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## **The Biodiversity Heritage Library Adds University of Toronto Libraries as a New Member**

The [Biodiversity Heritage Library](#) is pleased to welcome the [University of Toronto Libraries](#) (UTL) as a new Member. UTL is the first Canadian library to join the Biodiversity Heritage Library as a Member.

The University of Toronto Libraries system is the largest academic library in Canada. Ranked fourth among North American peer institutions by the Association of Research Libraries, the UTL system is particularly strong in the sciences and includes 10 dedicated science libraries. Among these is the Gerstein Science Information Centre, Canada's largest standalone science and health library. Additionally, the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library holds rich collections on the history of science and medicine, including an exhaustive collection of original works by Charles Darwin.

"The University of Toronto Libraries is thrilled to become a Member of the Biodiversity Heritage Library," asserts Neil Romanosky, UTL's Associate Chief Librarian for Science Research and Information and Director of the Gerstein Science Information Centre. "Given the rapid rate of extinction of species across the globe, we see membership in BHL as an important opportunity to support the search for knowledge by preserving our wealth of historic biodiversity materials and sharing them more widely."

As a BHL Member, the University of Toronto Libraries will enhance BHL's collection by contributing rare and unique material from its holdings of over 12 million print volumes. As the host of an Internet Archive scanning center, the Libraries has already digitized a large portion of its collection. Over 3.3 million pages of natural history literature from UTL are currently available in BHL.

"The University of Toronto Libraries and BHL share a commitment to open access and the promotion of digital scholarship through global partnerships and the development of innovative tools and technology," affirms BHL Program Director Martin R. Kalfatovic. "We look forward to the expertise and leadership that UTL will bring to the BHL consortium as we work together to build our

online collection, enhance our services, and empower researchers around the world through free access to biodiversity knowledge.”

### **About the Smithsonian Libraries**

The Smithsonian Libraries maintains a collection of more than 2 million volumes and serves as an educational resource for the Smithsonian Institution, the global research community and the public. The Libraries are located in Washington, Edgewater, Md., New York City and the Republic of Panama. For more information, visit the Smithsonian Libraries website: <http://library.si.edu>.

### **About the Biodiversity Heritage Library**

BHL is a consortium of major natural history, botanical and research libraries that seek to contribute to the global “biodiversity commons” by digitizing and providing free and open access to biodiversity literature and archives from across the globe. For more information, visit the Biodiversity Heritage Library website: [www.biodiversitylibrary.org](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org).

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