



2010
YEAR IN REVIEW



What a year this was!

The most important and most significant activity that was accomplished, not only for the year but for the future of BRIT, was the completion of our wonderful building adjacent to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. This designated LEED (Leadership in Environmental and Engineering Design) Platinum level building (officially so designated on July 5, 2011!), the highest award that can be given for any structure for sustainable design, makes BRIT the proud possessor of the only Platinum LEED building in Tarrant County, one of only two in all of North Texas, and one of only eight in all of Texas. The building tangibly manifests our mission of conservation and sustainability. From the living roof on top of the research, education, and administration wing, to the 168 geothermal wells that will provide much of our heating and cooling, to the rainwater retention system, and the solar tubes on the roof of the collections building, we will be green to the core. We will be able to use the building itself as a most important teaching tool.

The building was substantially completed in late December 2010, only about a year after construction started. BECK Construction not only did a fantastic job of it, but they were wonderful to work with, giving us scores and scores of tours at any time and at all hours. This significantly helped our efforts to complete the Capital Campaign whose target is \$48 million. As of December 31, 2010, we had only \$2.7 million to go, and this has been reduced to about \$1.2 million to go (as of this writing in July of 2011!).

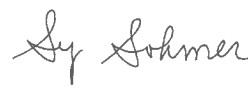
Other highlights of the year included adding necessary staff with which to make the occupation of our building possible. In the warehouse we occupied before all of this, which was a location and arrangement that was very useful to us during our first years of existence, we did not need such positions as a Facilities Manager, Gift Shop Manager, Public Programs person, Chief Financial Officer, and others. We have never had such a prominently public building or location before. So the search for these positions began, and many of them were already selected by the end of December. It was important for certain of these folks to come on

board before our February 2011 move-in. The facilities manager had to be fully immersed in the running of the building before our move-in, the Gift Shop manager had to organize and stock the gift shop, etc.

We also held a very important board retreat on March 5th. At that retreat, the board had the opportunity to provide tangible input about the overall strategic direction in which BRIT was heading and the opportunities that the new building would allow us. At the board meeting held in association with that retreat, the 2010 budget, which had been passed in November of 2009, was revised to allow the organization to follow through on one of the primary recommendations made by a select peer review the previous year. The distinguished individuals of the peer review, representing a number of sister organizations, recommended adding funding to the 2010 budget to allow the hiring of a Vice President for Research and the reorganization of the entire research program. Dr. Will McClatchey was thereby able to join us in July of 2010.

New board members who joined us in 2010 were Brad Barnes, Dwight Cumming, Alice Puente, and Walter Rainwater. And we will continue to enhance the board. There will be many other great things happening as we go forward.

The members of the board of directors and staff of BRIT want to thank each and every donor who participated in our capital campaign making our wonderful facility a dream come true. We look to an exciting future for BRIT.


S. H. Sohmer
President and Director


Tim McKinney
Chairman



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The Education Department made significant progress towards completion of planning for new programs during 2010, while providing learning experiences for nearly 65,000 children and adults through its established partnerships and programs.

BRIT served over 16,000 students and 1,500 educators from across the state through

- classes and virtual field trips delivered via distance learning programs to students from South Hills High School, Fort Worth Country Day, and rural schools across Texas;
- the Butterflies in the Garden education program, co-hosted with the Fort Worth Botanic Garden;
- the Great Tree Essay Contest, where over 260 third grade students in 15 Fort Worth ISD elementary schools learned about the importance of trees;
- outreach to schools through career days, talks at various clubs, and special events such as Prairie Fest; and
- professional development for educators across the metroplex, with science content and methodologies to equip teachers to take their learning outdoors.

BRIT programs engaged 46,641 adults and families in public programs designed for life-long learners, keeping them current with local research and improving their own botanical knowledge through

- Botany 101 classes in Texas Christian University's Continuing Education Program,
- monthly Brown Bag Botany informal lectures,
- Butterflies in the Garden spring display and the Partners in Pollination exhibit, and
- BRIT's Distinguished Lecturer series, "Green from the Ground Up."

BRIT collaborated with community partners in public education events through

- the Kimbell Art Museum's Family Educator Morning: Impressions of Nature, serving over 200 parents and children;
- Educator Evening in the Cultural District for 200 local teachers; and
- the Amon Carter Museum of American Art lecture series with Joe Studholme on *Banks' Florilegium*.

