
The Linnaeus Link Project

The Linnaeus Link Project is an international collaboration aimed at producing an online union catalogue of material relating to the eighteenth-century Swedish scientist Carl Linnaeus and his students. The Project is supported by a consortium of museums, archives, libraries and other institutions in Europe and the United States, led by the Natural History Museum in London (NHM).

The project is indebted to the Linnean Society of London, which is providing funding for two years from January 2004. This will enable the cataloguing of the extensive Linnaean collection at the NHM, which will form the initial core of the union catalogue, and the technical implementation of the catalogue.

Some records already exist and need only the addition of information specific to that particular copy of the work. Some items have been catalogued, but very briefly, and need more extensive amplification. Many works have been catalogued only on cards, which were not converted into electronic format due to the complexity of the information. These need to be catalogued from scratch. As of August 2004, over 300 records have been either created or upgraded to Project standards.

Once this core catalogue is established, libraries around the world will be able to add their holdings information to the records, providing researchers with a vast warehouse of resources on Linnaeus and his times.

In addition, an ongoing survey of holdings of Linnaean material worldwide is being conducted. Summary survey results and the survey form can be found on the project website. Libraries with Linnaean material are encouraged to complete the survey form so that their records can be added to the union catalogue.

Further information and a list of the project partners is available on the project website at <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/library/linn/>.