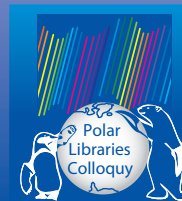


# Polar Libraries Bulletin

POLAR LIBRARIES COLLOQUY



Fall 2010, Issue 65

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Polar Libraries Colloquy in Bremerhaven: An Overview

by **David Walton**, Emeritus Fellow, British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, UK

Each Colloquy has something memorable about it, and it isn't just the various places in which we meet. The local organiser has always made a great effort with the Steering Committee to come up with elements that will afterwards typify that particular meeting in our minds. Marcel Brannemann managed that admirably in Bremerhaven, selecting not only a week with exceptional weather but also subjects that have stretched our minds.

I would like to begin by picking out as major features the two opening plenary talks by Bernhard Diekmann on permafrost and its relationship to climate change and Daniel Steinhage on German polar aviation. The development of substantive international programmes on the melting of Arctic permafrost is allowing us, for the first time, to begin to estimate the amount of methane added to the atmosphere, as well as to see the accelerating infrastructure destruction throughout Arctic communities. This paper led on to the presentation on the Alfred Wegener Institute's (AWI) polar airplanes and how they had changed over the past 30 years, and also described the Institute's present scientific and logistic capabilities for research in both the Arctic and Antarctic. Indeed, for some this meeting, held at a research institute (with a programme containing scientific papers) rather than on a university campus, gave a very different flavour to the Colloquy.

Other memorable features were the talk on film history by Jan Anders Diesen, whose remarkable collection of film clips was later supplemented by films Marcel had organised (including *The Quest for the Golden Roll*, which won the Antarctic 48-hour film competition in 2009 and was made by British Antarctic Survey personnel at Rothera Station), and excursions to the Klimahaus and German Emigration

Centre, as well as the fascinating tour of the docks, which has provided all of us with a new supply of trivia (How many Mercedes Benz can you get into one ship? Who sends a car to Bremerhaven to be fitted with a swimming pool? How much does a container lifter cost?!).

Some of us attended the I2B meeting of the local business group and learnt much about how AWI scientists have commercialised some of their ideas. And to cap it all, there was the banquet at the top of the Atlantic Sail Hotel, a memorable evening as the sun slowly set, the pace of the jazz trio picked up, and hilarious bidding ensued for such choice items as Japanese handkerchiefs, an amazing silk scarf, and an ulu from Alaska's North Slope!

But what of the business of the Colloquy itself? This time there were fewer papers on historic subjects than we have had before, but we still managed to hear from Isabella Warren about how the Leonard Breitfuss collection was bought from Germany at the end of the war and taken to the Scott Polar Research Institute under what some now regard as controversial circumstances; from Reinhard Krause



Atlantic Sail City Hotel. Photograph courtesy of M. Brannemann.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Polar Libraries Colloquy *continued*

about the origins of the International Polar Year (IPY) and the recent rescuing of data from the first IPY; and the early history of research and colonisation of Russia's Kola Peninsula from Tatiana Fridman, who had discovered some fascinating papers in the Kola archives.

Hilary Shibata told us about the problems and perils of translating from Japanese the account of the first Japanese Antarctic Expedition led by Nobu Shirase; Hans Oerter explained how the early work of Alfred Wegener in Greenland laid the foundations for the present studies on the ice cap; and from Laura Kissel we learned how archival documents from Byrd's expeditions had been woven into a new educational unit for Ohio schools. It seems sad that such a useful new tool appears unlikely to be more widely used because of the structure of the American educational system.

Since the meeting is about libraries, there was a paper on the positive and negative features of Antarctic bibliographies by David Walton, who roundly condemned some as inadequate whilst seeing the continuing value of ones created for niche markets, whilst Ross Goodwin reported on the apparent success to date of the IPY database (with over 4,000 entries) and took the opportunity to urge others to get their scientists to send in details as soon as they had something published. He estimated there would be tens of thousands

of items to capture over the next five years or so. Sharon Tahirkheli reported on the *Cold Regions Bibliography*, and she not only showed how the number of items captured exceeded original estimates but also described how savings in one area (staff) were balanced out by increases in another (programming).

It was at this point that the recent changeover in the commercial provider for the bibliography—from NISC to EBSCO—came up, along with the problems that this was causing, a theme taken up again by Ross Goodwin on the distribution of the IPY Database, and again in the PLC Business Meeting (see p. 16). A long-term solution needs to be found to what seems to have become an untenable situation threatening the global distribution of our most important databases.

Many papers throughout the week emphasised the importance of collaboration, for example in e-science initiatives, but perhaps the most persistent theme was that of change. Change in library management, change in links to data management, change in data publishing, change in the library as a base for teaching, etc. The several years that PLC has put into liaison efforts with the University of the Arctic seem to be paying off, and Sandy Campbell was able to report that real progress has been made towards the creation of their new digital library, although there are still potential problems in the choice of some of the texts.

Electronic developments such as RSS feeds, Web 2.0, and even podcasts were described by Gloria Hicks as the new e-tools for collaboration, and she introduced an exciting new development from NOAA, "Science on a Sphere," a new way of projecting data and graphics onto a huge globe.

Attending for the first time, the new British Antarctic Survey librarian Jo Milton told us about change in the form of library reviews and reorganisation whilst describing the sometimes



German Emigration Center. Photograph courtesy of M. Brannemann.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Polar Libraries Colloquy *continued*

surprising results of a user questionnaire on the future of the BAS library. It was good to hear from another new attendee, Yoriko Hayakawa, (see related piece on p. 10) about activities at the library of the National Institute for Polar Research in Tokyo, including the extent of their digitisation of publications and the move to open access for their journals. Daria Carle's comparative research on grey literature holdings at the Australian Antarctic Division in Kingston and SPRI in Cambridge showed not only an unexpectedly low overlap of material but also pointed up the problems in dealing efficiently with this sort of literature.

The mix of contributed papers brought out some new ideas for this forum on data and its management. Hannes Grobe described the remarkable success of the Pangea Data Library, whilst Hans Pfeiffenberger told us about the new data journal, *Earth System Science Data*,

published by Copernicus in Germany but attracting submissions from all over the world. Jan Brase described the growing success shown by DataCite, an international consortium established by the German National Library for Science and Technology to provide DOIs for data sets, now with nine countries involved and over 800,000 DOIs issued.

