

Polar Libraries Bulletin

POLAR LIBRARIES COLLOQUY



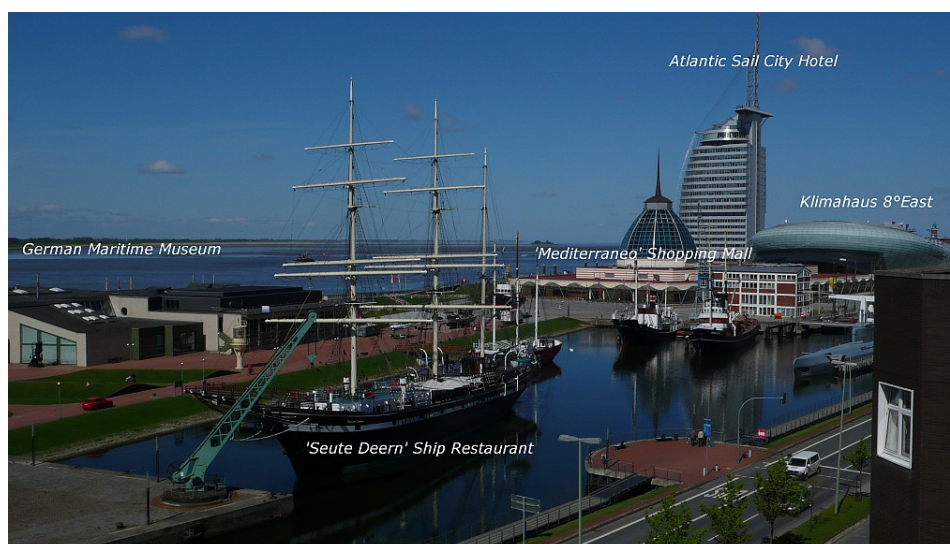
Spring 2010, Issue 64

Bremerhaven Welcomes the 23rd Polar Libraries Colloquy!

Spring has come to the German North Sea Coast. Cherry trees and tulips are flourishing, and people are lining up at the entrance of the [Klimahaus 8° East](#), Bremerhaven's newest tourist attraction. Every day nearly 5,000 people visit the *Elements* exhibition about the background and interdependence of climate and weather. An exciting place to be—and indeed, the Klimahaus 8° East will be the site for most of our conference sessions.

Bremerhaven is ready to welcome the PLC participants gathering for the 23rd Polar Libraries Colloquy under the theme *Cool Libraries in a Melting World*. A [draft programme](#) is already available on the conference website and will be updated frequently. We will have more than two dozen presentations during our five-day conference, along with a special session featuring film clips of polar exploration—giving us all a unique opportunity for exchanges of experience and good practice.

When you arrive on Sunday, June 13, you may pick up your registration package at the Ice Breaker in the Alfred Wegener Institute, Building D. On Wednesday afternoon we will visit the German Emigration Centre on a guided tour and take a harbour cruise through all seven of Bremerhaven's Overseas Harbours. The traditional banquet, including the outcry auction, will take place at the panoramic Captain's Lounge on top of the Atlantic Sail City



Havenwelten, Bremerhaven (Harbour Worlds, Bremerhaven), on the North Sea Coast. View from the Alfred Wegener Institute Library. (Photo by *Marcel Brannemann*)

Hotel. Please remember to bring goodies for the silent and outcry auctions to help support colleagues attend future Colloquies using the Wenger Fund.

Please join us at the Colloquy! [Registration](#) is still open, and we are looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones in Bremerhaven!

Marcel Brannemann, Conference Convenor
Head Librarian, Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research



PLC's New *Directory of Polar Libraries* Is Here!

A new and improved version of PLC's [Directory of Polar Libraries](#) is now available. The task of creating and compiling the new *Directory* was undertaken by a team at the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) on behalf of PLC. All of the information contained in PLC's previous online directory has been imported into this new edition.

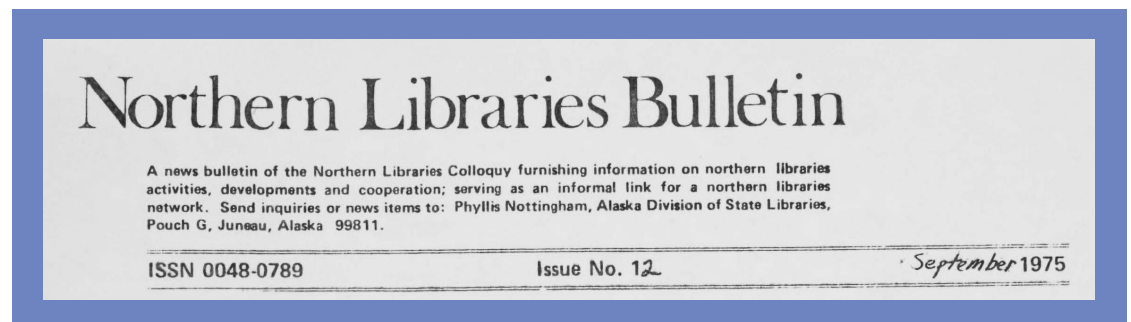
Organizations are encouraged to check and update their entries. A password is required, which can be ordered [here](#). SPRI will actively control the distribution of these passwords. Organizations previously listed in the *Directory* are encouraged to order a password as soon as possible to update their entries.

For those organizations that are not currently listed in the *Directory* but would like to be included, a link to a web form has been provided on the *Directory's* [home page](#).

SPRI will also monitor these new submissions to ensure that no false entries are posted.

