

BHL Mission and Goals Survey Results

Question One: What do you think is the primary reason people use BHL?

Answers:

To find the historical literature on species -- research the first publication of a species name, verify species name histories, perform taxonomic research in general

9/19/2012 6:02 PM [View Responses](#)

Access to online, full-text biology content.

9/19/2012 5:01 PM [View Responses](#)

to find specific taxonomic literature of known origin (such as an original species description or a known article)

9/19/2012 3:31 PM [View Responses](#)

to connect to historic literature that is otherwise rare or requires visits to libraries far from the user. Taxonomists appear to be the largest user group who rely on BHL to identify the protolog and treatment for a species

9/19/2012 2:57 PM [View Responses](#)

I think most people come to BHL via a google/ engine search for specific articles and citations.

9/19/2012 11:47 AM [View Responses](#)

For their science.

9/19/2012 4:51 AM [View Responses](#)

Access difficult to find biodiversity information--articles, books, images

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confirming citations for both taxonomic research and other research, known item searching, downloading articles for research

9/18/2012 1:03 PM [View Responses](#)

To access materials they are otherwise unable to. To access content quickly and easily online without the need for interlibrary loan or visiting libraries some distance away. To access materials whilst working in the field via laptops etc.

9/18/2012 8:56 AM [View Responses](#)

To retrieve natural history literature not readily available to them otherwise.

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To locate texts that are not readily available to them where they are.

9/17/2012 12:22 AM [View Responses](#)

To find scientific literature related to their studies of plants and animals.

9/17/2012 8:26 AM [View Responses](#)

To find literature related to their species.

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To do research on natural history and taxonomy.

9/14/2012 2:43 PM [View Responses](#)

Review historical biodiversity literature for research on taxonomic names

9/14/2012 2:10 PM [View Responses](#)

To access biodiversity information, particularly scientific publications

9/13/2012 4:48 PM [View Responses](#)

Research

9/13/2012 9:38 AM [View Responses](#)

Access to natural history literature (in full text) not otherwise easily available to them.

9/12/2012 6:12 PM [View Responses](#)

to access information that is not readily available around them.

9/12/2012 3:04 PM [View Responses](#)

Access to free electronic literature

9/12/2012 9:32 AM [View Responses](#)

In order to gain access to reliable and freely available literature related to the natural sciences.

9/11/2012 3:13 PM [View Responses](#)

to access specific cited literature

9/11/2012 3:06 PM [View Responses](#)

Research.

9/11/2012 12:46 AM [View Responses](#)

Research purposes

9/11/2012 12:06 AM [View Responses](#)

To find literature in support of a research goal.

9/11/2012 11:32 AM [View Responses](#)

To gain access to systematic faunal and floral information from (mostly) pre-copyright materials in a single location, to form the basis for their documentation and research purposes.

9/11/2012 11:06 AM [View Responses](#)

Scientific research

Question Two: What, in your opinion, makes BHL unique?

Answers:

BHL is unique in 2 ways: 1) its core collection of taxonomic literature as well as the "long tail" of biodiversity related materials, ie literature that supports the various fields that rely on scholarly biodiversity materials for their research AND 2) the fact that BHL makes its data open through exports and APIs which allow other services to use biodiversity literature in new ways -- do we have a way for people to get a hold of the full text of the BHL collection or a portion of it to do text analysis?

9/19/2012 6:08 PM [View Responses](#)

Collaborative effort, disciplinary focus,

9/19/2012 5:02 PM [View Responses](#)

You know the literature there is going to be good. It's vetted, so to speak. You don't need to wade through junk.

9/19/2012 3:31 PM [View Responses](#)

a critical mass of historic literature about biodiversity - while there may be other resources online that carry some of the same literature its really the totality of materials that we have that saves alot of time for researchers. Also I think the value-added services that we build at the BHL portal around the content makes it unique from say the same content hosted at Internet Archive. At IA you cannot search on the species names for example. I also think we communicate and listen to our users very effectively and really try to incorporate their input on a regular basis. Oh and the fact that not only is our content freely available but licensed in such a way to make it as easy as possible to take our data and reuse it in many different ways.

9/19/2012 3:03 PM [View Responses](#)

The breadth and depth exclusively of biodiversity-related topics, the institutions and people collaborating behind it, the quality of its content and that it's all made openly available

9/19/2012 1:44 PM [View Responses](#)

I think that BHL is designed (or was originally designed) primarily for scientists and researchers in the fields of natural history. BHL offers a true variety of rare and hard to find information (in terms of subject matter and date ranges) under a seemingly narrow umbrella scope.

9/19/2012 11:52 AM [View Responses](#)

personal, because I worked on it... otherwise, it is an amazing resource of historic proportions.

9/19/2012 4:52 AM [View Responses](#)

Taxonomic intelligence, organic organization--global and regional, high quality color scanning of original materials (although this is diluted by the ingests), dedication of paid and volunteer staff, connection to users (perhaps some of these are not unique but critically important)

9/18/2012 1:12 PM [View Responses](#)

BHL is actively maintained and responsive to feedback from users. We have control over some of our scans (except the ingest stuff, which is unfortunate) and can correct metadata, rescan, etc. We also do digitization on demand which is very rare. The uBio taxon tool is unique, but has a niche audience.

9/18/2012 1:03 PM [View Responses](#)

BHL is an incredible resource which for me is made unique by the way in which it provides free access to thousands of titles which have been scanned at a high level of quality with strong metadata drawn from existing library catalogues. The focus on biodiversity works well and allows the resource to be specifically tailored for the research community in this area.

