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## BHL-Europe related activities of Viikki Science Library

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# Newsletter

#2 November 2009 Biodiversity Heritage Library for Europe

# BHL

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## BHL-Europe related activities of Viikki Science Library

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### Background

Viikki Science Library of the University of Helsinki is the main Finnish actor in the BHL-Europe project in collaboration with the Finnish Museum of Natural History, Societas pro Fauna et Flora Fennica and Societas Biologica Fennica Vanamo (Vanamo). The project will also derive benefit from the on-going cooperation between the library and the Finnish Society of Forest Science.

Viikki Science Library is the largest resource library in Finland in biological and environmental sciences, agriculture and forestry, pharmacy and veterinary medicine and also serves the Finnish Museum of Natural History. The University of Helsinki has the oldest and largest faculty of the six biological or environmental faculties in Finland.

The two non-profit learned societies in biology in Finland are Societas pro Fauna et Flora Fennica founded in 1821 and Societas Biologica Fennica Vanamo (Vanamo) founded in 1896. They have been publishing journal and monograph series from 1848 and 1897 respectively.

Finland has a population of only 5.3 million, but has one of the largest number of amateur biologists per capita in Europe. There are numerous societies, associations and clubs for amateur biologists, who publish their observations in their journals, newsletters or on their web sites. BHL-Europe will be of interest to them as an open archive as well as a portal.

### Strategic planning and facilitation of funding

The Viikki Science Library has set up a steering committee for the BHL-Europe project and the digitization with representatives from the Faculty of biological and environmental science of the University of Helsinki, the learned societies in biology which are publishers of old material related to biodiversity and the Finnish Museum of Natural History. The main tasks of the committee are:

- strategic planning and facilitation of funding
- selecting material for digitization
- contacts and influencing on affiliated organizations and groups (e.g. independent research institutes in the subject area)
- communication with the learned societies, the museum and other related associations
- contacts with the National Library of Finland and the National Digital Library
- marketing and dissemination

The BHL-Europe team of the library has set up a public wiki site in Finnish. It contains essential information also for project management with links BHL-Europe, BHL and Europeana etc. (<https://wiki.helsinki.fi/display/BHL/Etusivu>).



The main centre for mass digitization of scientific and other publications is the digitization centre of the National Library of Finland. The National Library has funding for digitizing cultural heritage collections. However, it does not focus on biodiversity literature.



Viikki Science Library has been digitizing historically interesting old literature on forestry on a small scale between 2003 and 2005. In a cooperative project with the Finnish Society of Forest Science from 2006 onwards, the society's two series *Acta Forestalia Fennica* (1913) and *Silva Fennica* (1926) have been cleared for copyright, digitized, the material has been supplied with metadata including index terms and published in an open archive. The material from both projects is now available in full text via the DSpace repository called HELDA – University of Helsinki Digital Archive <http://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/127> and <http://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/108> Both projects have been funded by a Finnish foundation supporting activities in forestry,

*Metsämiesten säätiö*. The Viikki Science Library gained experience in managing digitization projects. The digitized literature on forestry is also valuable for BHL-Europe. The only way to receive funding for digitization of biodiversity material is to apply from private foundations in a similar way.

#### Selecting material for digitization

The steering committee has set up the following priorities for material to be digitized and has approved the copyright clearance procedure:

- The journal and monograph series of the learned societies until 1940
- Monographs and series selected by researchers and specialists
- Publications, newsletters and web sites of associations of amateur biologists

#### The journal and monograph series of the learned societies till 1940

*Societas pro Fauna et Flora Fennica* is the oldest non-profit learned society in Finland. With a mission to promote research and learning it started its first publication series *Notiser ur Sällskapetets pro fauna et flora Fennica förhandlingar* in 1848 running till 1875. Between 1876 and 1926 their publication series was called *Meddelanden af Societas pro Fauna et Flora Fennica*. This was succeeded in 1927 by *Memoranda Societatis pro fauna et flora Fennica*, still alive. The monograph series *Acta Societatis pro fauna et Flora Fennica* was published between 1875-1980. The languages of the early publications were Latin, Swedish, German, French and Finnish (see Fig).