Thanks go to Rebecca, SPRI Library Assistant, and Martin, SPRI Webmaster, for their hard work on the project. And congratulations to SPRI on the new *Directory of Polar Libraries*!

A Note from the Past....



POLAR AND POLAR REGIONS LIBRARY RESOURCES: A DIRECTORY Compiled and edited by Nora T. Corley. Ottawa, Northern Libraries Colloquy, 1975. 1v. upaged.

POLAR AND POLAR REGIONS LIBRARY RESOURCES: A DIRECTORY was published in May 1975 by the Northern Libraries Colloquy. It lists 153 libraries (in 20 different countries) whose collections deal with the Arctic, the Antarctic and/or cold regions research. Some of the libraries are actually situated in the North. Complete names, addresses, telephone and telex numbers are given, as well as a short history and description of the libraries and their resources. Entries run from a few lines to several pages, depending on the size of the library. Three indexes are included: 1) name of library, including translations, acronyms and former names, 2) personal names, and 3) subject. The directory, compiled and edited by Nora T. Corley, for many years librarian of the Arctic Institute of North America in Montreal, Canada, is available from: Polar Libraries Directory, c/o Mrs. G.A. [Nita] Cooke, Librarian, Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, University of Alberta, Canada, at a cost of Can \$5.00, including handling and postage (book rate). If first class or air mail is requested there will be an extra charge for the postage. Checks, money orders, etc., should be made payable to "Polar Libraries Directory, c/o Mrs. G.A. Cooke."



Happy Anniversary to the Canadian Circumpolar Library! The 'North Star' Jewel in the Crown Celebrates its 50th in 2010

Compiled by *Elaine Maloney*, Canadian Circumpolar Institute, in consultation with *Sandy Campbell*, John W. Scott Health Sciences Library, University of Alberta, Edmonton

The Boreal Institute for Northern Studies (BINS) was established at the University of Alberta (UofA) on 7 January 1960 in recognition of the fact that the North was becoming a focus of scholarly endeavour in many disciplines. It was designed to support and encourage northern studies across the University and to provide better links for communication among northern researchers. William C. Wonders, Chairman of the first Directorate, described the purpose of the Institute in this way:

The major objectives of the Institute were to be 'the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge of the North.' ...this was to be effected through a three-fold program: development of an information centre, provision of training and instruction, and implementation and encouragement of research...[and] to be of service to the community at large.... (Wonders 1988).

From 1960 to 1965 several of the Institute's enduring activities were established. These included publication of northern works, support of research activities, sharing of research, and the collection of information about northern scholarship. The priority in the first year was to create a collection of library materials. In this, the Institute received full cooperation from Bruce Peel, University Librarian, who arranged for its housing in Rutherford Library.

The first staff member was Lois Carrier, a professional librarian who enthusiastically took to the task, and through the first decade, several successors—Phil Connolly, Hilda Robinson, Betty Colyer, and Brenda Chawner—had a hand in shaping the Library and establishing its reputation as an information centre on the North (Cooke 1987).

The Library moved at least five times before reaching its present home on the fourth floor of Cameron Library. Its longest tenure was on the fourth floor of the Biological Sciences Building on the UofA campus, where it occupied approximately 3,800 square feet of space for two decades. In 1969, when the move to this location was made, the entire institute was housed together. Slowly the space was taken over by the Library as its collection grew under the guidance of Nita Cooke, who had taken up the post of Head Librarian that same year.



Nita Cooke, ca. 1970. (All photographs courtesy of *Elaine Maloney*)

The Boreal Institute Library was modelled after that of the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) in Cambridge, England. The Universal Decimal Classification, as modified by SPRI for use in polar libraries, provided better geographic classification of materials within a subject, and was adopted to organize and give access to the catalogued part of the collection.



Canadian Circumpolar Library *continued*

The Library quickly began to fulfill the dual purpose for which it had been designed: "a library of specialized holdings" and "an information centre, not only for members of the University community, but also for government agencies, industrial organizations, and the public at large" (*Annual Report 1970–71*).

The Librarian represented the Institute at several library and information science conferences, notably the Northern Libraries Colloquy, an annual gathering of librarians whose collections are either located in or oriented toward northern regions. In fact, Nita Cooke was a founding member of the Colloquy, now known as the Polar Libraries Colloquy; the Boreal Institute and Library hosted the inaugural meeting in 1970.

Specific areas of the collection were emphasized over the years, and grew in response to researcher needs and through donations and exchanges. As such, it developed strengths in several areas. Researchers inside and outside the University came to rely upon the collections not only for academic monographs and journals about the North, but also for theses, northern and Native newspapers, early exploration accounts, northern government

documents, environmental impact assessment reports, trade materials, conference proceedings, unpublished papers presented at meetings, consultant reports, and northern gray literature.

As the Library developed through the early 1970s, it focused regionally on the western Canadian northlands, particularly northern Alberta, while maintaining a balanced collection from the rest of northern Canada and the circumpolar world. In this period, acquisitions concentrated on ephemera. By arrangement, the Library became a repository for documents otherwise unavailable: unpublished data from the Peace-Athabasca Delta Project Group and the Northwest Territories Manpower Survey; the judgement by the Quebec Superior Court regarding the James Bay Hydroelectric Project; and documents filed by Canadian Arctic Gas Pipeline Ltd. supporting the company's application to the National Energy Board for the construction of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

The geographic focus of the collection necessitated the in-house development of several specialized research tools. With privileged access to some of the best computer power and expertise in Canada, in 1970 the Library was ahead of the



Official Opening of the Boreal Institute Collection, Rutherford Library, 1967.