9/18/2012 9:02 AM [View Responses](#)

Subject matter, coverage, ability to retrieve items as full text or facsimile. No cost involved for the end user.

9/18/2012 3:56 AM [View Responses](#)

The members and the materials they have to contribute. Also, the fact that it is available without charge.

9/17/2012 12:23 AM [View Responses](#)

It is easy to use, entirely online and completely free making it accessible to scientists around the world.

9/17/2012 8:26 AM [View Responses](#)

The navigation tools and indexing. Also that it is all open access.

9/16/2012 10:26 PM [View Responses](#)

The sheer mass of material in one place.

9/14/2012 2:43 PM [View Responses](#)

Free and open to take and reuse really cool old neato literature

9/14/2012 2:10 PM [View Responses](#)

Quality, free access, range of content and tools

9/13/2012 9:42 AM [View Responses](#)

Focus on natural sciences literature and added value tool (name finder, image finder)

9/12/2012 6:14 PM [View Responses](#)

freely available full-text of works dealing with taxonomy, zoology, botany, etc.

9/12/2012 3:06 PM [View Responses](#)

a) Ability to search by species name b) Large amount of freely-available literature reasonably focused on a particular subject (biodiversity) c) Ability to get high-resolution images easily

9/12/2012 9:34 AM [View Responses](#)

The quality of scanning. The cooperation and attention that goes into building the collection. BHL is engaged and attentive when it comes to its audience.

9/11/2012 3:14 PM [View Responses](#)

focused content and quality of images

9/11/2012 3:07 PM [View Responses](#)

The taxonomic and other tools that enable searching and re-purposing of the content and data held within the BHL corpus. Attention to quality and detail.

9/11/2012 12:46 AM [View Responses](#)

The sheer vastness of information available through the website thanks to the efforts of many contributors. And unlike other large online repositories such as Internet Archive, the site specializes solely on the theme of biodiversity thus giving users a unique experience

9/11/2012 12:12 AM [View Responses](#)

The substantial collection of literature - focused exclusively on Biodiversity - and accessible to researchers around the globe.

9/11/2012 11:32 AM [View Responses](#)

The breadth and scope of the consortium of locations/collections, involved in the project, and the wide scope of print materials in various languages allowed to the user via single-point access.

9/11/2012 11:08 AM [View Responses](#)

The combined capacity of first-class libraries around the world to pool resources into a single portal with a strong subject focus allows BHL to provide unparalleled access to out-of-copyright biological works.

9/11/2012 10:22 AM [View Responses](#)

Question three: Should BHL expand to include additional subject areas and content types, and, if so, what should they be?

Answers:

I would really like BHL to go from great to excellent with the extent of its core focus before going off in a different direction. I would rather invest energy in filling in the gaps we have in our book collection before bringing in other materials. I think unpublished materials welcome but they are tricky with respect to copyright. I'm not so thrilled about the idea of bringing in audio/video. These seem like they would require a whole new UI display/functionality which we are not prepared to support. BHL is not the place for specimens/species images b/c other providers do this so why should we reinvent the wheel? Not sure about maps... We already have some juvenile literature but I'm not keen on purposefully shifting BHL's collection away from a scholarly focus, or at least not until we have the scholarly part really covered.

9/19/2012 6:14 PM [View Responses](#)

Other public domain content, now delivered by others. acquire their relevant content and incorporate into BHL or acquire metadata to enable discovery in BHL and link user to content held elsewhere.

9/19/2012 5:05 PM [View Responses](#)

I don't know. I'm not sure that the unpublished collections should even continue to expand.

9/19/2012 3:32 PM [View Responses](#)

I think if we do expand we should do so very thoughtfully and deliberately. Content types beyond the book and journal introduce new issues with digitization workflow, BHL data model, user interface, and can raise preservation challenges. I think being a focused collection both in terms of content types and subject domain has been a strength so far of BHL. That said I think articles are the most desired content type by our users to be incorporated.

9/19/2012 3:09 PM [View Responses](#)

The BHL collection should also allow (logged in) users to upload their (unpublished) materials and handle their links to other (open) repositories. To fully support scientific work, BHL should handle (all) the citations of biodiversity-related materials.

9/19/2012 1:56 PM [View Responses](#)

I think the core BHL collection should remain natural history specific, but I think that content types should be expanded to possibly include microfiche and film, and more pdfs.

9/19/2012 11:59 AM [View Responses](#)

BHL can broaden into a collection as broad as the collections of the libraries which constitute the BHL, within the biodiversity literature subject parameters.

9/19/2012 4:54 AM [View Responses](#)

The BHL should focus on its stated goal: "to digitize and make accessible the legacy literature of biodiversity...and to make that literature available for open access and responsible use as a part of a global "biodiversity commons."" Along the way some interesting content/subject/format types come along and decisions can be made to add (field notes) or not. But this should be a thoughtful decision that comes through the executive members. And really, we have plenty to do if we just focus on the legacy literature. Expansion should be reviewed when we are closer to reaching our core goal.

9/18/2012 1:16 PM [View Responses](#)

people want articles, so there's that. and we'll have field books one of these days regardless... do we want to get into gray literature? are we capable of that? can I answer a question with more questions? as for subject areas, I have no idea. Stick with science.

