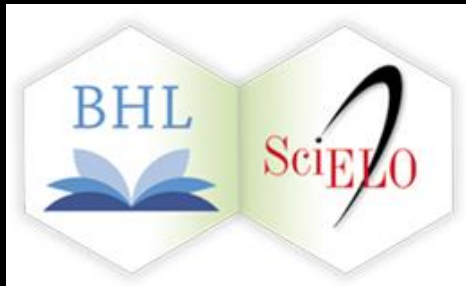
BHL



And now has “global nodes” throughout the world



Europe, China, Brasil, Australia, Egypt, Sub-Saharan Africa, Singapore, & Mexico



The most recent being BHL Mexico, through the participation of CONABIO



2014 BHL Annual Meeting

New York Botanical Garden | American Museum of Natural History



Biodiversity Heritage Library Global Governance



Dr. Elycia Wallis



Dr. Jiri Frank



Dr. Nancy Gwinn



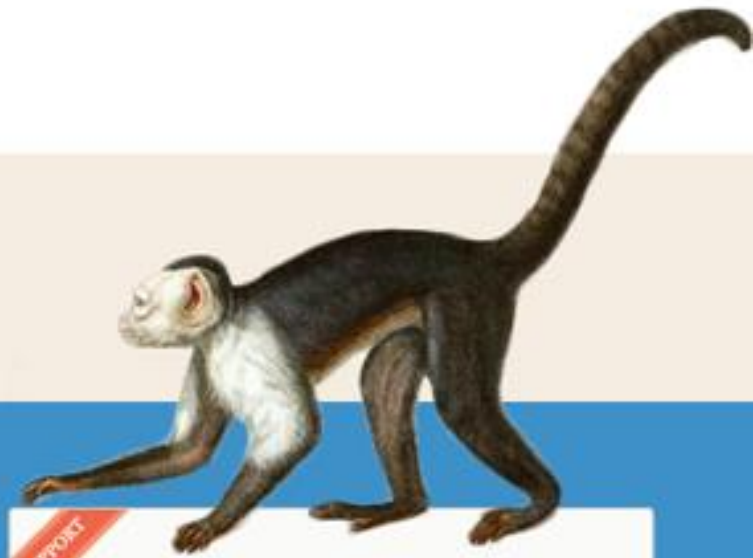
So how do we get from this ...



Inspiring discovery through free access to biodiversity knowledge.

The Biodiversity Heritage Library works collaboratively to make biodiversity literature openly available to the world as part of a global biodiversity community.

BHL also serves as the foundational literature component of the Encyclopedia of Life (EOL).



Search across books and journals, scientific names, authors and subjects

[ADVANCED SEARCH](#)

Browse Our Collection By:

-  Title
-  Author
-  Date
-  Collection
-  Contributor

SUPPORT

Help Support BHL

BHL's existence depends on the financial support of its patrons. Help us keep this free resource alive!

[Donate Now](#)

New on the BHL Blog

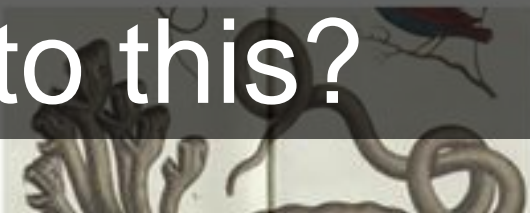
Latino Natural History: Recognizing the contributions of Latino naturalists

While there are plenty of accounts on the natural history of Latin America, many of the

Today's Picks Flickr Stream



Featured Collection Monsters Are Real



... to this?