All of this stimulated discussion on the present and future value of the World Data Centres, some of which are closely associated with libraries. Many of these themes on data management were taken up again in the Thursday panel on the role of the library in digital curation, an area where discussion apparently abounds, but for most libraries the development of policy and its implementation seems a long way off.

Another interesting approach, described by Bridget Burke, was using oral history to document climate



PLC 2010,  
Bremerhaven,  
Germany.  
Photograph  
courtesy of M.  
Brannemann.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Polar Libraries Colloquy *continued*

change in Alaska, whilst Liisa Hallikainen detailed an interesting cooperative approach among five institutions in Rovaniemi to deliver integrated teaching on wood and forests to high school students. Both of the panel discussions on grey literature and digital curation gave everyone the chance to contribute. Clearly these should be a regular part of the programme of every Colloquy.

After all these stimulating discussions, punctuated by plenty of good German food, what can we say about the future for polar libraries? Certainly change is a driving factor for all librarians, and since the rate of change seems to be speeding up, libraries need to grasp this as an opportunity and try to be pro-active to ensure that their value is obvious to management.

There are lots of new ideas around but too often the emphasis is on only what is invented at home. Look across borders and steal the best ideas from wherever you find them, recognising that governance systems and structures are diverse so that directly importing new initiatives may not be simple. The emphasis on digital systems and data at this Colloquy points up the need for continuing

training in order to deliver to users across the widest range of needs—for example, in data management planning or in new bibliometric tools—but it seems essential to keep asking users what they actually want in order to plan strategically and counter the sometimes ill-informed opinions made by senior management.

Everyone needs to raise the profile of their libraries; libraries are just as important to science as the logistics supporting field operations but are never as well funded or defended. Think of libraries as the logistic infrastructure for knowledge! And everyone agreed that the title of librarian was an important indication of brand—knowledge purveyor simply was not adequate!

This Colloquy was, as usual, a delightful mix of people, ideas, and contributions in an informal and friendly atmosphere. It was sad to have to record the death of one of the founders of the Colloquy—Nita Cooke—but we were reminded of just how much has been done since those early days in 1971. This time our special thanks go to Marcel for all his efforts and especially for dispelling the rumour that it always rains in Bremerhaven!

## Needed: Letters of Support for the Italian Antarctic Program

As mentioned in the PLC Business Minutes in this issue, Silvia Sarti reminded participants of the government cutbacks in Italy and indicated that the [Italian Antarctic Program](#) and its library may be in jeopardy. The Italian Antarctic Program kindly hosted the 21<sup>st</sup> PLC in Rome, which many of us attended.

Silvia asked that PLC members write letters of support for the library, recognizing the value of international advocacy. Please contact her for more information via email at [biblioteca@consorzio.pnra.it](mailto:biblioteca@consorzio.pnra.it) or write to her at:

Biblioteca PNRA  
Via Anguillarese, 301  
00060 Roma  
Italy

<http://www.pnra.it/biblioteca/>  
Telefono: (+39) 0630486498  
Fax: (+39) 0630484893







## A Note from the PLC Chair

Congratulations to Marcel and his organising team on what I hear was a splendid Colloquy in Bremerhaven in June. I was very disappointed not to be there, but the economic rationalists won out and the Australian Antarctic Division was unable to support my attendance. It must be a sign of the times, as I know that a good many others found themselves in the same situation, and it's frustrating that we must wait another two years before the next chance to catch up in person with PLC colleagues.

As many of you know, the [Directory of Polar Libraries](#) has been updated and is now hosted by the Scott Polar Research Institute. Please check to see that your entries are up-to-date and encourage others to update theirs if necessary, as this type of resource is only useful as long as it is current. I'll be checking entries for Australia and New Zealand as part of this process.

Next year, 2011, promises to be an exciting one Down Under as we celebrate the centenary of Sir Douglas Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition (1911–14). A website, [100 Years of Australian Antarctic Expeditions](#), has been set up to coordinate events, and a number of special projects have already been completed, including publication by the State Library of South Australia of a facsimile edition of *Adelie Blizzard*, the newspaper produced by Mawson's expeditioners; digitisation of the diaries of expedition photographer [Frank Hurley](#) by the National Library of Australia; and digitisation of [Home of the Blizzard](#), Mawson's account of the expedition, by Project Gutenberg.

Last, but not least, I must draw your attention to [TROVE Australia](#), a powerful search engine created by the National Library of Australia, which opens up access to over 90 million Australian information resources in a variety of formats including books, newspapers, diaries, photographs, maps, music, and websites.

Best wishes,

**Andie Smithies**, PLC Chair  
Australian Antarctic Division  
Kingston, Tasmania

## Sad News

Word has been received of the death of Beatrice Wenger on November 12, 2010, in Nyon, Switzerland, after a short illness resulting from a stroke. Beatrice was an honorary member of PLC, and members will remember her strong and passionate participation in meetings and activities. She and her husband, Hubert, were long-time supporters of Arctic research and scholarship. Their work together resulted in the development of the [Hubert Wenger Eskimo Database](#), which has been a valuable tool in libraries in the North. Beatrice was honored during a service on November 18th in Founex (VD), Switzerland, and buried alongside her late husband, who passed away in 1995.

More information will appear in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

## Next PLC Venue Announced

The Roger G. Barry Resource Office for Cryospheric Studies (ROCS) and the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR) in Boulder, Colorado, will host the 24<sup>th</sup> Polar Libraries Colloquy in June, 2012. By tradition, PLC meets biennially at alternating venues between Europe and North America.

The conference organizers say: "Join us in sunny Colorado! We can promise sunshine, wildflowers, and maybe some snow (you never know here in the Rocky Mountain state). We are planning a stimulating and entertaining week, with plenty to do and beautiful surroundings in which to do it."

For more information, please contact ROCS at 303.492.5171 or via email at [library@nsidc.org](mailto:library@nsidc.org).



