

NEWS & NOTES

A quarterly newsletter from the Biodiversity Heritage Library

SUMMER 2015

Inspiring Discovery through Free Access to Biodiversity Knowledge

The [Biodiversity Heritage Library](#) (BHL) improves research methodology by collaboratively making biodiversity literature openly available to the world as part of a global biodiversity community.

BHL Releases Two New Crowdsourcing Games!

BHL has launched two new crowdsourcing games: [Beanstalk](#) and [Smorball](#). The games were created as part of BHL's [Purposeful Gaming project](#), which is exploring how digital games can make scanned content more accessible. The games will help improve access to books and journals in the BHL collection by verifying the accuracy of text previously encoded by optical character recognition software. Purposeful Gaming is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). [Learn more](#).

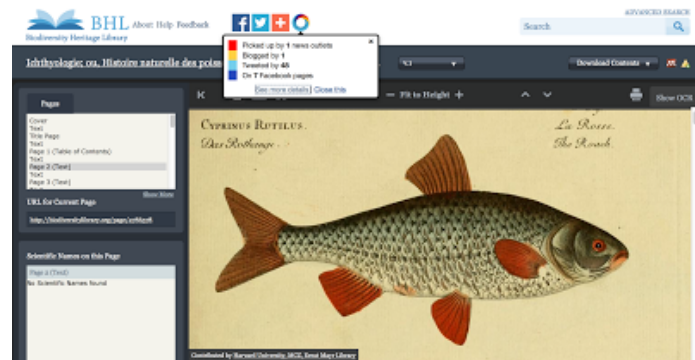


Screenshot from Smorball, one of BHL's new crowdsourcing games.

Altmetric on BHL

You can now easily explore online conversations about books in the BHL collection thanks to the release of Altmetric on the Biodiversity Heritage Library. [Altmetric](#) is a tool that tracks online mentions of a library's or publisher's content, including via social media,

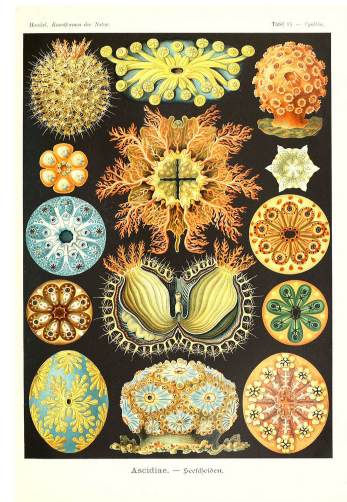
blogs, and news outlets. Altmetric is tracking online conversations that include links to BHL books and articles. All mentions of an individual book are aggregated together into a single dashboard which is accessible by clicking on the Altmetric badge (a colorful, donut-shaped icon) in the book viewer header on BHL. This feature has been released as part of BHL's IMLS-funded [Mining Biodiversity project](#). [Learn more](#).



Altmetric on BHL

Celebrating World Oceans Day, BHL-Style

[World Oceans Day](#), celebrated every June 8, is a United Nations-recognized day of ocean celebration and action. BHL celebrated with a week-long social media event exploring publications that represent important milestones in the progress of marine bioscience research and ocean exploration. In addition to [tweets](#); [Facebook posts](#); [Flickr](#); [Pinterest](#), and [BHL collections](#); and [blog posts](#), BHL also partnered with the Smithsonian's Ocean Portal and the Marine Biological Laboratory / Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (MBLWHOI) Library to produce additional content for the campaign, including an article on the [Ocean Portal's website](#) about Ernst Haeckel's [Kunstformen der Natur](#) ("Art Forms in Nature") and [a post highlighting](#) MBLWHOI's long history of ocean research.



Haeckel, Ernst. *Kunstformen der Natur* (1904). Plate 85.

Harvard Celebrates Louis Agassiz with BHL

Naturalist, educator, and founder of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz was born on 28 May, 1807. Over his lifetime, Agassiz published on diverse subjects, including fossil fish and geology, and was instrumental in establishing the existence of an Ice Age. After moving to the U.S. and becoming a professor at Harvard's Lawrence Scientific School in 1847, Agassiz eventually founded the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard in 1859. [The Ernst Mayr Library of the Museum of Comparative Zoology](#) celebrated this



Agassiz, Louis. *Recherches sur les Poissons Fossiles* (1833-43). Vol. 2, plate 69c.

remarkable man of science on the anniversary of his birth with a blog post detailing his life and contributions to science. [Learn more](#).

Get Involved with BHL!

There are many ways to get involved in BHL, from becoming a Member or Affiliate and contributing content to [donating to support BHL](#) or participating in one of our many citizen science, volunteer activities. Currently, BHL's volunteer opportunities include [Flickr image tagging](#), [transcribing field books as part of Purposeful Gaming](#) or [The Field Book Project](#), correcting OCR via our [two new crowdsourcing games](#), or describing illustrations via [Science Gossip on Zooniverse](#). In order to make it easier for you to discover the many ways you can get involved in BHL, we've created a "Get Involved" page linking to all of these activities. [Explore it today](#).

BHL at Conferences

BHL has participated in a variety of international biodiversity and digital library conferences recently. Explore them today:

- [GBIF-CoL-EOL-BHL-BOLD Summit](#)
- [DPLAFest 2015](#)
- [American Library Association Annual Meeting 2015](#)
- [International Conference on African Digital Libraries and Archives](#)

Support BHL

Providing researchers with free and open access to biodiversity knowledge is critical to saving life on Earth. Help us accomplish this goal by [donating to BHL today](#).

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