Archival Resources at the Smithsonian

The archival collections include technical drawings, photographs, letters, field notebooks, diaries and journals, sketches and sketchbooks, scrapbooks, manuscripts, rare printed materials, motion picture film, video and sound recordings, and much more. Many of the archival units are repositories within the Smithsonian's museums, libraries, and other larger divisions, and two are independent collecting units. Nearly all have online collections and resources where visitors will find more detail about the scope of collections, collection guides and finding aids, and digitized content.

Biodiversity Heritage Library

The Biodiversity Heritage Library improves research methodology by collaboratively making biodiversity literature openly available to the world as part of a global biodiversity community. BHL also serves as the foundational literature component of the Encyclopedia of Life

Caribbean Coral Reef Ecosystems Program

The Caribbean Coral Reef Ecosystems (CCRE) Program is a long term field site dedicated to investigations of coral reefs and associated mangroves, seagrass meadows, and sandy bottoms. Field operations are based at the Carrie Bow Cay Field Station on the Meso-American Barrier Reef in Belize.

Chandra X Ray Observatory

NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory is a telescope specially designed to detect X-ray emission from very hot regions of the Universe such as exploded stars, clusters of galaxies, and matter around black holes. Because X-rays are absorbed by Earth's atmosphere, Chandra must orbit above it, up to an altitude of 139,000 km (86,500 mi) in space. The Smithsonian's Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, MA, hosts the Chandra X-ray Center which operates the satellite, processes the data, and distributes it to scientists around the world for analysis.

Encyclopedia of Life

Project to organize and make available all information about life present on earth by the Smithsonian and partners.

Global Genome Iniative

The Global Genome Initiative (GGI) is a bold, science-based endeavor to capture and understand the Earth's genomic biodiversity, preserve it on ice in biorepositories worldwide, and make it accessible to researchers everywhere through the Global Genome Biodiversity Network (GGBN)—in perpetuity. By gathering and safeguarding organisms from the Tree of Life, GGI will ensure that researchers can tap into nature to solve scientific and societal problems. Nearly everything we hope to learn about life and how it has evolved can be uncovered through genomics. GGI will make it possible to discover new species and relationships, explore nature's spectacular innovations and illuminate the inner-workings of ecosystems and how they support us.

Global Volcanism Project

The Volcanoes of the World database provides a catalog of Holocene and Pleistocene volcanoes, and eruptions from the past 10,000 years.

Human Origins Program

Human evolution research.

Institute for Biodiversity Genomics

The emerging Institute for Biodiversity Genomics, a united effort of existing Smithsonian research entities and a suite of partners around the world, will help scientists address these challenges. By using the latest genome research and technologies, we will gain greater understanding of how life on Earth evolved, how species interact, how ecosystems function, and how to sustain the diversity of life that allows us to adapt and thrive in our changing world.

Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation

Exploring invention and innovation through stories and research.

The Marine Global Earth Observatory (MarineGEO)

The Marine Global Earth Observatory (MarineGEO), directed by the Smithsonian's Tennenbaum Marine Observatories Network (TMON), is a global network of partners focused on understanding how coastal marine ecosystems work—and how to keep them working. We focus on biodiversity as the heart of healthy, productive ecosystems and coastal regions, where marine life and people are concentrated and interact most. MarineGEO marshals the Smithsonian's leadership in discovery and convening power to advance frontiers in knowledge and provide it to policymakers to support innovative management and protection of our oceans.

Migratory Bird Center

Dedicated to understanding, conserving and championing the grand phenomenon of bird migration.

Recovering Voices

The Recovering Voices Program recognizes that language communities and scholars have a mutual interest in documenting, revitalizing and sustaining languages and the knowledge embedded in them. Through Recovering Voices, the Smithsonian Institution strives to collaborate with communities and other institutions to address issues of indigenous language and knowledge diversity and sustainability at the national and global level.

In collaboration with communities and partner organizations, Recovering Voices seeks to improve access to the Smithsonian's diverse collections – archival, biological and cultural – and to support interdisciplinary research, documentation and revitalization. In doing so we seek to understand the dynamics of intergenerational knowledge transfer, and to support existing community initiatives focusing on language and knowledge sustainability.

Online Exhibitions

OneSearch Online library search tool

Smithsonian Collections

154 million artifacts, works of art, and specimens in the Smithsonian's collections, 145 million of these specimens and artifacts are held by the National Museum of Natural History, 14 million digital records available online through the Collections Search Center

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center leads the nation in discovering the links between land and water ecosystems in the coastal zone. Researchers investigate questions related to fisheries, climate change, invasive species, mercury pollution, water quality, ozone depletion, and more.

Smithsonian Libraries Image Collection

Book illustrations, photos, images, and other drawings from across the libraries.

Smithsonian Libraries Image Collection - Natural and Physical Sciences

Book illustrations, photos, images, and other drawings from across the libraries.

Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce

The Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce specializes in studies of the marine biodiversity and ecosystems of Florida.

Smithsonian National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute

The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute plays a leading role in the Smithsonian's global efforts to save wildlife species from extinction and train future generations of conservationists. SCBI spearheads research programs at its headquarters in Front Royal, Virginia, the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, D.C., and at field research stations and training sites worldwide. SCBI scientists tackle some of today's most complex conservation challenges by applying and sharing what they learn about animal behavior and reproduction, ecology, genetics, migration and conservation sustainability.

Smithsonian Research Online

Welcome to the Smithsonian Research Online where you can learn about and explore the active, ongoing research in the Smithsonian world.

Smithsonian Scientific Diving Program

The Smithsonian Scientific Diving Program (SDP) supports underwater research at the Smithsonian Institution (SI) by establishing and implementing safety standards and procedures for all SI diving activities. The SDP operates to ensure all diving operations are conducted safely and efficiently, with safety being the primary focus.

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

Conducts basic research and outreach on the ecology, behavior, and evolution of tropical organisms and environments.

Taxonomic Literature: A selective guide to botanical publications and collections with dates, commentaries and types (Stafleu et al.)

TL-2 is the premier publication of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT) and this online version was made possible by the generous cooperation of the IAPT. Currently, SI offers a basic database searchable by keyword, author name, title number, author name abbreviation, or title abbreviation. We display the search results with the scanned page and the parallel OCRed and corrected text in a "page turning" application.