Education program development brought in \$345,894 in grants and services that included

- a grant from the Rainwater Charitable Trust to hire Dr. Amanda Stone Norton as a director and Tracy Friday as an education specialist to lead the development of a strategic plan for the teacher learning center,
- a donation from Bill Burk to purchase additional books for the Oliver G. Burk Children's Library,
- a grant from the Fash Foundation to develop new programs and exhibits for families and children (Richard Smart was hired to coordinate the development of public programs for BRIT), and
- a grant from the National Science Foundation to lead the Open Science Network in Ethnobiology.

Herbarium

The collection of dried plant specimens in the BRIT-SMU-VDB Herbarium serves as a basis for botanical research worldwide. All accumulated specimens become potential research material to be examined by visiting botanists or loaned to other institutions for study.



Herbarium collections also play an important role in conservation and are an essential resource for those concerned with protecting and managing endangered natural resources. Increasing the rate of documentation of remaining areas of high biodiversity, as well as increasing the Institute's ability to accept orphaned collections, are important objectives fulfilling BRIT's mission of conserving our natural heritage.

2010 was an unusual year for the herbarium, as it was closed for transactions for the last six months in preparation for the move to the new building, which also decreased the number of tours and visitors we received. Because of these preparations, staff were not able to focus on sending out gifts and exchange, as they would in normal years. But some numbers soared in 2010, nonetheless. Loans received and loans returned were both higher than in 2009. Virtual loans, in particular, finally composed more than half the loan transactions we sent out (55 percent). Volunteer numbers rose substantially, from 44 in 2009 to 77 in 2010. The number of volunteer hours more than doubled this year, from 1,620 in 2009 to 3,402 in 2010! And among their many other tasks, these volunteers mounted 7,260 specimens in 2010 (1,873 more than in 2009).

- During the past year, BRIT received and processed 29 loan requests, sending out 3,041 specimens to 23 institutions.
- "Virtual loans" of digital images and label data requested in this format by borrowing researchers composed 55% of loans from BRIT in 2010. Previous years' percentages: 2009: 42%; 2008: 28%; 2007: 12%; 2006: 2%.

- BRIT received over 16,092 specimens as gifts and exchanges from individuals, botanical institutions, and university herbaria worldwide. 12,210 of these were sent from two New Guinean herbaria and are personal collections of former BRIT Researcher Bob Johns.
- Gifts and exchanges sent from BRIT to other institutions totaled 262 specimens. BRIT had gift and exchange transactions with 28 herbaria and individuals.
- 488 specimens were received in exchange for page charges or subscriptions to the *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas*.
- In 2010, 7,260 specimens were mounted and filed at BRIT. With seven additional mounted gifts and exchange, 7,267 specimens were accessioned into the BRIT collections.
- Seventy-seven wonderful volunteers worked 3,402 hours in the herbarium and mounted 7,260 specimens.
- Over 225 people toured the herbarium.
- Six researchers visited the BRIT-SMU-VDB Collections in 2010.
- Over 100 inquiries from researchers and the general public were answered by BRIT Herbarium staff on the topics of plant information, herbarium information, and other botanical issues.
- More than 100 plant identifications were made for the public, often from e-mailed photos.



	BRIT-SMU	VDB	Total
ACQUISITIONS			
Specimens Mounted	5,432	1,828	7,260
Exchange Received			
Transactions	12	0	12
Specimens	1,018	0	1,018
Gifts Received			
Transactions	16	0	16
Specimens	15,074	0	15,074
OUTGOING GIFTS & EXCHANGE			
Exchange Sent			
Transactions	0	0	0
Specimens	0	0	0
Gifts Sent			
Transactions	2	0	2
Specimens	262	0	262
LOANS SENT			
Total transactions	27	8	29
Total specimens	1,728	1,313	3,041
To US institutions			
Transactions	27	8	29
Specimens	1,728	1,313	3,041
To foreign institutions			
Transactions	0	0	0
Specimens	0	0	0
To student investigators			
Transactions	1	0	1
Specimens	31	0	31
To professional investigators			
Transactions	26	8	28
Specimens	1,697	1,313	3,010
Virtual loans			
Transactions	15	1	16
Specimens	76	3	79
Loans returned to BRIT			
Transactions	18	6	18
Specimens	471	313	784
LOANS RECEIVED			
Transactions	4	-	4
Specimens	17	-	17
Loans returned from BRIT			
Transactions	15	1	16
Specimens	656	1	657

The library at BRIT is an integral part of the institution. Over the years, it has grown and continues to grow, providing information to visiting researchers, the public, and BRIT staff. It compliments the herbarium in that most researchers using the herbarium also spend time in the library.

Community Outreach

During 2010, the librarian presented eight programs or tours to 148 students and adults. Among our visitors were high school students, college students, interested public, garden club members, and science teachers.

