



ABOUT BHL

The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) was formed in 2006 as a consortium of ten (now 16) natural history and botanical garden, and university libraries with the purpose of digitizing key taxonomic literature in an open environment. With the Encyclopedia of Life (EOL), BHL received MacArthur funding in 2007. *All content is freely and openly available to the world.* The BHL Secretariat is based at the Smithsonian Libraries (Washington, DC).

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

FROM OUR USERS

- Just wanted to say thanks for a great service. I was looking for an obscure reference about development of scorpion fishes and I was able to find the exact bit I needed on your site (*A researcher in Georgia*)
- Thanks so much for pointing out this on Flickr!! I've been looking for old botanical and zoological images to play with and now I know a good place to go (*via Twitter*)
- This is a tremendous and extremely valuable resource. I work on the taxonomy and systematics of mollusks and frequently need to refer to the older literature. Before the advent of the internet and the BHL, this was usually a very frustrating task (*a researcher in South Africa*)

USERS (CY 2012)

- 53,750 unique visitors per month | 111,000 visits per month

CONTENT (May 2014)

- 137,867 volumes online | 43.5 million pages | 76,539 titles
- ~30% of the public domain biodiversity literature now available
- Agreements with over 133 publishers to provide access to over 318 titles of in copyright materials
- ~16% of total (including in copyright) biodiversity literature now available

NEW DIRECTIONS

- Flickr. Over 90,000+ plant and animal illustrations now available
- iTunes University. A growing collection of themed content (extinct species, Charles Darwin) available for download via iTunes
- Social Media: BioDivLibrary@Twitter | Pinterest@BioDivLibrary | Facebook@BioDivLibrary

PARTICIPANTS

The Biodiversity Heritage Library

Members (16): American Museum of Natural History Library | BHL Singapore | California Academy of Sciences Library | Cornell University Library | Harvard University Botany Libraries | Ernst Mayr Library of the Museum of Comparative Zoology | Library of Congress | Marine Biological Laboratory and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Library | Missouri Botanical Garden Library | Natural History Museum, London, Library & Archives | The New York Botanical Garden Library | Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, Library & Archives | Smithsonian Institution Libraries | United States Geological Survey Libraries | University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign | Washington University of St. Louis. **Affiliates (4):** Academy of Natural Sciences Library and Archives | Chicago Botanic Garden | The Field Museum Library | Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History

Global and Regional Nodes

BHL Europe | BHL China | BHL Egypt | BHL SciELO (Brasil) | BHL Australia | BHL Africa | BHL Singapore

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The Biodiversity Heritage Library consortium is comprised of BHL Members and BHL Affiliates. Each play an important role in the mission of the BHL, but play different roles.

At this time, BHL does not have a legal, incorporated status. All finances are handled through BHL Member institutions with the Smithsonian Libraries hosting the Secretariat and serving as manager of central funds. The central hub of the BHL is known as the BHL Central and includes Members and Affiliates from the United States, United Kingdom, and Singapore. Global BHL nodes with their own organizational structure have been established in China, Europe, Australia, Egypt, Brazil, and Africa. Organizations located outside BHL Central may request membership or affiliation in BHL Central as well as their local global node.

- Participation in an active international collaborative working together in an open access mode to make biodiversity research and study more efficient and effective;
- Knowledge that the project is repatriating biodiversity literature to the countries and regions from which species have been collected and studied in other parts of the world;
- Becoming part of an international network of biodiversity librarians connected with each other, with biodiversity-related organizations and the international research community;
- Opportunities for staff development;
- Training on access to, and use of, the BHL content;
- Prestige, because the BHL is an award-winning project and a world-recognized international collaborative having a major impact on the international research community and the public.

BHL Members

Membership in BHL is granted to those institutions or organizations that are strategic to the BHL's mission. Potential members must be concerned with biodiversity in research and education and can:

- Demonstrate that the institution or organization provides and maintains library services and collections or technological infrastructure and innovations at an appropriate level for research and scholarly pursuits in biodiversity;
- Contribute to the support of programs and research being offered by the present membership;
- Have the institutional resources to make collections digitally accessible via open access;
- Pay annual dues of \$10,000/year;
- Have the institutional resources to participate in BHL program by providing some combination of the following:
 - Financial support beyond the dues (e.g. scanning, travel to BHL meetings, grants etc.);
 - Human resources (e.g. staff to assist with quality control, metadata creation, etc.);
 - Biodiversity content (e.g. digital, paper, film, etc.);
 - Technology expertise or infrastructure (e.g. server support, imaging studio, etc.);
 - Strategic promotion within the global biodiversity community.
- BHL members govern the BHL program, and are eligible for election as officers of the BHL. Eligibility for membership is determined by the current members and a membership committee will review applications and make recommendations to the Executive Committee. The work of BHL members is facilitated by the signing of a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

BHL Affiliates

BHL Affiliates are those institutions or organizations that wish to participate in the BHL but are unable to pay the annual dues or come from another part of the biodiversity community with related interests in the work of the BHL. Examples of affiliates are institutions that can contribute content, technical or other in-kind services, publishers for whom BHL is hosting content, and biodiversity organizations with allied interests that provide continuing support for the BHL. Institutions and/or publishers who request BHL services or require technical assistance may be required to sign either an MOU or customized agreement that defines their level of participation and may incur service fees. The Affiliate term is three years and may be renewed upon request and approval by the Executive Committee.