

Director, Species Pages Group, Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) Washington, DC

Temporary 1 year term appointment with the opportunity for extensions.

The Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) is a collaborative effort to construct a web site for each of the species now known to be present on Earth, and make them all accessible through a single portal. Over the next five years, the EOL aims to (a) generate a million species pages, each one of which will be verified by an expert, (b) digitize a large portion of biodiversity literature, (c) generate educational materials for students, schools and universities and (d) become a resource to generate new synthetic knowledge about the world's biodiversity.

The EOL brings together several of the world's leading natural history institutions: the Field Museum, the Museum of Comparative Zoology (Harvard University), the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution), Missouri Botanical Garden and the Biodiversity Heritage Library consortium. Other institutions from across the United States and around the world will be invited as collaborators.

The EOL is currently supported by grants from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The Secretariat is hosted by the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution. The Director of the Species Pages Group will work at the Secretariat.

Major responsibilities:

1. Under the supervision of the Executive Director, provides overall leadership and management for the Species Group component of the EOL.
2. Collaborates with the other EOL working groups, especially the Biodiversity Informatics Group, to design and improve the species pages and engage the scientific community and general public to supply information for the pages.

3. In cooperation with the Biodiversity Synthesis Group, plans and implements international meetings to help the scientific community synthesize plans for preparing species pages for particular taxonomic groups or geographical regions.
4. Works with national and international scientific societies and other organizations to identify and recruit individuals to serve as the curators (authenticators) of information on the EOL species pages.
5. Represents the EOL and its partners as a principal scientific, technical, and programmatic expert at national and international meetings, workshops, conferences, and presentations.

Qualifications:

Graduate (PhD) degree in biological sciences

Excellent knowledge of taxonomy and of national and international taxonomic societies

Excellent interpersonal and networking skills

Good understanding of biodiversity informatics

Experience working across national boundaries

Must be fluent in written and spoken English; working knowledge of at least one other language desirable

For additional information on the Encyclopedia of Life, visit the website at www.eol.org or contact the EOL Secretariat at secretariat@eol.org.

This position is designated Non-Sensitive and will require a National Agency Check and Inquiry (NACI) upon entrance on duty.

This position is supported by a grant. The incumbent is eligible for enrollment in the Smithsonian trust benefit program.

To Apply:

E-mail your CV and cover letter to Thomas Lawrence at lawrencet@si.edu.
Mt Lawrence can be reached at 202-633-6319

EOL and the Smithsonian Institution are Equal Opportunity Employers