The groups included

- Denton County Master Gardeners,
- a Fort Worth Stock Show group,
- Texas Christian University students and library staff, and
- Texas Discovery Gardens.

Library Catalog

Bibliographic records for all cataloged material in the botanical library were merged into a combined database, the first step in enhancing access to the collection both at BRIT and via the Internet. At the end of August 2003, 100 percent of the cataloged botanical library collection was accessible online. At the end of December 2010, the material available online had increased from 11,515 titles to 18,423, which is an increase of 6,914 titles. This reflects a 59.9 percent increase in the number of books/monographs available for research use. The number of volumes (books/monographs) in the library has increased from 15,955 to 23,874. This total excludes some 90,000 volumes of journals as well as the Oliver G. Burk Children's Library of over 4,000 volumes.

Volunteer Support

We are supported by a dedicated core of volunteers. John Kovach is assisting with filing reprints and

managing space in the stacks. Joann Karges is helping catalog our newly acquired books. Laura Negrus is assisting with our retrospective classification project. Penny McCook and Pam Braak have been assisting with special projects.

Those who review books for the *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas* are also assisting the library, because when their review is published in the *Journal*, the book reviewed is added to the library's collection.

The Botany Library

The library was prepared for the move to our new building by labeling all the shelves and devising a detailed move-in chart of the new space, a very time-consuming project.



2010 proved to be a very busy one for administration. Besides all the regular meetings and committee responsibilities, much time was devoted to hiring new staff (see below) and planning for the move-in and operation of the new building.

- BRIT brought on four new board members, Brad Barnes, Dwight Cumming, Alice Puento, and Walter Rainwater.
- Four board meetings, four executive committee meetings, and a number of board subcommittee meetings were organized by the administrative staff.
- The FY 2010 budget was carefully monitored, and once again, due both to holding the line on expenses and an increase in donations and grants, BRIT finished the year in the black.
- The FY 2011 budget was successfully brought through the budget process and was passed unanimously by the Board of Directors at the annual meeting in November.
- The 2009 audit was successfully completed.
- The Owners Group continued meeting with the project manager on the planning for the new facility.

- Twelve new staff were hired:
 - Waleska Velez, Receptionist
 - Sam Kieschnick, Herbarium Assistant
 - Amanda Stone Norton, Director of the BRIT SEED School
 - Regan Haggerty, Head of Events
 - Chris Chilton, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
 - Will McClatchey, Vice President and Director of Research
 - Dave Reedy, Field Researcher
 - Richard Smart, Head of Public Programs
 - Tracy Friday, Education Specialist, BRIT SEED School
 - Anne Baldwin, Retail Manager
 - Greg Gunn, Facility Manager
 - Becky Grimmer, Chief Financial Officer

Development

The year 2010 saw many changes at BRIT, and Development was no exception.

Anne Baldwin joined the Development Team as the gift store manager and immediately began planning and researching product. Chris Chilton was hired as the head of marketing and began a concentrated push to bring BRIT's branding in line with our fabulous new building. It was a busy year.

Marketing

- Chris Chilton created a refined BRIT brand and message platform. The new BRIT tagline, "Plant to Planet" is being used on all BRIT electronic and print communications. The brand platform is based on internal and external research conducted during the summer months and highlights the organizations strengths.
- BRIT's website was redesigned to reflect the new branding.
- The BRIT Graphic Standards Manual was developed and distributed to staff and suppliers
- Relationships with area print, broadcast, and social media were expanded.
- Understanding that BRIT needs to attract a younger member demographic, BRIT began its social media outreach through Facebook and Twitter.

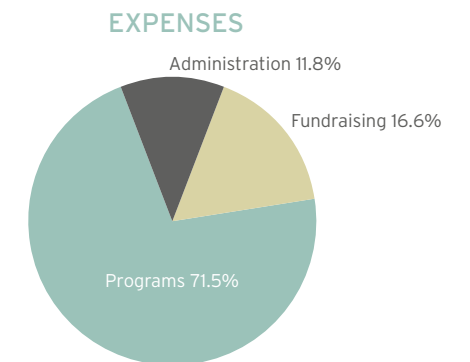
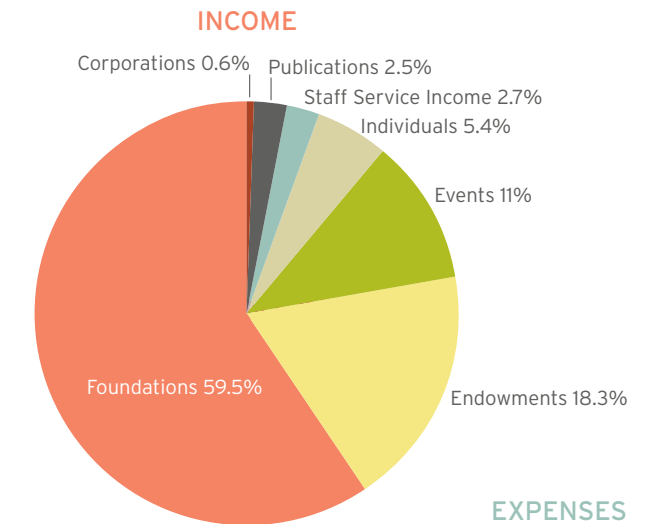
BRIT's Gift Store