9/18/2012 1:07 PM [View Responses](#)

It would be good if non-book collections unique to specific member institutions were also included (such as pamphlets) that could be seen to significantly broaden the coverage of key subject areas. Additionally it would be interesting if existing complete or in progress Archives digitisation projects could also be incorporated.

9/18/2012 9:05 AM [View Responses](#)

BHL should remain focussed on Natural History, it's usp. However i owuld like to see an expansion inot manuscript materials, such as field notebooks, handwritten catalogues of collections and similar unpublished materials.

9/18/2012 3:58 AM [View Responses](#)

I like BHL the way it is.

9/17/2012 12:23 AM [View Responses](#)

Geology/Earth Sciences would be the next logical choice.

9/17/2012 8:28 AM [View Responses](#)

The more unique material that is included the better, so field books, manuscripts, locally published materials.

9/16/2012 10:29 PM [View Responses](#)

More art materials. Popular literature. ephemera.

9/14/2012 2:44 PM [View Responses](#)

More journal ARTICLES and the old citebank goals incorporated in a better way. Field Books and relationship to the content grant to get to specimens if appropriate. So - better connection to other projects out there - GBIF if appropriate or barcode of life or something (not just EOL) Topically - lets go earth sciences (rocks) and paleo (dinosaurs) and agriculture and anthropological topics that touch on related things.

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scientific drawings

9/13/2012 9:43 AM [View Responses](#)

Possibly archival records and ephemera held by member libraries (letters, manuscripts, photographs, etc). Films, photos, audio recordings relevant to the study of natural sciences. Possibly more agricultural content (animal husbandry, USDA pubs, breeding, hybrids, ornamental horticulture)

9/12/2012 6:19 PM [View Responses](#)

member institutions' archives as related to BHL-relevant topics, image collections, etc.

9/12/2012 3:08 PM [View Responses](#)

I think the BHL needs to continue to build upon its core (not done yet!), as well as expand access to the unpublished materials in our collections. These unpublished materials are very appropriate for BHL and a logical place for them.

9/11/2012 3:16 PM [View Responses](#)

Consider hosting unpublished bibliographies from reliable sources but keep content focused on biodiversity

9/11/2012 3:08 PM [View Responses](#)

I think that the inclusion of primary material (field notebooks, diaries, correspondence, photographs, etc.) is very valuable and I would like to see this expanded if possible. I don't think that there's a need to include subject areas beyond the field of biological natural history.

9/11/2012 12:46 AM [View Responses](#)

At this time, I'm not quite sure what additional content types could/should be added

9/11/2012 12:13 AM [View Responses](#)

No. I think this scope is appropriate and offers a rich arena for continuing to expand the collection without changing the scope. The only thing I would add potentially is individual articles (reprints) because there are tons of them out there in our institutions and they could augment or supplement the current service.

9/11/2012 11:34 AM [View Responses](#)

If it consented to by the individual members of BHL, it may be nice to have primary archival materials that have yet to be scanned and integrated into local digital collections become part of BHL's resources.

9/11/2012 11:09 AM [View Responses](#)

If BHL can provide a broader range of materials with a search interface that allows enough faceting for specific searches, I think expanding into new formats and subject areas would strengthen it and gain a larger patron base.

9/11/2012 10:26 AM [View Responses](#)

Question Four: What is the most effective service that we provide to our users? What is the least effective?

Answers:

The fact that we provide free access to the literature that they need at their fingertips and the fact that they can download exactly the pages that they need for their research. Searching by scientific name is also another critical service that separates BHL from other digital libraries. Least effective would have to be our browsing - it's a mess of duplicated titles, authors, etc. and very unwieldy.

9/19/2012 6:22 PM [View Responses](#)

Most effective: delivering full-text page images of special collections materials, items not widely available and not loanable. Least effective: not supporting full-text searching of content of the collection.

9/19/2012 5:06 PM [View Responses](#)

PDF generation and name-finding are great. searching within publications or across the corpus need to happen.

9/19/2012 3:33 PM [View Responses](#)

Most effective - Again the critical mass of content and value-added services at the portal. Least effective - OCR and full text. Both are services are users expect but so far we haven't been very good at providing this to them

9/19/2012 3:13 PM [View Responses](#)

The most effective service that we are providing right now to our users is allowing access to heritage content that is difficult to get by. The second most effective services that we provide our users is being able to find (some of) the references of taxa in that heritage literature. The second-to-last least effective service we are (almost not) providing right now is to search for names of places, people and time. The least effective service right now is being the main reference for biodiversity information searches. The service we are not providing is full-text search

9/19/2012 1:58 PM [View Responses](#)

I think the most effective service revolves around the rarity of our holdings, and the ability users have to download what they need from wherever they are.

9/19/2012 11:59 AM [View Responses](#)

most - that we are available as a staff to back up our work least- pass

9/19/2012 4:55 AM [View Responses](#)

Most effective is acces to difficult to find literature. Least effective is reference because we are not set up to supply general reference services (rightfully so--questions can be referred to appropriate libraries).

9/18/2012 1:18 PM [View Responses](#)

most: maintenance of metadata/pagination and scan on demand least: we don't provide article-level access within scanned volumes I'm just guessing.

9/18/2012 1:08 PM [View Responses](#)

The most effective service would be access to the resources within BHL. Difficult to qualify the least effective service although I believe there still remains significant work to making BHL suitable for general use as part of education.

9/18/2012 9:08 AM [View Responses](#)

Being freely available 24 hours is the most effective. Least effective is the ability to search items fulltext, and the copyright imposed date limit.

