

POLAR LIBRARIES BULLETIN

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The Arctic Health Website: Lessons Learned & Future Directions

Update

In 2002, we presented information on plans for the Circumpolar Health Information Center. Now, almost two years later, those plans have been realized in the Arctic Health website (www.arctichealth.org). The website is a portal to information about human and environmental health in the Arctic. Organized around themes such as traditional healing, telehealth / telemedicine, and health topics important to Alaska Natives and other residents of the circumpolar north, the website provides information from a distinctly

Alaskan / Arctic perspective. Content is drawn from a wide range of local, state, national, and international agencies as well as professional societies, universities, Alaska Native health corporations, and recognized subject

matter experts. Most important, there is an active Users Council whose members help identify and develop content and ensure the website is responsive to the health information needs of users.

The website is a collaboration among National Library of Medicine (NLM) Specialized Information Services (SIS), University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) Health Sciences Information Service (HSIS), and UAA Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies

future plans for sites targeting Hispanic American Health, African American Health, and Pacific Islander Health.

The "Library" section of the website includes a database of publications, government reports, gray literature, and non-print media. Many of the database records will link to full-text versions of the documents which users will find especially valuable given how difficult it is to locate some of these more esoteric ma-

terials. Special interest collections from distinguished researchers and health care providers will be highlighted resources. For example, the bibliography *Health*

of the Inuit of North America (Fortune et al., 1993) is the foundation of the database. Materials from the National Science Foundation's *Social Transition in*



(ICHS). It is the first in a series of websites planned by NLM to meet the health information needs of special populations. Other sites under development focus on Asian American Health and American Indian Health, with fu-

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From the Chair

I recently received a letter from Lars Kullerud, Director of the University of the Arctic, asking if there was a way of identifying areas of cooperation between the University and the Colloquy.

For those of you who have not caught up with The University of the Arctic, it is a new and rapidly developing cooperative network of northern universities, colleges and other organisations committed to higher education and research. Growing out of the very successful activities of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, a suggestion went to the Arctic Council in 1997 proposing the idea of a university to help both in recognising the needs of those in the Arctic as well as underlining

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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.

Editors: Nancy Lesh and Cathie Innes-Taylor
Production Editor: Loretta Andress

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Please send news items to either Nancy Lesh or Cathie Innes-Taylor, c/o UAA Consortium Library, 3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508.

Telephone: Lesh: (907) 786-1877; Innes-Taylor: (907) 786-1875

Email: Lesh: afnll@uaa.alaska.edu

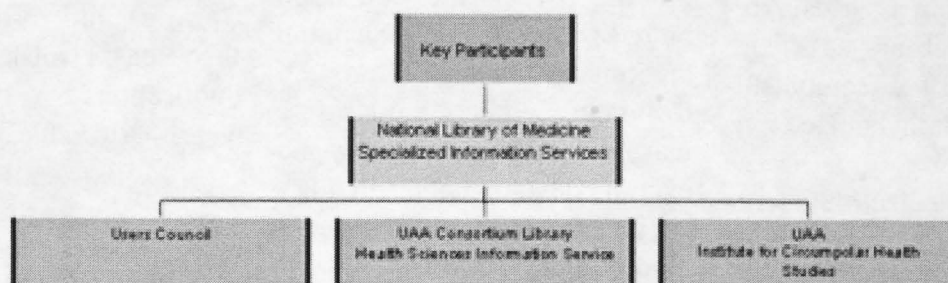
Innes-Taylor: ancei@uaa.alaska.edu

PLC Listserve: POLLIB-L

the North project will be added next.

Lessons Learned

Now that the Arctic Health website is up and running, we can take a step back and think about some of the lessons learned over the last couple of years. One revelation has been just how many people it takes to build and maintain the website. On the NLM SIS side of the equation there is a project officer who provides active project oversight, a high level project champion, and, of course, the fiscal office staff. UAA staff involved include the two co-Principal Investigators from the HSIS/Consortium Library and the ICHS and a Research Associate/ Librarian from ICHS, all of whom spend considerable time in content development, website design, usability testing, and marketing. Other Consortium Library staff contribute to different aspects of the website, including server and software support, materials selection, document scanning and indexing, and budget tracking.



As a collaboration between NLM and UAA, and with the active involvement of an attentive and vocal Users Council, another factor we have learned to incorporate into the mix is the sometimes surprising amount of time required to complete some initiatives. Matters ranging from the complex (website design and layout, collection development policy, metadata descriptors) to the relatively mundane (poster colors, search box placement) can take from several weeks to months to complete. But the input and guidance provided by the diverse group that comprises project staff and Users Council are invaluable, and the time invested in the process clearly strengthens the website.