BHL Digitization Principles

Mass-digitization
scanning operation

Scan books, cover-to-
cover

Provide an exact digital
copy of the original
physical object

Provide article level
access when
possible



And growth of content: 2007-2014



45,721,826 pages
158,636 items
93,161 titles
145K+ articles

March 2015



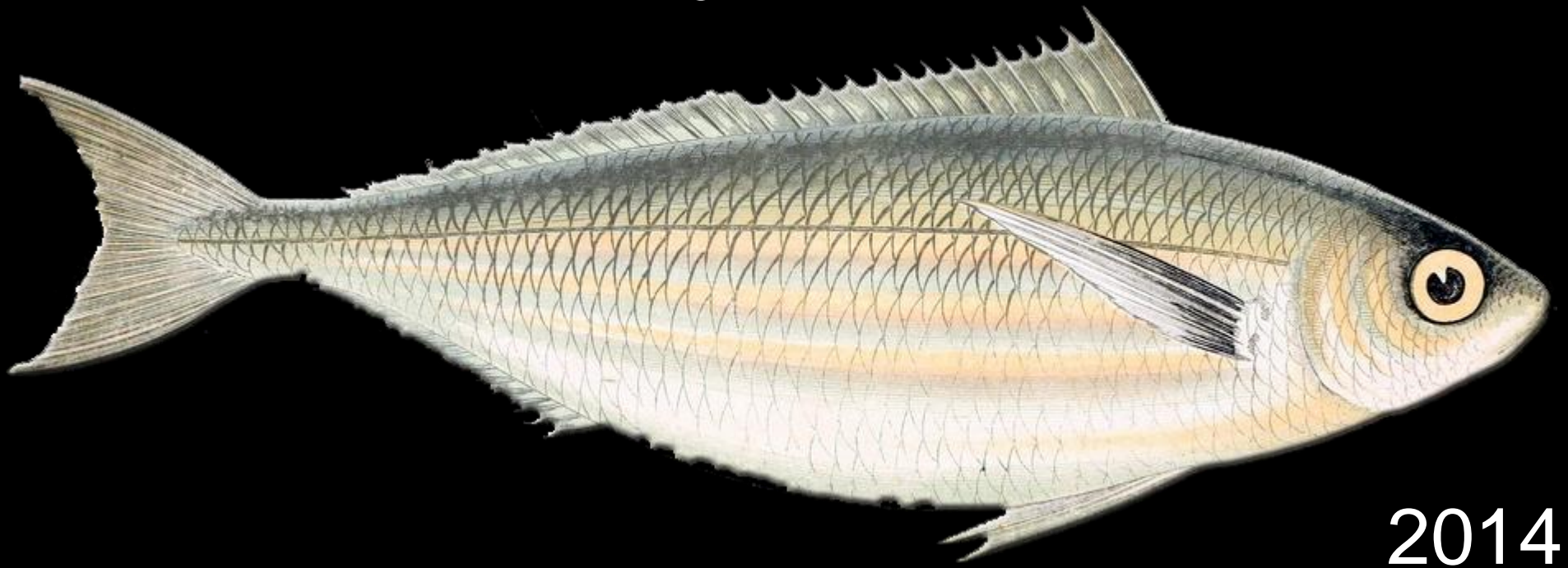
Increase agreements with publishers of in copyright materials

- ▶ 390+ titles
- ▶ 160+ publishers

March 2015

And growth of users (2007-2014):

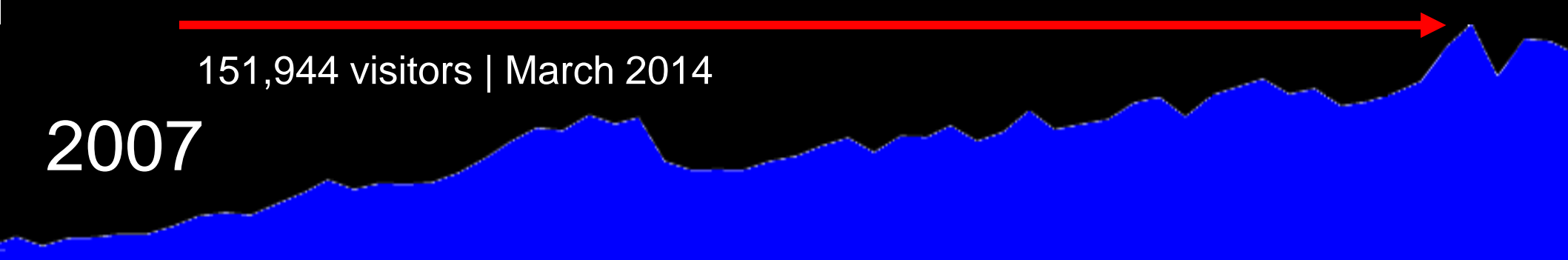
- 3,629,268 visitors
- 7,005,292 sessions
- 29,164,065 page visits
- 51% vs 48% new vs. recurring