9/18/2012 4:02 AM [View Responses](#)

Access is the most effective. Knowledge of BHL's existence and scope is the least effective.

9/17/2012 12:24 AM [View Responses](#)

Most Effective: The ability to quickly find literature related to their work. Least Effective: I don't know (I'm not a user)

9/17/2012 8:29 AM [View Responses](#)

The most effective in terms of individual users is the Gemini service, which responds to individual requests and improves the quality. The most effective that should be is continuing technical improvements, including inclusion of articles. Least effective? Not sure.

9/16/2012 10:34 PM [View Responses](#)

access. findability,

9/14/2012 2:44 PM [View Responses](#)

Most effective is the ability to read the text - with the name finding aspect pretty cool. Least effective is search with in the text (duh) and the ability to correct or highlight names when you find them - correct OCR yadda yadda (again, duh)

9/14/2012 2:11 PM [View Responses](#)

Access to and re-use of content is effective. Linking out from BHL (to other related sources and content) and discovery within BHL (article level, image discovery) not yet there.

9/12/2012 6:21 PM [View Responses](#)

24/7 access, fulfilling their requests. gaps in serial runs, duplicate records with different volumes attached to them, not being able to fulfill users' requests

9/12/2012 3:54 PM [View Responses](#)

a) access to literature that is often locked up in special collections/rare book rooms b) I personally have not found Citebank that useful. I don't know anyone who is actively using it.

9/12/2012 9:40 AM [View Responses](#)

Feedback is the most effective service. Rarely do see such contact between users and providers. As an insider, it's hard to say what the least effective service is.

9/11/2012 3:19 PM [View Responses](#)

a.) free 24/7 access b.) searching w/in a selected volume would be handy

9/11/2012 3:09 PM [View Responses](#)

The most effective service is simply the availability of the core biodiversity literature, especially to people that have little or no access to natural history libraries.

9/11/2012 12:46 AM [View Responses](#)

From my experience, the search function is the most important. (Being able to download those pages once they are found is a close second...) I don't have any particular opinion on the least effective service at this time.

9/11/2012 12:18 AM [View Responses](#)

Most effective - access to digitized content. Least effective - identification and access to the components of our materials (articles, images, plates, maps, chapters, etc.)

9/11/2012 11:34 AM [View Responses](#)

Most effective: Wide array of constantly updated materials, and the ability for other materials that haven't been scanned (and can be scanned) to be requested for addition to the collection. Least Effective: A somewhat hard to figure out interface that has a front page rather short on detailed information or guidance on how to access/use the collections, and fonts for the main headers that are smaller than the buttons for donations and requests for mailing list additions.

9/11/2012 11:12 AM [View Responses](#)

Our library creates content for BHL, but we have not had contact with the patrons besides responding to requests. I think this would be a great question to pose to our users in a poll or survey on the website.

9/11/2012 10:28 AM [View Responses](#)

Question Five: What are the most effective ways to spread the word about BHL?

Answers:

While talking directly to researchers and word of mouth is important, perhaps the MOST effective way is to make sure BHL is inserted into the tools researchers are already using. I also think Flickr has been a great example of how you can repackage BHL content in new ways and get different audiences interested in it -- by collaborating with different organizations, BHL could spread different messages to different audiences. I'm really pleased to see we are doing this re-evaluation to understand better WHAT we want to say to WHO and WHERE/WHEN/HOW/WHY!

9/19/2012 6:34 PM [View Responses](#)

By example. What this implies is that we will spread the word by improving the quality and services we provide (more content, better text recognized, more taxa found, more search options, more structure (tags) to the content, more API interfaces to the content)

9/19/2012 5:39 PM [View Responses](#)

Make content discoverable via search engines (e.g. Google) and web-scale discovery services (e.g. Summon).

9/19/2012 5:07 PM [View Responses](#)

Speaking at conferences, staff outreach, social media

9/19/2012 3:34 PM [View Responses](#)

I think what we've been doing with social media has been very effective - blogging, twitter, pinterest. Pushing content out to other portals is also a good promotional tool and connects our content with other content on the Web - flickr, wikimedia commons, EOL, etc. Having BHL staff do presentations at conferences is a great way of connecting both with current and future users - it would be nice to have more funding dedicated just for this purpose

9/19/2012 3:16 PM [View Responses](#)

I think that social media is the most effective, and member institutions sharing BHL updates and tools with their own research staff can also be effective.

9/19/2012 12:00 AM [View Responses](#)

social media, writing articles, speaking at meetings

9/19/2012 4:55 AM [View Responses](#)

It seems like we have been successful with social media, booths at meetings and presentations/papers at meetings. Not to mention word of mouth.

9/18/2012 1:19 PM [View Responses](#)

provide a superior product that users depend on, they will tell others. black magic seo putting BHL where people are, e.g., flickr wikipedia

9/18/2012 1:10 PM [View Responses](#)

Continuing with the Twitter stream and Facebook page updates, presentations at various conferences and meetings. Further conferences on BHL itself (like Life & Literature last year) which really provoked some very interesting discussion and suggestions for the next 5 years.

9/18/2012 9:09 AM [View Responses](#)

I don't know. People are most impressed once they have used it, can we build on that somehow?

9/18/2012 4:06 AM [View Responses](#)

Listserve, academic newsletters, sponsorship of academic events.

