<https://beta.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

**Persona:**

Before we get started, it would be helpful for me to understand how you might normally use the BHL website. Could you give an example or two of the kinds of things you would typically use BHL for?

Interested in searching for specific biological terms. For people who are not necessarily the author. Cultivated variety names, searching in the body of a work can be especially helpful for those kinds of things.

**Search**

**Conduct a few searches on your own**

1. Basic search = “Bibliography of Fishes”

Looking for works about “Bibliography of Fishes” so not necessarily the work itself. Can I put it in quotes? Yes. Author name is Dean, see I can filter on the left. Not sure Type would be helpful in this particular case; don’t want to narrow by the author since I’m looking for works about this title. Not interested in any of the ones that are pre-1900**. Is there an option to vary of results per page, to say 20 or 50? Sometimes handy to browse 20-50 at a time.** Details are helpful to provide context.

Is there proximity searching? Yes and no. Basic search is favoring frequency of matches. Search Inside appears to be pulling matches that occur on same page

Eighth page or so into results for this search, began expanding details to see how mentioned in text.

**Another thing that might be handy would be an option to sort alphabetically, by title in this case.**

**Also, if there were a next and previous page navigation options at the top of the page as well.**

1. Basic search = probstier oats (64 results)

Basic search = probstier (64 results)

Looking to see if this was in existence in 19th C.

**Looking at date facet, it would be useful to select multiple ranges at once.**

Monthly Report Ag. (1870) – Details - there’s a barley by that name.

Monthly Report Ag. (1866) – this one shows it with oats. View Book (<https://beta.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/49846#page/11/mode/1up> )

Search inside = probstier. Page 436, there’s a description of it.

**What would be handy is to have the search term highlighted on the page.**

When I go back and look at search options, I have date range 1851-1875 checked and 1876-1900 are still there. Why have the others disappeared?

Appears to be looking at both Volume and Publication Info, e.g.,

Volume: 1866

By: United States. Dept. of Agriculture.

Publication info: Washington : G.P.O., 18631876

Preceded by: Monthly report of the condition of the crops

Holding Institution: New York Botanical Garden, LuEsther T. Mertz Library

BHL Collections: New York Botanical Garden

Unclicked 1851-1875 and selected 1876 – 1900.

Further narrowed by Subject – Catalogs. So all of those other subject terms still available must appear in at least some of the records in this set.

**These results are not sorted by date and there is not an option to do so. Would be nice to sort results by date, esp when using Date facet.**

Opened <https://beta.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/160981#page/3/mode/1up>

Search Inside

**Would be nice if cursor automatically in the search box when open search inside**

1. Basic search = early golden prolific

Too many results

Basic search = “early golden prolific” oats (33 results)  
**Basic search = “early golden prolific” AND oats (33 results)**As expected.

But when look in Details, for the first two, the phrase “early golden prolific” doesn’t show up. As a user, I’d want confirmation that both parts of my AND search statement are found. Are the Details shown in order of their appearance in the book? **Would be helpful to have all search terms shown in the Details if possible.** I’d like to see if both are found in there from the snippets.

**Scripted**

1. Do a basic search for “Transactions of the Linnean Society of London” in quotes
   1. Limit your results to author ‘Curtis, John’. Are the results as expected?

**Before select it in facets, indicated 5 results in parentheses. Once selected there 8 results? Why did this change?**

* 1. For the Transactions of the Linnean Society of London, what’s the earliest volume you can find?

Date – 1600 and earlier. That doesn’t look right

Clicked the next one and next one without unclicking the first one. Why is this one item available under all these dates? **Is it looking in volume metadata or title or both for date facet?**

**How does it handle date ranges in a serial record? For example, that has 1825 - 1875 covered all in one record?**

Found v.1 (1791)

* 1. Was that easy or hard?

Very to fairly easy, though not sure why I got those results in the 1600 range and so on.

So in terms of interface, easy but in terms of understanding results, more difficult.

How were the date ranges determined? I’m used to seeing 25 year periods but these are 100 years. **Would be nice to further narrow that date range down.**

1. Do a basic search for "linnean", and then view the results for the first alternate ("Search instead for") term.
   1. What is the first item found? Would you consider this to be an expected result for this search term?

