Smithsonian Institution Libraries

The Biodiversity Heritage Library

Q2, FY11, Jan-March 2011

A REPORT ON SMITHSONIAN LIBRARIES ACTIVITIES IN THE BHL

Nouvelles Illustrations de Zoologie : Contenant Cinquante Planches Enlumineés d'Oiseaux Curieux, et qui non etés Jamais Descrits, et Quelques de Quadrupedes, de Reptiles et d'Insectes, avec de Courtes Descriptions Systematiques (1776), by Pierre Brown. Upper: pl. XII. Lower: pl. XLVII.

"I just wanted to express my gratitude for the open access and PDF service. I was searching for an article from an obscure publication. NC State University Libraries and its database/journal subscriptions usually have all that I need, but failed me this time. Thanks for being there! It's great to be able to access the literature I need for my research online! "

- Jennifer Archambault

"I would just like to say how much I value the BHL. I am in the process of writing a monograph on the African Hesperiidae. Time and time again it is necessary [to get] some piece of obscure literature ... and I get it in no time flat rather than waiting till I [can get to] the Museum library - and a PDF to boot. Thanks and cogratulations to a wonderful resource!"

- Torben Larsen

"Hello helpful librarians - The web site you directed me to for the Parrot Book, (British Museum vol XX), is excellent. The quality of the scanning is excellent, also. I have yet to encounter a page that is even slightly blurry or poorly scanned, and I've gone through about 200 pages of the book so far. Still a lot of work to do with it, but the Biodiversity Library is a treasure. Thanks for recommending the site, as I probably never would have found it on my own!"

-Robert G. Black

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Introduction

The Faces of BHL at SIL

Gilbert Borrego

Gilbert Borrego is the new library technician for BHL. He is responsible for the identification, preparation, pagination and quality control inspection of material to be digitized. Graduating with a Bachelor's and Master's degree from Stanford University, he has worked as an archaeologist, a museum preparator, and most recently as an Interlibrary Loan Supervisor for Virginia Tech.

Robin Everly

Robin Everly is a Branch Librarian within SIL's Natural and Physical Science department and manages the Botany and Horticulture Library. She works closely with the Botany Department of Natural History to promote use of BHL by the Botanists and visiting scientists. She also serves on the BHL Collections Committee which is responsible for collection development.

Gil Taylor

Gil Taylor is an assistant head for SIL's Natural and Physical Science (NPS) department at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. He also serves as branch librarian at the Smithsonian's Museum Support Center Library in Suitland, Maryland. As a liaison between BHL, NPS staff and the user/patron base of the NMNH Libraries, Gil helps foster collaboration between these groups and encourages the use, improvement and content selection of the BHL in the Smithsonian scientific community.

For this second quarterly report for the fiscal year 2011, we begin by highlighting some of SIL's achievements during this quarter regarding the Biodiversity Heritage Library project. These include hosting of the BHL Institutional Council meeting, significant developments in BHL's social media efforts, outreach activities for SI staff, and an addition to SIL's BHL staff.

On March 8-9, 2011, SIL hosted the BHL Institutional Council meeting. The annual meeting is held to cover issues related to governance of the BHL, prioritization of the work of the technical development team, and discussion of BHL's ongoing sustainability. The BHL Institutional Council is comprised of the directors, or their designates, from each of the twelve member libraries. SIL's Director, Dr. Nancy Gwinn, as well as Assistant Director Martin Kalfatovic, attended, representing SIL.

Also during this quarter, SIL staff member Grace Costantino and BHL Collections Coordinator Bianca Crowely significantly increased BHL's social media outreach activities via the blog, Twitter, and Facebook. While the blog had seen weekly posts for some time, Twitter and Facebook participation suffered from a lack of dedicated staff time. Dividing the tasks between them, Grace and Bianca increased BHL tweets to several per day, as well as posting at least once a day to Facebook. They also monitor these two sites together to ensure that responses to users occur in a timely manner, increasing interaction between BHL and its user base. These efforts resulted in an achievement of over 500 Twitter followers during this quarter, and over 860 Facebook page likes. A very well-received new series on the BHL blog highlighting BHL's users also began in Q2, FY11.

SIL also hosted several outreach activities for SI staff during this quarter. On March 7th, User Services Librarian Rebecca Morin from the California Academy of Sciences gave two presentations, one to SIL staff and one to SI researchers, providing tips on how to most effectively use BHL. These presentations were hosted by SIL in their state-of-the-art conference room in the new NH Main Library. Additionally, during the official NH Main Library opening on March 17th, SIL staff member Keri Thompson represented BHL, taking advantage of the new conference room's electronics to highlight key features and services of BHL for guests.

