



POLAR LIBRARIES BULLETIN

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PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE IN THE NW TERRITORIES

Sandy MacDonald, Territorial Librarian

The Northwest Territories (NWT) is the most populated of Canada's three territories and is located north of the 60th parallel. The population of the NWT is approximately 42,000, and almost half of them reside in the capital, Yellowknife. The remainder of the population is spread over 1.2 million square miles in 30 communities. Approximately 51% of the population is aboriginal. As in Alaska, there are few all weather roads and the best way to get from one community to another is by airplane. Of the 30 communities, nine have public libraries.

Public library services are offered through a partnership between the Territorial Government and participating municipalities. NWT Public Library Services (PLS) is a unit within the Department of Education, Culture & Employment, and coordinates the territorial input to this partnership. The PLS consists of a headquarters located in Hay River and public libraries in nine communities representing 70% of the NWT population.

The mandate of the Northwest Ter-

ritories Public Library Services is to provide all residents of the territories with equitable access to quality library services for their educational, cultural and recreational needs.

The headquarters staff consists of the Territorial Librarian; a library technician whose principal roles are collection development, cataloguing and system administration; an order clerk who also does copy cataloguing; a library clerk responsible for interlibrary loans, books by mail and Children's Book Week; a shipping clerk responsible for material rotations and an administrative secretary, responsible for administrative support, finance and payroll.

The headquarters purchases the majority of material for eight of the libraries--the exception being the Yellowknife Public Library that has its own book budget. Only a small portion of the material goes to the libraries for permanent retention. The bulk of it is held at headquarters and sent to the libraries on a rotational basis. Interlibrary loan requests, for material from outside the NWT, are funneled through the headquarters.

The PLS provides the automated library system for all public libraries and the Legislative Library. It provides collection development and technical services for all public libraries except Yellowknife Public Library. Service delivery is provided to residents in communities without libraries through access to the PLS web page, the online catalogue, (195,000 records) borrower by mail services and Virtual Libraries in 17 communities. Virtual Libraries consist of two computer workstations, a printer, a deposit collection of 235 titles plus 2 carrels, 2 chairs and a bookshelf.

The territorial and municipal governments jointly provide funding for the public library system. Generally, the municipality provides, maintains and equips the library facility while the Government of the Northwest Territories, through contribution agreements, covers some staff costs. All communities contribute additional funds to ensure adequate staffing. The GNWT provides the funding for materials and office supplies and technical services for all libraries except

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From the Chair

Declining library budgets have been a problem for many years, with no simple solution in sight. Not only is it difficult to continue to buy all the existing journals in hard copy but the users increasingly want access to all their favourite journals electronically, which often further increases costs. How many of you have not cursed the big publishers for the exorbitant subscription demands that they make?

Under such circumstances one might suppose that the latest initiative, the Public Library of Science - led by Harold Varmus and other eminent academics in the US - would be most welcome. Here is a proposal that apparently suggests a way to slash library costs and also provide an almost unimaginably rapid turnaround in reviewing and publishing manuscripts. The key elements of this enterprise are that the service will be free at point of use, it will only be available over the Internet, that papers can be peer reviewed and published within six weeks of submission (how are they going to achieve this target?) and that all the costs will

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Polar Libraries Bulletin

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Formerly entitled *Northern Libraries Bulletin*, this *Bulletin* reflects the name change of the Northern Libraries Colloquy to Polar Libraries Colloquy which was approved at the June 1988 biennial meeting.

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(NW Territories—Cont. from pg. 1)

Yellowknife Public Library. Headquarters also maintains the automated library system used by all public libraries and the Legislative Library.

A couple of exciting new projects are underway within the library world in the NWT. In January of 2003, Public Library Services signed a consortium agreement with Aurora College; the Legislative Library and Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. The consortium is a cooperative venture linking the major libraries in the NWT in the development of information technology infrastructure.

The second exciting project is the decision of the Consortium to combine the databases of all of these libraries in a new Integrated Library System. In August of this year the Consortium signed a contract with Sirsi to purchase the "Unicorn" automated system. The new system is scheduled to go live in October 2004. These projects probably sound rather familiar to those of you from the Jeanne area. ▲

(Chair—Continued from pg. 2)

be borne by the authors.

