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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | FALL 2017

New partners, Seeds in the Stacks, new in-copyright titles, and more! See what's new at BHL!

Support BHL

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.

National Agricultural Library Joins BHL as a Member



The [National Agricultural Library](#) (NAL) has joined the Biodiversity Heritage Library as a Member. Since joining the consortium as an Affiliate in 2014, NAL has contributed [over 2 million pages to BHL](#). As a Member, the NAL will strengthen BHL's coverage of agricultural topics. In particular, the Library will continue to digitize material from its Henry G. Gilbert Nursery and Seed Trade Catalog Collection. To date, NAL has contributed over 33,000 catalogs from this collection to BHL. [Learn more.](#)

Seeds in the Stacks: A Facebook Live Event



Join us for [Seeds in the Stacks](#), a Facebook Live tour at the USDA National Agricultural Library! We'll go behind-the-scenes to explore selections from the Library's collection of over 200,000 seed and nursery catalogs.

WHERE?

www.facebook.com/BioDivLibrary

WHEN?

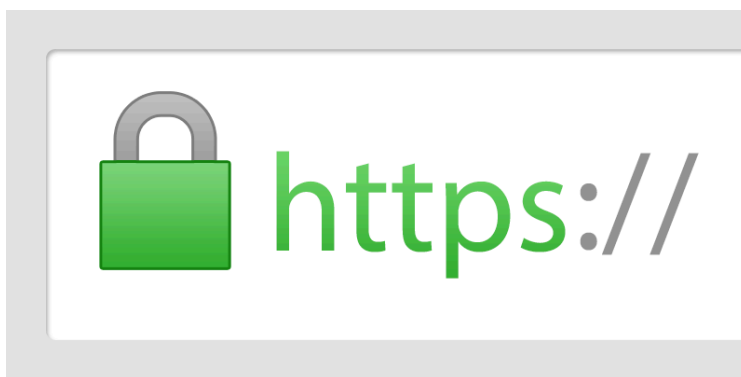
3 November 2017 @ 1pm ET

Oak Spring Garden Foundation Joins BHL as an Affiliate



The [Oak Spring Garden Foundation](#) (OSGF) has joined BHL as an Affiliate. The Oak Spring Garden Library consists of approximately 19,000 rare books, manuscripts, and artworks related to garden and garden design, horticulture, botanical studies, natural history, voyages, architecture, and decorative arts. As an Affiliate, OSGF will enhance BHL's botanical and horticultural collections by contributing rare and unique material from the Library. [Learn more](#).

BHL Moves to HTTPS



Source: Sean MacEntee via Wikimedia Commons (CC-BY 2.0).

BHL is now running on HTTPS. HTTP is the language that browsers use to communicate with websites, and the S stands for Secure (i.e. encrypted). These encrypted connections provide better security to BHL users and result in higher rankings on search pages. [Learn more.](#)

New In-Copyright Titles in BHL



From April to June of this year, BHL received permission for 36 new in-copyright titles. The [Expanding Access to Biodiversity Literature](#) project, BHL staff, and new Members and Affiliates all contributed to securing permission and are now working to scan and upload. In-copyright titles in BHL are licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 license](#). Over 700 in-copyright titles have been added to BHL to date.

[Learn more and explore the new titles.](#)

Preliminary Recommendations from the BHL NDSR Cohort



BHL NDSR Residents

For the past 9 months, the BHL NDSR cohort has been hard at work on projects to improve BHL. This quarter, they released their preliminary recommendations, including conducting usability studies, improving data exports, exploring data visualizations, contributing data to Wikidata, and exposing crowdsourced image data in BHL. [Visit the BHL Blog to explore their recommendations in full.](#)

During the final quarter of their residencies, the cohort will focus on tweaking their ideas, developing workflows and proof of concepts, and finalizing these recommendations in a Best Practices White Paper.

We welcome your input! Please feel free to [submit feedback](#) to tell us what you think about these [preliminary recommendations](#).

The BHL NDSR project, [Foundations to Actions](#), is funded by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#).

Collection Highlights

Explore our Book of the Month features from the past quarter in these highlights. [Check out the whole series on our blog](#).

Britain's First Bird Periodical

Sir William Jardine's [Contributions to Ornithology](#) (1848-1853) was the first ornithological periodical produced in Britain. The series, produced in only five volumes, detailed recent advances in ornithology. It included 94 illustrations, many by Jardine, his daughter Catherine, and possibly his other daughter Helen.

[Learn more.](#)

Book of the Month Blog Post By: Kelsey Manahan. Library Assistant. Academy Library and Archives. Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University.