L to R: Dr. Ball (Entomology); Dr. Burwash (Chairman, Boreal Institute Advisory Board); Mrs. H.M. Robinson (Librarian); Dr. Walter Johns (President, UofA); Dr. W.C. Wonders (Geography); and Professor J. Bond (Director, Boreal Institute).



American Geographical Society Archives Receives Grant from Delmas Foundation

Submitted by **Frederick E. Nelson**, Councilor, and **Mary Lynne Bird**, Executive Director, American Geographical Society

The American Geographical Society (AGS) began to acquire archival materials soon after its founding in 1851. The archives continued to grow through periods of discovery, settlement, war, political upheaval, and technological change, and the wealth of materials reflects AGS' direct role in many significant world events during its 158 years of existence. The Society's active roles in affairs of state, exploration, and economic change have also made it a magnet for materials from other sources.

The AGS archives contain field notes, original maps, sketches, photographs, journals, correspondence, meeting records, artifacts, expedition flags and memorabilia, field equipment, telegrams, clippings, event programs, radio logs, and many other primary documents and artifacts. Latin America is one area of specialization—many of the materials used to complete the Society's 107-sheet "Millionth Map of Hispanic America" over a 25-year period are contained in the archives. AGS conducted a prominent research and consulting service for the American delegation to the Paris Peace talks at the end of World War I, and this documentation is also reflected in the archives.

Materials pertaining to polar exploration and research comprise a particularly important segment of the collection. During the recent International Polar Year, many boxes of material, completely dormant during the 30 years following the Society's move from its building on Audubon Terrace in upper Manhattan in New York City, were examined for relics from its polar expeditions. Items found during 2008 and 2009 include flags from several important expeditions, artifacts from famous ships, and cairn messages dating as far back as the 1850s.

Other items include materials from the journeys of Sir Hubert Wilkins, Donald MacMillan, Isaac Israel Hayes, Richard Byrd, Louise Boyd, Robert Peary (AGS

President, 1903–07), Vilhjálmur Stefánsson, Bob Bartlett, and many others. The collection contains original sketches and paintings by Peary, Hayes, Alberto Operti, Robert Flaherty, and indigenous inhabitants of the Arctic. Also contained are relics from the expeditions of Elisha Kent Kane, Adolphus Greely, Fridtjof Nansen, Roald Amundsen, Robert Peary, Richard Byrd, and many others. These materials have not appeared in public since 1939, when AGS sponsored an exhibition, designed to complement the New York World's Fair, at its Audubon Terrace headquarters (Wright 1940).

AGS played an important role in exploration of the Polar Regions and elsewhere, and significant documents related to this work are contained in the collection. According to the geographical historian Geoffrey Martin (2003), co-author of *All Possible Worlds: A History of Geographical Ideas*, the AGS archive is "the single most valuable collection of its kind."

Although some scholars have long known about and consulted the AGS archives, the importance of the holdings has never been matched by the resources to provide a level of organization, preservation, protection, equipment, conservation, and assigned staff that would lead the Society to encourage wider use of this remarkable research treasure. The historians of science who *have* found their way to the archive have been uniformly lavish in their praise of the collection.

Since the separation of the library and photographic collections from AGS more than 30 years ago (Roselle 1978), the library (now in Milwaukee, Wisconsin) and the archives (which remain in New York) have experienced contrasting development histories. The AGS Library catalogue has been continuously upgraded to the highest and most current bibliographic standards over this three-decade period. The catalogue for the AGS archives in New York consists of an incomplete series of note



AGS Archives Receives Grant *continued*

cards using an organizational system developed in-house during the first half of the 20th century.

Another consequence of the lack of a comprehensive catalogue in New York is that many of the complementary aspects of the two collections can be rediscovered only through painstaking work in both. Recent investigations in the two collections have turned up many points of tangency. For example, materials relating to particular expeditions, such as ship's logs, explorer's journals, and data books, remain in New York (Figure 1) while photographic and cartographic documentation of the same expeditions is at the AGS Library in Milwaukee (Figure 2).

In many cases no written records document these connections, making it exceedingly difficult for researchers to work effectively and efficiently.



Figure 1. Journals from Isaac I. Hayes' American Arctic Expedition of 1860–61 (Hayes 1867), currently in the AGS Archives in New York City. A proposal for professional conservation of these and other documents is currently in review. (Photo by *Rolf Kat*, Center for the Conservation of Art and Historical Artifacts, Philadelphia)

This situation is, to a large extent, the result of organizational vagaries that existed prior to the 1978 move, but is exacerbated by incomplete cataloguing and cramped quarters in New York. A recent exhibition at the University of Delaware Museums (Nelson 2008) represents an initial attempt to reunite elements of the collections for the public benefit.

The Society recognizes its responsibility to improve access to the archives for scholars while protecting the materials themselves from the impact of that increased use. Accordingly, the Society has embarked on a course of making grant applications to conserve, organize, catalogue, and publicize the AGS archive. The first results were achieved recently, when the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation of New York City provided one of its "Research Library Programs Grants" to AGS to organize and catalog polar-oriented materials in the archive. Another component of this project involves scanning the handwritten volumes of the AGS Council minutes and the records of the Society's meetings during the 19th century.

The stated aim of the Delmas Foundation is to "improve the ability of research libraries to serve the needs of scholarship...and to help make their resources more widely accessible to scholars and the general public." This goal is congruent with our hopes for making the AGS archive available to researchers in a well-organized and accessible form. The project's emphasis on cooperative cataloguing and information exchange between AGS and the AGS Library is also closely aligned with the goal of the Delmas Foundation's grants: "to promote cooperative cataloguing projects, with an emphasis on access to archival, manuscript, and other unique sources."