Finally, over the course of the last two years, objectives for the Arctic Health website have continued to evolve. What has emerged is the need to focus on a content/collection development approach that sets the website apart from other comparable efforts. This value-add model is based on our ability, with the help of the Users Council, to identify and provide access to little known, but important, materials (e.g., gray literature) that would otherwise be unavailable to most users.

References

Murray, K., G. Dutcher, J. Iliff, and S. Elliott. "Circumpolar Health Information Center: The First Year and Hopes for the Future." In: *Poles Apart, Poles On-line*. Proceedings of the 19th Polar Libraries Colloquy, edited by K. Caning and V.S. Jakobsen. Danish Polar Center Publication No. 10 Copenhagen, Danish Polar Center; 2002:35-41.

Keywords: arctic, circumpolar, databases, health, libraries, usability testing, websites ◆

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University of Alaska Anchorage

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(From the Chair--Cont. from pg. 2)

the circumpolar integrity of modern developments.

With the launch of their strategic plan in 2003 the University has embarked on a series of major initiatives, one of which is creating shared knowledge.

Thorsteinn Hallgrímsson, from the University Library of Iceland, has recently put forward a proposal for creating a Virtual Arctic Research Library as a core resource for all the faculty, students and researchers. He envisions this not simply as an access route to existing electronic journals but as an archival resource for both published and unpublished information. The building

of these virtual collections, housed on many servers but with an interoperability framework that makes access transparent to the user, needs the active and enthusiastic participation of many institutions and especially those represented in the Polar Libraries Colloquy.

The University wants to establish a consortium to begin this work: defining the technical basis for the system, assessing the costs, beginning to define the acquisition policies, and organising an initial meeting to launch the project. Colloquy members must surely play a crucial part in this new and exciting development, and it is a subject I hope we can discuss more fully in Ottawa. ♦

David Walton

2002 Colloquy Proceedings Still Available

Vibeke Sloth Jakobsen reports that she still has some copies left of the 2002 Colloquy Proceedings — POLES APART - POLES ON-LINE, Proceedings of the 19th Polar Libraries Colloquy, 17-21 June 2002, Copenhagen. Edited by Kirsten Caning and Vibeke Sloth Jakobsen. Danish Polar Center Publications No. 10, 2002. 179 pages. Price 200 DKK

Order from the Danish Polar Center's polarshop: <http://www.polarshop.dk> ♦

Dennis Stephens Retires

Long time Colloquy member and attendee at several of our biennial gatherings, Dennis Stephens retired from the Rasmuson Library at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in January to begin his next great adventure. Dennis served on the Steering Committee from 2000-2002. He is not retiring from the PLC, however. We will all still be able to enjoy his piping, exquisite taste in whiskey, good cheer, and most of all the gift of his friendship. Next sighting will be Ottawa, where we hope he brings his bagpipes. ♦

A Little Bit of Our History

Dennis Stephens compiled a list of the meetings of the Polar Libraries Colloquy organization, which he then had vetted by long time member Martha Andrews. The names of the cities we have met in will surely bring back memories to us all.

As Northern Libraries Colloquy:

1st	1971	Edmonton
2d	1972	Hanover (CRREL)
3d	1973	Cambridge
4th	1974	Montreal
5th	1975	Rovaniemi
6th	1976	Fairbanks
7th	1978	Paris
8th	1980	Edmonton/ Whitehorse
9th	1982	Tromsø
10th	1984	St. Johns

11th	1986	Lulea
12th	1988	Boulder

As Polar Libraries Colloquy:

13th	1980	Rovaniemi
14th	1992	Columbus
15th	1994	Cambridge
16th	1996	Anchorage
17th	1998	Reykjavik
18th	2000	Winnipeg
19th	2002	Copenhagen
20th	2004	Ottawa ♦

book review

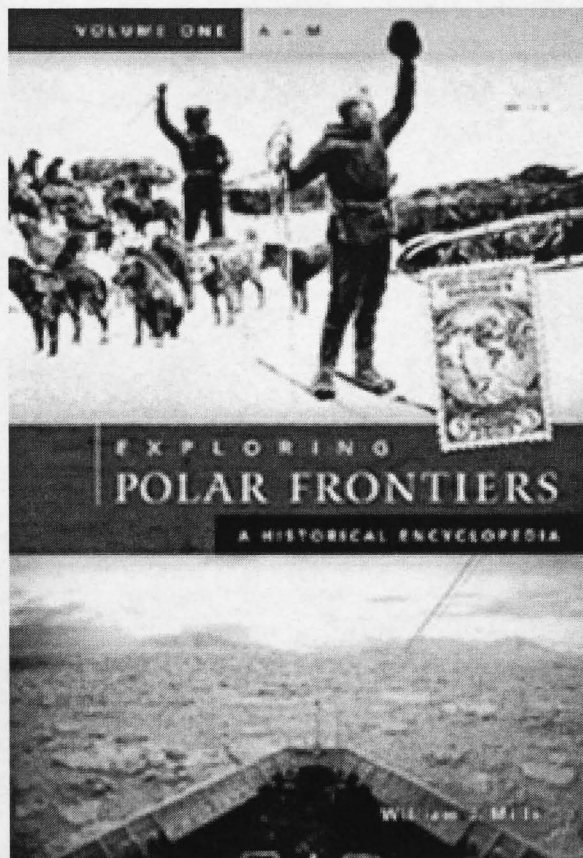
EXPLORING POLAR FRONTIERS: A HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

By William James Mills
ABC-Clio, Publisher. 2003. In two volumes, 797 pages.