The basic tenet here is to free the scientific community and its librarians of the increasing demands of publishers

(especially several well known multinational ones) for profit through subscriptions. Yet let us be clear that this is not a market approach, as these new publishers still want all their costs met before the market has determined the usefulness of the paper! The organisers have several million dollars as an establishment grant to prove both the concept and its acceptability.

Laudable objectives and there has, of course, been an enormous flurry of initial interest in www.publiclibraryofscience.org. The way forward may not, however, be as simple as Varmus and others assume. The proposal that all costs are met by the "page charges" paid by the author may seem intuitive. After all, the author wants to be published so why not get him to pay for it? In the USA page charges have been a key part of the income stream of most major journals for a long time, and the costs associated with them are asked for and provided through research grants.

This is not so for the rest of the world where funds for page charges are rarely provided. So where would the extra money come from for the non-US authors? From the savings in the library budget of course, but anyone who knows anything about bureaucratic systems realises now what a major mountain has to be climbed in moving money from one jurisdiction to another. And what would be the role of librarians anyway if all journals were provided free at point of use to everyone?

Let me suggest that it could also be intuitive that the user rather than the supplier should be expected to pay. So that a universal system based on payment for access per paper would, in free market terms, seem to be more acceptable. Is that not the way the present system is developing? Then the more popular papers published, the greater the earnings for a publisher. But is that right? Should popular papers earn more money? At present they earn more citations and those influence both grants and career progression of the author, so why not? As to how you tell in advance what will be a popular paper as an editor and author I have no idea!

There are many other models that could be considered, not least an extension of the publishing activities of learned societies (who have high standards and cheap journals) or journals as registered charities. I think this new US model is unlikely to sweep the market in the cohort term, not least because authors are largely conservative in their choice of journals and funding will be a major problem for everyone except Americans. But perhaps the most important point about the initiative is that it should suggest to those commercial publishers who currently control much of the market that some of their profits may yet be taken away by those with enthusiasm who want to see a better deal for science, scientists and librarians. ▲

David Walton
British Antarctic Survey

people

Eric Tull retired in June 2003 from his position as Northern Studies Librarian and Public Services Systems Librarian at the University of Calgary.

As the librarian responsible for the Arctic Institute of North America Collection since 1990, Eric took an active role in the Polar Libraries Colloquy. In 1994 he created both the Polar Libraries Gopher (the forerunner of the Polar Web) and the Colloquy's e-mail list POLLIB-L.

Eric continues to do some work for the University of Calgary Library on a contract basis, and is still reachable at tull@ucalgary.ca. His Northern Studies Librarian duties have been assumed on an interim basis by Sandra Lipton (lipton@ucalgary.ca).

With more free time, Eric and his wife, Brooke Clibbon, are planning to do even more traveling and bird-watching. ▲

*Ross Goodwin
Arctic Institute of North
America*

COLLOQUY HEARS FROM ERIC TULL

One of my tasks when I joined the University of Calgary Library in 1990 was to be in charge of the Arctic Institute Collection. I served in that role until my retirement this summer. Working with the collection and with the staff and researchers of the Arctic Institute has been one of the joys of my librarian career.

Early on I became involved with electronic issues and libraries, and looked for ways that the new electronic tools could be of benefit to the polar library community. I was active in setting up and running pollib-l, the listserv that allows polar librarians to communicate with everyone in the polar library community. That continues to be active today, as is a second listsev which serves the PLC Steering Committee.

A second electronic initiative I was involved with was the setting up of the polar gopher, a menuing system that would allow anyone on the internet to connect to a number of polar resources. That initiative was quickly overtaken by the world wide web, and led to the development of the Polar Web.

In recent years, I regret that I have been less active in the polar information initiatives, as I became increasingly more involved with the University of Calgary Library's moves toward integration of their electronic information resources. I want to say a little about this because I feel it is the way libraries will increasingly be moving forward.

Calgary's move to electronic access has been rapid and massive. We now provide our users with access to some 300 electronic databases and more than 15,000 journals. This access is authenticated and proxied so that students and faculty can access these projects from anywhere at any time. We have just implemented link server software that links between the databases and the e-journals to provide the most appropriate connections:

- 1) to electronic full-text if we have it,
- 2) to the library catalogue if we have the article in paper, or
- 3) to document delivery if we do not hold the article.

These electronic efforts have benefited everyone at the University of Calgary, including our polar researchers. A researcher could, for example, connect to our system from any internet access point around the world, identify him/herself as part of the University of Calgary community, search the database Arctic and Antarctic Regions, link from a desired citation to our link server to see if we have the journal available electronically, and download the full-text article if it is shown to be available.