- Ninety percent of the product assortment that will be sold in the gift shop was selected and included several BRIT private label lines.
- A botanical prints product line was developed from rare books that are part of the BRIT/Amon Carter Museum of American Art rare book exhibit that runs during the first part of 2011.

- The Amon Carter gift store was BRIT's first wholesale customer as they purchased the rare book prints to sell for the duration of the exhibit.

Fête du Vin

- BRIT created the International Award of Excellence in Sustainable Winegrowing program and award.
- The Fête du Vin Wine Dinner and Auction held on October 8, 2010, at the Fort Worth Club brought in a record number of attendees. The event featured the inaugural presentation of the International Award of Excellence in Sustainable Winegrowing to Hall Wines of California.
- Live Auction - Thank you to all members of BRIT's board and committees that helped in reaching out to friends and colleagues regarding ticket and table purchases and securing extraordinary items for the auction.



International Award of Excellence in Conservation

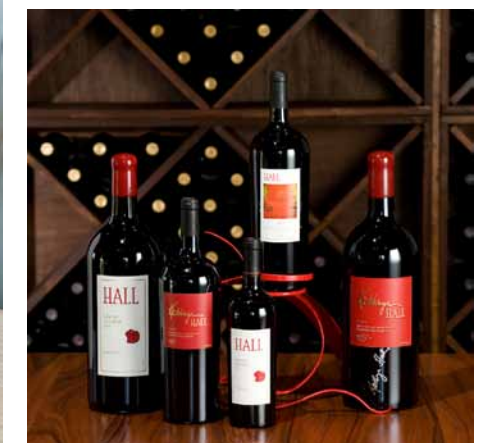
- Ramona Bass received the International Award of Excellence in Conservation May 30, 2010, in front of an audience of 386 registered guests.

Capital Campaign

- Pledged and received \$45,438,507.

Individuals	Foundations	Municipal	Federal	Corporate
\$15,143,582	\$27,710,000	\$1,533,551	\$999,574	\$51,800

Development created a public capital campaign strategy and program consisting of an integrated mix of online and traditional communication pieces. Our target market audiences consisted of conservation-aware public within the Fort Worth, Arlington, Hurst, Euless, and Bedford areas, as well as members from state-wide organizations, including the Native Plant Society, Texas Master Naturalists, and the Texas Master Gardeners. Campaign elements included media relations, a campaign microsite, direct mail, e-mail, and written letter communications.



BRIT research staff are currently working in four regions: Peru (including work in other parts of South America), New Guinea (including work in other parts of the western Pacific), Europe (mostly focused in the United Kingdom, Spain, and Italy), and Texas (including work in many parts of North America).

BRIT research was in transition during 2010. BRIT's scientific activities are now organized into two types: Basic Research, which includes all activities focused on conducting research and Core Research, which includes activities that focus on supporting basic research.

Core Research involves the activities of the BRIT Herbarium, Library, Press, and Biodiversity Informatics. Across BRIT programs, Basic Research is being conducted in three general categories: 1) Biodiversity Exploration, 2) Sustainability, and 3) Botanical Curriculum Development and Assessment.

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New Boots on the Ground

- During 2010, Kim Norton joined the research and herbarium teams. She works in the herbarium and assists BRIT Research Associate Bob O'Kennon in databasing his personal collection and incorporating this information in the BRIT instance of Atrium. (<http://atrium.brit.org/index.php>)
- During 2010, we had other new employees join the department: Dr. Will McClatchey and Dave Reedy. McClatchey filled the position of Vice President and Director of Research. Reedy joined the staff as a new field researcher.
- McClatchey has begun to recruit new research associates, working in each of the BRIT research areas, in order to increase the technical expertise of BRIT in preparation for moving forward.

