

Welcoming the Smithsonian Libraries (SIL) and the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL)



Smithsonian Libraries



Made up of a network of 21 specialized research libraries, the **Smithsonian Libraries** ([SIL](#)) provides the Institution's museums and research centers with resources and services as diverse as the collections, exhibits, and scholarship they support. Along with expanding on-line presence and digitization initiatives, SIL maintains extensive collections - total volumes exceed 2 million - as crucial resource for research and education communities within the US and internationally.

The **Biodiversity Heritage Library** ([BHL](#)) is a consortium of natural history and botanical libraries that cooperate to digitize the legacy literature of biodiversity held in their collections. Working with the international taxonomic community, rights holders, and other interested parties, they make that literature available through open access principles and responsible use - as a part of a global "biodiversity commons." BHL also serves as the foundational literature component of the Encyclopedia of Life.

The Smithsonian Libraries (SIL) joined ICSTI as a Class B1 Full Member on 22nd December 2016.

The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) joined ICSTI as a Class C Associate Member on 22nd December 2016.