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BHL

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2019

Celebrating women in natural history with #HerNaturalHistory, Wikipedia editing workshop, connecting art and science, 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.

Her Natural History: A Celebration of Women in Natural History



Her Natural History campaign graphic

This Women's History Month, we invite you to join us in celebrating women in natural history as part of an international social media campaign produced in collaboration with our partners - [*Her Natural History: A Celebration of Women in Natural History*](#).

Through social media and blog posts, interactive programming and citizen science opportunities, [*Her Natural History*](#) aims to increase awareness of and information about women in the biodiversity sciences.

When? 8-31 March 2019

Where? Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram)

What? Join us in celebrating women in natural history this Women's History Month! Follow along and join the campaign using #HerNaturalHistory.

Campaign Webpage: s.si.edu/hernaturalhistory

We hope you'll join us in celebrating #HerNaturalHistory in March!

[Learn more.](#)

Join Us! Wikipedia Editing Workshop for Women in Natural History on 13 March



Wikipedia Editing Workshop graphic

You can help enhance information in Wikipedia about women in natural history!

The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) and Smithsonian Libraries, with support from Wikimedia DC, are hosting a [Wikipedia Editing Workshop](#) from 10am-2pm ET on 13 March. Attendees will learn to edit Wikipedia and improve or create Wikipedia articles related to women in natural history. No editing experience is necessary.

You can attend in-person at the National Museum of Natural History Library or participate remotely.

When? 13 March 2019. 10am-2pm ET.

Where? In-person at Smithsonian Libraries (National Museum of Natural History Library, Washington, D.C.) and remotely

Registration Required:

- [Register to attend in person](#)
- [Register to attend remotely](#)

This event is being produced as part of the [Her Natural History](#) campaign.

[Learn more.](#)

A Fond Farewell to Carolyn Sheffield (BHL Program Manager)



The Biodiversity Heritage Library's loss is the gain of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery. Carolyn Sheffield, BHL Program Manager, will be taking on a newly developed position as Associate Director, Library Technology and Digital Strategies effective 4 March 2019.

Carolyn first came to the Smithsonian in July 2010 as the Project Manager on the Field Book Project, a joint initiative of the National Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian Institution Archives. She subsequently joined Smithsonian Libraries and has been serving as the Program Manager for the Biodiversity Heritage Library since 2013. She has provided financial, administrative, and technical project management for the BHL consortium and has played a key role in several of BHL's grant-funded initiatives, including grants for adding field notes to BHL, the National Digital Stewardship Residency program, and the LIS Education in Data Science program.

We will all miss her keen analytical mind and sense of humor. We all wish Carolyn fair winds as she takes on new challenges.

BHL and WikiCite 2018



WikiCite 2018_ Photo Credit_ Diane Shaw. Graphic by Dario Taraborelli _CC-BY 4.0_ with photo by Tehani Schroeder.

How can citations, images, and data from BHL and other open access repositories be used in Wikimedia Foundation projects like WikiCite, Wikidata, and Wikipedia?

BHL-affiliated representatives attended WikiCite 2018 to present suggestions as part of the [WikiCite and the Biodiversity Heritage Library](#) presentation and exchange ideas with conference attendees. They shared their experiences and take-aways on the BHL Blog.

[Learn more.](#)

"WikiCite and the Biodiversity Heritage Library" presented by Katie Mika (former BHL NDSR resident) and Siobhan Leachman (BHL citizen scientist).

Connecting Art+Science: *Vanity* & BHL

“BHL is unparalleled and vital in providing worldwide access to a free, publicly available, digital biodiversity repository and reference library.”

SANDRA I. BERRÍOS-TORRES, MD

Author of the 11 historical accounts and Editorial
Director of the exhibition catalogue for *Vanity*,
on behalf of Joseph Gregory Rossano.

Joseph Gregory Rossano, *Zestos Skipper Butterfly*, 2014. Pencil on melamine,
18 X 18 inches (actual size before photographic reduction); photo by C.B. Bell III,
copyright and courtesy of Joseph Gregory Rossano.



Zestos Skipper Butterfly. 2014. Photo by C.B. Bell III. Copyright and courtesy of Joseph Gregory Rossano.

The Biodiversity Heritage Library represents a beautiful intersection of art and science. For scientists and artists alike, the collections are a source of valuable inspiration and discovery.

Case in point: [*Vanity, an art installation by Joseph Gregory Rossano.*](#)

Created for and with the support of the Museum of Glass (MOG), the exhibition tells the story of eleven species and subspecies, presumed extinct, presented through the lens of humanity's role in their demise. Rossano collaborated with Sandra I. Berríos-Torres, MD, to produce historical accounts for the included species to complement the exhibit.

The Biodiversity Heritage Library was a vital resource for Berríos-Torres, providing access to dozens of publications offering original descriptions, early illustrations, and more.

[Learn more.](#)

A Book's Eight Year Journey to the Biodiversity Heritage Library

Vroeg's *Catalogue* (1764) is an important early work in the history of Linnaean taxonomy and the source of dozens of new species of



Vroeg_s Catalogue

birds. It is also extremely rare, with only a handful of copies known to exist worldwide.

In 2010, a researcher in Germany requested that it be digitized for BHL. Eight years later, after overcoming challenges stemming from rarity, condition, and more, the title is now freely available in BHL thanks to Smithsonian Libraries. The digital copy has since been used to uncover taxonomic errors that had persisted for at least a century.

[Learn more about the book's incredible journey to BHL and the impact its digitization has had on science.](#)

Collection Highlights

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



Illustrations of
Orchidaceous plants

Orchids Under the Microscope

[*Illustrations of Orchidaceous Plants*](#) (1830-38) brings together the work of two of the most important early contributors to our understanding of orchids: artist Franz Bauer and English botanist and gardener John Lindley. It's

freely available in BHL thanks to the Natural History Museum Library, London.

[Learn more.](#)



Icones plantarum Syri_
rariorum.

Labillardière and the Botany of the Levant

At the end of the 18th century, French naturalist Jacques-Julien Houtou de Labillardière spent two years exploring and collecting plants in the Levant, visiting Syria, Turkey, the Holy Land, Lebanon and Damascus. Complete copies of

his publication on the botany of the region are rare, but thanks to Kew Gardens you can access [*Icones plantarum Syriæ rariorum*](#) (1791-1812) for free in BHL.

[Learn more.](#)

MUDPIE for Everyone!

The [MUDPIE newsletter](#) is an important historical record of early developments in computer technology and its application in museums and systematic biology. The only known complete



[MUDPIE newsletter](#)

set is held by Smithsonian Libraries, and it's now freely available to the world through BHL.

[Learn more.](#)

BHL User Testimonials

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

Supporting Worldwide Research



Dr. Robert Mesibov has been studying Australian millipedes for nearly 30 years. Obtaining the necessary literature used to be a long and expensive process. How has BHL revolutionized his research process? [Find out!](#)

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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