Biodiversity Exploration

- Brooke Byerley, Jason Best, Keri Barfield, Tiana Rehman, and O'Kennon have continued to document species diversity of sites that are severely underrepresented (these include locations at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge and various Texas counties such as Scurry, Fisher, Jones, Shackelford, and Stephens) in the BRIT Herbarium and other major herbaria. The teams have noted several rare species in each of these locations.
- During September, Reedy traveled to England, Wales, and Spain to conduct field interviews regarding artificial ecosystems. He also conducted research on the topic of "Apples, Cider and Orchards in Culture," while he was travelling through England.
- McClatchey visited the BRIT staff based in Peru in December to visit with John Janovec and colleagues from the Missouri Botanical Garden (Rainer Bussman) and the PALMS project (Cesar Grandes). Janovec and McClatchey worked together to guide members of this international PALMS project team from the Brazilian border up into the Andes Mountains. The main goal of the trip was to help the PALMS project team identify sites and communities for palm inventory and ethnobotanical surveys in 2011.

Sustainability

- Byerley worked with Balmori Associates (landscape architects) and The Beck Group (architects) to fine-tune the landscape plans for the new building. She collaborated with Texas Christian University and Native American Seed to propose plans for the

pond and prairie areas and worked with O'Kennon to revise the overall planting list. The team located a site to harvest the native topsoil needed for the green roof plantings on our new building. Byerley also worked with the construction crew to transfer the biotrays to the actual roof surface in November, an event which drew much attention from local media outlets.

Botanical Curriculum Development

- Pat Harrison (Vice President and Director of Education), Barfield, and McClatchey worked with an international team to develop a website and conduct meetings regarding production and distribution of new curriculum and related educational materials on ethnobiology through the Open Science Network in Ethnobiology (OSN). This project, funded by the National Science Foundation, is developing research projects for BRIT staff members that reach outside of education, as well as in areas of education.
- McClatchey, Reedy, and Barfield have worked diligently to plan and prepare for the Conservation Ethnobiology Field School on Kaua'i Island, Hawaii, that will be taught in February 2012. This program provides key educational enhancements to students who are planning to conduct ethnobiological field research.

New Guinea

The island of New Guinea, the major center of biodiversity in the Malesian region, is being increasingly treated as an important center in projects involving tropical studies of rainforest regeneration and activities for the management of global diversity. Several projects being worked on by Bob Johns are seen as a nationally important component to better manage the diverse resources and biodiversity of New Guinea. Most of this work is concentrating on Papua New Guinea but extends to the Indonesian provinces of West Papua and Papua for many items such as lists of New Guinea species where political boundaries have no biological meaning.

- The two contracted staff members in Bogor continued to database and photograph the collections from New Guinea. They have finished *Asplenium* (a genus of ferns) and are continuing work on other groups.
- Johns spent two weeks in Goroka at the Papua New Guinea Institute of Biological Research (PNGIBR). This institution is very active, and he has spent his time helping them with proposals for ecology through the BSc Honours program at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) and providing supervision to several projects.



- BRIT staff worked with George Weiblen to enhance Atrium with more tools to assist in the management and analysis of data collected in New Guinea
- Bob Johns worked to sort and prepare all collected specimens from his research that were at the National Herbarium, Forest Research Institute (FRI), LAE, and the herbarium at UPNG. Johns shipped 50 boxes from UPNG and 18 boxes from LAE to the BRIT Herbarium in 2010. These specimens have been databased; however, Johns will work in the coming year to print labels and organize these specimens for inclusion in the BRIT Herbarium.
- Publications that Johns is working to complete include *A Preliminary Checklist of the New Guinea Plants Part I: Dicotyledons, Part II: Fern Allies, Ferns and Gymnosperms, Part III: Monocotyledons, and Forest Trees of New Guinea.*
- Johns received funds from a collaborative project including the Forestry Research Institute in New Guinea through the European Union. This funding will initially support the production of a field manual for collecting ecological data from rain forest communities

(structural and physiognomic data) and supporting floristic data for the vegetation classification.

- The Christensen Fund provided a generous grant of \$40,000 to help support the New Guinea project in 2010. This foundation has provided funding to this project over the past several years.

Biodiversity Informatics

Since before its inception in 2009, the Biodiversity Informatics team has been developing three revolutionary technologies to enhance and support research activities at BRIT. These include the Atrium Biodiversity Information System and the Apiary Project, together intended to increase access to and use of digitized biological collections, and Camera Base, a tool that helps researchers manage, analyze, and share camera-trap images. These technologies are developed not only to facilitate research at BRIT but also with the goal of releasing these tools for use by other researchers and institutions, as society and our planet will benefit from better science done faster. In this way, the tools of technology being developed at BRIT have direct applications to real conservation activities. The program is searching for funding to support ongoing and future research and development activities focused on biodiversity informatics.