Finally, SIL saw the addition of a new staff member dedicated to the BHL project. Gilbert Borrego, former SIL Intern, joined the SIL team as the new BHL Library Technician. Working closely with Grace Costantino, Erin Thomas, and Keri Thompson, Gilbert focuses on enhancing the metadata of SIL-contributed material, processing books post-digitization, and pulling additional items for scanning.

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Quarterly Figures

Biodiversity Heritage Library Portal Additions

Items Added: 3,486
Pages Added: 1,254,434
Names Added: 3,611,001

"I just want to thank you for this excellent resource. I've been able to download articles that I wouldn't have been able to access otherwise and that have been of great importance to my research. Very grateful!"

- Hilary Howes

Die Fremdländischen Stubenvögel ; ihre Naturgeschichte, Pflege, und Zucht (1875), by Karl Russ, Bd. 1, Taf. VIII.

Smithsonian Libraries' Additions to BHL

Items Added: 401
Pages Added: 147,577
Names Added: 616,464

Smithsonian Libraries' Items Scanned*

Non-Rare Items Scanned: 414
Rare Items Scanned: 14
Items Scanned at Pennsy: 30

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

Smithsonian Libraries' Gemini Statistics

Non-Rare Requests Received for SIL: 30
Rare Requests Received for SIL: 22
Non-Rare Requests Resolved: 31
Rare Requests Resolved: 2

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Cumulative Figures

Smithsonian Libraries' Total Additions to BHL

Total Items Added: 12,625
Total Pages Added: 4,961,652
Total Names Added: 16,631,949

Smithsonian Libraries' Total Items Scanned

Total Non-Rare Items Scanned: 11,805
Total Rare Items Scanned: 820
Total Items Scanned at Pennsy: 42

Smithsonian Libraries' Total Gemini Statistics

Total Non-Rare Requests Received for SIL: 143
Total Rare Requests Received for SIL: 184
Total Non-Rare Requests Resolved: 91
Total Rare Requests Resovled: 21

Biodiversity Heritage Library Total Additions

Total Items Added: 90,152
Total Pages Added: 33,580,465
Total Names Added: 85,846,998

"I really appreciate BHL, it makes my work so much easier and is a great public resource. I think that it will provide for some very interesting and creative uses of otherwise hidden literature and data."
- Meredith Cosgrove

Our Country's Fishes and How to Know Them : A Guide to all the Fishes of Great Britain. (1902), by W.J. Gordo, pl. 15.

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Web Statistics

237,748 Visits

107,124 Absolute Unique Visitors

1,283,045 Pageviews

5.40 Average Pageviews

00:07:02 Time on Site

40.26% Bounce Rate

40.17% New Visits

Quarter Two Web Statistics

For Quarter Two, Fiscal Year 2011, the Biodiversity Heritage Library had a total of 237,748 visits, with 107, 124 unique visitors. This is compared to 215,005 visits and 104, 302 unique visitors for Quarter 1, Fiscal Year 2011. This represents an increase of 10.58 % visits from the last quarter (from 215,005 to 237,748) and 2.71 % unique visitors (from 104,302 to 107,124).

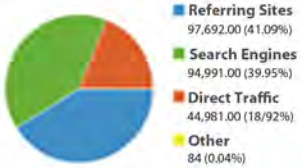
Quarter Two Web Statistics compared to Quarter One Web Statistics.

