Forty Years of the Polar Libraries Bulletin

by Martha Andrews
retired INSTAAR Librarian, University of Colorado Boulder

In these days of instant messaging, Facebook, and so on, it is difficult to imagine what communications were like 40 years ago. Not only were long-distance phone calls costly and the present “social” networks absent, but computer-searchable reference databases were just developing and available only to libraries and research centers with adequate funding and equipment. Newsletters, published on paper and mailed via postal systems, were the main communication link among members of an interest community.

The initial Colloquy on Northern Library Resources, held in Edmonton in June 1971, discussed in its final session the question of whether or not to make the Colloquy an annual event. The consensus was to continue with a second Colloquy the following year. Perhaps an even more important decision was to create an informal bulletin to be circulated to colloquy participants; this bulletin or newsletter would contain up-to-date information in the field. Mrs. Nottingham [Alaska Division of State Libraries] agreed to arrange this project. ([Proceedings] p. 8)

First published in 1971 and still in production today, the Polar Libraries Bulletin (through 1988, entitled the Northern Libraries Bulletin) has, over the years, contained a wealth of information on such topics as library services, new publications, news of relevance from other organizations, reports on Colloquy meetings, and, occasionally, obituaries for cherished colleagues and others who have made significant contributions to the Colloquy, to its member institutions, or to polar research. Most prominent in this latter category have been: Hubert Wenger, for whom the Polar Libraries Colloquy’s Wenger Award is named (1995); William Mills, in whose name the Mills Book Prize was established (2004); Nita Cooke, who spearheaded the initial Colloquy on Northern Library Resources (2010); Beatrice Wenger (2010); and, in this issue, Dave Hickok (2011).

The very existence of this wonderful resource is, in large part, a tribute to the extraordinary efforts of its editors over the years. Everything else has changed—venues, programs, proceedings, directories, and special projects—not to mention the coming and going of numerous libraries, librarians, and databases to keep up with changes in science and demographics. And yet, on average, twice a year, out comes our Bulletin, keeping us all in touch! There have been eight editors: Phyllis (Nottingham) DeMuth, Nancy Lesh, Kay Shelton, Cathie Innes-Taylor, Lynn Lay, William Mills, Juli Braund-Allen, and Daria O. Carle. These Bulletin editors, some ably assisted by their excellent staff members, have received little recognition, and I hope herewith to pay tribute to their role in keeping intact a well-informed Colloquy!
Forty Years of the *PLB* continued from page 1

(Inaugural Issue 1–Issue 35)

Phyllis (Nottingham) DeMuth of the Alaska State Library quickly edited vol. 1, no. 1 of the *Northern Libraries Bulletin*, which was published and distributed in October 1971, only four months after the first Colloquy was held. On the title page of this issue it is described as

a quarterly news bulletin of the Northern Libraries Colloquy furnishing information on northern libraries activities, developments and cooperation; serving as an informal link for a northern libraries network.

What items were newsworthy for the Colloquy during the 1970s and most of the 1980s? Lists of free and not-so-free publications of interest; announcements of library catalogues; notices of relevant meetings; news of computer-produced indexes, construction of new libraries, appointments to newly created library positions, and acquisitions of significant collections by certain libraries; and people simply sending best wishes to other readers.

Issue 35 (July 1987), the final issue edited by Phyllis, contained a Call for Papers for the 12th Northern Libraries Colloquy, inviting people to join the conference on DIALMAIL, DIALOG’s menu-driven electronic mail system. Email was recommended as a good way for Colloquy members to communicate and has indeed proven very effective over the years.

Phyllis edited 35 issues over a period of 16 years, the longest tenure of any *Bulletin* editor to date. She was cited by Nancy Lesh in Issue 36 for her

wonderful job done of keeping us all in touch between meetings, and...[making] a substantial contribution in keeping the Colloquy organization as strong as it has been over the years.