From Cambridge University's Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) has emerged another gem of the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Librarian and Keeper of Collections William J. Mills has produced a two volume encyclopedia, complementing two previous significant SPRI works.

Robert K. Headland's *CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF ANTARCTIC EXPEDITIONS AND RELATED HISTORICAL EVENTS* (1989) and Clive A. Holland's *ARCTIC EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT* (1994) are thorough and classic. Mills describes some of these explorers and the places they ventured. Although not as exhaustive as the biographical section envisioned in V. Steffanson's unpublished *ENCYCLOPEDIA ARCTICA*, Mills' description of the explorers is succinct. Illustrations of historic maps, reproductions of drawings from original exploration literature, and photographs provide

visual variety. The twenty clear, uncluttered maps clearly identify locations in the many islands of the Canadian High Arctic, the vast Antarctic Peninsula, and other polar regions. Chronologies, a glossary, a selective bibliography and thorough index are easy to use.



The layout of numerous tables in this encyclopedia helps us to think about polar exploration in different ways. For example, the "Polar Timeline: A Chronological Listing of Polar Expeditions by Region" (pp. 731-739) shows who was exploring in five regions

of the Arctic (Arctic Ocean, Greenland, North America, Russian Arctic, Svalbard and Jan Mayen) and two Antarctic regions (Southern Ocean and islands, Antarctica proper) at a particular point in time and through time. One can then trace and compare particular individuals, nationalities and scientific expeditions through these periods.

The substance of these volumes is the descriptions of the explorers and adventurers and where they ventured. Who were they? Why did they venture where they did? What motivated them? Who sponsored them? Was nationalism a significant force? How did they build upon what was previously known? What is the significance of their ventures? Part of the ABC-Clio reference series, this encyclopedia uniquely brings together Arctic and Antarctic information, and represents well the significant effort of its author, William

J. Mills. The encyclopedia received the Alaska Library Association's 2004 Alaskana Award. ♦

*Ron Inouye
Rasmuson Library*

WILLIAM MILLS WINS 2004 ALASKANA AWARD

William James Mills, Librarian and Keeper of Collections, Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) at Cambridge University, Cambridge, England, was awarded the 2004 Alaskana Award by the Alaska Library Association at their conference in Fairbanks, Alaska in March, 2004. The award to Mills was for his book *EXPLORING POLAR FRONTIERS: A HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA*, published by ABC-CLIO in 2003.

The Alaskana Award honors outstanding adult fiction and nonfiction works about Alaska published in any format which make a significant contribution to the understanding of Alaska, exhibits originality, depth of research and knowledge of Alaska, and is published in the year preceding the conference at which it is awarded. The author is not required to be an Alaskan resident. The scope of Mills' book is obviously wider than Alaska, but covers the exploration efforts in the Arctic, and Alaska...all of which affected the development of the state.

Mills was notified in February by the Alaska Library Association Past President Patricia Linville that he had been selected for the award. His reply to her follows:

February 23, 2004

Dear Patricia Linville,

My Alaska Library Association Friends are most kind. There is so much to be written about your State's fascinating history that I only wish I had devoted more space to the subject rather than contributing primarily by placing this history within that of the Arctic as a whole.

You may have heard that my health restricts opportunities for me to travel just now...i do not give up hope for opportunities of visiting Fairbanks and all my very good friends there in the future.

I feel exceptionally honoured.

Your sincerely,

William Mills ◆

News Notes

The **HUBERT WENGER ESKIMO DATABASE** is on a new server. The database presents the first contact and first observations in the literature pertaining to Eskimos. www.wengereskimodb.uaf.edu

(Continued on pg. 9)

THE SAD LOSS OF OUR COLLEAGUE WILLIAM MILLS

It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of our colleague and friend William J. Mills. William passed away in his sleep on Saturday, May 8 at his home in Burwell, England.

He had been in and out of a hospice for several months but came home on Friday the 7th to be with his family. David Walton, Chair of the Colloquy said: "It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that William has given up the unequal battle. He was a most determined individual and he fought hard to stay the progress of the cancer. I am sure that it is a good thing that he has slipped away so peacefully at home with his family around him and without any pain rather than continue to fight the unequal battle."