Atrium - Biodiversity Information System

Atrium is a biodiversity information system which was developed with the goal of revolutionizing biodiversity information management by enabling researchers and organizations to share, synthesize, manage, and publish biodiversity data in a collaborative, online environment. Further project details are available at <http://www.atrrium-biodiversity.org>

- Mathias Tobler has continued Atrium development adding several new features such as Google instant translation to over 50 languages and new data upload and import capabilities that facilitate upload from anywhere in the world. Atrium was updated to work with the dJatoka and IIPImage image servers. This greatly simplifies image management and expands the options for high-resolution viewing and publication.

- Tobler also implemented a new feature that allows BRIT and its collaborators to use Microsoft Excel to manage and upload specimen data and images directly into Atrium. This feature simplifies the process of adding large amounts of data and images and streamlines the process of getting new data online quickly.
- Tobler advanced important programming toward the completion of a functional prototype of the new Atrium Digital Book module. This new revolutionary module adds important tools for the production and publication of hard copy products directly from data, descriptions, and images stored in various instances of Atrium. The data are dynamically linked to an external website where authors use a content management system to add additional content to a hard copy book. All the information can be browsed online or can then be packaged in a variety of high-quality book formats (e.g. flora, field guide, image guide) as desired by the authors and made available in PDF format or in print.





Apiary - Data Extraction Workflow

Apiary is an online digital workflow that streamlines the process of extracting label and annotation data from herbarium specimens to meet the critical need for worldwide, digital access to the wealth of knowledge currently trapped on millions of specimen sheets. The Apiary workflow provides a web-based interface that allows humans to quickly and accurately extract the textual data from digital specimen images with the assistance of computer processes such as optical character recognition (OCR). Apiary is being developed through a collaborative effort between BRIT staff and the University of North Texas's Texas Center for Digital Knowledge (TxCDK). The TxCDK team is composed of University of North Texas students and research assistants and is lead by Director Dr. Bill Moen. The project is funded through a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Further project details are available at <http://www.apiaryproject.org>

- Initial versions of the Apiary workflow were released in the first half of 2010. These versions provided the core functionality of the workflow framework through the integration of a number of technologies. Various workflow automation components were added including optical character recognition (OCR) using OCRopus, an open-source OCR engine that accelerates and enhances the data extraction process by providing transcription of specimen label text.

- Subsequent versions of Apiary released in the second half of 2010 added a number of features and technologies. The djatoka image server was fully integrated and provided a repository for the large, high resolution images and the capability to allow users to interact with these images through the web browser using tools to pan and zoom the digital specimen images.
- Apiary version 0.4.5 was released in October and incorporated substantial improvements, including the addition of user interfaces to parse specimen metadata at three levels. These three parsing levels allow for very rapid acquisition of critical metadata by individuals with minimal training followed by refinement of the metadata by individuals with more, in-depth training.

Camera Base

Camera Base is a software application developed by Mathias Tobler to provide researchers with a tool that helps them manage, analyze, and share camera trap images from terrestrial mammal inventory and monitoring programs. Camera Base is currently being used by over 50 projects around the world and is the only freely available software for managing and analyzing camera trap data. To view further details about this program, please visit <http://www.atrium-biodiversity.org/tools/camerabase/>

- Tobler released version 1.4 of Camera Base. The new version improves data import from digital cameras, adds support for movie files, and adds new export modules for occupancy analysis and spatial capture-recapture models.

Collaborations and Digitization

- The Digital Flora of New Guinea project received technical support from the BRIT Biodiversity Informatics staff to incorporate an additional 4,500 infertile specimen records and images and over 4,500 fruit specimen records and 9,000 associated images. Support also included the implementation of several new features such as the Atrium GIS server and Atrium weather modules and an update to existing taxonomic tables.
- BRIT received funding from the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) and other donors to support four internships, during the summer of 2010, for digitizing Texas plants in the BRIT Herbarium. NPSOT chapters previously supported the scanning and databasing of one specimen of each plant species found in Gillespie and Denton counties. Support this year was for the digitizing of specimens from the Boerne Chapter (Kendall County), the Trinity Forks Chapter (Montague County), Bob O'Kennon (Wise County), and an anonymous donor.
- BRIT staff worked with several collaborators toward the digitization of plant collections in Texas and Peru. With the staff from the Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones de la Amazonia Peruana and Universidad Nacional de la Amazonia Peruana, the collections from two herbaria in Iquitos, Peru, were being digitized and made available to the public through the Andes-Amazon Atrium. These represent the first Peruvian herbaria to make their data available online.

Andes to Amazon Biodiversity Program (AABP)

The AABP Team consists of BRIT staff working from bases in Peru, Texas, and French Guiana.