It is an exciting time in libraries and I have had a lot of fun being a part of it. I wish the Polar Libraries Colloquy every success in their future activities. ▲

*C. Eric Tull
University of Calgary Library*

Ottawa Colloquy 2004

Polar Research: Let Us Share: Amiqqaaluta, the 20th Polar Libraries Colloquy, will be held in Ottawa, Canada from June 7 to 11, 2004. The theme of the conference is Sharing Knowledge about Polar Research. We are all knowledgeable in our areas of expertise. Presenting that knowledge to our colleagues may give them important information that could make all the difference to their clients. Let's share!

Ottawa, the capital of Canada, is known for its green spaces, rivers, and the Rideau Canal. The city is full of wonderful museums and great restaurants.

The conference will be held at the downtown Ottawa Marriott, where rooms have been reserved for delegates at a special conference rate. The conference web site <http://www.plc2004.org> contains information about getting to Ottawa, hotel rates, how to reserve a room, the conference program, the registration form, and instructions on submitting proposals for papers or posters. The site also includes information about important deadlines:

- * Proposals for papers and posters should be submitted by February 15.

- * Delegates are asked to register no later than April 30.

- * Delegates can apply for funding to attend the conference. For more information, see the section *Financial Assistance* on the conference web site. The deadline for application for a Hubert Wenger award is February 29.

A pre-conference excursion to Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut, Canada's newest Arctic territory, has been planned for June 3 to June 6. The Nunavut Library Associa-

tion has prepared a wonderful program for those participating in this event. For more information on this trip, visit the section Pre-conference Excursion on the conference web site.

A number of special events have been scheduled during the week of the conference. A visit to the Parliament of Canada and a guided tour of the city have been arranged. The National Library of Canada will be hosting a presentation on its collections, followed by a wine and cheese reception.

Delegates have been invited to a special tour of the new National Archives building in Gatineau, Quebec. A guided visit of the new First People's Hall at the spectacular Canadian Museum of Civilization has also been arranged.

For more information about the 20th Polar Libraries Colloquy, contact Julia Finn. ▲

PLC IN HOBART

The 2004 IAMS LIC/PLC Conference will be held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, September 5-9, 2004. One day of the conference will be devoted to Polar Libraries. For more information, check www.iamslc.org ▲

Julia Finn
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NEWS FROM BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC REGION

The Barents Euro-Arctic Region, Europe's largest region for interregional cooperation, includes the northernmost parts of Sweden, Norway, Finland and Northwest Russia.



BARENTS INFORMATION SERVICE-- All that you ever wanted to know about Barents

European Union Kolartec Interreg program is funding Barents Information Service project. The goal is to create an easy to use www-portal for information on the Barents region and also increase general knowledge of the Barents region internationally. The portal is to be on-line by spring 2004.

The end product will be a general portal site for Barents information and a comprehensive directory of other Barents web sites. Information will be categorized thematically and geographically with a map interface. The portal will become a valuable resource for anyone interested in the Barents, from the region's policy-makers to students, researchers and tourists.

The content of the portal will include for example information on experts and expert organizations, dedicated search engine to Barents sites, news, events calendar, maps and links to map sources, common information about Barents Region, statistics and links to other Barents sites reviewed for content.

More information on the portal is available at: <http://www.barentsinfo.org> ▲

*Liisa Kurppa
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DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH--

News from the Northernmost Library Outpost

There is a great forthcoming event I'm really looking forward to - the telecommunication revolution that is taking place in January 2004 in Longyearbyen. Then the present satellite connection will be replaced with fibre optic undersea cables between Andøya (mainland Norway) and Longyearbyen (the Svalbard archipelago). There are two cables about two km away from each other, ploughed into the sea bottom (1670 m at the deepest), both about 1300 km long.

At 78° North latitude Longyearbyen is ideally situated for collecting data from polar orbiting satellites. The main task for the new, faster telecommunication system has therefore been to provide real-time, reliable broadband transmission of data to the space industry in Longyearbyen. The polar orbiting satellites are owned by the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (IPO/NOAA). These agencies are also funding the 40 mill USD cables. The Norwegian Space Centre (NSC) is in charge of this operation and Tyco Telecommunications has carried out the undersea operations. Telenor will run and maintain the cables.