AGS Councilor Erwin Levold, Senior Research Archivist at the Rockefeller Archive Center, has examined the collection in detail and will provide oversight of the organizational and cataloguing efforts. The work will be implemented by senior AGS staff member Peter Lewis, who has worked in the archive for more than two decades. Lewis will be assisted in this work by another long-term AGS staff member, James Thomas, and by AGS interns. AGS Councilor Frederick (Fritz) Nelson will act as liaison with the AGS Library in Milwaukee.

These activities will place acute demands on space at AGS headquarters. An unfortunate consequence of the organizational and cataloging efforts is



AGS Archives Receives Grant *continued*

that the archives will be closed to the public over the next year while grant-related activities are being performed. Further developments will be announced as they occur.

For additional information or assistance, please contact Frederick E. Nelson at fnelson@udel.edu or Mary Lynne Bird at mlbird@amergeog.org.

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Hayes, I. I. 1867. *The open Polar Sea: A narrative of a voyage of discovery towards the North Pole*. New York: Hurd & Houghton.

Martin, G. J. 2003. The history of geography. In *Geography in America at the dawn of the 21st century*, ed. G. L. Gaile and C. J. Willmott, 550–561. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Nelson, F. E. 2008. *Poles apart: Artifacts from the library and archives of the American Geographical Society*, September 9–December 7, 2009, Main Gallery, Old College, University of Delaware. <http://www.udel.edu/udaily/2009/sep/polar090208.html>.

Robinson, M. F. 2006. *The coldest crucible: Arctic exploration and American culture*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Roselle, W. C., ed. 1978. The move to Milwaukee. *Current Geographical Publications* 41(11): 94 pp.

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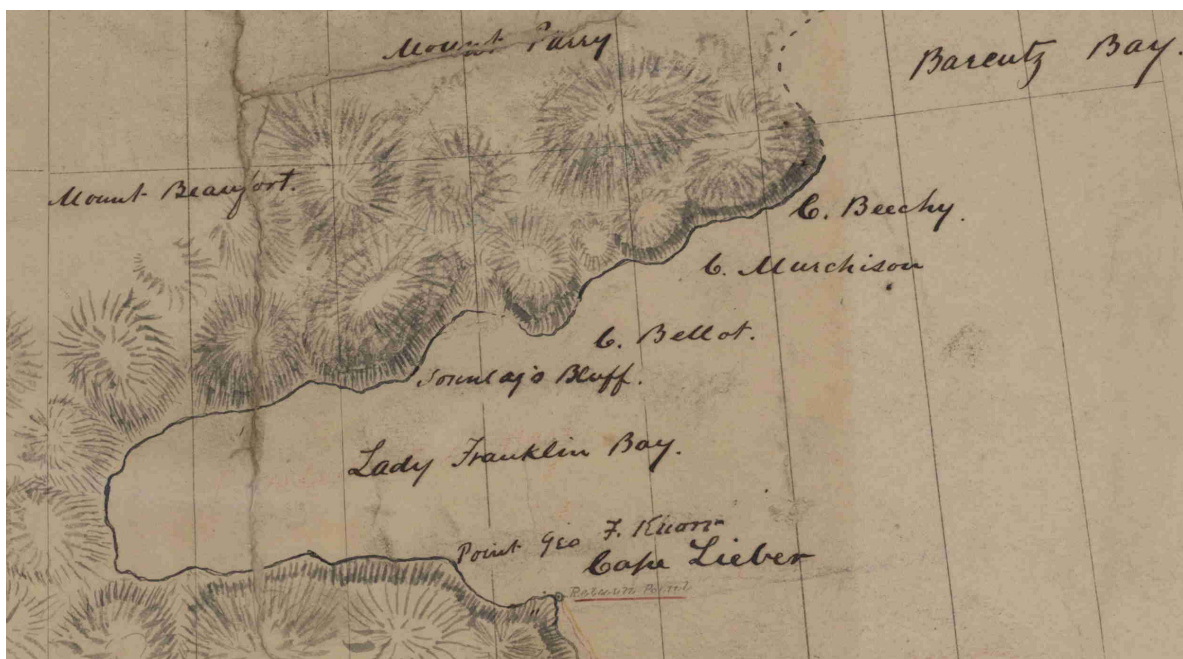


Figure 2. Detail of a small portion of the map entitled *A Chart Showing the Track, Discoveries, and Surveys of the American Arctic Expedition of 1860–61*, produced by I. I. Hayes. The original map is now at the AGS Library, a unit of the Golda Meir Library, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. (Image courtesy of Susan Peschel, Visual Resources Librarian, AGS Library)

The William Mills Prize for Non-Fiction Polar Books: 2010 Nominees

*Akasofu, Syun-Ichi, Jack Finch, Jan Curtis, and Tricia Brown. 2009. *Northern lights: Secrets of the aurora borealis*. Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Books.

*Bockstoe, John R. 2009. *Furs and frontiers in the Far North: The contest among Native and foreign nations for the Bering Strait fur trade*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

*Pollack, H. N. 2009. *A world without ice*. New York: Avery.

*Streever, Bill. 2009. *Cold: Adventures in the world's frozen places*. New York: Little, Brown and Co.

*Vermeer, Jan, and Frieda van Essen. 2009. *Arctic*. Deventer, Netherlands: Thieme Art.

*Wamsley, Douglas W. 2009. *Polar Hayes: The life and contributions of Isaac Israel Hayes, M.D.* Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society.