2014

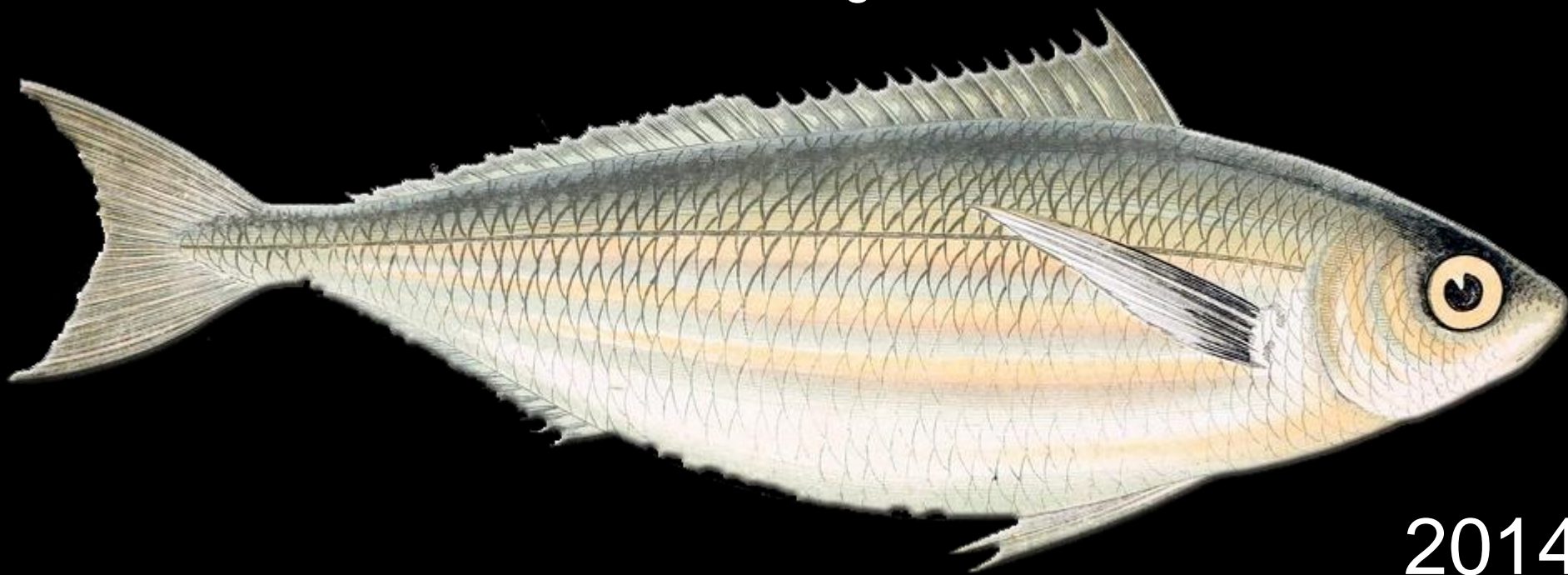
151,944 visitors | March 2014

2007



And growth of users (CY 2014):

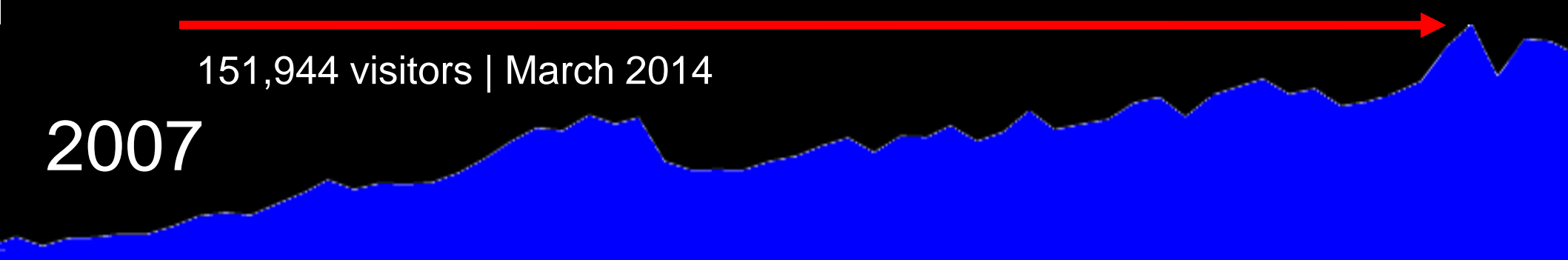
- 927,371 visitors
- 1,568,460 sessions
- 4.7m page visits
- 57.49% vs 42.51% new vs. recurring