## View from the Immediate Past Chair

Looking back over the past two memorable years as Chair of PLC, I have been struck by how much we have achieved. The 22<sup>nd</sup> PLC in Edmonton in 2008 was fertile ground for a number of initiatives. The PLC website has been substantially overhauled and provides even more information for members and other interested parties. A PLC Digital Projects Survey led by Betty Galbraith investigated the many projects in which member libraries are involved. The [Directory of Polar Libraries](#) now can be easily updated by member libraries (and if you haven't already done so, please check your entry to make sure all of the details are correct).

Sandy Campbell's sterling work as our representative in the University of the Arctic (UArctic) Council has borne fruit, especially in terms of its new direction on information provision. We were sad to see Sandy step down from the Committee, but glad to know that she remains committed to working with UArctic. The help given by small working parties taking a lead on many of these ideas has been very positive, and I hope we can continue to work in this way.

A quick glance at traffic on pollib-L shows the true value of a library network such as ours—exchanges of duplicate materials, requests for information

and offers of help, new book announcements, calls for nominations for the William Mills Book Prize, membership news, updates on forthcoming Colloquies, and a whole host of other topics—a community of interest in action!

The Bremerhaven Colloquy was superbly organised, stimulating, and, as ever, great fun. A whole host of fascinating presentations will appear in due course in the PLC proceedings, which I, for one, look forward to reading and for which we are indebted to the generosity of Marcel Brannemann and his team at AWI. Thanks to your generosity (and David Walton's inspired lunacy as auctioneer), the Hubert Wenger Award, which assists delegates who might otherwise be unable to attend our meetings, is also in a better financial state than ever.

My thanks to everyone who has contributed so much to the success of PLC. I have thoroughly enjoyed my stint at the helm; you are an extraordinary, welcoming, and knowledgeable group with which to work. I am sure that incoming Chair, Andie Smithies, will find it so, and I send him all good wishes for the next two years.

*Heather Lane,*  
Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, UK

## Current Status of the Danish Polar Center

by *Vibeke Sloth Jakobsen,*  
Polar Library, Copenhagen, Denmark

After a turbulent year I would like to inform all of you that there is still a polar library in Denmark. The Danish Polar Center was closed down last year, and the situation for the library went from bad to worse. The short version of the story is that the library survived at the last minute, thanks to protests from polar researchers in Denmark and abroad.

The library is now part of the University of Copenhagen library, and all materials that belonged to the Danish Polar Center have been transferred to the university. Organizationally the library belongs to the Department of Eskimology and Arctic Studies. Over the next couple of months this will result in the polar database being integrated more fully into the university library's database.

The library is still open to the public, and the collections will now be pruned to fit into the university's profile. Focus will be on humanities and social sciences, and we will no longer hold duplicates. The staff is now one part-time librarian.

The library's new email is [polarlibrary@hum.ku.dk](mailto:polarlibrary@hum.ku.dk) but the address is the same: Polar Library, Strandgade 102, DK 1401 Copenhagen K, Denmark.



## In Memoriam: Geraldine A. (Nita) Cooke (1924–2010)

by *Martha Andrews*,  
University of Colorado INSTAAR Librarian, retired

PLC lost one of its original members on May 25, 2010. Nita Cooke always modestly denied being a 'founder' of the Northern Libraries Colloquy (renamed the Polar Libraries Colloquy in 1988) but we would be at a loss to explain its origins without her, as she and the Boreal Institute for Northern Studies (BINS) at the University of Alberta provided the venue for the first meeting in June 1971.

Nora Corley Murchison (Arctic Institute of North America) and Garth Graham (Government of Yukon Territory) were looking for just the right place to initiate what has become a long-running colloquy in its truest sense. A colloquy, according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, is "a talking together, a conversation, a dialogue," and now, for 23 biennial gatherings, PLC has attracted librarians and other providers and users of Polar Regions information.

Nita Cooke, Head Librarian at BINS until her retirement in 1990, came into librarianship with a background in chemistry and some acquaintance with mainframe computer capabilities. She was one of the pioneers in the early stages of computerized delivery of polar information. She guided her staff with great energy and took advantage of the existing mainframe computer equipment and programming expertise available at the University of Alberta in the early 1970s.

One outcome was the production of a printed KWIC (KeyWord In Context) index to the Boreal Northern Titles (BNT) held in her library. BNT quickly became an online searchable reference database. By 1980, when the 8<sup>th</sup> Northern Libraries Colloquy met a second time at Edmonton and added Whitehorse to the venue, BNT had been mounted on QL Systems, and it was, therefore, searchable remotely and remains so to this day, with changes appropriate to our times.

BNT is only one example of the many opportunities created under Nita's guidance to share access to 'northern' library resources with a wide audience. Her dedication to information sharing was really the hallmark of the early PLCs and continues today.



Geraldine A. (Nita) Cooke, 1980.  
Photograph by M. Andrews.

Nita and her husband, Edgar Cooke (who died in 2008), attended many Colloquies up to and including the 20<sup>th</sup> held in Ottawa in 2004. They were a memorable couple, well known for their 'hospitality suite,' an elegant bar set up in their room to be shared by any members who wished to drop by. Many a good time was had and much business took place in this informal setting. It is even possible that some good ideas were hatched there!

Nita was always anxious to share her expertise on polar information matters. She was also willing to chaperone those in need back to their rooms after a good party or to offer an extra room at her home in Edmonton to one of us coming through to a conference when our funds were low. Nita will be missed, and doubly so by those of us who knew her long enough to have benefitted from her many kindnesses.

Editors note: The PLC website includes [A Brief History of the Polar Libraries Colloquy/Northern Libraries Colloquy, 1971 to 1973: The First Three Colloquies](#), excerpted from "The Northern Libraries Colloquy: a brief history" by Geraldine A. (Nita) Cooke in *Library Association of Alberta*, vol. 5, no. 3/4, October 1974, p. 101–103. Contribution No. 28 of the Boreal Institute for Northern Studies.



## Russia's Central Scientific Agricultural Library Celebrates 80 Years

by **V.G. Pozdnyakov**, Director of CSAL,  
and **N.P. Abbakumova**, Deputy Director of CSAL for Economics and Marketing,  
Moscow, Russia

In September 2010, the State's Scientific Institution, the Central Scientific Agricultural Library (CSAL), which is the well-known branch library of the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (RAAS), celebrated its 80th anniversary.

