

Transition Update

The New Chapter Begins



Happy 20th Birthday BHL!



In 2026, BHL is celebrating both its **20th anniversary** and a **major transition milestone**.

For **two decades**, BHL has brought together libraries, museums, herbaria, and research institutions worldwide to make biodiversity literature freely accessible. Today, it is **the world's largest online library of biodiversity literature** and **an essential foundation** for research, conservation, and data integration.

On **1 January 2026**, BHL officially entered [a new chapter](#) as an **independent, globally governed consortium**. For BHL users, very little has changed: **BHL remains fully operational** and freely accessible, with more than **63 million pages** of biodiversity knowledge available worldwide.

This anniversary year is a chance to celebrate not only the **extraordinary literature in BHL** but also the **global community** behind it.

■ Read more: [The New Chapter Begins](#)

Support BHL's Next Chapter



All Existing BHL Staff Positions Secured

One of the most important achievements of the transition is that **all existing BHL staff positions have been secured**. The people, expertise, and relationships that sustain BHL every day remain in place as the consortium moves forward.

From collections and program leadership to technical coordination and communications, this continuity ensures that **BHL retains the experience and institutional knowledge** that have made it such a vital part of the biodiversity information ecosystem.

■ Read more: [Celebrating the BHL Team](#)



The Field Museum to Host BHL's Technical Infrastructure

Another very exciting piece of news is that the [Field Museum of Natural History](#) will be taking over the hosting of BHL's servers and core technical infrastructure.

This important commitment provides **continuity, stability, and trusted institutional support** for the systems behind the BHL website and services. It also reflects the strength of BHL's partner network and the willingness of long-standing member institutions to help **shape and sustain BHL's future**.

■ Read more: [The Field Museum to Host BHL's Technical Infrastructure](#)

BHL is Growing: New Members Join the Consortium



BHL's new chapter is not only about **continuity**; it is also about **growth**.

We are delighted to welcome [Vanderbilt University Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries](#) and the [University of South Florida Libraries](#) as new BHL members.

Alongside membership, both institutions are contributing **significant technical support** over the next three years. Vanderbilt will provide in-kind expertise in **cloud infrastructure**, **digital collections**, and **platform development**, while USF will deliver major **systems support for MACAW** (BHL's Metadata Collection and Workflow System).

These commitments strengthen BHL's **technical foundation** and **long-term sustainability**, and reflect the continuing value of BHL's mission and the confidence of institutions helping to build and sustain open biodiversity knowledge for the future.

Vanderbilt and USF are the first of a number of new organizations joining the BHL Member Council. Stay tuned for more announcements.

 Read more:

- [Vanderbilt University's Heard Libraries Join BHL and Commit Major Technical Support](#)
- [New BHL Member: University of South Florida Libraries](#)



BHL Day 2026

Towards a biodiversity data ecosystem built on BHL data

London, England | 29 April 2026 | #BHLDay2026


Biodiversity Heritage Library

BHL Annual Meeting and BHL Day 2026

BHL's global community will gather in London from 27 April to 1 May for the 2026 BHL Annual Meeting, hosted at the [Natural History Museum](#) and the [Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew](#). The week will bring together BHL staff, members, affiliates, and stakeholders from around the world for meetings, tours, discussions, and strategic planning.

The highlight of the week will be [BHL Day 2026](#), BHL's public symposium, at the Natural History Museum on Wednesday 29 April. This special event, titled ***Towards a biodiversity data ecosystem built on BHL data***, will reflect on BHL's position at its 20th anniversary and explore how BHL can become even more integrated into the wider biodiversity informatics environment.

Registration is available for both **in-person and virtual** participation.

[Register Now](#)



New Anniversary Blog Series: Treasures from BHL

To kick off BHL's anniversary celebrations, we have launched a special [#BHLat20](#) blog series **featuring remarkable works** from BHL's collections.

The items featured in the series have been selected by members of BHL's contributing community: librarians, archivists, curators, and researchers who know these materials best.

The series will highlight rare and historic volumes, manuscripts, field diaries, scientific notebooks, specimen registers, and more, with each post exploring

the significance, history, and stewardship behind the chosen works.

■ Explore the series: [*Treasures from the Biodiversity Heritage Library*](#)

Support BHL's Next Chapter

BHL's 20th anniversary is not just a time to celebrate; it's also an opportunity to **safeguard its future**.

BHL has entered its new chapter with key foundations in place, but **continued fundraising and philanthropic support will be essential** to sustain the people, partnerships, and infrastructure behind BHL.

We have just launched a [new anniversary fundraising campaign](#) to help ensure that BHL remains open, connected, and discoverable for researchers, libraries, and communities worldwide.

If you value BHL – or rely on it in your work – please consider supporting its future.

Support BHL

Stay Connected with BHL



- Follow the [BHL Blog](#)
- Read and share the [Anniversary Blog Series](#)
- Join the [BHL Community Forum](#)
- Support BHL's next chapter: [Donate to BHL](#)

Thank you for being part of the BHL community. Together, we can ensure biodiversity knowledge remains open, connected, and discoverable.



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