

Global BHL Quarterly Report

- Introduction:

Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) has been pursuing the mirroring and replication of BHL since early 2011. Its participation in BHL emerged inevitably in its course of being one of the main players in the internationalization, localization and mirroring of the Encyclopedia of Life, creating the EOL in Arabic. In this context, the scope of the BA's contribution in BHL generally spans the following:

- Setting the infrastructure for the mirroring and replication of the original BHL book collection.
- Development of Local-BHL system.
- Adding biodiversity material from the BA's collection to comprise material from the Arab world in Arabic as well as other languages.

- Content Statistics:

- The BA has received two batches of BHL books on HDDs so far, comprising **34,159 books**.
- Further, the BA has downloaded **63,270 books** from the Internet Archive out of 98,718 books that are available on the Archive to date.
- Hence, the received and downloaded books comprise **97,429**.
- Currently **16,298 books** are published on <http://dar.bibalex.org> (corresponding to **5,959,938 pages**). The rest are on their way throughout the pipeline from processing through to publishing.
- The BA is also working on adding featured biodiversity material from the Arab region in compliance to the BA's role in the EOL in Arabic project. A committee is currently reviewing the BA's biodiversity material and its eligibility for inclusion in BHL. The collection spans content in Arabic as well as other languages.

- New software and functional development:
 - The BA has developed the necessary scripts to automatically download the books from the Internet Archive. The process is run on several machines to accelerate the download.
 - A complete version of the book files received either through the HDD or the Internet Archive is stored on the BA's Online Archive (OnA) where they are kept safely. OnA automatically mirrors the data and performs regular checks to make sure the data is intact.
 - Received and downloaded books are ingested into the BA's Digital Assets Repository system (DAR) to undergo the implemented digitization workflow. This workflow is managed through the Digital Assets Factory; a workflow management system which handles the required steps. It involves processing, format conversion and the generation of the necessary files for use on DAR's publishing platform. The added books are indexed in full-text and are fully searchable.
 - Further, the BA is working on the development of the BHL-Egypt website. This task involves user experience design, wireframes and functionalities to support the BHL community. The team is currently finalizing the blueprints for the site that will be tightly integrated with the Library's repository.
- About BHL

Bibliotheca Alexandrina is keen to take part in the Global BHL project, as the project is regarded as a substantial enrichment to the BA's collection and simultaneously an optimum channel for sharing and propagating the Library's Arabic and non-Arabic biodiversity collection. This mutual collaboration utterly complies with the BA's mission in availing knowledge to all, and furthers the inclusion and input of the Arabic-speaking countries.