CSAL is a scientific and methodological center for 310 scientific agricultural libraries involved in Russian agribusiness, including libraries of research and development (R&D) institutes, higher educational institutions, institutions for continuing vocational education, and postgraduate schools within the Academy of Agricultural Sciences and the Ministry of Agriculture. Of particular note are the researchers from Siberia and Northern regions who actively use the CSAL document resources, specifically the Kamchatka R&D Institute of Agriculture, Yakutia R&D Institute of Agriculture, and Arkhangelsk R&D Institute of Agriculture.

The history of the founding and development of CSAL as one of the largest information and research centers for information support of agribusiness

began on June 25, 1929, when the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR adopted a decision to establish the 'All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences named after V.I. Lenin' (VASKhNIL). Among the 11 newly established institutes was a main agricultural library, scheduled to open on January 1, 1930; however, it actually opened soon after and was not a main library but a reference facility with very limited possibilities.

In July, 1930, the Board of People's Commissariat for Agriculture (Narkomzem) of the USSR adopted a decree establishing the All-Union Agricultural Library (VSKhB). Its first director was Petr Yakovlevich Gurov, a professor and expert in agriculture, who had an extensive journalistic practice. The Library was established according to a specific plan that included the collection of the VASKhNIL reference library, the Collective Farm Center, the central agricultural library of Narkomzem of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, and the Moscow Society for Agricultural Cooperation, as well as donation libraries of many scientists.

Beginning in 1931, the Library began to receive legal deposits of domestic agricultural literature, and over the last 80 years, these have become one of the collection's most important sources.

The year 1934 was a milestone for VSKhB. By this time the collection amounted to 600,000 units, and the library staff included 53 employees. In that same year, the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR issued a decree regarding the reorganization of VASKhNIL, which also impacted the legal status of VSKhB and its character, goals, and targets. VSKhB was renamed the Central Scientific Agricultural Library



Russia's Central Scientific Agricultural Library.  
Photograph courtesy of V.G. Pozdnyakov and N.P. Abbakumova.





## William Mills 2010 Prize for Non-Fiction Polar Books

by *Deborah Hicks*,  
University of Alberta, Edmonton

The Selection Committee for the William Mills Prize for Non-Fiction Polar Books is pleased to announce that *Furs and Frontiers in the Far North: The Contest Among Native and Foreign Nations for the Bering Strait Fur Trade* by John R. Bockstoce (Yale University Press: New Haven, CT, 2009) was selected as the winner of the 2010 prize. The honor was announced by committee member Gloria Hicks at an awards ceremony held June 14, 2010, in Bremerhaven, Germany, at the biennial Colloquy.

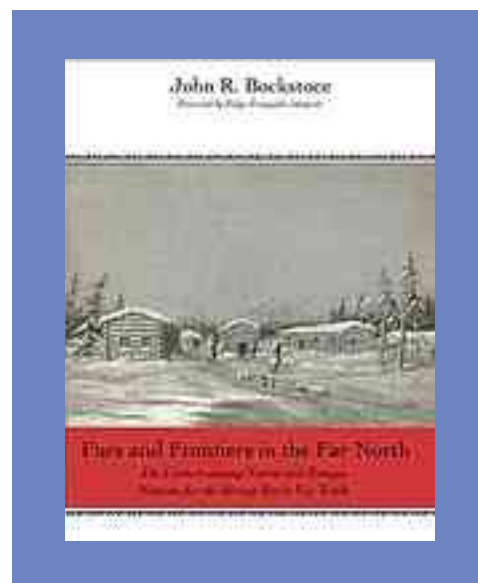
In the book's forward, British historian and author Felipe Fernandez-Armesto describes furs as "the black gold of the far north in the pre-industrial era of global trade" (p. xi). The fur trade, centered on the Bering Strait region, offered first the Russians and then the Europeans and Americans a way to increase trade with Asia, even though the local Eskimo populations had already established trade with the Chukchis of Asia and viewed these outside attempts as a threat to their established relationships. Bockstoce tells the story of the subsequent conflict and collaboration between the Native populations and the Russian, European, and American traders that shaped this important commercial, and ultimately political, activity.

Bockstoce presents his material chronologically and geographically. He divides his book into three parts, each focusing on a separate segment of the history of trading activities during the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. He opens with the commercial exploration of the area in 1819 by the American vessel *General San Martin* and its discovery of the Native trade network. In part two, he describes Russia's expansion into Alaska back to 1741. Part three presents the economic and social changes experienced by the Native peoples of the region and closes with the discovery of gold in the Klondike.

Along this journey, everything is explored—from the politics and economics of the fur trade, to the details of trapping and hunting, to how the furs were ultimately marketed. Bockstoce describes the impact of benign foreign influences, like the British fleet searching for Sir John Franklin, as well as the not-so-benign influences of other trading

interests, on the lives of the Native populations. Liquor, disease, and the demise of various animal populations are identified as just some of the negative influences the fur trade had on the lives of the Eskimo peoples. In short, the author masterfully explores every aspect of this important period in Northern history.

The narrative is supplemented with useful illustrations and detailed notes. Even the most knowledgeable readers will appreciate the detailed chronology found after the main narrative, along



with a useful glossary and bibliography. The maps are clear and easy to follow as the narrative moves from location to location.

Committee members were impressed by Bockstoce's balanced treatment of his subjects and depth of research. More than one commented on the excellence of the writing and on Bockstoce's ability to make such a seemingly narrow and intimidating topic approachable. His enthusiasm for the Bering Strait, along with its history and people, was evident throughout the book.

Twelve other titles nominated for this year's prize were featured in a previous issue of the *Bulletin* (see Spring 2010, p. 8).



## **William Mills 2010 Prize** *continued*

The 2010 Selection Committee was composed of seven members (in alphabetical order): Clare Flemming (Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia); Quinn Fletcher (University of Alberta, Edmonton); Deborah Hicks (University of Alberta, Edmonton); Gloria Hicks (Roger G. Barry Resource Office for Cryospheric Studies, National Snow & Ice Data Center, University of Colorado Boulder); Ron

Inouye (University of Alaska Fairbanks, retired); Milbry Polk (Wings WorldQuest, New York); and Sharon Rankin (McGill University, Montreal).

For more information about the award, please visit the [PLC website](#).