9/17/2012 12:24 AM [View Responses](#)

Social Media, Word of Mouth, Official Press Releases

9/17/2012 8:29 AM [View Responses](#)

We need to get out more press releases, especially to newsletters, blogs, etc. of biodiversity organizations, maybe special mailings to targetted communities, Perhaps we should consider taking out ads in some science journals!

9/16/2012 10:39 PM [View Responses](#)

the ways we're doing - social media, blogs, testimonials, conferences.

9/14/2012 2:45 PM [View Responses](#)

Talking to interested groups, thinking of creative ways that others could use our services that are outside the limited taxonomic group that already knows about us. Hitching a ride on other projects besides EOL. What those are? Ayedunno.

9/14/2012 2:12 PM [View Responses](#)

focused use of social media, professional publications an meetings, press

9/13/2012 9:45 AM [View Responses](#)

Other web based content linking (to and from BHL; for example wikipedia links); possibly 'advertising' such as getting the BHL logo placed in other web pages (how can we get a BHL logo on Google pages??); links in AMAZON??

9/12/2012 6:25 PM [View Responses](#)

We need to keep talking, presenting, writing...I think we need to make more connections with our university colleagues with academic programs/students who could make use of the BHL. These academic librarians are in the trenches of teaching information literacy and research skills to users. What tips do they have? How do they market services and resources?

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more outreach to scienfitic community

9/11/2012 3:10 PM [View Responses](#)

Social networking media such as Facebook, Flickr, Twitter and blogs.

9/11/2012 12:46 AM [View Responses](#)

In this day and age social media is a great way of spreading the word about websites/events/organizations/etc. When one person sees someone they know interacting with an entity via social networking, at the very least it will perk that person's interest.

9/11/2012 12:23 AM [View Responses](#)

Integration into the teaching and research activities of academic institutions - mostly undergraduate. We need to be the source for biological information over Hathi, Google Scholar, etc.

9/11/2012 11:35 AM [View Responses](#)

On a local level, incorporating links in OPACs and having take-away materials available with web addresses, information, and possibly truncated instructions. On a larger level: Incorporation of BHL electronic records into OCLC via electronic record creation/updating; speaking about BHL topics and giving demonstrations at conferences, library and private events, etc.; outreach to related information services/technology and science publications for possible interviews and/or article inclusion (either written by our members or their staff).

9/11/2012 11:15 AM [View Responses](#)

Conference presentations are excellent, but I don't know enough about our current user base to know how to expand it.

9/11/2012 10:30 AM [View Responses](#)

Question six: How can you ensure that BHL continues to grow and remains healthy?

Answers:

By continuing to do what I do everyday and staying positive/realistic about what BHL is and can be in the future.

9/19/2012 6:51 PM [View Responses](#)

Report error findings, promoting new technology incorporation, helping out on crowdsourced activities (like tagathons, flickr parties), be attentive to suggest constructive solutions to known problems and looking for new project proposals that would support all these efforts.

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Providing content Staff time

9/19/2012 5:08 PM [View Responses](#)

Continued promotion, involvement in related projects

9/19/2012 3:34 PM [View Responses](#)

I can continue spreading the word about BHL via papers, conferences, and also emphasizing that while the content is free the staff and technologies used to provide access to the content costs money and needs sustainable resources. But I also think the community of users have to become part of the solution. I think BHL partners have to be willing to invest in the long term financial sustainability of BHL - this will be the biggest challenge we have in sustaining BHL for the future

9/19/2012 3:31 PM [View Responses](#)

By scanning as much as we can, and editing whatever mistakes we come across to make sure that what is added to BHL is accurate and accessible.

9/19/2012 12:06 AM [View Responses](#)

ensure that my Library remains committed

9/19/2012 4:56 AM [View Responses](#)

If I had a million dollars.... Continue to contribute dues, staff and expertise along with content. Secure funding/support, via grants or gifts.

9/18/2012 1:20 PM [View Responses](#)

it's hard to sustain enthusiasm about a project over the long haul, especially when you have other pressing duties unrelated to science or digitization. this has always been the problem. unless BHL members can stay enthused about BHL and the work we're doing it will be difficult to maintain it much less grow it. oh, and win the lottery. i think that would help.

9/18/2012 1:12 PM [View Responses](#)

By contributing content and attempting to encourage my organisation to make fundraising for BHL a priority over the coming years. This latter aim will not be easy particularly in the current financial climate.

9/18/2012 9:13 AM [View Responses](#)

Responding to scanning requests, sorting out problems, continuing to spread the word.

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We are happy to contribute the materials to increase the number of items available.

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I'm not sure.

9/17/2012 8:30 AM [View Responses](#)

By raising funds to continue scanning and perhaps add more staff or ensure continuance of staff we have.

9/16/2012 10:41 PM [View Responses](#)

Money.

9/14/2012 2:45 PM [View Responses](#)

How can I? That is a hard one! Growth could mean adding more material or adding more services? Healthy means staying alive or grow in directions of need and not become stale? Can't answer this. Possibly we need tools to help others participate and use/re-use our data without knowing command line or programming?

9/14/2012 2:12 PM [View Responses](#)

More reliable content, content, content.

9/12/2012 6:26 PM [View Responses](#)

We mention BHL at every opportunity - to faculty, students, visitors, other librarians.

9/12/2012 9:43 AM [View Responses](#)

I continue to advocate for BHL among our staff, administration and among donors and trustees. I try to wedge in BHL whenever I can into tours and presentations to indicate it is one of the most rewarding and satisfying projects our library has undertaken in years.

