

Title: Biodiversity Heritage Library: Supporting Research with Open Content

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Proposal: The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) is a international endeavor that provides over 47,000 biodiversity titles as part of an open access digital library. Driven by a globally distributed group of librarians, scientists, and technologists, BHL relies on user feedback to improve its collections and services. Feedback is received through an issue tracking system which allows comments from users to be consistently managed and quantified. User comments highlight the BHL's role in accelerating their research and providing previously unavailable content.

The research impact of BHL is measured through user surveys and in-depth interviews. Regular blog posts about users feature the impact of BHL's open access content throughout a wide, interdisciplinary spectrum, from biologists to bibliophiles, to historians, and artists. BHL promotes the use of its collection and interacts with users via Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and other platforms.

Going beyond open access, BHL encourages and facilitates the innovative re-use of its bibliographic and taxonomic name data. Taking advantage of BHL's open data, users and other services such as BioStor and Encyclopedia of Life, have built innovative tools to accelerate the evolution of BHL.

Successful grants are expanding the global reach of BHL, bringing resources to new audiences, improving mass digitization techniques for rare materials and connecting scientists' field notebooks with museum specimens and publications. This poster highlights the research impact of open access biodiversity literature and open data, as well as the direct interactions with users that create opportunities for the future of BHL.