The 2004 Colloquy in Ottawa will be dedicated to William. He was a strong supporter of the Colloquy, longtime Secretary-Treasurer, and wise counselor about Colloquy business. Julia Finn, organizer of the Ottawa Colloquy, is accepting items for a memory book that will be sent to William's family. If you would like to include something (messages, stories and memories, pictures, etc.) please send them by July 1 to

Julia Finn

Library.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Room 1400.

10 Wellington Street.

Hull, Quebec K1A 0H4 Canada.

The funeral will be at the Cambridge Crematorium on Thursday, May 20. William asked that there be no flowers at the funeral and that donations could be made instead to either the St. Nicholas Hospice or to the William Mills Fund for the library at SPRI. This fund has been established by the Friends of the Scott Polar to purchase key volumes to help complete the library's collection - an objective dear to William's heart.

Messages of condolence for William's family could be sent via Shirley Sawtell at SPRI by post or by email to ss119@cam.ac.uk

JOINT MEETING BETWEEN PLC AND IAMSLIC IN HOBART – CALL FOR PAPERS

Polar and Oceanographic Information in the 21st Century' Joint IAMSLIC/PLC meeting, Wednesday September 8, 2004

To be held as part of 'Voyages of Discovery; Parting the Seas of Information Technology' : 30th Annual International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Library and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) Conference, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 5-9 September 2004.

This is a call for the submission of proposals and abstracts for papers and poster sessions (including 'virtual' posters) to be presented on the Joint IAMSLIC/PLC meeting day.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All potential conference attendees are encouraged to submit proposals, which should include: the name(s) of the presenter(s), the title of the presentation, the type of presentation being proposed (paper, traditional poster, 'virtual' poster) and a brief abstract. We would also like you to include your anticipated resource needs, including equipment, any technical assistance required and an approximation of the time needed for the presentation.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS AND ABSTRACTS 9 July 2004

Submit proposals by email to:

Andie Smithies, PLC local organiser, andie.smithies@aad.gov.au
with a copy to

Jane Barnwell, iAMSLIC President-Elect 2005, barnwell@hawaii.edu

Please pass this on to colleagues who may not subscribe to list. Submissions can also be faxed or mailed to me at the address below.

Full **REGISTRATION** details will be circulated in June. Likely registration costs will be \$400 for the full 4 days or \$100 for the one day. ♦

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(News Notes—Cont. from pg. 6)

PLC member **Lyle Perrigo** writes that he is currently preparing a booklet of oral histories of George Newton, longtime member of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission and its chairman for 8 years. Newton is the one who arranged for science submarine cruises, the release of large amounts of classified bathymetric data, and a number of other notable activities. The oral histories are focused on his accomplishments in the Arctic and creating a record of what can be accomplished by a determined effort.

Perrigo is making arrangements to have copies of the booklet sent from the Commission to Northern libraries who are interested in having it at no charge. If your library would like a copy Lyle Perrigo can be contacted at lyle.perrigo@verizon.net

A new website has been launched by the Danish Chukotka Expeditions about the Yupik Eskimo minority in Chukotka. The website contains information on the Yupik population in Chukotka, their language, occupations and politics. It also has information about Chukotka in general and on a series of explorations. The website

features 125 photos of Chukotka, a video on walrus hunting, and an audio file with traditional Yupik song and music.

Check out **Alaska and polar titles** from the University of Alaska Press (www.uaf.edu/uapress/) including three new Rasmuson Library Historical Translation Series titles: GREWINGK'S GEOLOGY OF ALASKA AND THE NORTH-WEST COAST OF AMERICA, STELLER'S HISTORY OF KAMCHATKA, and THROUGH ORTHODOX EYES: RUSSIAN MISSIONARY NARRATIVES OF TRAVELS TO THE DENA'INA AND AHTNA, 1850s-1930s.

Interesting **Native language related materials** are available from the UAF Alaska native Language Center's website at www.uaf.edu/anlc/

Historic Alaska photographs and Arctic maps are available through the UAF Rasmuson Library's on-line store. <http://photolab.elmer.uaf.edu/store> ♦

Antarctica

Speculation over the existence of a "southern land" was not confirmed until the early Russian national expeditions began exploring the Antarctic Peninsula region and other areas south of the Antarctic Circle. Not until 1840 was it established that Antarctica was indeed a continent and not just a group of islands. Several exploration "firsts" were achieved in the early 20th century.

Following World War II, there was an upsurge in scientific research on the continent. A number of countries have set up year-round research stations on Antarctica. Seven have made territorial claims, but no other country recognizes these claims. In order to form a legal framework for the activities of nations on the continent, an Antarctic Treaty was negotiated that neither denies nor gives recognition to existing territorial claims; signed in 1959, it entered into force in 1961. ♦

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ay.html#Govt>