9/11/2012 3:22 PM [View Responses](#)

pray

9/11/2012 3:10 PM [View Responses](#)

Continue to innovate and offer new services. Keep the look of the site fresh and changing so that it does not become stagnant. Take advantage of the new exhibition feature to showcase and organize content in compelling ways.

Continue to actively solicit feedback from our users.

9/11/2012 12:46 AM [View Responses](#)

Focusing on the continued and frequent addition of content

9/11/2012 12:23 AM [View Responses](#)

Continue to identify the gaps and the importance of filling those gaps through continued scanning, markup and enhancements.

9/11/2012 11:36 [AMView Responses](#)

Listening to feedback, constant growth of collections, improvements in user feedback and search/report tools and capabilities, promotion on a local and larger level, constant re-evaluation of records for metadata problems and scanning errors, making sure that the quality of the scans and the quality of the technology involved across all aspects of BHL are current with today's standards.

9/11/2012 11:17 [AMView Responses](#)

Our library is in the process of building an in-house scanning operation that will be able to provide old/rare content without destroying the originals and be able to handle foldouts, maps, and microfilm. We will be able to supply unique materials digitized in high quality formats.

9/11/2012 10:32 [AMView Responses](#)

Question Seven: What is the most important thing for BHL to accomplish in the next 1-2 years?

Answers:

1) provide article level access 2) bring in BHL member materials scanned outside the standard IA workflow as well as PDF materials 3) improve our OCR 4) provide full text searching

9/19/2012 6:57 [PMView Responses](#)

Economically: Achieving funding stability. Globally: Get BHL Africa and another new node (either BHL Russia or BHL India) Technically: Providing a fully mobile environment with better Search options by improving OCR and tagging content

9/19/2012 5:49 [PMView Responses](#)

Support full-text searching of content.

9/19/2012 5:09 [PMView Responses](#)

better searching

9/19/2012 3:34 [PMView Responses](#)

Determine financial sustainability model

9/19/2012 3:32 [PMView Responses](#)

Funding for more book scanning from primary institutions. Ingesting from IA brings in a lot of material, but securing funding for member institutions helps to ensure that rare and subject specific material (as well as material used to fulfill Gemini and patron requests) is continually added.

9/19/2012 12:07 [AMView Responses](#)

retro metadata issues including pagination and the rest

9/19/2012 4:56 [AMView Responses](#)

new platform, active management of assets locally with global sync (sorry if we already do this, it's not obvious to me). oh, and win the lottery.

9/18/2012 1:25 [PMView Responses](#)

More scanning. Sustainability plan.

9/18/2012 1:21 [PMView Responses](#)

Further significant financial backing for BHL to continue with its work both from member institutions and external sources. A detailed strategy for the next five years - I think this was drafted some time ago but has yet to be finalised.

9/18/2012 9:23 [AMView Responses](#)

Fulltext searching

9/18/2012 4:06 [AMView Responses](#)

I'm not sure, I'm new to this.

9/17/2012 12:25 [AMView Responses](#)

Survive the transition that seems to be happening as large grant funding runs out and make itself more relevant to high school and college students.

9/17/2012 8:31 [AMView Responses](#)

Raise sufficient funds to enable growth. Bring the database to the Smithsonian to create another mirror site and take advantage of the Institution's relative stability and commitment. Make sure that the merge of Citebank into BHL goes smoothly and that it becomes possible to enter article level data into the database. Analyze current collection to get relevant data on how much is contained of which subjects in order to establish priorities for scanning.

9/16/2012 10:52 [PMView Responses](#)

We need to get a handle on our rapid growth, strategize for the future, consolidate and normalize the modes as much as is possible, and find a way to better provide ways into the material.

9/14/2012 2:46 [PMView Responses](#)

Immediate needs: A secure stable platform that can be worked on by others beside the limited staff on the tech side currently and contain more than just the metadata. Love Internet Archive; but, I think we are pushing our luck with them soon. Growth in new areas: potential expand our definition of Biodiversity or have "new chapters" to include paleo topics, field books, rocks, agriculture, anthro., etc. Move to a new search and retrieval system. It still has some weird quirky searching and discovery. (Did I mention wanting to search inside the texts already?) Yes, this means an overhaul of the basic system. Ouch

9/14/2012 2:13 PM [View Responses](#)

Responsive, flexible, strong infrastructure (technical AND administrative); FUNDING. FUNDING. FUNDING.

9/12/2012 6:28 PM [View Responses](#)

Sustainability, especially with regards to funding.

9/12/2012 9:44 AM [View Responses](#)

More stable funding.

9/11/2012 3:22 PM [View Responses](#)

going global

9/11/2012 3:10 PM [View Responses](#)

Implementing an effective means of searching for articles. Developing an effective de-duplication tool that accounts for both member and non-member contributions to the portal.

9/11/2012 12:53 AM [View Responses](#)

An increased presence on the Internet

9/11/2012 12:24 AM [View Responses](#)

Identifying the potential scope of the collection and communicating with our funders how important it is to continue adding to the collections.

9/11/2012 11:36 AM [View Responses](#)

To try and become a standard "electronic database" link on as many library (especially university) OPACs as possible; that is, becoming a default source for scientific information for as many related users as possible.

9/11/2012 11:19 AM [View Responses](#)

I think any goals BHL has should be driven by our user base and only guided by the librarians who contribute to it. What do they think is the most important thing for BHL to accomplish in the next 1-2 years?

9/11/2012 10:36 AM [View Responses](#)

Question Eight: What do you envision BHL to be like in 5-10 years?

