

Open Content and the BHL: Breathing New Life into Old Data

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Extensive

Aiming for a critical mass of biodiversity literature



Global

Originating in the US and UK, BHL now has nodes in Europe, China, Australia, Brazil, Egypt, and Africa



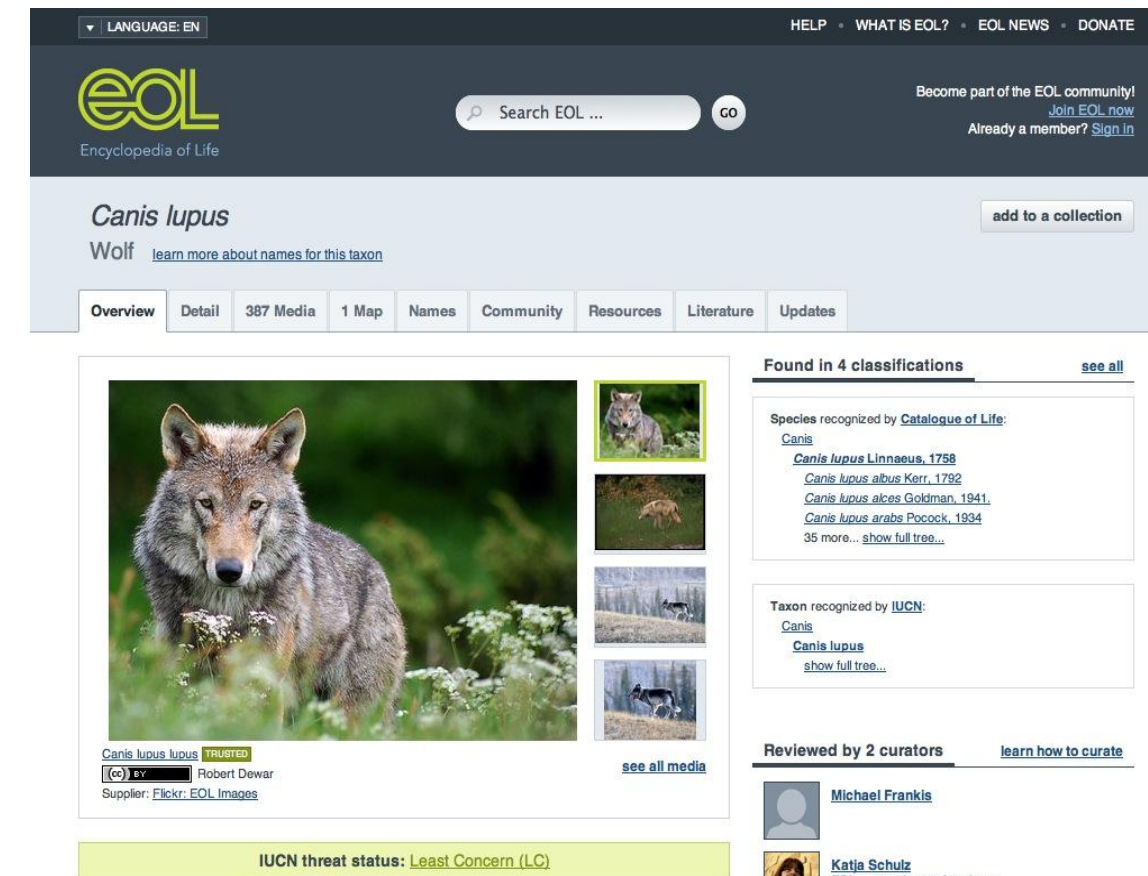
Open

Data is freely available for viewing, downloading, and re-use

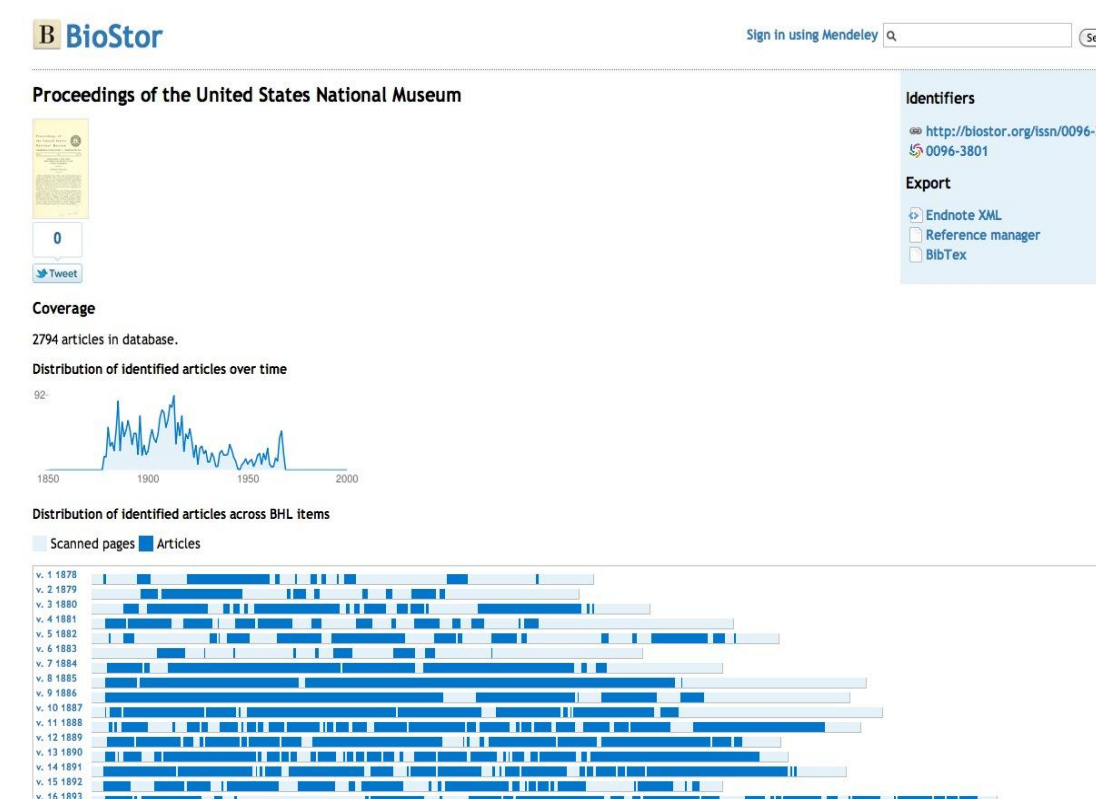
PRINCIPLES

The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) is a consortium of natural history and botanical libraries that cooperate 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."

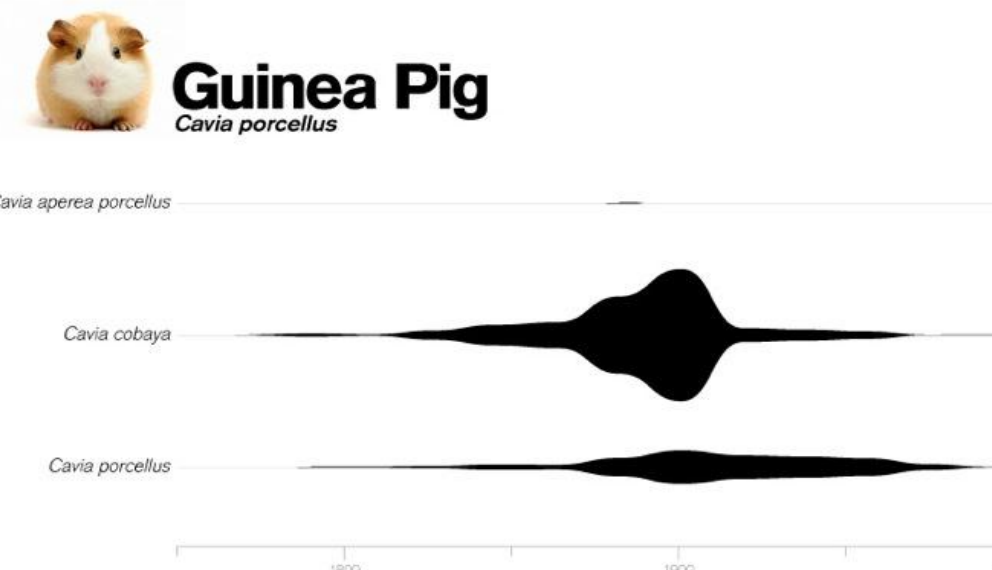
DATA (RE-)USE



BHL serves as the literature component of the Encyclopedia of Life (EOL). It uses services to automatically generate bibliographies from BHL literature and connect them with the associated species pages in EOL. In this example the wolf. (<http://eol.org/>)



The website and webservice BioStor by Rod Page provides tools for extracting, annotating, and visualising information on literature from BHL (<http://biostor.org/>). In this example, Rod has identified articles found in the *Proceedings of the United States National Museum*.



Ryan Schenk is using publication dates of works in BHL to build histograms of the number of publications-per-year for specific species. In this example, the Guinea Pig (<http://synonyms.no.de/>)

KEYS TO SUCCESS

Harvestable data allows data which was created for a specific purpose and audience (e.g. historic texts, nomenclatural services, encyclopedias) to interact with other data and serve new, previously unimagined, roles.

BHL properly licenses its data to clarify terms of use



BHL provides data via:

- APIs
- Data exports
- OpenURL
- OAI-PMH

BHL promotes data via:

- presentations
- papers
- social communication platforms