Initially, the system will be configured with 40 Gb/s of transmission capacity. However, the system design will enable NSC to upgrade transmission capacity to over 1280 Gb/s.

With the forthcoming cables, downloading online documents will be a pleasure for everyone in Longyearbyen, not only the space industry. As the UNIS library is online all the time with the local BIBSYS database situated in Trondheim (mainland Norway) and other databases located even further away, the telecommunication revolution will make the working day a lot easier. The present satellite connection has low transmission capacity and therefore responding time is immensely slow in all databases. I usually run searches in several databases simultaneously so that I don't waste too much time waiting for replies.

The UNIS library patrons have access to many full text journals, and more will hopefully come. At present, however, the large PDF files are less efficient to use--because of the low transmission capacity--than the printed papers. Now that we get faster access I hope to be able to access many more digital documents.

At Polar Library Colloquies many initiatives to digitise polar documents as a supplement to printed texts or images have been presented. With limited space and limited library budget and a forthcoming faster access to online documents, I do hope the future will bring many more digital initiatives. UNIS also has scientists urging to have the old polar-related literature available in a digital format so that it can be used via a laptop PC in

the field, on research vessels etc. Therefore, if you know about more initiatives to digitise polar literature within geosciences, life sciences and technology, please let me know!

More information about the fibre cables to Longyearbyen:

http://www.tyco.com/tyco/press_release_detail.asp?prid=622
(in English)

<http://www.romsenter.no/artikkelb.cfm?aid=9&bid=10&oid=205>
(in Norwegian)

http://www.esa.int/export/esaCP/SEMBNO0P4HD_Norway_0.html
(in Norwegian) ▲

*Berit Jakobsen
University Courses on
Svalbard*

Magnetic poles can flip flop

from north to south and back again. The Earth's poles have done this repeatedly throughout history, and 500,000 years ago, the south magnetic pole was at the North Pole. It is thought that this occurs when the circulation of liquid nickel/iron in the Earth's outer core is disrupted and then reestablishes itself in the opposite direction. It is not known what causes these disruptions.

http://www.sciencedaily.com/encyclopedia/North_Pole ▲

UPDATING THE POLAR AND COLD REGION LIBRARIES DIRECTORY

Liisa Kurppa, editor of the POLARWEB site at the Arctic Centre, has announced that she and her staff are willing to accept updates to the library listings in the *POLAR AND COLD REGION LIBRARIES DIRECTORY*, which was published by the Polar Libraries Colloquy in 1994.

To view your library's listing, go to the POLARWEB at <http://arktinen.urova.fi/polarweb>

From there, select your country and find your library's listing. If you are in a polar library which does not have a listing, please contribute one!

Liisa Kurppa can be contacted at: liisa.kurppa@urova.fi

AND, COLLOQUY THANKS LIISA FOR MAINTAINING THIS VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR US!

THE ELUSIVE KEPHART-COOK CONNECTION: DOES IT EXIST?

Dennis Stephens, Rasmuson Library, University
of Alaska Fairbanks dennis.stephens@uaf.edu

Colloquy participants at Reykjavik 1998 and Winnipeg 2000 may remember papers on Dr. Frederick A. Cook (1865-1940) and his claims of first ascent on Mt. McKinley in 1906 and first to the North Pole in 1908, and Horace Kephart (1862-1931), librarian, outdoor writer, and the major figure in the establishment of Great

Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina/Tennessee.

In the latter paper I mentioned my keen interest in determining whether a link existed between the two, such as correspondence or a mention one of the other in diaries or other documents. Given their common interests

in the outdoors, such as camping gear technology and an abiding interest in lightweight equipment for exploration, such a link would not be unthinkable. However, no such link has yet come to light for this researcher following further sabbatical research at West-

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Kephart-Cook—Cont. from page 8

ern Carolina University Library and a private archives in South Carolina, and the St. Louis Mercantile Library, all repositories of Kephartiana. Several Colloquy members provided much appreciated additional clues which await my retirement for full investigation.

Additional clues are warmly welcomed. Perhaps, somewhere, there's a letter from Cook to Kephart, dated after Cook's 1906 Mt. McKinley expedition, in which Cook wrote something like, "Kep,

I'm sure you've heard about my Alaska trip, it's been in all the newspapers. You know I claimed the first ascent of Mt. McKinley, and I must resolutely hold to that claim, in order to raise funds for my North Pole attempt. But Kep, it's weighing on my soul. I have to tell someone, so I'm going to tell you now, and trust you wholly to keep the confidence, for my sake and that of my long-suffering family: I didn't actually achieve the top of that beautiful peak, though we came close, oh so close...."

