<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?

Head of a library department. Searches occasionally and oversees staff who use more regularly. Usually searching for known items. Might even be able to use title from library catalog to paste over and see if it’s available. Can be challenging though if it’s not in our catalog or if the spelling is incorrect, especially for foreign language material.

Sometimes searching for correct taxonomic name or to see if it changed at some point. It’s always challenging, how do you get down to that point?

What excites me the most is how it can be used, maybe even outside the scope of how we normally think of BHL being used. Things like searching for information on the passenger pigeon. We’ll need to do new trainings to let people know all the new ways they can search.

**Search**

**Conduct a few searches on your own**

1. **Basic search = conches**

Hard to say why these are being pulled up. Might be relevant? Not sure.

1. **Basic search = howler monkey**

Yes! These are obvious why retrieved. It’s in the title. Some of these are external. If not in BHL, we don’t get the full level of results? Since howler monkey is in title, it seems there’d be a lot more occurrences of that string in that item, at least if the digitized item were in BHL

**What if there were a way for the user to check / uncheck only full text (i.e., remove the external from list, if they so chose).** It might be useful to see those sometimes and other times it might just be noise. I’d have mixed feelings about deprioritizing (moving to end of results) depending on how unique they are to BHL, are they available in other commonly used databases, etc.

1. **Advanced, Author = Beebe, William**

This is where an authority file would really help.

Again, some external matches.

You don’t get the Details presented here. Because it’s an author search. That threw me off for a minute. But makes sense

**Scripted**

1. Do a basic search for “Transactions of the Linnean Society of London” in quotes

“It’s turning…” (i.e., slow to load)

* 1. Limit your results to author ‘Curtis, John’. Are the results as expected?

**Ah, that’s interesting. The authors are listed by relevance, number of hits, not by alphabetical. Slightly annoying.**

Pleasantly surprised that when I check one of the names, it just goes and I don’t have to do anything else.

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

Tried Date Facet – 1600. That’s not the same thing. Why is that there? (prompted to look at details)

So I have to go to the author field… Where is the Linnean Society in the authors? Why isn’t it there. Explained reasoning based on earlier feedback.

I guess I’d have to go to Advanced search then to find the earliest

* 1. Was that easy or hard?

5, very difficult.

When you’re doing a full text search, it’s not intuitive to just click on one of the titles to view all the volumes and find the earliest that way.

**I want to be able to sort results by date.**

1. ~~Do a basic search for "linnean"~~, Going back to the full results for basic search = “Transactions of the Linnean Society of London” 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?

Absolutely, these are useful.

Oh, there’s a language facet. That’s good.

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, …also some in the text..., various, variation

* 1. Is this what you expected?

Yes

Although if you hadn’t pointed Details to me, I wouldn’t have clicked on it. **The word ‘Details’ might be a little broad for what this is. I tend to think of this as “Keywords in Context” or “Search Terms in Context”. The size and plus button are great; just the word should maybe be changed.**

**Can you click on the snippets and go directly to that page?**

**Takes you to first page.**

**Would be nice to go directly to the page.**

1. Do an advanced search for the scientific name "strix varia".
   1. How many were found?
   2. Do the first few results look like what you would expect? Why or why not?
   3. Was this easy or hard?  Explain.

Yes, this is all as expected.

**What I’d really like though is some indication of where these names fall within the taxonomic hierarchy.** Similar to what Zoo Record has (part of Web of Science). In my opinion, they do this best. Of course, this is something we have to pay for.

BHL’s isn’t necessarily intuitive but it is a great service.

(I talked a little about taxonomic backbone under development and BHL’s interest in incorporating that in the future)

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?

OR

* 1. Is this what you expected?

Yes

If I didn’t know about Boolean searches, I guess I’d need search tips. You have that, clicking on Help. **Renaming that link to ‘Search Tips’ might be more straightforward with what you get from that link.**

1. Search for the book "10.5962/bhl.title.98662".
   1. How many matches were found?

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* 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?

Yep, just the one with that DOI.

Oh, that’s nice that it lets you know if your spelling might be wrong.

2 pages.

Searched just Galapagos. 30 results. That’s what I’d expect, to have more with that search.

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

Easy to Search Inside.

**But if I click on one, they’re all marked text. No highlighting**. Which you would expect to see. And now I don’t know which one I clicked on or which bit I’m looking for on the page. If it were highlighted on the page, that would resolve it for me. Better than not having it. But with several results, like we see with Galapagos, could get lost very easily. With that in mind, I’d say navigating through the different matches is **Very Difficult**.

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.

Very difficult. What if there were many more results? What order is this being displayed? I’d expect alphabetical by last name. But it doesn’t appear to be by frequency either.

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?

Browse by Date

So haven’t really used this before. It’s only pre-defined date ranges? Yes.

I’d like to be able to search within this for Transactions of the Linnean Society. Can I do that? No.

So how would I do date for a particular search?

Darwin AND 1906

Yeah… you can find it that way…

**I would expect to see both of my search terms bolded in the Details.**

Right now 1906 is just in the metadata above. How do I, as a user, and as a librarian, know whether it was searching in both the metadata and full text, or just one? There’s no indication. If it pulled it up based on the metadata, I’d like to see it in the Details (or Search Terms in Context) section, even if it’s redundant with what’s shown above.

Tried another similar search

“University of Toronto” AND Bloud AND 1906

1906 didn’t come up in details. Why?

**Would really like to search a specific date. Probably a lower priority than other things we’ve talked about.**

Opened one.

**It doesn’t carry my search terms over?**

**Would be nice to have those already run in ‘The Search Inside’. Otherwise I have to remember the string I used and type it back in there.** When I open the volume, I would expect to see ALL snippets, those shown in Details and any others. It creates an extra step and is a little annoying.

1. ~~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?~~
2. ~~Perform your own searches within a book (at least 3).~~
   1. ~~Were you able to find what you searched for?~~

**General Questions:**

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

Very satisfied.

Results return time seemed very quick.

**Not carrying the results over to the Book Viewer would annoy me a lot after awhile.**

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

8 out of 10. Couple of things weren’t intuitive. **Date searching.**

**Also for taxonomic names, didn’t know about the linked EOL icon before and it’s not very visible or clear what it will do just from looking at it.**

**Also, again, changing ‘Details’ to another term.**

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

No.