Nancy Lesh, 1988 (Issue 36)

Nancy Lesh of the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) Library edited Issue 36, which was published in 1988 and is the only issue to have been edited singlehandedly. Nancy stepped forward to keep us connected at a crucial time of change

when the methods of collecting, preserving, and disseminating information were beginning to be transformed from print to electronic media.

continued on page 10
Last Reminder for the 24th Colloquy!

Click here for more details, including the program agenda, about this year’s Polar Libraries Colloquy to be held 11-14 June 2012 in Boulder, Colorado, USA.

Reminders:
• Don’t forget to bring your auction items
• 27 May is the last day to register for tours
• 5 June is the deadline to email PowerPoint and other visual presentations to the committee (library@nsidc.org)

We are pleased to have Leilani Henry as our closing speaker. Henry grew up listening to stories told by her father, George W. Gibbs, Jr., who participated in Admiral Richard Byrd’s third expedition to the South Pole. On 14 January 1940, Gibbs became the first African-American to set foot on Antarctica when he stepped off the USS Bear onto Little America III, an Antarctic exploration base located on the Ross Ice Shelf, south of the Bay of Whales.

Using journals discovered after Gibbs’ death in 2000, Henry has been researching and composing a narrative about her father’s little-known story. Visit her blog, We Are All Antarctica, to learn more about her project and the importance of our connection to the Antarctic continent.

We hope to see you there!

Allaina, Gloria, & Shelly, co-conveners, PLC 2012, University of Colorado Boulder

New Publications


The myth of “Scott of the Antarctic,” Captain Robert Falcon Scott, icon of fortitude and courage who perished with his fellow explorers on their return from the South Pole, is an enduring one, elevated, dismantled, and restored during the turbulence of the succeeding century.

Until now, the legend of the doomed Terra Nova Expedition has been constructed out of Scott’s own diaries and those of his companions, the sketches of ‘Uncle Bill’ Wilson and the celebrated photographs of Herbert Ponting. Yet for the final, fateful months of their journey, the systematic imaging of this extraordinary scientific endeavor was left to Scott himself, trained by Ponting. In the face of extreme climactic conditions and technical challenges at the dawn of photography, Scott achieved an iconic series of images; breathtaking polar panoramas, geographical and geological formations, and action photographs of the explorers and their animals, remarkable for their technical mastery as well as for their poignanty. Lost, fought over, neglected, and finally resurrected, Scott’s final photographs are here collected, accurately attributed and catalogued for the first time: a new dimension to the last great expedition of the Heroic Age and a humbling testament to the men whose graves still lie unmarked in the vastness of the Great Alone.

Polar historian David M. Wilson is chair of the Scott Centenary Committee at SPRI, where he has coordinated many of the major centenary events. He is the great-nephew of Dr. Edward Wilson, who died with Captain Scott and his party.

—From the publisher’s webpage
The Lost Photographs of Captain Scott

by Juli Braund-Allen, adapted with permission from the SPRI website
Alaska Resources Library & Information Services and the Consortium Library,
University of Alaska Anchorage

The “lost” photographs taken by Captain Robert Falcon Scott on his final expedition to the South Pole are being preserved and made accessible by the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI). They were purchased thanks to the UK’s Heritage Lottery Fund on 17 January 2012, marking the 100-year anniversary of the day that Scott and his expedition reached the South Pole.

This remarkable collection of 109 photographs gives a view of the Antarctic as seen through Scott’s eyes. The photographs themselves, which for most of the past 70 years had been considered lost, were printed in the Antarctic by members of Scott’s team. Subjects include Scott’s companions, the ponies and sledges, the scientific work they were undertaking, and the Antarctic landscape. Scott learned photography from Herbert Ponting, the expedition’s official photographer. The collection charts Scott’s first photographic attempts through to the remarkable images he captured on the journey to the head of Beardmore Glacier.

