



The Biodiversity Heritage Library

Q1, FY11, Oct.-Dec. 2010

A REPORT ON SMITHSONIAN LIBRARIES
ACTIVITIES IN THE BHL



"Thanks for all the fantastic scans of classic biology literature. The BHL collections seem to be the only ones with the foldout plates done properly!"

-Ed Gilland



"I just wanted to thank you very much for the excellent service you provide! The service has given me access to old literature, which was earlier inaccessible to me. It has made it so much easier and faster to work with old publications. I am so excited! Keep up the good work!"

- Pasi Sihovonen

"The Biodiversity Library is always my first stop in any search, and much more often than not, I find exactly what I need!"

- David Leslie

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Introduction

The Faces of BHL at SIL

Grace Costantino



Grace Costantino serves as the Digital Collections Librarian dedicated to BHL, monitoring BHL's social media activity, BHL user feedback and customer outreach activities, and pulling for BHL scanning.

Stefaan Hurts



Stefaan Hurts serves as the Imaging Technician for BHL rare and fragile book scanning, as well as scanning at the SIL Imaging Center at Pennsy, where he scans oversized and special projects material.

Erin Thomas



Erin Thomas serves as the Digital Collections Librarian, divided between BHL and HAC scanning. For BHL, she oversees rare book scanning from Cullman library and manages outgoing and incoming shipments and processing.

Several other SIL staff members have also participated in the global BHL scene. In May, 2010, Suzanne Pilsk attended the BHL-E Annual Review Meeting in Vienna. Keri Thompson traveled to China with Martin Kalfatovic in November, 2010, to participate in a project planning session in which technical scanning procedures were discussed and implemented. In November, 2010, Grace Costantino attended the BHL-Europe Content Provider and Technical Meeting in London, contributing particularly to the development of the BHL-E selection and deduplication tools.

SIL has also actively continued to scan large numbers of pages, and remains one of the key contributors of new content to the project. To support continued participation, SIL received generous funds from Seidell grants, including \$200K for 2007-2009 and \$1.5 million in October 2009 (for 2009-2014). This generous funding has not only enabled continued scanning of SIL material for the BHL project, but has also funded three SIL staff members: Grace Costantino, Stefaan Hurts, and Erin Thomas.

Furthermore, receipt of these Seidell Funds for BHL support has enabled SIL to complete work on a new scanning facility at the SIL Imaging Center. The new facility was designed, installed, and in beta production mode by September 30, 2010.

The SIL BHL Task Force remains a model for efficient and productive working groups. The bi-weekly meetings bring together a variety of staff involved in BHL; notes are produced on the fly and available at the completion of the meeting. Meetings are limited to 30-45 minutes and involve a cooperative agenda building via the BHL wiki. Monthly meetings are held with Natural and Physical Sciences staff to keep them further updated on BHL activities.

While this recap of the important SIL BHL developments of the past several quarters will hopefully provide some context for SIL's larger involvement in the BHL project, we now focus on the specific statistics of Q1 FY 2011.

This first quarterly report from the Smithsonian Libraries, which presents the Institution's work in the Biodiversity Heritage Library, focuses on statistics from Q1 FY 2011. While these statistics are important for outlining the progress of the project during the first quarter of a new year, it is also helpful to review some of the major accomplishments that SIL and its staff have contributed to BHL over the past several quarters.

SIL staff, who are looked to as decision makers and knowledge hubs within the larger project, have played a significant role in its local and worldwide development. As Deputy BHL Project Director, Martin Kalfatovic has played a key role in BHL as well as the expanding Global BHL. He has met with global partners in Brazil (February 2010, Brazilian project planning session); Europe (May 2010, BHL-Europe 1st Annual Review Meeting); Australia (June 2010, BHL-Australia kick-off meeting); China (November 2010, Chinese project planning session); and the first Global BHL Technical and Administrative meeting (September 2010, Woods Hole).