Answers:

A single global BHL website. A robust mobile BHL presence. Ubiquitous use of BHL on college campuses. BHL in-a-box to support populations with limited Internet access. Crowd-sourced correction of BHL metadata & OCR. A greater BHL web presence with more links to BHL from Wikipedia. My dream world includes a full-scale virtual library that has similar departments/resources that a brick-and-mortar library has such as a development office, technical services, cataloging, acquisitions, reference staff, outreach/education, etc. as well as a BHL that is a virtual collaborative space for users to work together on their research. I'd also like to see a complete integration of BHL data into the various natural history data and collection management software systems that are out there. As systems like KE EMu and Spectrum grow/improve/die, BHL should be involved as a critical part of their evolution. I would also love to see BHL integrated into natural history exhibits across the globe.

9/19/2012 7:14 PM [View Responses](#)

Economically: Secure a stable funding source for Secretariat, Ccre Staff and Technical Team Globally: Cover the whole world. Technically: Provide structured rich content for the Semantic Web

9/19/2012 5:49 PM [View Responses](#)

More content, distributed content, customizable by users, such as user-created sub-collections,

9/19/2012 5:10 PM [View Responses](#)

If the sustainability issue is resolved then I see BHL as an ongoing consortium that continues to grow both in terms of content but also services. The BHL portal should not exist as a silo but share its content widely to other content portals so that new audiences are built and hopefully share in the value that it provides. Perhaps becoming a part of other consortiums that are not domain specific (e.g. HathiTrust) would be the way to sustainability

9/19/2012 3:36 PM [View Responses](#)

More like JSTOR (better searching across the corpus of literature, more integrated, and federated, search tools)

9/19/2012 3:35 PM [View Responses](#)

Ideally,

9/19/2012 12:10 AM [View Responses](#)

more solid, more issues resolved, more tools applied to the OCR, rescanning if technology improves, more working collections for specific interest groups

9/19/2012 4:57 AM [View Responses](#)

members/collaborators/consortia will be fewer, global there's a no money vision and a some money vision which are pretty different. no money is a portal somewhere with some different features, run out of one institution, maintaining existing content and not growing very much. some money is more globally focused, engaged with publishing (for some fields), maybe some gray lit work, fieldbooks.

9/18/2012 1:35 PM [View Responses](#)

It would be great if BHL could move beyond basic PDFs towards full semantic markup of documents. I know this would require significant funding but think it would be of value to the community.

9/18/2012 9:27 AM [View Responses](#)

Bigger and better. More content and more ways of retrieving and using the content.

9/18/2012 4:06 AM [View Responses](#)

Again, I'm new, so I'm figuring out what it is now!

9/17/2012 12:25 AM [View Responses](#)

If successful, I see it as one of the major centers for legacy scientific literature on the internet, accessible (both technologically and conceptually) to students and researchers around the world. I also see it as being truly multilingual.

9/17/2012 8:34 AM [View Responses](#)

A growing collection with more recent publications and additional analytical tools responding to user needs with an endowment that provides continuing support for staff and strong ties to the relevant user community and a worldwide reputation as a model research database.

9/16/2012 11:02 PM [View Responses](#)

Bigger.

9/14/2012 2:47 PM [View Responses](#)

Unicorns. I didn't think it would be this awesome 5 years ago - so I can't even imagine where it could go in the next. I picture it being The Natural History Library of Texts across the globe.

9/14/2012 2:14 PM [View Responses](#)

Better: Broader, more complete and comprehensive content; better, broader access; higher public profile: What will the Net (Cloud) be like in 5-10 years?? BHL needs to be at the leading wave.

9/12/2012 6:30 PM [View Responses](#)

On a wish list would be: a) better access at the article level instead of journal level b) clean-up of bibliographic dupes or some equivalent (maybe something akin to FRBR?) c) ability to limit search to images only and see thumbnails (love the multi-page viewing on BHL-AU) d) continued world-wide expansion with additional content for other countries coming in

9/12/2012 9:49 AM [View Responses](#)

Sorry, but I have vision problems. It's hard to me to imagine our library in 5-10 years, let alone BHL. I hope it exists, its has grown and it has stable funding, still supported by these excellent founding institutions.

9/11/2012 3:25 PM [View Responses](#)

can't imagine 5-10 years ahead

9/11/2012 3:11 PM [View Responses](#)

A fully searchable, fairly comprehensive corpus of the core biodiversity literature and supporting primary material. Implementation of "My BHL" functionality so that users can repurpose content and data in almost limitless ways to suit their research projects and interests. Development of mobile BHL and any number of apps that make use of the content, and for all user levels.

9/11/2012 12:53 AM [View Responses](#)

I would hope that BHL has grown to the point where it is a relatively common website known to a wide audience of users. While there is certainly a wide array of users now, it would be nice to think that BHL could expand to be something more than primarily a resource for researchers.

9/11/2012 12:29 AM [View Responses](#)

I would love to see BHL be an interactive and integrative source for finding information in the literature and connecting the dots between different parts of the published record. I would love to see users have the ability to create communities and hold discussions around what they find in BHL with others. We need to be encouraging users to stay engaged with the published record which is available in BHL.

9/11/2012 11:38 AM [View Responses](#)

A well-known and standard/default archive and research portal for the subjects/areas covered in it, which is also known go continually adding to and improving its holdings, and for good/quick interaction with users as it regards, feedback, requests, etc.

