

# Iris Encyclopedia Report, Fall 2017

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## Relationship of Library to the Encyclopedia

I can say unequivocally that the Iris Encyclopedia is the most complete reference that AIS has. But that does not mean that it is finished or even complete in what it attempts to do. For example it is the only checklist that contains information from all the Registrations and Records from the first recorded irises to the present. The next closest reference is the Iris Register that begins with 1950 Irises. But just because the Encyclopedia contains the 1939 and 1949 checklists does not mean all the potential information has been integrated into it. The 1939 checklist gave references to catalogs instead of descriptions. The Encyclopedia has been adding catalogs to the online library so that descriptions can be exerted and added to each cultivars page. We have almost 1,500 catalogs in the library but not all descriptions from these have been exerted as yet to the Encyclopedia. Obviously as the Catalog library grows the Encyclopedia descriptions will become richer in content.

## Images and the Encyclopedia

Despite the heroic efforts of Terry Laurin, who has facilitated the addition of thousands of images each month, the Encyclopedia still has about 50-60% of its entries without images. Of course some of the ancient Irises may never have images. But surprisingly many of the Irises that had been considered lost from commerce and no longer extant have been found and images taken. But thanks to HIPS much progress is being made with old irises.

Perhaps more discouraging is the fact that we are not getting images of 100% of newly minted Irises. It appears that only about 40% of newly registered Irises have images. Indeed I was told by one hybridizer that he did not have images because the plants he registered did not yet exist. He simply described what he was working toward and registered the name with a description reflecting what he wanted. I think these facts make a good case for requiring images with registration. Surely with today's modern technology we could work out a way of creating this requirement without an undue burden on the registrar. I do not know of any registration authorities for other types of plants that do not have this requirement. Hopefully there are some so that we would not be the last registration authority to make this requirement. Therefore I make the motion **that AIS require images with registration.**

## Continued Evolution of Encyclopedia

This summer was a traumatic time for the Encyclopedia. The wiki program called TWiki was no longer being supported, having gone out of business, and a new program called FosWiki replaced it. FosWiki is somewhat more sophisticated and is more efficient and therefore faster. But sophistication also adds complexity and some of the bugs in the new system are still being worked out. For example the thumbnails are now all jammed up with no space in between much like images on Google Images. While I prefer having some space between each perhaps others may like them this way. I would like to hear the board's input. I have heard from many members that they had trouble copying pictures for sales. The new program offers a that option but in a different way by going through attachments rather than directly from the thumbnails. If you have issues with the new program please inform me so that we can see what can be done.

John Black has been heroically bringing the cultivar pages up to the newer format. We are talking about at least 30,000 pages with images. I believe John is about 2/3 the way finished. Thank you John.