## **A First Timer's Impression of Colloquy**

by *Yoriko Hayakawa*,  
National Institute of Polar Research  
Toyko, Japan

As regarding my attending the 23<sup>rd</sup> PLC, it was useful for me. I was impressed by two things.

First, PLC has been continued by librarians and archivists to treat polar science the same as other subjects, like the Medical Library Association. It has kept communication going for all librarians of polar libraries in the world, so it has succeeded in taking away the isolation of someone working in a one-person library. Indeed, even though I had not attended yet, I got the confidence and some energy via the PLC website and PLC meeting information. After this meeting, I can concentrate my library work more than before. I can imagine other polar libraries' situations, and it is a truly important thing for me to treat polar science information.

Second, members have encouraged me to attend the next PLC meeting. So I plan to attend the next meeting with other members of polar libraries in Asia. I met a staff member of the Polar Research Institute of China, and before the next PLC I intend to send an invitation email to him.

I will also send one to my colleague—a librarian of the Institute of Low Temperature Science, Hokkaido University. Because—if PLC would ever be held in Japan, and it is a suitable place—we would need his help. However, the humidity is truly high in June, so you should not think to hold the PLC in Tokyo then!

## **Current Status of the IPY Publications Database**

The IPY Publications Database, described in detail in the previous issue of the *Bulletin*, now lists 4,164 International Polar Year publications. [Click here](#) for more information and instructions for author submissions.



PLC 2010, New Harbour, Bremerhaven, Germany



## Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> PLC Business Meeting

July 17, 2010, Klimahaus, Bremerhaven, Germany

Chair: Heather Lane (for Andie Smithies)

Quorum: 25 members present

Meeting called to order at 15:59 P.M.

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2008 PLC Business Meeting in Edmonton  

Moved: G. Hicks      Seconded: S. Tahirkheli  
Minutes were approved as published in the *PL Bulletin*.
3. Old Business
  - a. Union List Working Group  

ACTION: H. Lane referred to a request posted to the PLC list by B. Galbraith requesting that members report digitization projects to B. Galbraith.
  - b. William Mills Prize Committee  

PLC records a note of thanks to D. Hicks for chairing the William Mills Prize Committee and to the other members of the Committee for their service.
  - c. Constitution and Bylaws  

D. Walton reported that there had been little activity in this area and that with no change in the legal position of the PLC, the constitution remains unchanged.
  - d. Conference Handbook  

ACTION: M. Brannemann reported that he had used a version of the IAMSLIC Conference organizing guide in preparing for the 2010 PLC. M. Brannemann will arrange to have the guide posted to the PLC website.
  - e. Membership  

S. Sommer has sent letters to about three dozen libraries, inviting participation in the PLC. The website has been modified with a new link to a new registration page.
  - f. Website  

ACTION: J. Finn has made a request for more library profiles to be featured on the website. Members are encouraged to send J. Finn their library profiles.
4. Treasurer's report.  

D. Walton presented the report for the period 2008–2010 (Appended [report not included in the *Bulletin*]).
5. Passing of Geraldine (Nita) Cooke  

E. Maloney presented a tribute to Nita Cooke, one of the founders of the Polar Libraries Colloquy, who passed away May 25, 2010, in Victoria, British Columbia. A card of condolence from the PLC will be forwarded to the Cooke family.



## Launch of the Polar Information Commons

From an email forwarded from the SPARC Open Access Forum Digest:

The Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) and its partners announced the successful launch of the Polar Information Commons at the recent IPY Oslo Science Conference in June 2010. The event was officially launched by Professor Steven Chown, recipient of the prestigious Martha T. Muse award. Dr. Chown is Director of the Centre for Invasion Biology and a Professor in the Department of Botany and Zoology at Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

The launch was attended by approximately 100 people, and the Polar Information Commons (PIC) booth was visited by many dignitaries throughout the week, including HRH Crown Prince Haakon of Norway and HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco. Visit the [PIC photo gallery](#) to see photographs taken at the event.



The Polar Information Commons:  
Establishing the Framework for the  
Long-term Stewardship of Polar Data  
and Information.

Stakeholders gathered to discuss the development of the PIC post-Oslo. A number of small working groups will be established to address governance, legal, outreach, technological, and data stewardship issues as PIC evolves. Check the [PIC website](#) over the coming months as events develop or contact the CODATA secretariat at [codata@dia.oleane.com](mailto:codata@dia.oleane.com).

## New Faculty Appointment at UAF

Submitted by **Bridget Burke**, Head, Alaska & Polar Regions Collections  
Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks

The Elmer E. Rasmuson Library at the University of Alaska Fairbanks is pleased to announce the faculty appointment of Dr. Katherine Arndt as Alaska & Polar Regions (APR) Bibliographer and Curator of Rare Books. Many know Dr. Arndt through her work in the manuscripts and archives unit of APR, or through her accomplishments as an historian of Russian America. She brings a deep knowledge of Alaska history, APR collections, and the international scholarly community to this position, and her exceptional talents make her uniquely qualified to assess and build APR's research collections. Dr. Arndt began her appointment on September 13, 2010. She can be contacted at [karndt@alaska.edu](mailto:karndt@alaska.edu).

## Winner of the 2010 Wenger Award

Gloria Hicks, with the National Snow & Ice Data Center's [Roger G. Barry Resource Office for Cryospheric Studies](#) at the University of Colorado Boulder, was announced as the winner of the 2010 Wenger Award. This award, funded through the auction proceeds held at each Colloquy, commemorates Hubert Wenger's outstanding contributions to polar libraries and provides financial assistance to delegates who might otherwise be unable to attend a PLC meeting.





## Russia's Central Scientific Agricultural Library *continued*

(CSAL) of VASKhNIL, which determined the functions and directions of its further development.

In 1935 the Presidium of VASKhNIL adopted the regulations on CSAL, in which the Library received the status of an R&D institution followed by the establishment of a Scientific Board. The scope of its principal functions now included: supporting the research activities of the scientific institutions in the VASKhNIL network; organizing information and media events; planning and organizational supervision of the work of agricultural R&D institution libraries; compiling subject bibliographies, abstracting, and publishing special bibliography editions, as well as scientific and technical information and the CSAL R&D findings. The Library became well established during the years preceding the War, creating many reference aids and a broad user base.

