

Botanical Society of America: Education Committee Annual Report
July 3, 2018

The activities of the Education Committee involved three primary activities during the past year. The largest endeavor was supporting the Life Discovery Conference hosted at the University of Oklahoma in October, 2017 (<https://www.esa.org/ldc/pastconferences/2017-conference/>). The BSA was represented by Catrina Adams (organizing committee) and Phil Gibson (organizing committee, on-site organizer). The event supported by the other life discovery partners (Ecological Society of America, Society for the Study of Evolution, Society for Economic Botany) for a three-day conference focusing on data literacy. There were over 125 attendees during the course of the meeting who attended speakers, workshops, roundtable discussions, and panel discussions.

The second focus of our efforts regarded much needed updates to the Life Discovery Digital Library (LDDL <https://planted.botany.org/index.php?P=Home>) During the LDC, life discovery partner representatives discussed changes for the LDDL that are necessary to attract more contributions and users to the resources on the site. Teresa Mourad with ESA was charged with identifying vendors who could provide the needed changes. The cost of the upgrades was eventually brought to the Education Committee who agreed to make the necessary financial contributions to the LDDL digital platform upgrades. The Summary of her report on this topic is copied below

The third activity supported by the Education committee was running a Faculty Mentoring Network (FMN) titled "Plants By the Numbers" in conjunction with the QUBES organization. QUBES (<https://qubeshub.org>) is focused on supporting quantitative biology education and brings together an online community of math and biology educators to promote development and use of educational resources with strong data-centered components. Faculty Mentoring Networks are groups of faculty that meet virtually over the course of a semester to discuss educational resources and pedagogical topics. FMN participants agree to include at least two of the available educational resources into their course and publish feedback about its use on the FMN website. For this FMN, six botanical educational resources were used by participants. The 13 participants in the BSA FMN came from community colleges, liberal arts colleges, and large universities. Paul Beardsley and Phil Gibson served as FMN mentors to the group and Catrina Adams served on the organizing committee. The FMN was a success and we are pursuing opportunities to partner with QUBES for another FMN in the future.

IN conclusion, this is my final report as Chair of the Education Committee. It has been an immense pleasure to serve the BSA in this way. However, no one can accomplish committee work without the help of many others. The Committee members have been a pleasure to work with and I thank them all. In particular I want to acknowledge the help of Catrina Adams. She has been a valuable colleague and knowledge resource. I have appreciated everything she has done. She is a valuable asset for the BSA to achieve its educational mission.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Phil Gibson
Chair, BSA Education Committee

January 30, 2018

From: Teresa Mourad

To: LifeDiscoveryEd Digital Library (LDDL) partners and Resource Editors

RE: Upgrade to LifeDiscoveryEd Digital Library

I. DOI

The annual fee is \$275 and it will cost \$1 per resource.

II. LDDL Platform Upgrades

The following are a summary of email exchanges and a phone conversation with CWIS Internet Scout director, Edward Almasy (UWisc-Madison). Rob Brandt forwarded our entire interface file and Ed has reviewed all our customizations.

a) COST to upgrade with all current customizations

We can readily migrate all of customizations and interfaces to the latest upgrade for \$5,650.

b) COST to upgrade without current customizations

If we upgrade without the customizations, the cost will be \$3,850. Having stated that, all of the custom functionalities could be handled by latest version of CWIS.

The custom functionalities were handled through a series of about a dozen plugins. Of those, only two would be problematic in terms of migrating upgrade process:

- Action Items - for Managing Editor to see status of resources submitted
- Workflow – this I believe customizes which Society authors/editors/reviewers receives which email.

But both of these functionalities will be managed by the new upgrade

Here were our concerns:

- Resource description not showing up
 - A cookie issue which Ed has identified for removal (I think Rob has done this?)
- Making Audience, Concepts, and Competencies Editable Fields
 - I learned how to do this and will execute shortly.
- Send email reminders for stalled workflows – included in new upgrade
- Ability to Break submission form into multiple pages (more of a UI issue to prevent overwhelming a submitter)
 - Almasy: I think there are two ways you could approach this: 1) tweaking permissions on the metadata fields, so that only absolutely necessary fields show up for submitters, and 2) grouping the metadata fields on the editing form, so that less-commonly-used fields can be deemphasized/hidden when coming into the form. One or both of these may be possible with your current setup and either would be fairly easy to do with recent versions of the software.

Additionally, the latest upgrade will have the following out of the box – links are examples taken from ATE Central also powered by CWIS.

- Resources, Blogs, Events which can be displayed on a webpage e.g. <https://atecentral.net/>
- Longer announcements in the form of a blog e.g. <https://atecentral.net/ate20/>
- Search will cut across Resources, Blogs, Events and be displayed. Here is a search for “science” on the ATE Central site: <https://atecentral.net/index.php?P=SearchResults&FK=science> (Note the other tabs “Projects/Centers” and “Evaluators” were custom tabs for ATE Central)
- Clean URLs e.g. https://atecentral.net/r15524/earth_system_science_in_the_community. The old URL format <https://ecoed.esa.org/index.php?P=FullRecord&ID=614> will still work. But the clean version facilitates searches via search engines.
- BSA – you can continue to offer Botany ID sign on. You may need to have the OpenID server checked (Rob will know more) but this is no problem in subsequent upgrades.

Based on conversation with Ed, AFTER the upgrade, we will be able to perform regular upgrades ON OUR OWN with EITHER option. So we have the excellent choice of retaining custom portals or merging into one.

III. Some Issues

1. To provide DOIs, we will likely need to merge since we will likely need to have only one domain name (I didn't get a straight answer on this but it looks that way).
2. If we merge, ALL previous URLs that we informed our authors to use will have to be updated. I don't think this is a major issue. FYI, each resource already has a custom URL and a LDDL URL. e.g. Both these URLs point to the same resource ID 614
<https://ecoed.esa.org/index.php?P=FullRecord&ID=614>
<https://lifediscoveryed.org/index.php?P=FullRecord&ID=614>
3. The ATE Central landing page is the result of HTML web design. Otherwise, out of the box, it will continue to look mostly like what we see now although it will be easier to manage with WYSIWYG interface. So we would still need to have someone work on that interface. That would not be the CWIS group.

IV. Duration of Project

It will likely take a few weeks to complete the upgrade and migration.