Daly, Regina W., and Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton. 2009. *The Shackleton letters: Behind the scenes of the Nimrod Expedition*. Norwich, UK: Erskine Press.

Francis, Gavin. 2009. *True North: Travels in Arctic Europe*. Edinburgh: Polygon Press.

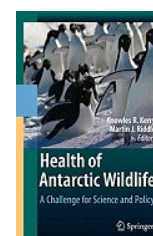
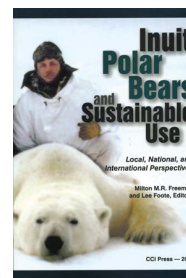
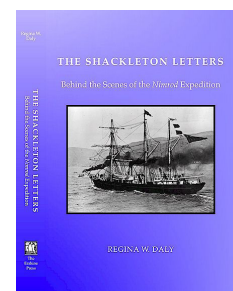
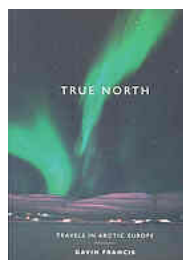
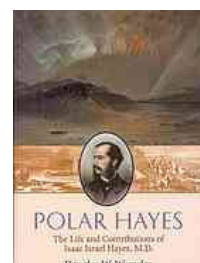
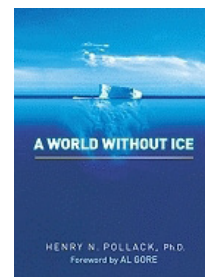
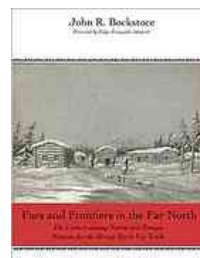
Freeman, Milton M. R., and Lee Foote, eds. 2009. *Inuit, polar bears, and sustainable use: Local, national, and international perspectives*. Edmonton, AB: Canadian Circumpolar Institute.

Hauser, Michael, Erik Holtved, and Bent Jensen. 2010. *Traditional Inuit songs from the Thule area*. Copenhagen: Museum Tusculanum Press.

Kantner, Seth. *Shopping for porcupine: A life in Arctic Alaska*. 2008. Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions.

Kerry, K. R., and Martin J. Riddle, eds. 2009. *Health of Antarctic wildlife: A challenge for science and policy*. New York: Springer.

(* shortlisted titles)





Alaska Film Archives on YouTube

Submitted by *Dirk Tordoff* and *Bridget Burke*, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Last October 2009, the Alaska Film Archives at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) began posting historic video clips on YouTube. The first posts were an experiment to gauge interest in our holdings beyond our typical users in the research and scholarly communities. So far the response has been excellent, creating additional inquiries to the film archives. Views of clips are averaging just over 100 per day with visits to our YouTube channel of more than 10 per day.

The Alaska Film Archives channel on YouTube currently holds 150 clips, and new material is added weekly. The films range from scenes of transportation (air, rail) and industry (fishing, mining) to Alaskan village life and scenes of campus life at UAF. Visit the site at <http://www.youtube.com/user/alaskafilmmarchives>.

YouTube provides good data to monitor where viewers are located, along with additional demographic information. To date, site views are highest in the United States and Canada, with considerable interest in the clips by viewers from Poland, Netherlands, and Romania, but all continents, with the exception of Antarctica, are represented.

The Alaska Film Archives is located in the Alaska & Polar Regions Department of the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library at UAF. The Alaska Film Archives holds thousands of hours of moving images documenting Alaska and the Circumpolar North. Contact Dirk Tordoff, Film Archivist, for more information at ditordoff@alaska.edu.





Book Reviews

Alia, Valerie. 2007. *Names and Nunavut: Culture and identity in the Inuit homeland*. New York: Berghahn Books.

"Onomastics" refers to the science or study of the origins of words, particularly proper names of persons or places. In her recent work, *Names and Nunavut: Culture and Identity in the Inuit Homeland*, Valerie Alia "...gives us this thought-provoking and engrossing ethnography of the politics of personal naming practices in the recent history of colonialism and home rule in what is now Nunavut, Canada's newly created Arctic territory" (Roth 2008).

The basis of her work is Project Surname, a late 1960s and early 1970s colonial government program that attempted to rename an Inuit population with first and last names in order to maintain records in the same style as other Canadian citizens.

The book received many favorable reviews and was nominated for the 2008 William Mills Prize for Non-Fiction Polar Books.

Excerpts from a few of the published reviews:

This publication, refreshing in its focus on extensive local community research, delves into the complicated dynamics between colonial administration and its effects on the culture and identity of the Inuit. While this very deep and personal exploration of the history and effects of Project Surname (an effort to implement Qallunaat naming systems among Inuit people) provides a remarkably intimate account of the Inuit culture and history, it also succeeds in providing an insightful commentary on the continuing complexities of cultural interrelation in a postcolonial era.

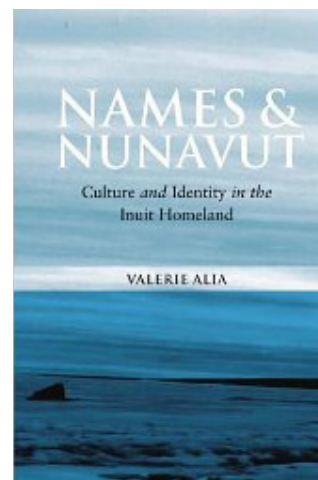
Tracie Scott, 2008, *British Journal of Canadian Studies*, 21(1): 138

Names and Nunavut is a welcome addition to Arctic ethnography and should be of interest not only to linguists and anthropologists working in the Arctic but to anyone interested in the relationship between onomasty, personhood, and cosmology and to anyone looking for fresh

insights to the micropractices of linguistic and onomastic colonialism.

