

**THE BIOLOGIA CENTRALI-AMERICANA CENTENNIAL: A VISION FOR
ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO TAXONOMIC RESOURCES:
THE INFORMATION INTERFACE BETWEEN LIBRARIES AND
SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY**

Courtney Ann Shaw
Smithsonian Institution Libraries
National Museum of Natural History (U.S.A.)
shawc@si.edu

While data standards for storage and exchange of taxonomic names and specimen data are relatively stable, literature is still generally not accessible electronically or, if it is, the format does not enable interoperability with other data types. Anna Weitzmann, Smithsonian Institution, and Christopher H.C. Lyal, Natural History Museum, London, have proposed a standard for IUBS for taxonomic literature called taXMLit. The Biologia Centrali Americana Centennial Project will be used as a model for this schema. The BCA, 58 volumes published from 1879-1888 on the Flora and Fauna of Central America, has been digitized by the Smithsonian Institution Libraries and is now available in on the web with JPEG and PDF images. The model will be appropriate for all taxonomic literature and will enable web-based interoperability with specimen databases, taxonomic authority files, and other datasets. In addition to integrating literature and other data sources (e.g., data currently available via the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), Census of Marine Life (COML), FishBASE, FishNET), the method opens possibilities of generating further web products, e.g. checklists.