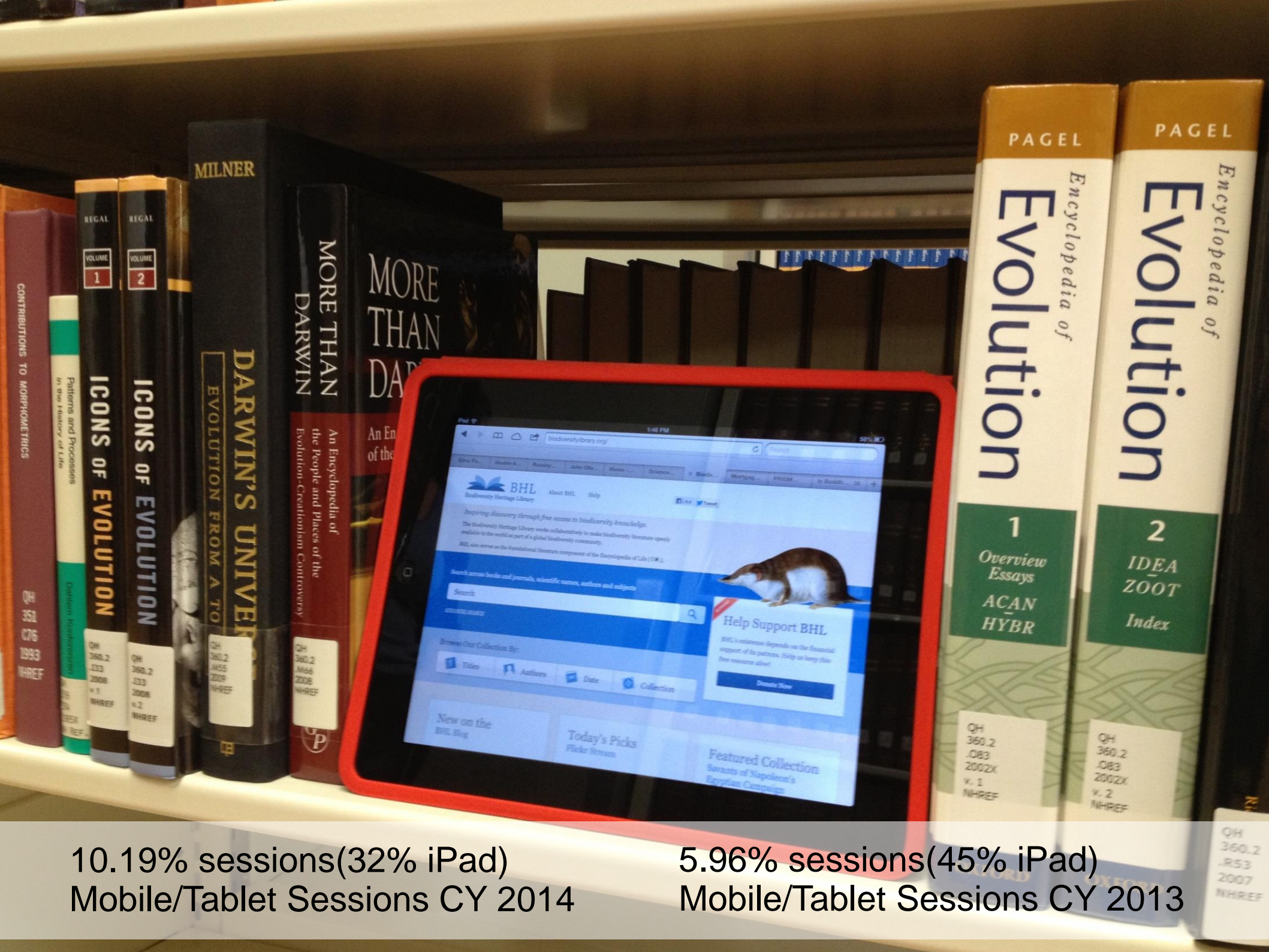


2014

151,944 visitors | March 2014

2007





10.19% sessions(32% iPad)
Mobile/Tablet Sessions CY 2014

5.96% sessions(45% iPad)
Mobile/Tablet Sessions CY 2013

TheMachineIsUs/ingUs

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<CopyrightStatus/>
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**But many "visits" are
from other machines**



BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE LIBRARY ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF AMERICA

Posted by [Kenny Whitebloom](#) on April 9, 2013 in [DPLA Updates](#), [Featured](#).

