We are looking for volunteers to help improve access to natural history illustrations. [The Art of Life](http://biodivlib.wikispaces.com/Art+of+Life) is a project whose goal is to identify and describe the millions of illustrations found with the books and journals of the Biodiversity Heritage Library <http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>. Contained within BHL’s digitized texts are millions of visual resources (plates, illustrations, figures, maps, and other images), many of which were produced by the finest botanical and zoological illustrators in the world, including the likes of John James Audubon, Georg Dionysus Ehret, and Pierre Redouté. Unfortunately these are largely inaccessible because there is no information that indicates which pages have images or their creator or content, such as birds, reptiles, or ferns.

To date, the project has built algorithms to automatically identify pages with illustrations. The resulting illustrations now need to be manually classified as to their basic type (e.g. drawing, photograph, map, etc. ) Volunteers are needed to perform this manual classification. Classification of these visual resources will aid researchers not only in the sciences but also in the humanities. Scholars and educators who rely heavily on visual resources in their research and teaching (e.g. biologists, art historians, curators, historians of science) will, for the first time, be able to find and view a wealth of illustrations of plant and animal life from which to make connections between science, art, culture, and history.

No subject expertise is needed to do the work. The only requirement is that a volunteer has access to a computer and the Internet as the work will be performed online via a tool called Macaw <http://macaw.mobot.org/> . To sign up to volunteer please contact Classifier Coordinator, Trish Rose-Sandler [trish.rose-sandler@mobot.org](mailto:trish.rose-sandler@mobot.org) who will provide a login and classification instructions.

This is a great opportunity for citizen scientists who want to further biodiversity research or volunteers who want to work with your institution but have physical limitations and cannot work onsite.