All traffic sources sent a total of 237,748 visits

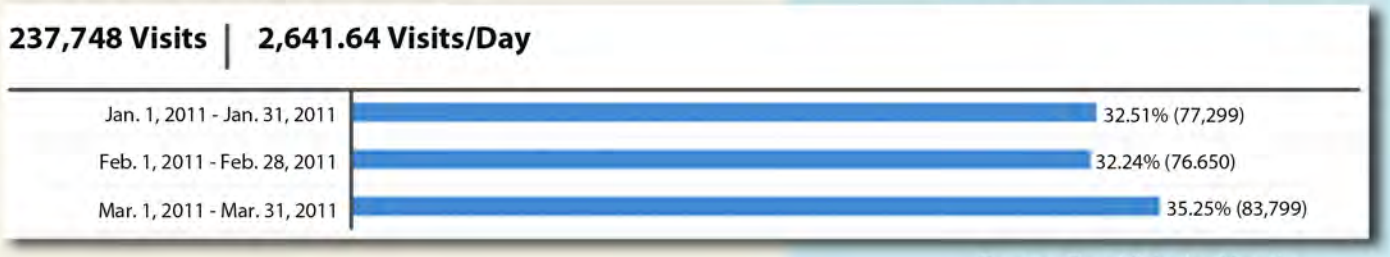
18.92% Direct Traffic

41.09% Referring Sites

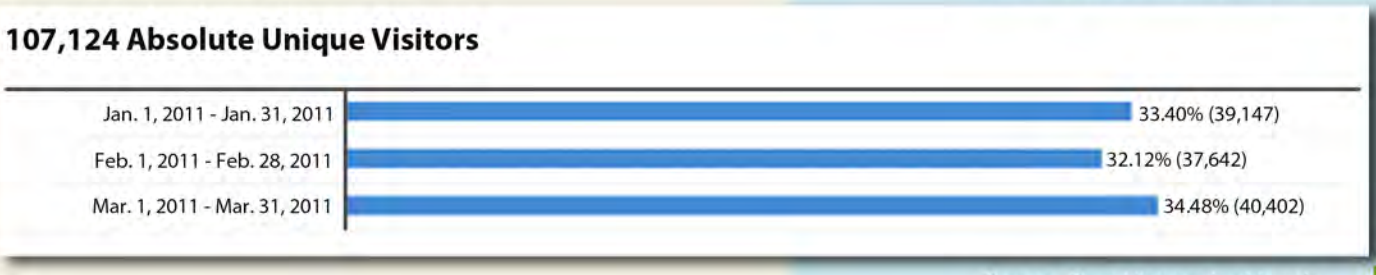
39.95% Search Engines



Quarter Two Traffic Sources



Quarter Two Visits by Month



Quarter Two Visitors by Month

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Publicity : User Outreach

Social Networking: Q2, FY2011

Slideshare

Total Presentations: 71

Facebook

Facebook Page Total "Likes": 864
Facebook Page New "Likes": 124
Post Views: 67,087 (+6,609%)
Post Feedback: 177 (+2,429%)

The Blog

Total Blog Visits: 5,405
Total Unique Blog Visitors: 4,110
Total Blog Posts: 22
Total SIL Blog Contributions: 20

SIL Staff Presentations

Bianca Crowley: *Computers in Libraries, March 2011*
Martin Kalfatovic: *EOL Orientation, Janurary 2011*
Martin Kalfatovic: *Digital Libraries for the Maghreb. Fulbright Academy of Science & Technology, January 2011*

Twitter

Total Twitter Followers: 572
New Followers this Quarter: 98
Total @Mentions: 201

BHL and Our User: Dr. Frank Ferrari

Today we feature another of our BHL users, and, in response to a question raised, reveal a little more about our content selection process. So, meet Dr. Frank Ferrari, a curator of Copepoda at the Smithsonian Institution!

Q: What is your title, institutional affiliation, and area of interest?
A: Research Zoologist in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology at the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution). Specific areas of interest include the development of Copepods and related Crustaceans, patterning of Crustacean limbs, and taxonomy of Deep-Sea Copepods.

Q: How long have you been in your field of study?
A: Forty years

Q: When did you first discover BHL?
A: Shortly after it was established (2007)

Q: What is your opinion of BHL and how has it impacted your work?
A: An excellent resource. Particularly valuable for making available older publications/documents, especially those outside the immediate area of my expertise.

Q: How often do you use BHL?
A: On average, about once a month; more often when writing.

Q: How do you usually use BHL (read the titles online/download whole PDF/Select Pages to Download/etc.)
A: I usually read the publications/documents online and, as needed, download whole PDFs plus High Resolution Images.

Q: What are your favorite features/services on BHL?
A: Immediate access to the search engine upon accessing the website, and the clarity of the pages associated with a search

Q: If you could change one thing about BHL, what would it be, or what developmental aspect would you like the BHL team to focus on next?
A: Add an explanation of the strategy guiding the selections that have been scanned. Explain how publications/documents are selected to be scanned, and particularly what kinds of publications/documents are NOT scanned.

Thank you, Dr. Ferrari, for your feedback! In response to your final request to learn more about the BHL content selection process, we have created a BHL Content Selection Page on our public wiki that describes our process. You can also learn why certain items may be removed from our collection on our Deaccession Policy page. We hope this brings some light to our project and processes.

Biodiversity Heritage Library

About BHL

A prayer ribbon for BHL at Fragrant Hills Park, Beijing, China

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 33 million pages of taxonomic literature, representing over 46,000 titles and 89,000 volumes (March 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.

BHL-Europe colleagues getting a lesson in eating lobster from MBL-WHOI Director Cathy Norton at the 2010 Woods Hole Global Meeting.

Martin Kalfatovic with BHL-Brazil colleagues at the Museum of Zoology, Sao Paulo

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