The Library rode out the storm of the Great Patriotic War along with the rest of the country. An important part of its collection, along with its staff, were moved to Omsk (Siberia), where the staff continued work in a very severe environment. After the end of the War the Library returned to Moscow.

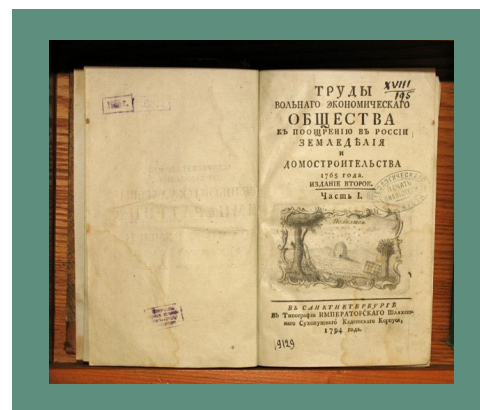
During this time the Library's focus changed significantly. Of paramount importance was the listing of literature on war-time subjects, e.g., farming crops to help survive in eastern and northern regions of the USSR. The international document exchange was maintained mainly with institutions of the USA and Great Britain. Acquisitions for the four years of the War amounted to 52,000 editions of domestic and foreign literature.

In November 1946, the regulations on CSAL were revised. The new document confirmed the role of the Library as the All-Union leading scientific and library institution in agricultural bibliography and library science, and as the center for organizational supervision of libraries of agricultural R&D institutions of the Academy. It was emphasized that CSAL operated as an All-Union R&D institute within the VASKhNIL system and had all the privileges and advantages determined for R&D institutes.

It should be noted that the period from the 1930s up to the 1950s was a particularly complicated time in CSAL's history. The Library was unable to meet

many of the challenges of providing informational support to the branch specialists; however, the principal line of development adopted by CSAL during these years has proven to be correct.

During the 1960s through 1980s, the institutional system of informational support of science and industry in the country changed. In a relatively short time, a unified national system of scientific and technical information (SSTIS) was established, with a five-level hierarchical system of agricultural scientific and technical information as an integral part. Within this system CSAL was designated as the principal library for agribusiness and as a depository library for agricultural literature.



Rare book from the CSAL collections.  
Photograph courtesy of V.G. Pozdnyakov  
and N.P. Abbakumova.

As a result, CSAL became the holder of a large collection. While the scope and content of the Library's activity in developing a system to provide library and information services for users were enhanced, a full-scale support system for these activities failed to develop due to a severe administration, the imperfection of the SSTIS operation, and a lack of telecommunications. Despite these problems, this period was characterized by a rather extensive development of the Library.

The perestroika that began at the end of the 1980s forced the Library to curtail systemic aspects of its activity and to think outside the box. At this moment, a new stage of the Library's history began—that of fundamentally modernizing the system to provide agrarian scientists and experts with library and information services,

## Russia's Central Scientific Agricultural Library *continued*

and developing CSAL as the country's leading information center in agribusiness. The scope of the collection was expanded, specifically its subject coverage; the newest information technologies began to be implemented, including a successful automated information and library system; and the range of information resources widened.

With its operational efficiency, online access to international and national information resources, advanced analytic-synthetic processing of documents, and development and distribution of bibliographic, full-text, and other databases, CSAL actually ranks among the most advanced Russian libraries. In 1992, the Library obtained the status of the R&D institute for information and library support of agribusiness.

As the bibliographic center for agriculture and allied disciplines, CSAL coordinates this work for the entire country of Russia. Since 1948 the Library has kept records of all significant scientific literature on agriculture, produced the monthly index, *Agricultural Literature*, and issued a range of current and retrospective bibliographic indexes, as well as the biobibliographic indexes of agrarian scientists.

The Library's collection amounts to 3 million items, with an annual acquisition of about 20,000 documents, including those related to northern regions. The Library's staff currently consists of 110 employees. CSAL's information resources, including those in electronic form, are used all over the world by a vast number of scientists and specialists involved in agribusiness.

As an additional service, scientists and specialists of R&D and educational agribusiness institutions

have had the ability to access the Library's full-text and abstract databases, linguistic tools of CSAL, and other resources, from their workstations. With the help of the Library's new A-to-Z service of EBSCO Information Services, electronic resources of different publishing houses have been consolidated into one access system. At present this resource includes access to approximately 3,000 journal titles through CSAL's Virtual Bibliography Service, available from the CSAL website since March 2008.

To meet the challenge of developing a Branch Electronic Union Catalogue as an integral part of a Distributed Branch Document Collection on agribusiness issues, CSAL has successfully adapted technologies incorporating it as a reference library within the Russian Union Library Catalogue project.

CSAL is one of the few Russian libraries that has been performing analytical cataloguing of and annotating foreign and domestic documents on agribusiness issues almost from the date of its establishment. The document input (about 55,000 records) is included in the AGROS Database, which is the largest subject database in Russian (with over 1.6 million records). For more than 15 years, the Library has also been involved in developing an information retrieval thesaurus for the agriculture and food industry.

From 2008 on, CSAL has been a Depository Library providing for the acquisition and guaranteed permanent storage of documents issued under the aegis of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). At present, this library includes over 3,000 FAO document titles added since 1947. The FAO Depository Library within CSAL is available through the electronic catalogue, and CSAL specialists have published a guide for the FAO resources. A pathfinder for remote agribusiness resources network (<http://www.cnshb.ru/AKDiL/navig>) has also been developed.

CSAL also serves as the AGRIS National Center in Russia, and as such, it ensures the scientific processing of Russian documents for the English version of [AGRIS](#), writes English abstracts, indexes documents according to the [AGROVOC Thesaurus](#) and classification manual, and compiles bibliographic records for this database.



CSAL Conference in 2009. Photograph courtesy of V.G. Pozdnyakov and N.P. Abbakumova.