Biodiversity Exploration

- Janovec and staff in Peru identified more than 2,500 plant collections to species level through work in various herbaria and in online botanical databases. This work was an essential step in finalizing a number of scientific articles and books about results from botanical research in Peru.
- Five Peruvian students worked as guides and field research associates at BRIT research sites in the Andes-Amazon region of southeastern Peru. They carried out independent thesis projects on topics that included plant-butterfly interactions, ethnobotany, and the diversity, ecology, and conservation of mushrooms, orchids, tree ferns, and flowering plants.



- Janovec and staff in Peru made about 2,000 plant collections in southeastern Peru and made the data and images available in the Atrium Biodiversity Information System at BRIT.

- The Peru staff hosted Clayton Sublett and Andrew "A.J." Horton, two summer interns from Austin College in Sherman, Texas. These students each completed independent investigations on topics that interested them the most.

- During November, Jason Wells and Pedro Centeno of the Peru field team led the design and construction of a 16 x 6-meter greenhouse canopy with the

goal of continuing research and development in local, organic vegetable and fruit production, as well as native plant nursery production. The greenhouse was built in collaboration with the Farro family on their private land in Cusco, Peru.

- Peru staff continued research focused on inventory and monitoring of terrestrial mammal species in southeastern Peru. In collaboration with Russ Van Horn and with leadership from Mathias Tobler, more than 300,000 digital images of animals were captured using about 60 motion sensor camera traps along 20 kilometers of trails in the region. Highlights of this research include the discovery and documentation of Andean Spectacled Bears in the study region.

Collections

- Amanda Neill and Tiana Franklin Rehman of the BRIT Herbarium worked closely with Janovec and Keri Barfield to process more than 2,000 plant specimens exported from Peru to BRIT over the last two years. Once processed, mounted, and scanned at BRIT in Texas, many of the specimens were sent as gifts or loans to taxonomic experts for accurate species identification. For example, Rehman led the team in sending approximately 400 fern specimens to fern expert, Dr. Robbin Moran, at the New York Botanical Garden. His contribution of accurate names for more than 400 fern species has been essential to documenting the flora of BRIT research sites in southeastern Peru.

Collaborations

- During early 2010, Janovec, Tobler, and staff in Peru solidified a new collaboration with the National Institute for Investigations of the Peruvian Amazon (IIAP - Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones de la Amazonia Peruana). This collaboration is exciting because it aims to use BRIT's Atrium Biodiversity Information System to digitize herbaria in Iquitos, Peru, the heart of the Peruvian Amazon.
- The BRIT-AABP team has always made a point of encouraging and supporting collaborative field research in the Andes-Amazon region of Peru. There are several researchers and institutions that we have hosted or assisted through their research. These include: Carol Shearer and her microfungus team (University of Illinois-Champaign), John Clark and his Gesneriaceae Laboratory team (University of Alabama), Steve Newmaster (University of Guelph), Dennis McKenna and Kathleen Harrison (Botanical Dimensions), Cesar Grandes (PALMS project and the UNAP-AMAZ Herbarium of Iquitos), Russ Van Horn (San Diego Zoo), Rainer Bussman (Missouri Botanical Garden), and Eve Emswiller and her student Lauren Moscoe (University of Wisconsin).
- In December, the Cusco conservation team donated 1,365 mounted plant specimens to be integrated with BRIT's Peru field herbarium now housed in Lima, Peru, by Janovec. During December, BRIT received two donations to help support the activities of BRIT in Peru, including the Peru field team (Sally Channon- \$800, Seeds for Life Program- \$300). These donations will help support further biodiversity exploration and organic agriculture research in the region of Quincemil-Camanti, a pristine tropical wilderness area that has received little scientific attention.

Research Presentations and Outreach

- Members of the Biodiversity Informatics team attended 16 conferences during 2010 and gave five oral presentations, 13 demonstrations, and three poster presentations. Information pertaining to Atrium and its functionality was published in two journal articles. The team also presented to various organizations and groups about the advances in Atrium and Apiary.
- Members of the Research department attended 10 conferences and gave over 15 presentations to various organizations and institutions. At several of these conferences, the staff presented results from current research projects. These included the Southwest Association of Naturalists, the Botanical Society of America, Simposio Internacional sobre Sistemas Fluviales y Represas: Biodiversidad, Conservacion e Impactos Ambientales, Flora of Malesiana Symposium in Singapore, the Society for Economic Botany, and many more.