9/11/2012 11:21 AM [View Responses](#)

An authoritative source for scientific information across a number of disciplines; a resource used by students, professors, and professionals as a natural part of their research process.

9/11/2012 10:37 AM [View Responses](#)

Question Nine: What is your ideal vision for a global BHL?

Answers:

one site that provides access to the complete collection of global BHL partners' collections; a global BHL community of resources that works together collaboratively and provides support where their strengths lie.

9/19/2012 7:17 PM [View Responses](#)

Every global node being self sustained and independently governed collaborating among them by sharing tools and synchronizing content Worldwide

9/19/2012 5:50 PM [View Responses](#)

Uniform content globally, different interfaces for different languages, regional and disciplinary sub-collections,

9/19/2012 5:12 PM [View Responses](#)

A single portal from which all BHL content is served. Separate silos don't serve the users. Being able to share in a global funding structure would be ideal if we could ever get past the political hurdles.

9/19/2012 3:38 PM [View Responses](#)

Integrated searching in one portal, but the ability to limit exploration to individual collections if desired.

9/19/2012 3:36 PM [View Responses](#)

not sure

9/19/2012 4:57 AM [View Responses](#)

-

9/18/2012 1:36 PM [View Responses](#)

Not really clear on an ideal vision for a global BHL at this stage but I would think a closely linked up integrated resource with all partners working together on various developments would be a good basis for this.

9/18/2012 9:32 AM [View Responses](#)

One portal, one BHL brand, content and users from all over the world. Easier uploading?

9/18/2012 4:07 AM [View Responses](#)

Not familiar enough with it. But something along the lines of national libraries.

9/17/2012 12:26 AM [View Responses](#)

See Question 8. :)

9/17/2012 8:34 AM [View Responses](#)

Strong global partners who are sharing datafiles easily and freely, and promoting and distributing it to local and regional users with strong communication and interaction among the partners who have a shared vision.

9/16/2012 11:09 PM [View Responses](#)

More interconnectedness, less franchises.

9/14/2012 2:47 PM [View Responses](#)

The Natural History Library for the Globe. Where not feasible for connecting live, have nodes to service communities. More interaction in the training of biological scientists.

9/14/2012 2:14 PM [View Responses](#)

Content and technical expertise coming in from many different areas. That content would be shared with all BHL nodes so everyone would have access to the same body of work. Multiple redundant repositories of the data.

Worldwide "branding" even if there are different web portals.

9/12/2012 9:51 AM [View Responses](#)

unified delivery of content

9/11/2012 3:11 PM [View Responses](#)

A single portal with federated searching capabilities of all of the sub-portals (i.e. BHL-US, BHL-Europe, etc.).

9/11/2012 12:53 AM [View Responses](#)

The global BHL is integral to that vision of an engaging and integrative service. We need to be supporting users that want to remove the barriers of communication created by language. We need to be encouraging translation and support text layers to OCR in multiple languages. We need to offer users suggested translations to connect their queries to potential sources in multiple languages. We don't have to get it right every time. We just need to start helping them do it.

9/11/2012 11:40 AM [View Responses](#)

A single, standardized portal adaptable to local locations in terms of language, page display information, and contact capabilities. That is, being able to give feedback in your local language to the local version and have it responded to back in your language, yet being able to do this with a website that for all intents and purposes is the same across the global in terms of design, display, and quality of information and tools available.

9/11/2012 11:25 AM [View Responses](#)

This question is confusing. I think it is ideal that BHL be globalized, but I do not have a vision that extends beyond it being, well, global. I would like to see libraries from all over the world contributing to BHL and I would like BHL to be accessible and utilized by people all over the world.

9/11/2012 10:40 AM [View Responses](#)

Question Ten: Additional Responses

What are the short term and long term goals of BHL leadership? What is BHL leadership working on? What do they see as BHL's weaknesses and how can we work to improve them? Sorry, I honestly do not know what the answers are and I haven't been clear on these points since the beginning of the project.

9/19/2012 7:30 PM [View Responses](#)

How can BHL be sustainably supported?

9/19/2012 5:13 PM [View Responses](#)

Can BHL operate purely in maintenance mode in the future? (i.e. operate w/o further development to UI or new services added but simply provide access to the existing content?) - I think without a certain minimum level of staff to focus on collection development, content ingest and normalization, UI updates, and system administration, the BHL portal will become stagnant and irrelevant over time.

9/19/2012 3:45 PM [View Responses](#)

What would make you sad? The best part of the birth of BHL was the friendship/social interaction. Don't get too big that the fun is lost and the nimbleness to try new things.

9/14/2012 2:14 PM [View Responses](#)

How are other institutions handling the "elevator speech" need in this new climate of decreased funding? For example, as we "remove" ourselves as an arm of EOL (in a manner of speaking), how do we still argue for the support of BHL when funding may seem dodgy to our administrators (esp. in light of the shaky funding for our brick and mortar libraries). Sorry, but I have no answer, just a question for discussion.

9/11/2012 3:30 PM [View Responses](#)

Why do you think that BHL participation is waning in some of our core organizations? I think that we are all overwhelmed today but we are missing the focus on creating a collection greater than any of our individual institutions. I think we need to demand more in the way of funding from our institutions so that we can continue to make BHL a success. Right now no one is stepping up and without support, we can lose what we have created.

9/11/2012 11:42 AM [View Responses](#)

do we have a way for people to get a hold of the full text of the BHL collection or a portion of it to do text analysis?