*Societas Biologica Fennica Vanamo*'s first more popular series in Finnish called *Luonnon Ystävä* (Nature's Friend) was introduced in 1896. It was followed by *Luonnon Tutkija* 1947. Vanamo introduced its first scientific series *Annales Societatis Zoologicae-Botanicae Fennicae Vanamo* in 1923. From 1931 it was divided into



Annales Botanici Societatis Zoologicae-Botanicae Fennicae Vanamo and Annales Zoologici Societatis Zoologicae-Botanicae Fennicae Vanamo.

From 1964 onwards they have been named Annales Botanici Fennici and Annales Zoologici Fennici. The special focus of Vanamo in their early publications was publishing in Finnish. For three decades these two series and Acta Botanica Fennica (1926) and Acta Zoologica Fennica (1926) are published cooperatively by the two biological societies and two societies in science and letters (See Fig. on page 12).

The library has cleared the copyrights for the publications of Societas pro Fauna et Flora Fennica published before 1940. The library managed a procedure by which every member of the society was approached by a letter emphasizing the importance of the digitization, preservation, open access and dissemination of old material. Authors and IPR holders of articles in the society's series were asked for permission to digitize and deposit them in open archives such as HELDA and BHL-Europe. The right holders objecting to this republishing procedure were asked to inform the society. No objections were received by the society. The procedure was approved by an expert lawyer of the University of Helsinki. For the Viikki Science Library this was a novel approach to copyright clearance. Previously, in the case of the Finnish Society of Forest Science, every right holder was contacted individually, and nobody denied the right to republish.

The members of Vanamo will be contacted in a similar collective way for the clearance of copyrights to publications of Vanamo up till 1940. The letter will also be published in Vanamo's membership journal Luonnon Tutkija.



#### Monographs and series selected by researchers and specialists

Viikki Science Library has set up a RefShare database of literature in botany and zoology aimed at collecting comments and suggestions broadly from researchers and experts for monographs, series and other publications that should be digitized. The steering committee will select the material and set priorities in cooperation with BHL-Europe WP2 leader. The metadata in this database were transferred from the HELKA library catalogue which is a joint database of the University of Helsinki libraries and the National Library of Finland. The same database was used in harvesting test data for the BHL-Europe portal prototype at AIT. The RefShare database, with simple user instructions, is openly accessed via the Finnish BHL-Europe wiki (<https://wiki.helsinki.fi/display/BHL/BHL-aineisto>).



#### **Publications, newsletters and web sites of associations of amateur biologists**

The steering committee has emphasized the importance to digitize the publications of the associations for amateur biologists. The publications have been listed on the Finnish wiki and will be analysed for inclusion in the future.

In HELDA – University of Helsinki Digital Archive, there has recently been established a special collection named Fauna & Flora (<http://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/4>) for digitized biodiversity material. This will enable future harvesting of metadata to BHL-Europe. The committee hopes that the Finnish out of copyright material of these societies already digitized by BHL could eventually be replicated in HELDA.

#### **Contacts with the National Library of Finland and the National Digital Library**

The National Library has been approached by the steering committee with detailed information about the BHL-Europe project, future plans for digitization and an initiative to cooperate.

Viikki Science Library was invited to participate in a panel discussion on Europeana and the Finnish National Digital Library project at the Ministry of Education where BHL-Europe was the subject of the presentation. Another meeting organized by the Ministry of Education was focused on presenting all Finnish projects that contribute to Europeana as aggregators. As a result the public web site for the National Digital Library project now contains information on BHL-Europe. (<http://www.kdk2011.fi/fi/europeana-ja-muut-hankkeet/bhl-for-europe>).

#### **Marketing and dissemination**

BHL-Europe has been described in the copyright clearance letters to about 2300 members of the two learned societies in biology. Information about BHL-Europe and instructions on how to participate in the RefShare database were published on the homepage of the Finnish Museum of Natural History. Viikki Science Library has been presenting BHL-Europe to the library board and to the faculty and cooperating research institutes of the Viikki campus in the three subject oriented advisory committees of the library. A short introduction to the BHL-Europe project has been published in the digital newsletter Verkkari of the University of Helsinki Libraries. The central source of information is the public wiki site in Finnish with links to BHL-Europe, BHL and Europeana (<https://wiki.helsinki.fi/display/BHL/Etusivu>) created by the BHL-Europe team of the library.



**JOURNALS AND MONOGRAPH SERIES OF THE FINNISH LEARNED SOCIETIES IN BIOLOGY**

