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Workshop

Biodiversity Heritage Library: Hands-on training on search and retrieval of digital literature

Henning Scholz

Over the last few years a large number of library resources for taxonomists have gone online. These include virtual libraries and search engines as well as scanned library literature. The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) is certainly the largest digital library for taxonomists offering currently (July 2010) more than 30 million pages of biodiversity literature free of charge via the Internet (<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>). BHL-Europe (<http://www.bhl-europe.eu>) is now coordinating numerous other European library digitisation initiatives to contribute to a global BHL.

BHL-Europe and EDIT (<http://wp5.e-taxonomy.eu/>) are building the Global References Index to Biodiversity (GRIB) that eventually refers to all of the worlds published biodiversity literature.

This will facilitate the search and retrieval of digital literature for taxonomists. BHL-Europe is also connecting to EUROPEANA (<http://www.europeana.eu>) to make this biodiversity literature available to a much larger audience.

The workshop will provide hands-on training with the BHL Portal. Specific tasks will be provided for the participants to walk them through the procedures for searching, displaying, and downloading literature. As BHL-Europe will have a new prototype portal and also the GRIB system ready by the date of the congress, the workshop will also introduce these new tools and provide the necessary training for them. A sufficient number of experienced colleagues will support the workshop to provide all necessary help. These colleagues are also most happy to collect any feedback, problems and issues the participants encounter by working with the online tools. This feedback will then be used to further improve the BHL-Europe service and focus it on user requirements.

The workshop is mainly designed for participants with limited experience in using BHL. However, it is an ideal preparation for participants to attend the Symposium "World wide access to biodiversity literature: Digital and virtual libraries for taxonomists". Computers are essential so workshop participants need to bring their laptops.