April 9, 2013

Cambridge, MA – The Biodiversity Heritage Library is pleased to announce that it will serve as a digital content hub within the Digital Public Library of America. The DPLA pilot project, which combines and centralizes links to the collections of participating cultural institutions, launches on April 18 in Boston.

As a result of BHL's participation as a digital content hub, links to over 111,000 BHL volumes will be available within the DPLA portal. Through the DPLA, the Biodiversity Heritage Library will collaborate with renowned libraries, universities, archives and museums to reach a wide national audience.

RECENT BLOGPOSTS

[*Press: Now, With No Further Ado, We Present... The Digital Public Library of America!*](#)

[*HistoryPin Features the DPLA in its Pin of the Day*](#)

[*DPLA: Coming Soon*](#)

SEARCH



[Return to search results](#)




 Read

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[Smithsonian Institution Libraries](#)

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 Cite on Wikipedia

 Translate details

Select language ▾

The natural history of fishes, particularly their structure and economical uses. By J. S. Bushnan ... Illustrated by thirty-three coloured plates, with portrait and memoir of Salviani.

Creator:
[Bushnan, J. Stevenson](#)

Publication date:
1840.; 19th century CE

Type:
[Text](#)

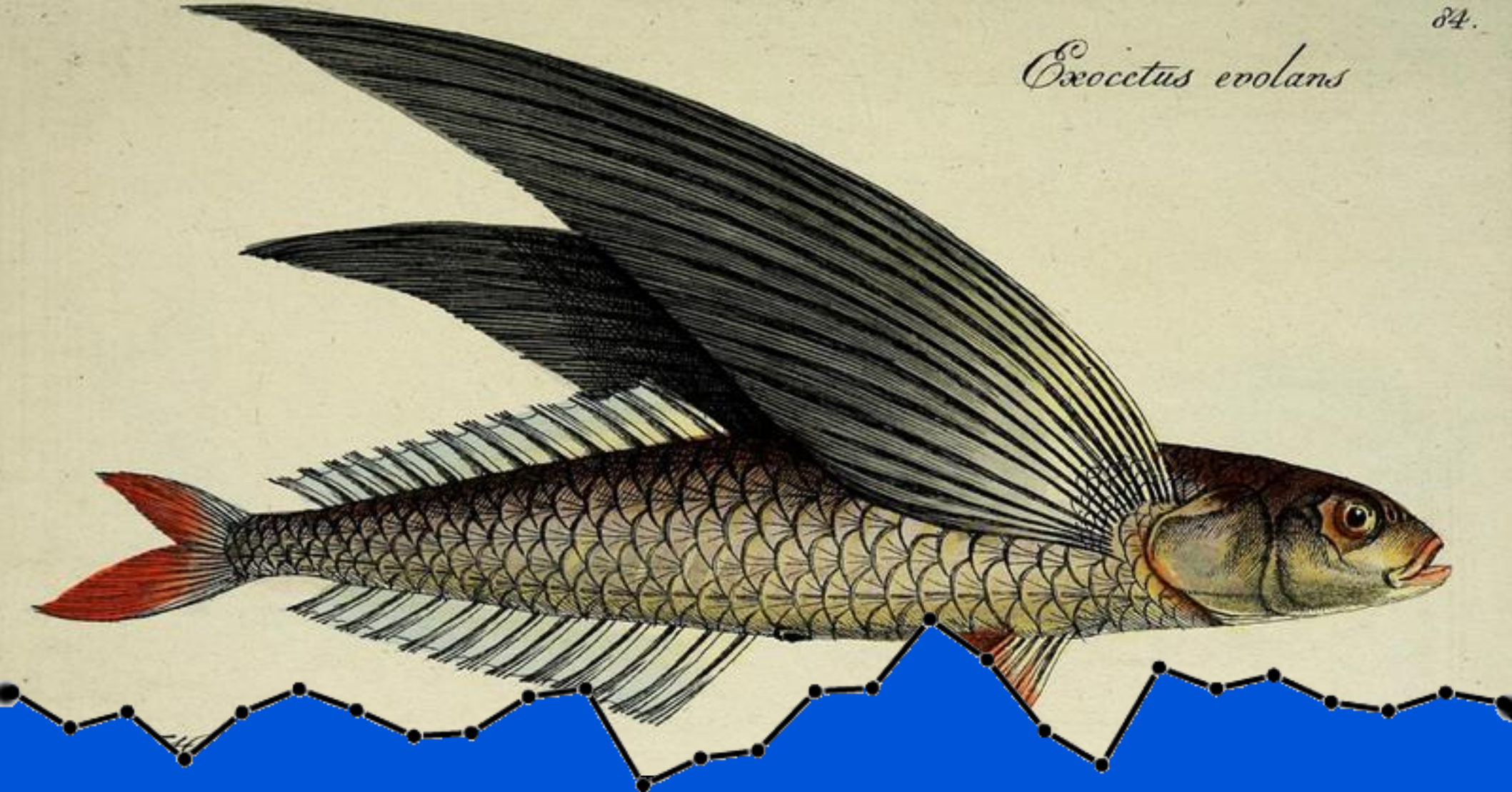
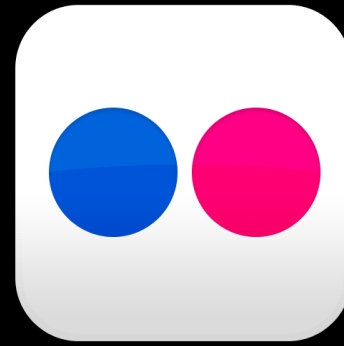
Subject:
[1514-1572](#); [Ichthyology](#); [Salviani, Ippolito](#),