In the meantime, a Kephart paper was presented at a conference in

Missoula, Montana, and a one-act play for 26 voices, based on Kephart's 1890 Harper's Weekly and Library Journal article "Being a Librarian," was produced in Anchorage, Missoula, and Fairbanks, with its East Coast premiere at Cornell University directed by fellow Kephart pilgrim Janet McCue, director of Cornell's Mann Library.

The play's cast is basically recruited from the audience, and parts are read from scripts. Invitations are welcomed for presentations of the play at conferences and other venues. ▲

NUNAVIK BIBLIOGRAPHY NOW AVAILABLE

The *Nunavik Bibliography* is a cooperative long-term project to build a comprehensive bibliographic database about Nunavik. The database covers Nunavik (Quebec north of 55°), the nearby Nunavut islands including the Belcher Islands, Labrador north of 56°, and adjacent marine areas. The aim is to capture all publications, both current and historical, in any language, and in all fields of knowledge.

The *Nunavik Bibliography* is a joint project of Makivik Corporation, the Office of the Chief Federal Negotiator for Nunavik (Indian and North-

ern Affairs Canada), the Canadian Circumpolar Institute (University of Alberta) and the Arctic Institute of North America (University of Calgary). Additional partners are welcome.

At present, the *Nunavik Bibliography* describes 2000 publications. Although far from comprehensive, it is being launched at this early stage to improve the dissemination of information about Nunavik. The collaborators in this project will seek partnerships with other groups in Canada with the objective of making the *Nunavik Bibliography* as comprehensive as

possible. To obtain more information, or to provide comments, please contact Elaine Maloney (elaine.maloney@ualberta.ca).

The *Nunavik Bibliography* is available at <http://136.159.147.171/nunavik> ▲

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLUEBOOKS NOW ONLINE

The University of Manitoba's Arctic Blue Books web site has been considerably enhanced by the addition of an online version. The more than 6000 pages of the Blue Books were scanned and mounted with the support of The Winnipeg Foundation. The Blue Books were British Parliamentary Papers relating to Arctic Exploration and they are a major resource for Arctic studies.

Those of you who were at the Col-

loquy in Winnipeg will remember Skip Koolage's presentation on the Blue Books Project and Dr Andrew Taylor's index.

The URL is <http://www.umanitoba.ca/libraries/units/archives/arcticbb/index.shtml>

The URL of The Winnipeg Foundation is <http://www.wpgfdn.org> ▲

*Anne Morton
Hudson's Bay Co. Archives*

AUSTRIAN POLAR EXPLORATION

about the "History of the Austrian Polar Exploration". Right in time for the 130th anniversary of the discovery of Franz Josef Land. You may visit my webpage www.arctic.at for a short preview. (click "History") The price is 60 USD (incl. the expensive shipping). If you are interested please let me know. Email: office@arctic.at ▲

Hermann F. Koerbel



NORWAY - A CONSISTENT POLAR NATION? BY SUSAN BARR

One of the main national images in Norway is the contention that the country is a Polar Nation. This feeling was awoken with the heroic exploits of Fridtjof Nansen and Otto Sverdrup at the end of the 19th century, was continued through the surge of national feeling as Norway became independent of the Swedish King in 1905, and was further strengthened as Roald Amundsen showed the world what Norwegians could attain in the polar areas. Today the glories of the Heroic Age in the Arctic and Antarctic are continually celebrated with new, modern expeditions, books, films and exhibitions - all confirming the fact of Polar Nation status.

The author uses a detailed account of the 90-year history of the Norwegian Polar Institute in the Oslo area as a backdrop to illuminate the question as to whether Norway's own polar nation image has rested more on historical memories than on a conscious and consistent policy, including steady support for its central polar research and mapping agency.



Throughout most of the 20th cen-

tury the Norwegian Polar Institute was involved in the majority of Norwegian polar activities and policies. This account therefore covers a broad geographical area - from Svalbard, Jan Mayen, Greenland and Franz Josef Land, to the Antarctic.

Susan Barr has worked with polar history and cultural heritage conservation in the Norwegian polar areas for the past 24 years, including 16 years at the Norwegian Polar Institute.

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