Christopher F. Roth, 2008, *NAMES: A Journal of Onomastics*, 56(3): 185–187

[Alia] clearly puts the discussion within the triangular relationship between language, names and power that, she feels, shape humankind's essence of being, i.e., having names for people and things means knowing and identifying them, but also asserting power and control. Alia follows this train of thought by delving into the evolution of naming and renaming among the Inuit in contemporary Nunavut that, as a name



for a territory and political and cultural concept, is, in itself, a new powerful and symbolic creation of identity.

Ludger Müller-Wille, 2008, *Études / Inuit / Studies*, 21(1): 163–165

This is a story that is being repeated elsewhere in different ways. Using modern forms of communications, indigenous peoples are making their voices heard. Not only are they sharing their ideas and experiences with each other but they reach out to a wider, global audience. Whatever our cultural backgrounds, we can all benefit from this exciting development. Indeed, this study is itself a contribution to that process of enrichment.

Barry Winter, 2008, *Ethical Space: The International Journal of Communication Ethics*, 5(4): 36–38



Canadian Circumpolar Library *continued*

curve in designing methodologies for materials evaluation, and computer applications for special libraries, actively developing special indexes, cataloguing, and search programs. The first and one of the best-known was launched in 1972 as the *Northern Titles KWIC* (Keyword in Context) *Index*, a monthly index of titles and authors based on headlines from Native and northern newspapers, journal articles, government documents, and other ephemera. The *Library Bulletin* contained references to items catalogued for the collection. In 1973 a second KWIC *Index News Clippings* was introduced to capture relevant headlines from southern newspapers (the clippings were retained in a file). The indexes were made available by exchange or subscription.



Boreal Institute Library, 1970s.

With the acquisition of a microfilm-microfiche reader-printer in 1974, it was possible to add to the Library's holdings many northern graduate theses and other materials available only in those formats, including transactions and the pamphlet file of the Canadian Association in Support of Native People. From January 1974 onward, the monthly issued *Acquisitions List* also included entries derived largely from cards sent by SPRI, giving an added dimension to the index.

By 1975, the Library was reporting its holdings to the National Union Catalogue of the National Library, Ottawa, and some periodicals were listed in the *Union List of Scientific Series in Canadian Libraries*. The Library also maintained the *Contribution Series*, that collected reprints or articles resulting from research funded through the Institute or conducted by Institute members. Reprints were available on request.



Official Opening of the Boreal Institute Collection, Rutherford Library, 1967.

By this time, use of the Boreal Institute Library had also increased by more than 50 percent annually. Growing public awareness of the collection, together with increased demand for information on northern regions would maintain an upward trend in circulation; interlibrary loan transactions also increased some 500 percent between 1972 and 1975. By 1976, the clipping file and index, now called the *Boreal Institute Vertical File on Northern Affairs* was being marketed commercially in microfiche format. Active cooperation with other polar libraries continued, notably with SPRI.

The Library began making inroads into the electronic world, creating several databases. The first was the *BOREAL*, a record of the card catalogue and one of the largest arctic databases in the world, set in operation in 1978. Analytics were designed to give access to articles in periodicals and chapters in books. Computer programs were also written, for example, to help with the compilation of the *Yukon Bibliography*, which was subsequently mounted with the *BOREAL* database, along with the *Boreal*



Canadian Circumpolar Library *continued*

Northern Titles, on a commercial online database service, QL Systems, and searchable online through the national system CAN/OLE.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, interest in the North again expanded with devolution of government services to the territories, industrial development and attendant environmental impact studies, and the recognized need for social programs and training in the North. Dr. Robbie Jamieson, Director of the Institute at the time, spoke of the Boreal Library with abundant pride. Its resources were available to residents of the North, as well as government agencies, industry partners, private consultants, and the general public. "We get very heavy usage from people in the oil industry, in coal and transportation, from scientists and consultants in various fields" (ACUNS 1984).

The Library responded to increased user demand by expanding services. In addition to the usual services of reference and interlibrary loans, the Library provided selective dissemination of information (SDI), as well as more detailed bibliographic verification services and specialized searches of *BOREAL* that could be backed with hardcopy material. Staff would also undertake searches of commercial databases, or direct researchers to resources available elsewhere in the UofA Library system and beyond. Services to clients outside the university were provided on a cost-recovery basis.

In the late 1960s, Dr. Dewey Soper donated more than 1,000 negatives and prints (dating from 1934 to 1952), providing a valuable documentation of the landscape and wildlife at that time. The Library also routinely received materials from such organizations as the Arctic Petroleum Operators Association and the Northwest Manpower Survey. In the mid-1980s it began receiving copies of all documents tabled in the Legislature of the Northwest Territories, and Dr. George Scotter, a biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service, donated his extensive reprint collection and several books on reindeer herding. Although BINS did not have space for a museum, some archival material and artifacts were donated or bought by the Library. The more fragile of

these were deposited in the University Museum or Archives for safekeeping.

In 1984, to complement Nita Cooke's expertise in the hard sciences, an assistant librarian with a background in the social sciences (Robin Minion) was appointed. Now staffed with five full-time librarians and assistants and two part-time clerks, the Boreal Library contributed regularly to programs of the UofA's School of Library Science and the Grant McEwan College Library Technician Training Program.

