

The Biodiversity Heritage Library

Q1, FY12, Oct – Dec. 2011

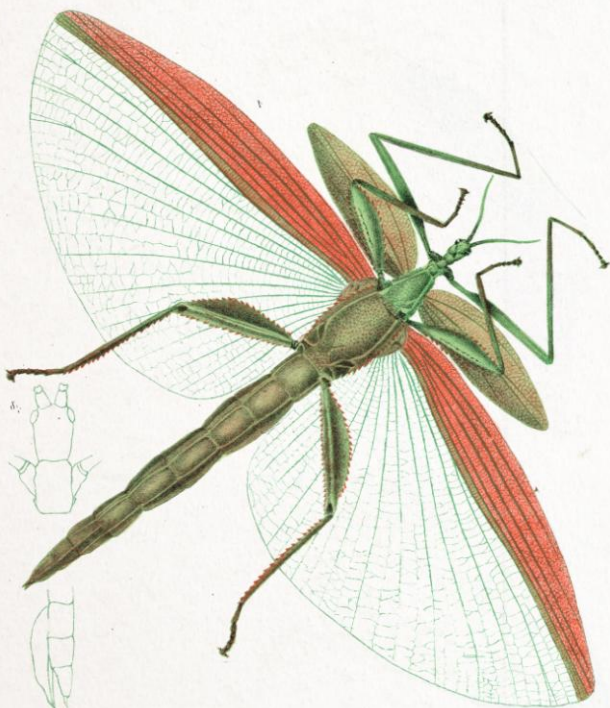
*A Report on Australia's
BHL Activities*



Rhizopsyche swainsoni, from **Australian Lepidoptera and their Transformations**, Drawn from Life by A.W. Scott. Copyright expired. Artist: Helena Scott Contributed to BHL by Australian Museum

Introduction

The Biodiversity Heritage Library in Australia is run under the auspices of the Atlas of Living Australia, and the project is based at Museum Victoria in Melbourne, Australia. The period of October – December 2011 was busy with recruitment of new staff and the resultant surge in activity that extra hands can bring. The BHL-Au team now consists of Dr Elycia Wallis, Team Lead; Simon Sherrin, Technical Manager; Joe Coleman, Digitisation Manager; Simone Downey, Online Designer; and Steven Jones, Developer.



Red shouldered stick insect, *Tropidoderus rhodomus*, from *Prodromus of the Zoology of Victoria* by Frederick McCoy. Copyright expired: Source: Museum Victoria / Artist: Arthur Bartholomew



Green-lipped Abalone, *Haliotis laevis*, from *Prodromus of the Zoology of Victoria* by Frederick McCoy. Copyright expired: Source: Museum Victoria / Artist: John James Wild

Travel and conference attendance

Ely Wallis and Simon Sherrin attended the Life and Literature conference in Chicago, as well as the Global BHL meeting held just prior. Ely was one of the panelists at the Life and Literature conference, presenting a provocative paper entitled “Digitising for what?” in the Research, Informatics and the Published Record panel.

Simon Sherrin also visited Missouri Botanical Gardens where he and Mike Lichtenberg were able to productively work on a solution to synchronizing the BHL database between the USA and Australia.

Joe Coleman and Simon Sherrin attended the National Digital Forum in New Zealand in November. Joe presented a paper on the importance of collaboration in BHL.

Simon Sherrin and Joe Coleman have also participated in successful global projects – notably working with Joel Richard on adapting the MACAW software for post processing digitized books to suit the Australian workflow. Simon Sherrin also coordinated the Australian side of BHL user testing to compare the usability of the US and Australian websites and worked with Trish Rose-Sandler and Bianca Crowley to analyse the results.

BHL and the Atlas of Living Australia

BHL continues to be an integral part of the Atlas of Living Australia, and Ely Wallis reports frequently to the other Atlas team leaders and to Atlas staff on progress.

Content Statistics

The period of October – December 2011 saw a focus on establishing scanning operations in Australia. An ATIZ Book Pro scanner was purchased using funds from the Atlas of Living Australia and is housed at Melbourne Museum. Following purchase, the rig has been further customized to ensure a high quality scan can be achieved. A large amount of work has been done to set up scanning and post processing of items, including customization of MACAW as previously mentioned, and establishing a repository for Australian content in the Internet Archive.

Joe Coleman has liaised extensively with colleagues at the South Australian Museum to seek their advice on setting up a volunteer program. This has included recruiting volunteers, writing manuals and conducting training. It is intended that the bulk of the scanning and post processing will be done by volunteers supervised by BHL Australia staff.

During this set up phase, the statistics for scanning were low. One notable achievement

was the addition of a 2 volume set of books about Australian Lepidoptera (butterflies). These books, entitled Australian Lepidoptera and their Transformations, Drawn from Life were written by AW Scott and beautifully illustrated by his daughters Helena and Harriet Scott. The volumes were scanned and made available in BHL to coincide with an exhibition produced at the Australian Museum called Beauty from Nature: Art of the Scott Sisters (<http://australianmuseum.net.au/Beauty-from-Nature-art-of-the-Scott-Sisters/>).



Eastern Wirra, *Acanthistius ocellatus*,
from **Prodromus of the Zoology of Victoria**
by Frederick McCoy. Copyright expired: Source:
Museum Victoria / Artist: Arthur Bartholomew



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Double Headed Hawk Moth, *Coequosa triangularis*, from **Prodromus of the Zoology of Victoria** by Frederick McCoy. Copyright expired: Source: Museum Victoria / Artist: Arthur Bartholomew

New Software and Functional Development

One significant piece of software development occurred during the reporting period. This was the development of a bid list for Australia. Similar to lists available in other countries, the idea of the bid list is to build up a prioritized list of titles so that scanning efforts can be well targeted. The Australian bid list has been pre-populated with titles drawn from citations in the national species lists – the Australian Faunal Directory for fauna and the Australian Plant Names Index for flora. Titles are sorted initially according to the number of citations that they represent, then users from the scientific community can vote titles up. The idea is that the biologists who would like access to digitized copies of works can assist to prioritize the list. The bid list is currently in beta release and will be make publicly available in March 2012.



Rose Antherid, *Chenuala helispis*, from **Prodromus of the Zoology of Victoria** by Frederick McCoy. Copyright expired: Source: Museum Victoria / Artist: Arthur Bartholomew

Website Statistics

This was the first period in which statistics are available. During the reporting period, BHL Australia website had:

- 4,683 visits from 3,579 unique visitors;
 - who viewed 15,356 pages;
 - which represented 3.28 pages viewed per visit;
 - and an average time on the site of 00:03:11 minutes.
- 74.10% of visitors were new visitors
- 62.72% bounce rate
- The most viewed page was the homepage, which was viewed by 8.69% of visitors, followed by the Browse Titles page viewed by 2.38% of visitors.
- 4.6% of visitors accessed the site via a mobile platform.



Growling Grass Frog, *Litoria raniformis*, from **Prodromus of the Zoology of Victoria** by Frederick McCoy. Copyright expired: Source: Museum Victoria / Artist: Arthur Bartholomew



Murray Spiny Crayfish, *Euastacus armatus*, from **Prodromus of the Zoology of Victoria** by Frederick McCoy. Copyright expired: Source: Museum Victoria / Artist: Ludwig Becker



Vine moth, *Comocrus behri* (Angas), from **Prodromus of the Zoology of Victoria** by Frederick McCoy.
Copyright expired: Source: Museum Victoria / Artist: Arthur Bartholomew