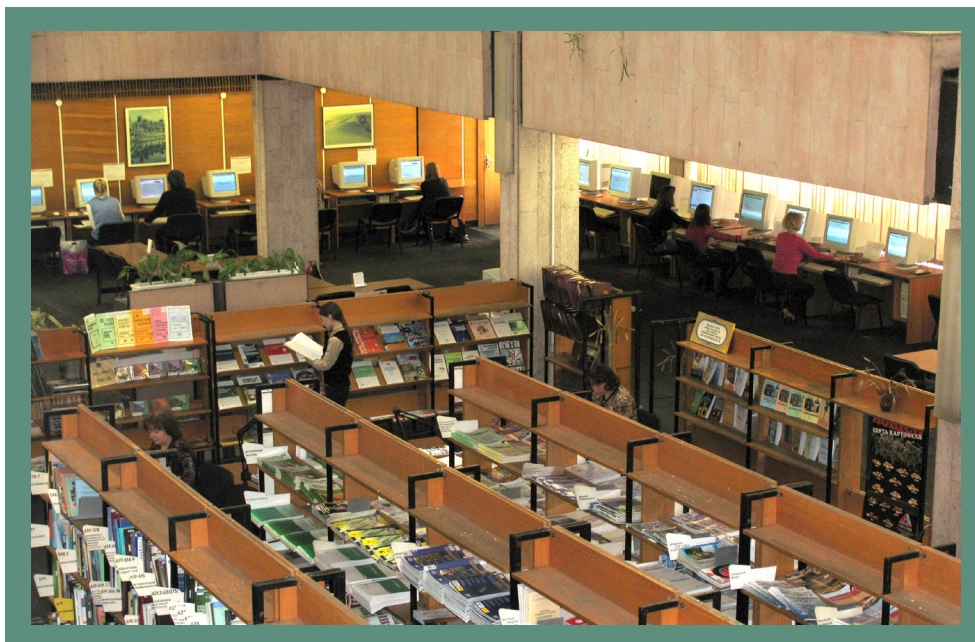
## Russia's Central Scientific Agricultural Library *continued*

AGROVOC uses a multilingual thesaurus, with versions in 17 languages; the Russian version, which CSAL is generating using a technique it developed, is nearly complete. The development of this version has contributed to the convergence of Russian scientific terminology with that used in international systems and by FAO. AGROVOC ranks as an International Terminology Standard.

For many years, CSAL was the country's leading contributor to the International Document Exchange. Through the agreements, the Library Exchange receives over 140 foreign journal titles and hundreds of books from more than 250

organizations representing 40 countries. Since 1995 CSAL has been a member of the global Agricultural Library Network (AGLINET), which allows our users to receive copies of articles from any participating agricultural library, while CSAL, in turn, annually sends tens of thousands of Russian articles to countries all over the world.

The active and creative work of CSAL at the international level strengthens its prestige abroad and contributes to the integration of scientific achievements of agricultural science and practice in the world's scientific community.



CSAL Reading Room.  
Photograph courtesy of  
V.G. Pozdnyakov and  
N.P. Abbakumova.

## Sale of NISC to EBSCO

Mentioned in the PLC Business Minutes (see p. 16) is a report concerning the sale of NISC to EBSCO and the ensuing implications for the [Arctic and Antarctic Regions database](#). More information on this item is pending and will appear in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

## Looking for the PLC 2010 Proceedings?

The 2010 PLC proceedings from the Colloquy held in Bremerhaven, *Cool Libraries in a Melting World*, will be published as an issue of the Alfred Wegener Institute's e-only OpenAccess series, *Reports on Polar and Marine Research*. Expected publication date is December 2010. The resulting PDF can be used for printing copies. AWI is not planning to publish a print edition.



## Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> PLC Business Meeting *continued*

### 6. New Business

#### a. New Steering Committee Executive Positions

Executive positions are filled from within the current membership of the Steering Committee. New executive members are Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Pierre Beaudreau and Secretary Laura Kissel.

A vote of thanks was extended to S. Campbell, outgoing Secretary.

#### b. New Steering Committee Non-Executive Positions

Several members indicated an interest in serving on the Steering Committee. Because it was unclear how many positions were vacant, a decision was made to hold an electronic ballot.

(Additional note: Subsequently it was determined that there were three positions and three interested members, so on July 8, Marcel Brannemann, Ross Goodwin, and Bridget Burke were announced as the new non-executive members of the Steering Committee.)

#### c. Sale of NISC to EBSCO

S. Tahirkheli spoke to this issue. NISC, which produced the *Arctic and Antarctic Regions (AAR)* database, was sold almost two years ago. AAR was comprised of submissions from several database producers within the PLC membership, including the Scott Polar Research Institute, the Arctic Institute of North America, and the Cold Regions Bibliography Project. After September 2009, EBSCO could no longer accept content from the various database creators and was pessimistic about being able to accept future content from any outside source. EBSCO has agreed to test a submission of content from the Cold Regions Bibliography Project to evaluate the possibility, but no decision has been made. EBSCO is generating all current content internally. Although EBSCO is working from an approved list of polar journals, all articles are often included, even those not polar in content. In spite of this, EBSCO is still calling the database *Arctic and Antarctic Regions*. No information has been supplied to subscribers indicating the above changes to the database.

A committee of the AAR database contributors will monitor EBSCO and report back to PLC.

ACTION: Members of this group will also prepare an article describing this situation for the *PL Bulletin*.

#### d. European Union Arctic Information Centre Proposal

A printed version of the proposal was distributed to members and was discussed. In particular the members took note of section SP. 5 EU Arctic library network in the draft of 14.3.2010, which states:

Libraries are the key sources of information for...public and students. This co-operation will provide European Arctic librarians services for sharing, collecting, preserving, and disseminating information on the Arctic in order to improve collections, archives, and services including digital library co-operations.

Logistics: This activity can be built on the Polar Library [sic] Colloquy which is participated [in] by the main libraries of the EU that have Arctic collections.





## Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> PLC Business Meeting *continued*

### Discussion:

- i. This is the first opportunity PLC has had to provide input into this proposal.
- ii. PLC is aware that the proposal has also been sent to the heads of major polar libraries in the EU.
- iii. PLC does not have the organizational structure to manage large grants, so would not be able to receive and use EU funds. Also, PLC is not able to be part of the bidding process.
- iv. Because PLC, as an entity, does not hold collections, it cannot contribute collections to this network. Collections would have to be contributed by individual libraries.
- v. PLC is an international organization with its own mandate, spanning both poles. The EU countries are only a subset of that larger group.
- vi. Non-European polar libraries would certainly benefit from strengthened access to polar information within the EU.

ACTION: H. Lane will write a letter in response, supporting the proposal in principle, but recognizing that PLC, in and of itself, cannot have a functional role in the proposal.