Prompted by the possibility of future mergers with other northern database systems, a major focus in the mid-1980s was on adding records to the database. By 1984, the fragmented nature of northern information systems in Canada was apparent, and the Boreal Library and the Arctic Institute of North America (AINA) in Calgary began research into merging databases as a first effort toward integration. *BOREAL* and the *Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS)* (the databases of BINS and AINA, respectively) were the largest publicly accessible polar databases in Canada, together containing over 70,000 unique records. The feasibility of further development was to be gauged in light of progress made by this first merger.



Boreal Institute Library, 1970s.

When 25th anniversary celebrations began in 1985, the Boreal Institute had fulfilled its original goals to a remarkable degree. In particular, its Library was recognized internationally as an outstanding facility and collection. The holdings had grown



Canadian Circumpolar Library *continued*

to approximately 137,000 pieces encompassing materials at all reading levels and in all disciplines in a wide range of formats. The collection was strongest in material relating to the Canadian North, but significant works relating to all polar and cold regions also had been acquired. Librarians were representing the Institute at several conferences, notably PLC, which UofA hosted for a second time in 1986.

A national study, undertaken in 1987 to examine the state of polar research in Canada, recommended that a Canadian Polar Information System be established. Having demonstrated that a merger of *BOREAL* and *ASTIS* would be feasible, it was proposed that the combined database be used to form the core of a system that would be enhanced with contributions from other collections. By this time, database cooperation was also being explored internationally with SPRI, and in December 1987 the libraries agreed to exchange similar level analytics for 13 northern-related journals.

The Boreal Library experienced a disaster in 1988. Librarians arrived one morning to find ankle-deep water on the floor; some 1,500 books were damaged. A major salvage operation took the better part of three months but nearly all of the damaged books eventually were recovered. Librarians involved in the salvage would later lend their newfound expertise to a 1991 workshop organized by the UofA Libraries as part of its overall disaster plan.

In 1989 Nita Cooke retired after 20 years with the Boreal Institute, leaving a lasting legacy. Robin Minion was promoted to Head Librarian, and the Institute, along with AINA, embarked on studies to explore the needs, access, contributions, and infrastructure required for a national polar information system based on a consortium model. The report *Sharing Knowledge, Sharing Resources* summarizing the working group's efforts was presented to the newly established Canadian Polar Commission in 1991.

On July 1, 1990, the Boreal Institute for Northern Studies was renamed the Canadian Circumpolar Institute (CCI), and Dr. Clifford Hickey appointed as Director. The renaming was symbolic of many changes in the Institute and a re-invigoration of



Cameron Library, UofA.

northern research at UofA. The incorporation of the word 'circumpolar' specifically reflected the internationalization of northern programs. Core functions were maintained and many of the operations were expanded into collaborative arrangements with other faculties and units.

Such was the case with the Boreal Library: renamed the Canadian Circumpolar Library (CCL), on 24 July it was moved within the UofA Library System and maintained as a separate collection in the Science and Technology (S&T) Division, located in the Cameron Library. Newly appointed Chief Librarian Ernest Ingles was 'delighted,' exclaiming "What we have here is one of the best library systems in Canada, and with the Boreal, a jewel in this already glittering crown, it will be that much better" (*Folio*, 17 May 1990: 3), and assured the Institute that the Library would be very well served in its new location.

Indeed, CCL retained its reputation as the world's premier library for research on northern Canada.



Canadian Circumpolar Library *continued*

It preserved, through distinctive signage and appropriately configured space, its unique identity and many of its special services to northern researchers, such as *BOREAL* (by that time, holding 45,000 records) and the *Northern Titles KWIC Index*. A distinct collection policy continued to emphasize the vital 'gray literature.' The addition of a CD-ROM station further improved accessibility, and starting in June 1990, CCL's databases were being added to NISC's CD-ROM, providing users with access to several other polar databases as well.

With its move to the Cameron Library, CCL experienced many positive impacts. There was a substantial increase in the number of clients served, in part because its proximity to other collections proved advantageous to users. While CCL continued to be housed separately, it benefited from services supplied by the larger system, such as cataloguing and shelving, taking advantage of economies of scale. Parts of the collection that required special service were relocated within the larger operations; for example, the map collection was integrated into the William C. Wonders Map Library and the rare materials into the Bruce Peel Special Collections Unit. There was an increase in the acquisitions budget, increased hours of service to users, and the redressing of the backlog of cataloguing and binding. Microfilming of rare but deteriorating materials was accelerated as well. The expansion of the Institute's mandate internationally broadened the scope of the collection.

CCI continued and still supports CCL through donations, acquisitions, and direct funding for projects that enhance the collection or improve accessibility and usefulness, especially projects that draw advantage from new technologies. Furthermore, the UofA Northern Advisory Committee maintains an advisory role with regard to policy and future orientation of the collection, and Institute staff and researchers liaise closely with CCL to promote common interests. The Institute supports CCL participation in meetings of interest, and especially ensures representation at PLC's biennial meetings.

By 1992, new faces were appearing at the CCL reference desk to deal with the increase in use. Decisions regarding cataloguing were delayed until 1994 when the databases and indexes were merged with GATE, the online catalogue of the UofA Library System. Until then, material was added to *BOREAL* and the UofA Library's *DOBIS* database. Eventually, CCL was also listed in the consortial NEOS Library Catalogue.

Space plans were drawn up to accommodate an expansion of the holdings; however, any development of the collection was to be preceded by a rationalizing of materials and coordination with other sectors of the system. For example, in an effort to eliminate duplication of periodicals and government documents, collection policies were revised to reflect consolidation. The collection would undergo several waves of rationalization and deselection of materials, but through it all would retain its distinctive status, and in fact it would grow in a more focused and deliberate manner. By 1995, the collection was home to some 250,000 items.