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Quarterly Figures

Biodiversity Heritage Library Portal Additions

Items Added: 2,772
Pages Added: 801,153
Names Added: 1,968,491

"I just want to say what a fantastic resource the BHL is. I'm a historian of biology and I use it a great deal for my own research, plus recommend it to students. Thanks so much for this brilliant archive!"
- Charlotte Sleight



Hortus Botanicus Vindobonensis, Seu, Plantarum Rariorum, Quae in Horto Notanico Vindobonensi (1770-1776). volume 2, Taf. 172

Smithsonian Libraries' Additions to BHL

Items Added: 434
Pages Added: 175,333
Names Added: 612,115

*"Additions to BHL" represent both things scanned in Q1, FY11, and items scanned in Q4, FY10 that, due to the ingestion delay into BHL after scanning, were not added into the collection until Q1, FY11.

Smithsonian Libraries' Items Scanned

Non-Rare Items
Scanned: 353
Rare Items Scanned: 24
Items Scanned at
Pennsy: 12

Smithsonian Libraries' Gemini Statistics

Non-Rare Requests
Received for SIL: 41
Rare Requests Received
for SIL: 158
Non-Rare Requests
Resolved: 28
Rare Requests Resolved:
17

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Cumulative Figures

Smithsonian Libraries' Total Additions to BHL

Total Items Added: 12,372
Total Pages Added:
4,860,616
Total Names Added:
16,150,651

Smithsonian Libraries' Total Items Scanned

Total Non-Rare Items
Scanned: 12,693
Total Rare Items Scanned:
809
Total Items Scanned at
Pennsy: 12

** Total Items Scanned also represent those things that have been scanned but have not yet been added to BHL.*

Smithsonian Libraries' Total Gemini Statistics

Total Non-Rare Requests
Received for SIL: 117
Total Rare Requests
Received for SIL: 180
Total Non-Rare Requests
Resolved: 78
Total Rare Requests
Resolved: 19

Biodiversity Heritage Library Total Additions

Total Items Added: 87,873
Total Pages Added:
32,711,389
Total Names Added:
82,654,112

"Hi BHL, I don't have a suggestion except to keep on doing what you are doing. You are a wonderful resource...Your library makes it possible for me to continue working with plants in a meaningful and scientific manner."

-Joe J. Shaw



*Erpetologie Generale, ou, Histoire Naturelle
Complete des Reptiles (1834-1854).
Atlas, Pl. 89*

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Web Statistics

For Quarter One, Fiscal Year 2011, the Biodiversity Heritage Library had a total of 215,005 visits, with 104,302 unique visitors. This is compared to 183,221 visits in the previous quarter and 87,164 unique visitors. This represents an increase of 17.35% visits from the last quarter (from 183,221 to 215,005) and 19.66% unique visitors (87,164 to 104,302).

Quarter One Web Statistics compared to Quarter Four Web Statistics



Quarter Four = ● Quarter One = ●

- 215,005** Visits
- 104,302** Absolute Unique Visitors
- 1,156,749** Pageviews
- 5.38** Average Pageviews
- 00:06:54** Time on Site
- 41.95%** Bounce Rate
- 43.74%** New Visits