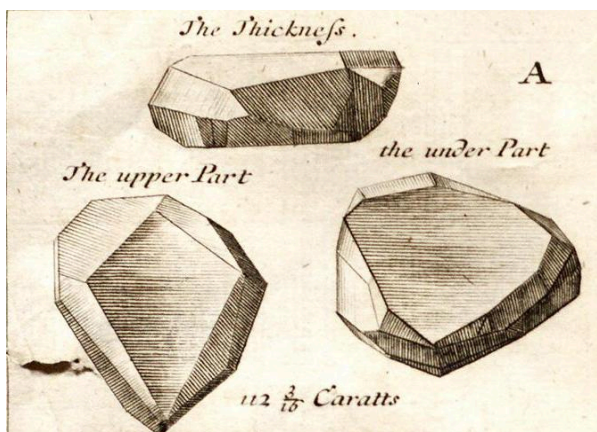
Australia's First Flora



[*A Specimen of the Botany of New Holland*](#) (1793-1795) is the first published scientific book dedicated to Australian flora. It includes plant descriptions by James Edward Smith and sixteen engravings by James Sowerby based on specimens collected in Australia and drawings produced by artists from the continent, including Thomas Watling, the only known convict artist whose work was used as the basis for a botanical scientific publication!

[Learn more.](#)

Book of the Month Blog Post By: Grace Costantino. Outreach and Communication Manager. Biodiversity Heritage Library.
With Contributions From: Diane M. Rielinger. Digital Projects Librarian. Botany Libraries, Harvard University Herbaria.



Tracing the History of the Hope Diamond

From Tavernier to the French Blue, the Hope Diamond has had multiple identities. While the Francillon Memo is the first reference to the Hope as we know it today, the diamond first appeared in another form within [*The Six Voyages of John Baptista Tavernier*](#) (1678).

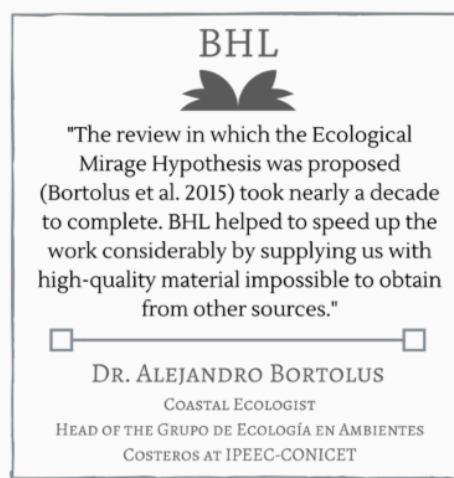
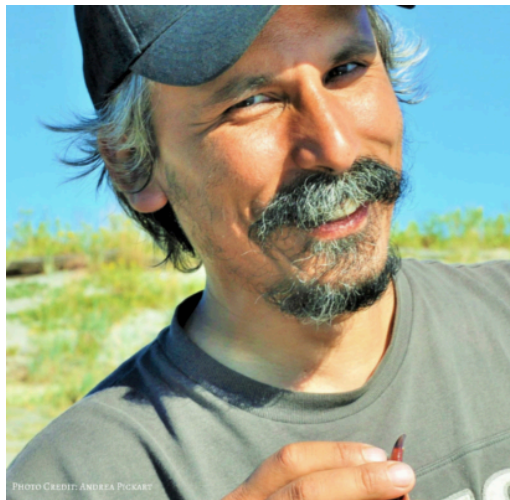
[Learn more.](#)

Book of the Month Blog Post By: Grace Costantino. Outreach and Communication Manager. Biodiversity Heritage Library.
With Contributions By: Kelly Haberstroh. Digitization Librarian. USGS Libraries Program.

BHL User Testimonials

Learn how BHL supports research around the world in our [BHL User series](#).

Supporting Worldwide Research



How did BHL help coastal ecologist Dr. Alejandro Bortolus and his colleagues conclude that a long-believed "native" species was actually introduced via human activity? [Find out!](#)



How does BHL support Paleontology PhD candidate Elsa Panciroli's research on Mesozoic mammals? [Find out!](#)

Presentations, Events, and Workshops

Explore some of the BHL presentations, events, and workshops that staff have given and hosted over the past few months.

- [Open Repositories 2017](#). June 2017. Presentation by Constance Rinaldo, Jane Smith, and Elycia Wallis .
- [Visualizing Biodiversity for a Better World](#). July 2017. Presentation by Ariadne Rehbein and Trish Rose-Sandler .
- [American Association of Zoo Keepers 2017 National Conference](#). August 2017. Presentation by Kristen Bullard and Jacqueline E. Chapman.
- [Association of Zoos and Aquariums](#). September 2017. Poster presentation by Mariah Lewis.
- [4:AM Toronto 2017 Altmetric Meeting](#). September 2017. Presentation by Richard P. Hulser.
- [TDWG 2017 Annual Conference](#). October 2017. Presentations by Martin R. Kalfatovic, Mariah Lewis, Mike Lichtenberg, Katie Mika, Dmitry Mozzherin, Thomas M. Orrell, and Carolyn Sheffield.

Get Involved with BHL!

There are many ways to get involved with BHL, from becoming a Member or Affiliate and contributing content to [donating to support BHL](#) or participating in one of our many citizen science activities. Currently, BHL's volunteer opportunities include [Flickr image tagging](#) , transcribing field books as part of [The Field Book Project](#) , correcting OCR via our [two crowdsourcing games](#) , or describing illustrations via [Science Gossip on Zooniverse](#) . [Learn more about how you can get involved today!](#)

Support BHL

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

[Get all the latest project news in the BHL Annual Reports.](#)

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