### 7. Location of the 2012 Colloquy

S. Sommer, G. Hicks, and A. Wallace introduced Boulder, Colorado, as the site for the 2012 Colloquy.

### 8. Location of the 2014 Colloquy

By tradition, the Colloquy alternates between North America and Europe.

It is helpful to have early declarations from organizations interested in hosting a Colloquy. The Steering Committee would like to receive declarations by the close of the early bird registration for the preceding Colloquy (the constitution requires 60 days).

The Scott Polar Research Institute and the British Antarctic Survey have jointly declared an interest in hosting the 2014 Colloquy at Cambridge, UK.

[Other declarations of interest are still welcome. —the Editors]

### 9. Other Business

#### a. *PL Bulletin*

D. Carle requested content for the *Bulletin*. She reminded participants that vignettes of libraries, reviews, brief reports of parts of the conference, or other news are always welcome.

#### b. Future of the Italian Antarctic Program

S. Sarti reminded participants of the government cutbacks in Italy and indicated that the Italian Antarctic Program and its library may be in jeopardy. She asked that participants write letters of support for the library, recognizing that international support is valuable.

### 10. Meeting adjourned at 16:55 P.M. Minutes submitted by *Sandy Campbell*.



## PLC Steering Committee, 2010

### Executive Members

#### Andie Smithies

##### Chair

Australian Antarctic Division  
Kingston, Tasmania, Australia  
[andie.smithies@aad.gov.au](mailto:andie.smithies@aad.gov.au)

#### Pierre Beaudreau

##### Chair-Elect

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Gatineau, Quebec, Canada  
[pierre.beaudreau@ainc-inac.gc.ca](mailto:pierre.beaudreau@ainc-inac.gc.ca)

#### Laura Kissel

##### Secretary

Byrd Polar Research Center Archival Program  
Columbus, Ohio, USA  
[kissel.4@osu.edu](mailto:kissel.4@osu.edu)

#### David Walton

##### Treasurer

British Antarctic Survey  
Cambridge, UK  
[dwhw@bas.ac.uk](mailto:dwhw@bas.ac.uk)

### Members At Large

#### Marcel Brannemann

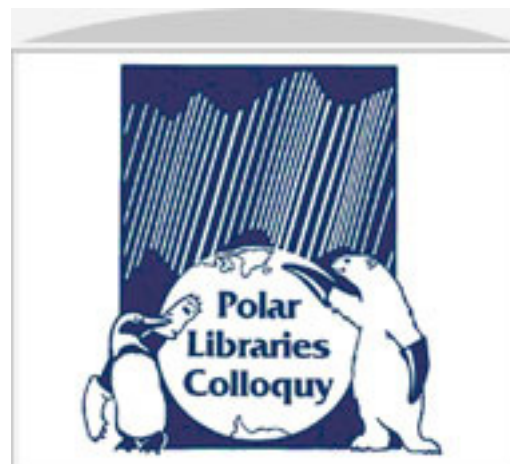
Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine  
Research  
Bremerhaven, Germany  
[marcel.brannemann@awi.de](mailto:marcel.brannemann@awi.de)

#### Bridget Burke

Alaska & Polar Regions Collections  
Elmer E. Rasmuson Library  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Fairbanks, Alaska, USA  
[bjburke@alaska.edu](mailto:bjburke@alaska.edu)

#### Ross Goodwin

Arctic Science & Technology  
Information System (ASTIS)  
Arctic Institute of North America  
University of Calgary  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
[rgoodwin@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rgoodwin@ucalgary.ca)



### Ex-Officio Members

#### Juli Braund-Allen

Senior Bulletin Editor  
UAA/APU Consortium Library  
University of Alaska Anchorage  
Anchorage, Alaska, USA  
[anjb1@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:anjb1@uaa.alaska.edu)

#### Daria O. Carle

Bulletin Editor  
UAA/APU Consortium Library  
University of Alaska Anchorage  
Anchorage, Alaska, USA  
[afdoc@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:afdoc@uaa.alaska.edu)

#### Julia Finn

PLC Webmaster  
Departmental Library  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Gatineau, Quebec, Canada  
[julia.finn@ainc-inac.gc.ca](mailto:julia.finn@ainc-inac.gc.ca)

#### Shelly Sommer

Coordinator, 2012 Colloquy  
Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research  
University of Colorado  
Boulder, Colorado, USA  
[shelly.sommer@colorado.edu](mailto:shelly.sommer@colorado.edu)



## New Publication

**Alia, Valerie.** 2010. *The New Media Nation: Indigenous Peoples and Global Communication*. New York: Berghahn Books.

Around the planet, Indigenous people are using old and new technologies to amplify their voices and to broadcast information to a global audience. *The New Media Nation* is the first portrait of a powerful international movement that looks both inward and outward, helping to preserve ancient languages and cultures while communicating across cultural, political, and geographical boundaries.

Based on more than 20 years of her research, work experience, and observation in Indigenous journalism, film, music, and visual art, Dr. Alia's latest book contains specialized studies of Inuit in the circumpolar north, as well as First Nations peoples in the Yukon, southern Canada, and the United States.

Dr. Alia is currently Adjunct Professor in the Doctor of Social Sciences program at Royal Roads University (Canada) and Visiting Professor in the Centre for Diversity in the Professions at Leeds Metropolitan University, UK. An award-winning scholar, journalist,

photographer, and poet, she has also been a television and radio broadcaster, newspaper and magazine writer, and arts reviewer in the U.S. and Canada, as well as author of numerous books on cultures of the North. She is a founding member of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association.



**Polar Libraries Bulletin**  
**Fall 2010**  
**Issue 65**

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

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.

Editors: Juli Braund-Allen and Daria O. Carle  
Layout: Juli Braund-Allen

Please send submissions to Juli (anjb1@uaa.alaska.edu, phone 907-786-7666) or to Daria (afdoc@uaa.alaska.edu, phone 907-786-1869), both c/o UAA / APU Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage, 3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508.

PLC Homepage: <http://arcticcentre.ulapland.fi/polarweb/plc/default.asp>  
PLC Weblog: <http://www.plcblog.blogspot.com/>  
Polar Web: <http://arcticcentre.ulapland.fi/polarweb/>



University of Alaska Anchorage  
3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508