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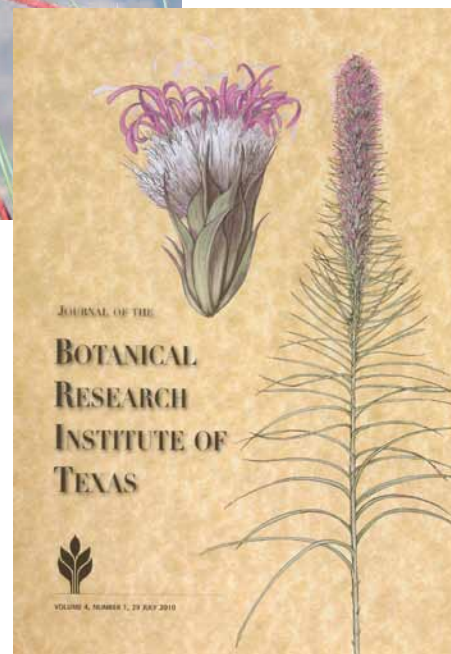
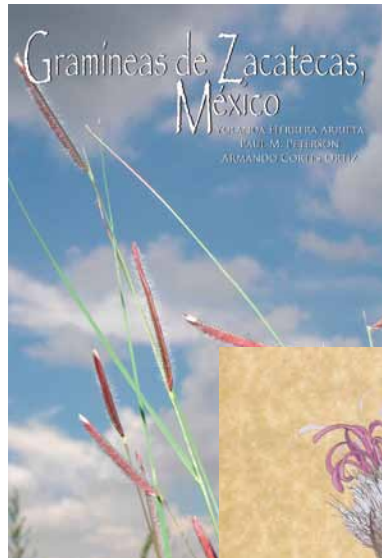
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The BRIT Press—reliably and efficiently—disseminates the latest plant research to a large audience. Plant research is ultimately important to everyone on the planet. Why? Without basic scientific research, there is no information for conservation decisions. This is one way BRIT functions as a conservation organization. The BRIT Press also drives the popular press by providing the scientific basis for writings in nature. Though not visible, BRIT is present in wildflower guides, gardening, natural history, and other lay press publications. Without scientific research, there is no writing in the popular vein—no bridge between what the scientist knows and what the layperson needs to know. This, of course, makes BRIT’s work immediately helpful and useful to society.

- *The Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas* is BRIT’s semi-annual, peer-reviewed scientific publication. It is published and distributed to nearly 900 subscribers worldwide. Volume 4, number 1 was published in July 2010 with 562 pages; volume 4, number 2 was published in November 2010 with 238 pages. The combined 800 pages comprised 86 articles contributed by some 167 authors. Some 162 new plant names and new combinations were published in 2010.
- One new book on the grasses of Zacatecas, Mexico, was published. *Gramíneas de Zacatecas, México* by Yolanda Herrera Arrieta, Paul M. Peterson, and Armando Cortés Ortiz is a 239-page book on all the grasses of that state in Mexico. It includes descriptions, distribution maps, and notes on habitat for this important and pervasive plant group.
- Several BRIT Press monographs were in the editing process and will be published in 2011.
- Barney Lipscomb, head of the press and holder of the prestigious Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany, presented 29 lectures or programs to 1,440 school children and adults.

- The Mary M. Hennen Scientific Publications Endowment fund, which supports the preparation, manufacture, and distribution of botanical research and scientific discoveries, had a slight increase, but overall value decreased due to the weak economy.
- \$125,339 were generated through grants and revenue-generating projects associated with Press-related activities.



Our 122 volunteers worked a total of 5,665.8 hours in 2010. They are an indispensable part of daily activities here at BRIT.

In the herbarium, they mount and file many of our specimens. They provide services to students and teachers. In the library, they catalog and shelve books and journals and archive materials. Volunteers are also always willing to lend a hand with our successful special events and fundraisers. Our hats are off to you.

Special thanks to volunteers who contributed more than 100 hours in 2010:

- Clayton Sublett - 850 hours for AABP
- Darrell Brandon - 401 hours digitizing plant specimens, accessioning specimens, working in Atrium, and assisting with the Andes to Amazon Biodiversity Program, etc.
- Andrew Horton - 400 hours for AABP
- Kay Yount - 336 hours mounting plants and training volunteers
- Joann Karges - 226 hours working in the library cataloging books
- John Kovach - 169 hours working in the library
- Richard Dunn - 162 hours accessioning specimens, mounting plants, and sorting specimens
- Karen Burkett - 160 hours mounting plants and assisting with education programs
- Regina Green - 154 hours accessioning specimens, mounting plants, and sorting specimens
- Martha Mullens - 142 hours mounting plant specimens and accessioning collections
- Troy Mullens - 142 hours mounting plant specimens and accessioning collections
- Laura Negus - 137 hours working in the library
- Diane Cutler - 119 hours mounting plant specimens



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