Only time I can imagine this might be useful for me is if I had made a typo in entering my search. Linnean for example might have shown up if I had used another spelling. If I wanted to use the correct spelling though, I’d have to copy and paste it into my search with the other terms and start over. This is somewhat useful.

1. ~~Search for " "temple of flora" "(use quotes) . Examine the details of the first result.~~
   1. ~~Why do think this first result was included?~~
   2. ~~Examine one of the results further down. Why do you think this one was included?~~
   3. ~~Was this easy or hard?  Explain.~~
2. Do a basic search for "strix var\*".  Examine the details of the first result.
   1. What are some of the words that matched the wildcard term ("var\*")?

Varia, various, variation…

* 1. Is this what you expected?

**Yes, though would expect to see more Strix varia at top. This is an example of where I think prioritizing adjacency and proximity would make more sense.**

Clicked on scientific name tab. 11 matches for strix var\*. A bit unhandy to have 10 on a page when there are 11 results. **Suggest including more scientific names on one page of results.**

**Suggest displaying in alphabetical order. Currently unclear what order these are in; not alphabetical or number of matches.**

1. Do an advanced search for the scientific name "strix varia".
   1. How many were found?

9

* 1. Do the first few results look like what you would expect? Why or why not?

Yes

* 1. Was this easy or hard?  Explain.

Again, order should be more apparent. Alphabetical would be best.

1. ~~Do a basic search for "barred AND owl".  Note the number of publications, authors, and subjects returned.  Then do a basic search for "barred OR owl".  Note the number of publications, authors, and subjects returned.~~
   1. ~~Which search returned more results?~~
   2. ~~Is this what you expected?~~
2. Search for the book "10.5962/bhl.title.98662".
   1. How many matches were found?

4

* 1. Do again with quotes or just select first one. Navigate to the book viewer and search within it for "galapagos tortoise"
  2. How many pages were found?

2

Galapagos = 30, as expected.

* 1. Was this easy or hard?  Explain. Any other comments?

1. ~~Navigate to https://beta.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/122307 and search within that book for " "great britain" " (use quotes).  Navigate to the second page returned by the search.~~
   1. ~~On what line of text does "great britain" appear?~~
   2. ~~Was this easy or hard?  Explain.~~
2. Do an advanced search for the author "darw\*".
   1. Is "Darwin, Charles," in the results?

Yes

* 1. Was this easy or hard?  Explain.

Not very helpful in this order. **Alphabetical order would be best here. I’d say this was fairly difficult with the way the results are presented.**

1. ~~Search for "origin of species"~~
   1. ~~What is the first title on the second page of search results.~~
   2. ~~Was this easy or hard?  Explain.~~
2. ~~Now that you have a sense of what’s possible, let’s try a few more searches of your own. Perform your own basic searches for publications, authors, subjects, and names (at least 3 of each).~~
   1. ~~Were you able to find what you searched for?~~
3. ~~Perform your own advanced searches for publications, authors, subjects, and names (at least 3 of each).~~
   1. ~~Were you able to find what you searched for?~~
4. ~~Perform your own searches within a book (at least 3).~~
   1. ~~Were you able to find what you searched for?~~

**General Questions:**

1. Were you satisfied with the overall experience / performance of the site?  Explain.

Very satisfied! Been waiting for this for a long time. Great to see it nearing completion,

1. Were you satisfied with the overall search navigation?  Explain.

Fairly to very satisfied**. Looking at interface and navigation, there’s no indication what I’m searching. Nothing tells me I’m searching the actual text. A little confusing at first. Something there to indicate that’s what’s happening would be helpful. It’s new after 10 years so there should be a visual indication**.

Filtering options, really like those. Really helpful.

Assume there will be some kind of Help section, tips on using quotes, etc.

**Would like to see Proximity searching. Be able to say, find my terms within 5 words of each other or on the same page. Something like that.**

1. Any other feedback or suggestions on the search experience?

So with full text searching, there’s no point in going to advanced search options if you want to search the full text? Guess that’s kind of related to wanting some indication of what is being searched when I enter a search string.