In 1996, Robin Minion, who had been acting as the Head of the Science and Technology Library, as well as serving as the Canadian Circumpolar Librarian retired, and a new era in the life of CCL began. The unique activities of the Circumpolar Collection were distributed among staff of the S&T Library. Sandy Campbell assumed overall responsibility for library services to the collection and the community. Several staff members contributed to the identification and acquisition of polar gray literature; others worked on the indexing of periodicals into the *Polar Info* database.

Reference service was provided from the S&T Library reference desk, and the Circumpolar Reference Collection was integrated into the S&T reference collection. During this time, the Library experimented with the use of new technologies for the promotion of the Canadian Circumpolar Institute Collection. A podcast walking tour and a screencast virtual tour were developed; an experimental Circumpolar Collection blog was also launched.



Canadian Circumpolar Library *continued*

In June of 2004, an administrative decision ended the indexing of polar periodicals. The Institute continues to seek funding to re-establish *Polar Info* (and redress the index from July 2004 to present).

In 2006, the Institute expanded its mandate once again. Dr. Marianne Douglas, whose research interests include Antarctic subjects, was appointed Director. She has also been instrumental in developing the Institute's connections with the northern colleges.

In June of 2008, the UofA Libraries and the CCI hosted the 22nd Polar Libraries Colloquy, which met jointly with the University of the Arctic Council. It was the third time the PLC had met in Edmonton; the Canadian Circumpolar Librarian and Institute had been instrumental in organizing the event. During the meetings, the Bruce Peel Special Collections unit mounted an exhibition of rare polar materials. *A Most Dangerous Voyage* showcased some of the remarkable exploration journals collected over the years by both the Institute and the Libraries. Delegates also had the opportunity to see exhibits of polar maps and to visit the Circumpolar Collection.

In July, 2008, Sandy Campbell took on other responsibilities and Joycelyn Jaca was appointed to the post until the position could be assigned more permanently. Most recently (November 2009), Lindsay Johnston took up the responsibility as Circumpolar Librarian.

Today the Canadian Circumpolar Collection is a world-class specialized and distinct reference centre for materials on Northern Canada and an outstanding collection for circumpolar research housing approximately 390,000 items. The collection attracts polar researchers from all over the world, many of whom make extended visits to use the materials. It is situated within the UofA Library, one of Canada's major research libraries, which contains the basic subject material for a range of disciplinary areas, providing a solid foundation for CCL.

The boundaries of the collection are geographic with an emphasis on the North American arctic and sub-arctic regions. Information about the northern portions of the Canadian provinces, Canadian aboriginal peoples, Greenland, Scandinavia, Antarctica, and cold regions in general can also be accessed through this Library. It is a multidisciplinary collection of materials relating to the earth sciences, biological sciences, life sciences, applied sciences, and social sciences. Subjects covered include, but are not limited to, peoples of the North, health, education, religion, government, land claims, land use, environmental concerns, mining, and engineering.

One of the major objectives of the Institute when it was established in 1960 was 'the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge of the North.' This remains a priority today as we work with the UofA Library to continue building the physical collection, and 'to be of service to the community at large' by making its resources more accessible through innovative tools and new technologies that characterize modern library use. We also look forward to enhancing the collection with digital collections and resources, as well as open access materials, an evolution that will be marked with the launch of the Circumpolar Digital Collection in winter 2009.



The Canadian Circumpolar Library today.

In 2010, the Canadian Circumpolar Institute is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Plans are underway for a variety of celebratory activities, including a concert, a conference, and several exhibits



Canadian Circumpolar Library *continued*

with displays in the Circumpolar Library and the William C. Wonders Map Collection. The Institute and its many friends and affiliates look back with considerable pride on the legacy of 50 years of development in northern scholarship and look forward with the knowledge that there is ever increasing urgency in the need for the support of scholarship in our rapidly changing circumpolar environments.

Visit the [Canadian Circumpolar Library](#) online or contact:

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Status of the IPY Publications Database



Submitted by **Ross Goodwin**, Arctic Institute of North America,
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The [International Polar Year Publications Database \(IPYPD\)](#) describes 2,957 publications, of which 1,310 are from the fourth IPY (2007–08). The next update is scheduled for late May 2010.

IPYPD is now being produced separately from the *Arctic & Antarctic Regions (AAR)* database. Following the July 2009 update of AAR, EBSCO Publishing began producing AAR in-house, rather than contracting the work to NISC Export Services. Records, including IPYPD records, produced since July 2009 by the polar libraries and databases that formerly supplied records to AAR will not appear in AAR until further notice.

Please encourage your researchers to report their IPY publications to IPYPD. They should email a list of references to:

- coldregions@agiweb.org if their publications are about the Antarctic or non-living things
- librarian@spri.cam.ac.uk if their publications are about living things (including humans)
- astis@ucalgary.ca if their publications are about northern Canada

If a researcher emails a list of references to any one of these organizations, it will be forwarded to the others as necessary. IPYPD includes both peer-reviewed and gray literature, and in addition to research publications, it also includes those pertaining to education, outreach, and communication. It is not a problem if the same publication is reported more than once.



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The *Bulletin* is published twice yearly in the Fall and Spring. Members of the Polar Libraries Colloquy receive the *Bulletin* as part of their membership. Personal dues are £20 or US \$35 for a two-year period. Institutional dues are the same. Please send dues to David Walton, Emeritus Fellow, Environment and Information Division, British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ET, United Kingdom.

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