Summary about the AEOL project:

EOL Background

The Smithsonian Institution, in cooperation with other leading international institutions in the field of Biology and Natural History, has started the Encyclopedia of Life – EOL project. The EOL provides an open access documentation of the planet biodiversity heritage. The Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) is an ambitious, even audacious project to organize and make available via the Internet virtually all information about life present on Earth. At its heart lies a series of Web sites—one for each of the approximately 1.8 million known species—that provide the entry points to this vast array of knowledge. A single webpage for each species is created with links to back up material from the 100-300 million pages of literature on biodiversity that has been digitized by the Biodiversity Heritage Library as a part of EOL. The sites sparkle with text and images that are enticing to everyone, as well as providing deep links to specific data.

The EOL dynamically synthesizes biodiversity knowledge about all known species, including their taxonomy, geographic distribution, collections, genetics, evolutionary history, morphology, behavior, ecological relationships, and importance for human well being, and distribute this information through the Internet. It serves as a primary resource for a wide audience that includes scientists, natural resource managers, conservationists, teachers, and students around the world.

Details of the Project/Objectives:

The Smithsonian Institution (SI), Headquartered in Washington DC, USA, on behalf of The Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) and the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) has collaborated with   The Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA), Headquartered in Alexandria, Egypt on behalf of the Arab Biodiversity Committee (ABC) on the EOL project to promote global dissemination of knowledge about Biodiversity and to make this knowledge available in multiple languages so that it can reach the widest possible audience. The (SI) and (BA) and all their related structures and personnel working on these enterprises aim to develop and share critical biodiversity informatics, information and infrastructure, and to disseminate the information on the web for free.

The Library of Alexandria   مكتبة الإسكندرية

ص.ب ١٣٨ الشاطبي، الإسكندرية ٢١٥٢٦، جمهورية مصر العربية – تليفون: ٤٨٣٩٩٩٩ (٢٠٣)+   فاكس: ٤٨٢٠٤٥٠ (٢٠٣)+
P.O. Box 138, Chatby, Alexandria 21526, EGYPT – Tel. : +(203) 4839999   Fax : +(203) 4820450
E-mail: secretariat@bibalex.org   Website: www.bibalex.org

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) as a leading Arab institution dedicated to the promotion of knowledge in Egypt, the Arab World and worldwide, with a special expertise in Arabic digital matters was chosen to coordinate and to ensure the participation of the Arab institutions in such global initiative.

Through this project, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina is willing to accomplish two goals; first, translating selected parts of the EOL contents into Arabic and making it available on the internet; second, coordinating the Arab scientists' efforts and contributions to the EOL content.

The project would greatly benefit the Arab region as it represents an opportunity for the scientists in these areas to join the enormous international enterprise and to work with top scientists in the field of Biodiversity worldwide. Also, it would not only add to the Arabic content on the internet but it will considerably increase the Arabic Scientific content in the world's published scientific materials.

Objectives:

- Establish and maintain an Arab biodiversity information system to disseminate knowledge of biodiversity to enhance public awareness of biodiversity conservation in the Arab area
- Develop a regional version of EOL for the Arab region
- Generate a million species pages, most of which will be authenticated by experts
- Digitize a large portion of biodiversity literature
- Generate educational materials for students, schools and universities
- Use the EOL resource to generate new synthetic knowledge about the world's biodiversity
- To allow EOL access and use of the information and material in the Arab EOL website/database integrated by the Committee and collaborators on the international EOL portal and to allow Arab EOL to utilize species information developed by EOL and EOL participants in their website/database, subject to the re-use limitations and conditions stipulated by the providers of that information.