



Art of Life

The Art of Life: Data Mining and Crowdsourcing the Identification and Description of Natural History Illustrations from the Biodiversity Heritage Library, aka the Art of Life, is a project whose goal is to improve searching and discoverability of natural history illustrations found within the pages of the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL).

The primary objectives include: 1) define a metadata schema appropriate for natural history illustrations, 2) build algorithms to automatically identify BHL pages with illustrations, 3) sort and classify the illustrations, 4) crowdsource descriptions through tagging applications; and 5) integrate descriptive metadata back into BHL as well as share images and descriptions beyond BHL.

Timeline

May 2011-April 2015

Deliverables

- Schema for describing natural history illustrations (Aug 2012)
- Tool for automatically identify which pages contain illustrations (Dec 2013)
- Modified Macaw tool to help classify pages with illustrations into broad categories: drawing/painting/diagram; chart/table, map, photograph, bookplate (Feb 2013)
- List of pages with illustrations from BHL corpus that will be visible in the BHL book viewer's table of contents. (Apr 2015)
- Classification of pages with illustrations into more specific types of image: map, color, photograph, bookplate. (Apr 2015)
- Content description of pages with illustrations such as species names, illustrator, etc. (Apr 2015)
- Addition of content files and metadata for BHL illustrations to BHL APIs, exports, etc. (Apr 2015)
- Sharing of content files and metadata for BHL illustrations more widely beyond the portal (e.g. EOL, Flickr, Wikimedia Commons, ARTstor, etc.) (Apr 2015)

Funder and Partners

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Partners: Missouri Botanical Garden (awardee); Indianapolis Museum of Art Lab; University of Colorado, Boulder; Smithsonian Institution Libraries

Public Webpage

<http://biodivlib.wikispaces.com/Art+of+Life>