Identifier:
oai:eu.bhl:BHLUS:ITEMS/000000046137; DLC agr03000062

Relation:
The natural history of fishes, particularly their structure and economical uses. By J. S. Bushnan ... thirty-three coloured plates, with portrait and memoir of Salviani.

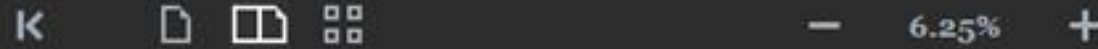
Language:
English

flickr



27+ million visitors in total | 96K + images (2014)

Correspondence : Agassiz (Louis) and Engelmann (George), 1849-1875.



Pages

- Jun 28, 1853 [1] transcription
- Jun 28, 1853 [2] transcription
- Jun 28, 1853 [3] transcription
- Jun 28, 1853 [1] translation
- Jun 28, 1853 [2] translation
- Jun 28, 1853 [3] translation
- Jul 12, 1853 [1]
- Jul 12, 1853 [1] verso**
- Jul 12, 1853 [1] transcription
- Jul 12, 1853 [2] transcription
- Jul 12, 1853 [1] translation

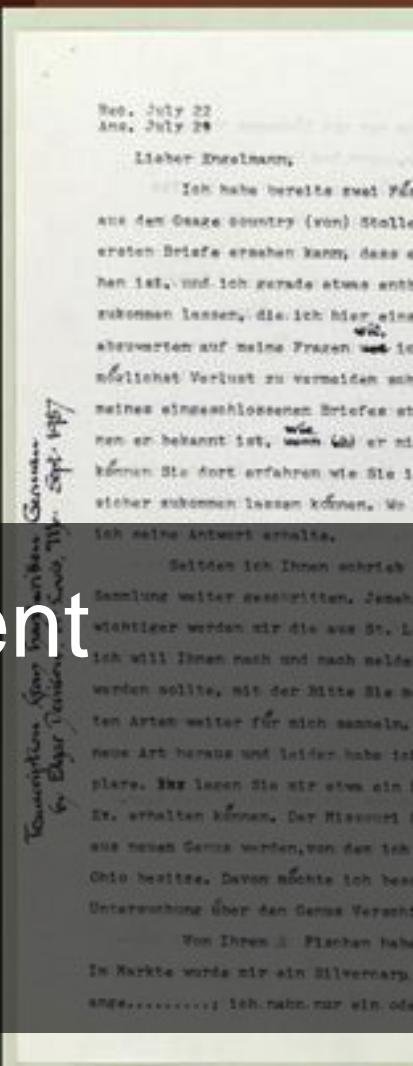
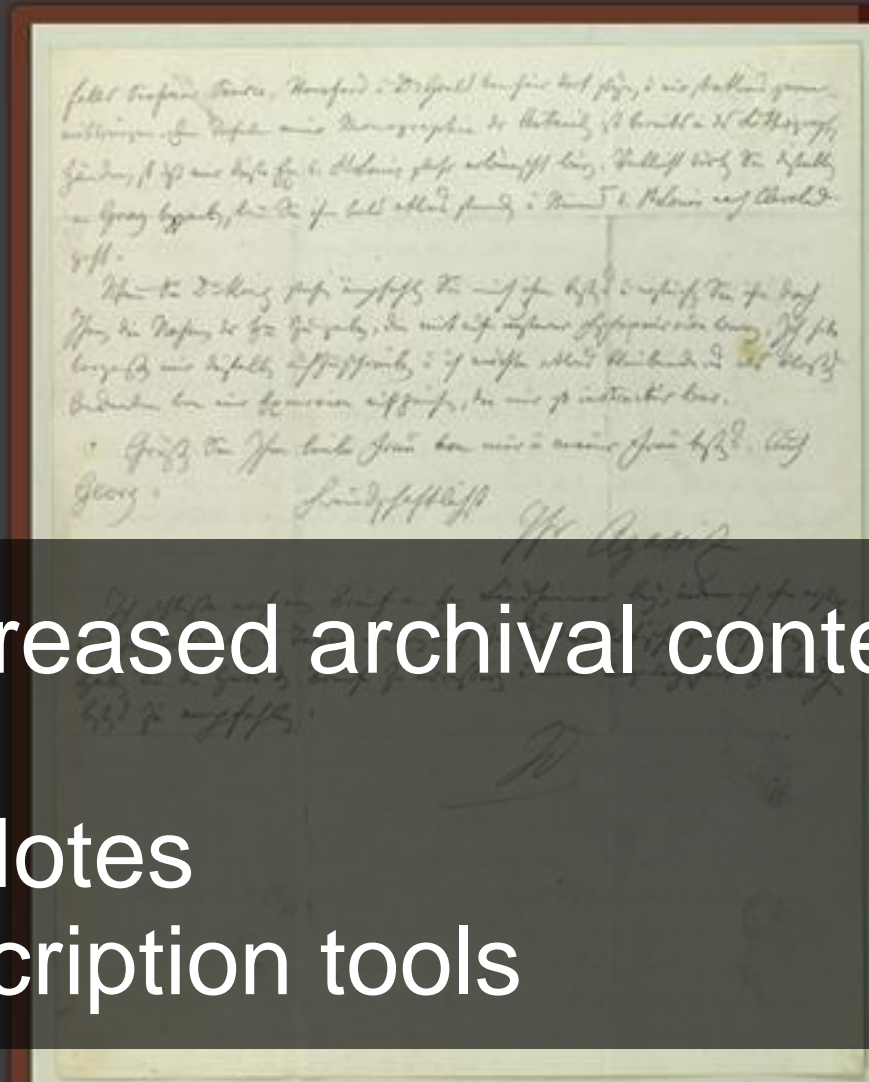
Show More

URL for Current Page

<http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/42127789>

Scientific Names on this Page

Jul 12, 1853 [1] verso
No Scientific Names found



And now increased archival content

- ▶ 500+ Field Notes
- ▶ Use of transcription tools





People of Note

sort all content by:

COUNTRIES

LANGUAGES

TIMELINE

SUBJECTS



About (Exhibition Overview)



Did you know that... ?

- ... the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) provides access to tens of thousands of titles with a combined page count of over 454 million?
- ... the Smithsonian Libraries hold more than 2 million volumes, over 36,000 of which have been digitized?
- ... the Smithsonian Women's

Summary

The Smithsonian Libraries and the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) are proud to present a new exhibition of people from — Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Central and South America, often regarded as Latin America. These Latino/a naturalists have influenced the study of the world's flora and fauna, and in many cases provided the foundation for the study of science in their home countries. Each

Highlights

If you are interested in any of the people or subjects featured on the site, please consider consulting the [Latino Natural History collection](#) in the Biodiversity Heritage Library, as well as the list of resources consulted in the creation of this exhibition, which is included on the [BHL wiki](#).

New areas like Biodiversity Library Exhibitions



Smithsonian Libraries



Smithsonian Women's Committee



Compliments from our users

May I compliment you on this splendid service? The Library's invaluable for my work on seasonal variability of climate and vector-borne disease in British India, 1875-1940.



Compliments from our users



What an absolutely wonderful site. It is a treasure trove of information. Thank you!

Compliments from our users

I really appreciate your work. The Biodiversity Heritage Library is an excellent resource that regularly helps my assistant and I obtain original descriptions for plants I feel so privileged to be working in a day in age when such resources are so readily available and easy to obtain





Pat. a. b.
gewerk.
emüte.
die Patelle.
patelle. a. b.
eige Patelle. a. b.
te Meerohr.





Community / Partnership / Science / Content



Thank You!