Quarter One Web Statistics

All traffic sources sent a total of 215,005 visits

- 18.87%** Direct Traffic
- 37.22%** Referring Sites
- 43.80%** Search Engines



Quarter One Traffic Sources

215,005 Visits | 2,337.01 Visits / Day



Quarter One Visits by Month

104,302 Absolute Unique Visitors



Quarter One Unique Visitors by Month

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Publicity : The Blog

The Blog: Q1 FY 2011

Total Visits: 3,305

Total Unique Visitors: 2,665

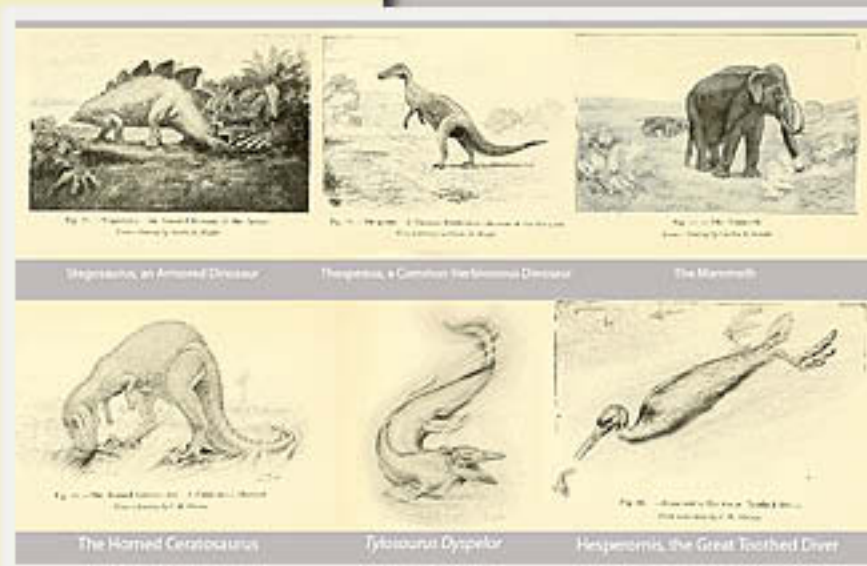
Total SIL Blog Contributions: 11

Book of the Week: Animals of the Past

While much of the focus today has been concentrated on the existing life on planet Earth, and how to protect and preserve it, there is still a great deal of interest, and indeed things to be learned, from that which has ceased to exist on our planet. With this in mind, we focus this week on the title *Animals of the Past* (1901) by Frederic A. Lucas. By his own admission, the author describes the intention of this book as:

"...to tell some of the interesting facts concerning a few of the better known or more remarkable of these extinct inhabitants of the ancient world."

As such, this book highlights some of the more interesting or popular of these ancient animals, a few of which will also be highlighted here through the beautiful illustrations found within its pages. Take some time to take a look at these and the other fascinating creatures of the past as we strive not only to learn in this present age, but also to learn from the past, so we do not lose what we have.



This week's book of the week, *Animals of the Past* (1901) by Frederic A. Lucas, was contributed by the Smithsonian Institution.

Biodiversity Heritage Library

About BHL

The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) is a consortium of 12 natural history and botanical libraries that cooperate to digitize and make accessible the legacy literature of biodiversity held in their collections and to make that literature available for open access and responsible use as a part of a global "biodiversity commons." The BHL consortium works with the international taxonomic community, rights holders, and other interested parties to ensure that this biodiversity heritage is made available to a global audience through open access principles. Today, in partnership with the Internet Archive and through local digitization efforts, BHL has digitized over 32 million pages of taxonomic literature, representing over 45,000 titles and 87,000 volumes (January 2011).

The published literature on biological diversity has limited global distribution; much of it is available in only a few select libraries in the developed world. These collections are of exceptional value because the domain of systematic biology depends more than any other science upon historic literature. Yet, this wealth of knowledge is available only to those few who can gain direct access to significant library collections. Literature about the biota existing in developing countries is often not available within their borders. Biologists have long considered that access to the published literature is one of the chief impediments to the efficiency of research in the field. Among other results, free global access to digitized versions of the literature would repatriate information about the earth's species to all parts of the world.

Since 2009, the BHL has expanded globally. The European Commission's eContentPlus program has recently funded the BHL-Europe project, with 28 institutions, to assemble the European language literature. Additionally, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Atlas of Living Australia, Brazil (through SciELO and BIREME), and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina have created regional BHL nodes. These projects will work together to share content, protocols, services, and digital preservation practices.



SIL staff member Keri Thompson enjoying some Chinese cuisine with BHL-China colleagues.



SIL staff member Martin Kalfatovic at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with BHL-Australia.



SIL staff member Suzanne Pilsk with fellow BHL colleagues at the BHL-E Annual Review Meeting in Austria.



Smithsonian Institution Libraries