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BHL

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | FALL 2018

*New "About" website, new API, our first partner in New Zealand, 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.

Introducing the New "About BHL" Site!



Screenshot of the new [_About BHL_ website](#).

We are pleased to announce the [launch of the new "About BHL" website](#)!

What is [BHL's history](#)? [Who's involved in the Library](#)? What [tools and services](#) does BHL offer? How do you [search](#), [download content](#) or access [data and developer tools](#) in BHL? How can you [get involved](#) in the Library?

Find the answers to these questions and much more information about the Biodiversity Heritage Library at about.biodiversitylibrary.org.

[Learn More >](#)

BHL Welcomes the Auckland Museum as a New Affiliate!



Auckland Museum logo

We are pleased to [welcome the Auckland War Memorial Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira](#) as a new Affiliate. Auckland Museum is BHL's first partner in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Tracing its roots back to 1852, Auckland Museum was one of New Zealand's first museums and is regarded as one of the finest in the Southern Hemisphere. The Museum is home to one of New Zealand's finest heritage research libraries. The Library recently uploaded Auckland Museum's first contribution to BHL, Edward Donovan's [An epitome of the natural history of the insects of New Holland, New Zealand, New Guinea, \[etc.\]](#) (1805). The title is the first of many currently being digitized for BHL from the Library's collection.

[Learn More >](#)

Version 3 of the BHL API Now Available!



Version 3 of the BHL API now available

[Version 3 of the BHL API has been launched](#). The API can be used to programmatically request and extract data from BHL. The development of a new API version was spurred by the recent introduction of full-text search to the BHL website. In addition to the inclusion of full-text search, the entire API has been examined and updated.

[Learn More >](#)

BHL at the Joint SPNHC/TDWG Conference in Dunedin, New Zealand

 [BHL representatives preparing to deliver talks as part of the BHL Symposium at the joint SPNHC_TDWG conference](#)

BHL representatives preparing to deliver talks as part of the BHL Symposium. Left to right: Grace Costantino, Carolyn Sheffield, Siobhan Leachman, Nicole Kearney, Constance Rinaldo.

On 25 August - 1 September 2018, BHL representatives from around the world traveled to Dunedin, New Zealand to attend the joint [Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections \(SPNHC\) and Biodiversity Information Standards \(TDWG\) conference](#) hosted by the Otago Museum and the University of Otago. BHL is an institutional member of TDWG and was proud to be a conference partner for the event.

As part of its participation, BHL hosted a conference table as well as a symposium, "Strategies for Improving Research Efficiency and Delivering Biodiversity Data through Digital Library Collections", consisting of four talks covering topics including citizen science, linking specimen records to literature, DOIs, and recent efforts to improve search efficiencies in BHL, from full text search to extracting geo-reference data.

[Learn More >](#)

BHL at the GBIF 25th Governing Board Meeting in Kilkenny, Ireland



The [25th Meeting of the GBIF Global Governing Board](#) was convened in Kilkenny, Ireland, 15-18 October 2018. Constance Rinaldo, Librarian of the Ernst Mayr Library at Harvard University and Chair of the BHL Members' Council, served as the BHL representative at the meeting.

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) operates through a network of global nodes to develop and maintain an open data infrastructure for sharing digital biodiversity data. BHL has been an [Associate Participant in GBIF](#) since 2014.

Videos of the public sessions of the meeting are available on the [GBIF website](#).

[Learn More >](#)

Collection Highlights

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



Illustration of a squid from *Résultats des campagnes scientifiques accomplies sur son yacht par Albert Ier prince souverain de Monaco*.

Entertaining Royalty: The *Résultats* and the Prince of Monaco

The 110 volume [*Résultats des campagnes scientifiques du prince de Monaco*](#) (1889-1950) presents the science and data from global research expeditions led by Prince Albert I of Monaco from the late 19th to early 20th centuries. How did this publication help MBLWHOI Library prepare for a recent royal visit?

[Find Out! >](#)



Woodcut from *Eicones plantarum*

1,000+ Botanical Woodcuts from One of the Fathers of German Botany

[*Eicones plantarum*](#) (1590) features more than 1,000 botanical woodcuts. Authored by Jacobus Theodorus, one of the fathers of German botany, the work is a re-publication of the woodcuts from Theodorus' seminal work, *Neuw Kreuterbuch* (1588),

which took 36 years to complete. The [Eicones](#) has been made freely available in BHL thanks to the Lenhardt Library of the Chicago Botanic Garden.

[Learn More >](#)

 Illustration of
dissection practices
from Brown's
Taxidermist's Manual

To Contemplate Without Dread: Brown's *Taxidermist's Manual*

Got taxidermy questions? Thomas Brown's [Taxidermist's Manual](#) (1833) has you covered. From how to construct false eyes out of enamel to recipes for chemical compounds used in preservation, Brown's *Manual* was a valuable guide for taxidermists. The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library of the University of Toronto dissected the

history of the practice and the *Manual's* place in that history just in time for Halloween.

[Learn More >](#)

 Original
watercolors from
Icones fungorum
Niskiensem

A Curious Volume of Original Fungi Watercolors

In the archives of the Farlow Reference Library of Cryptogamic Botany at Harvard University, there is a curious volume of 249 original watercolors of fungi species bearing the title [Icones fungorum Niskiensem](#). Devoid of any creator identification, there is little to suggest that this sketchbook is actually

an important document in the history of mycological

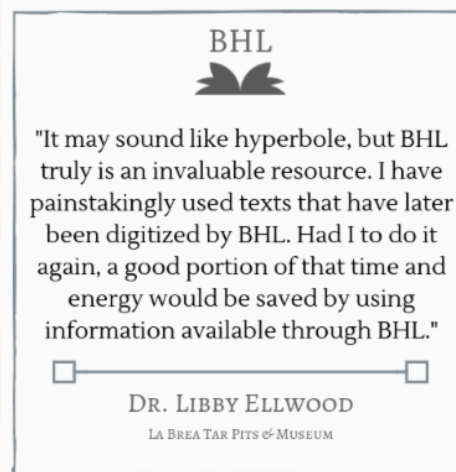
research. The truth, however, is that this volume is the work of the "Father of North American mycology", Lewis David von Schweinitz, and it helped inform one of his later, monumental publications on German fungi.

[Learn More >](#)

BHL User Testimonials

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

Supporting Worldwide Research



Did you know that passenger pigeon fossils have been uncovered from the La Brea Tar Pits in California? Does this suggest that there could have been resident populations in the western U.S.? [Dr. Libby Ellwood](#) used BHL to research this question. What did she discover?

[Find Out! >](#)



From Elizabeth Blackwell's *A Curious Herbal* to Henrietta Maria Moriarty's *Fifty Plates of Green-House Plants* and beyond. How is BHL helping [Dr. Anna K. Sagal](#), a Teaching Fellow at Cornell College, conduct research on women in science?

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.

- [Joint SPNHC/TDWG Conference](#). August 2018. Symposium moderated by Constance Rinaldo and with presentations by Grace Costantino, Siobhan Leachman, Nicole Kearney, and Carolyn Sheffield.
- [10 Encuentro Latinoamericano de Bibliotecarios, Archivistas y Museólogos](#). September 2018. Presentation by Mónica E. Aguilar Rocha.
- [19th Liasa Annual Conference](#). October 2018. Presentation by Sally Schramm.

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](#), or describing illustrations via [Science Gossip on Zooniverse](#).

[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!

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www.biodiversitylibrary.org

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