In 2004 SPRI purchased the original 1,700 glass-plate negatives of Herbert Ponting’s photographs of the expedition. The new acquisition of Scott’s own photographs brings these two collections together for the first time, making it the largest photographic record of the British Antarctic Expedition 1910–1912. The purchase also reunites the images with Scott’s camera, which was given to SPRI by the late Lady Philippa Scott in 2008. Once fully conserved, the photographs will be digitized and made available online.

Captain Scott led the British Antarctic (Terra Nova) Expedition, whose purpose was to be the first to reach the geographical South Pole, as well as to conduct scientific research on the Antarctic environment. Scott and four companions attained the Pole on 17 January 1912, only to find that a Norwegian team led by Roald Amundsen had preceded them by 34 days.

Scott and his entire party died on the return journey. Some of their bodies, journals, and personal effects, including the last photographs taken by Scott, were discovered by a search party eight months later.

The expedition’s geologist, Frank Debenham, who later became the founding director of SPRI, developed the photographs found with Scott’s body. All of Scott’s images were returned to the UK by members of the expedition in 1913, with the intent that they be used to illustrate books, reports, and lectures; difficulties with establishing copyright meant that only a handful were ever used.

With World War I intervening, the confusion over ownership was never resolved. Any remaining negatives were lost, and the prints passed to Herbert Ponting. Upon his death in 1935, the photographic agency Popperfoto purchased the prints and in 2001 sold them at auction in New York. They had remained in private hands until SPRI acquired them with Heritage Lottery Funds.

The images were recently published in a book entitled The Lost Photographs of Captain Scott by David Wilson, great-nephew of expedition biologist Edward Wilson who died with Scott. (See Book Reviews, this issue.)

SPRI posted Scott’s Last Expedition as a blog. To read the archive, start with Chapter 1: Through Stormy Seas. For a listing of the year-long events marking this centennial anniversary, click on Scott 100 Events: Terra Nova Exhibition Centenary. For the original posting on the SPRI webpage and to view several featured photographs, click here.
In Memoriam: Dr. David Marion Hickok (1924–2011)

by Juli Braund-Allen
[former Program Manager, AEIDC (1993–2006)]
Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS) and the Consortium Library,
University of Alaska Anchorage

Alaska lost a giant when Dave Hickok died on November 25, 2011, at age 87. His professional life was distinguished by his research and scholarship, which led to numerous high-level assignments in the federal government and with the University of Alaska (UA); by his commitment to his fellow citizens and the land; by his pioneering efforts at improving cross-cultural communication and promoting interdisciplinary studies; and by his catalytic involvement in the setting of national and state laws and regulations dealing with the environment, natural resources, economy, and endangered species. He was instrumental in laying the framework for the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971 and in helping to shape the Alaska National Interest Lands and Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. Other examples of legislation he influenced include the National Environmental Policy Act, the Arctic Research and Policy Act, the Marine Resources and Development Act, and the amendment to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act that extended coverage to Alaska.

Dave arrived in Alaska in 1966 as part of a top team of scientists and public policy experts serving on the U.S. Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska to set policy for the state’s post-1964 earthquake economic recovery. He had previously spent 20 years as manager of national wildlife refuges in Maine, Vermont, Delaware, and Montana, and had held significant administrative posts with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C. He was awarded a U.S. Congressional Fellowship, coordinated the establishment of regional development commissions throughout the U.S., and served as sciences policy analyst for the Library of Congress.

In Alaska, Dave pioneered the art and science of formulating public policy on natural resources management based upon sound data, information, and analysis. He was an early proponent of interdisciplinary research as an aid to decision making; the two UA programs he led were multidisciplinary in nature. From 1970 to 1975, he was the first director of the University’s Alaska Sea Grant Program. In 1972, he founded the University’s Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center (AEIDC), which he directed until 1988. In both of these positions, he was an eloquent and effective advocate of bringing the full weight of knowledge to bear in the public decision-making process.

Examples of some of AEIDC’s seminal products (most now out-of-print) produced during Dave’s directorship include Sixty Seconds of Science; the Alaska Regional Atlases; the only 1:1,000,000 base maps of Alaska compatible with the Universal Transverse Mercator USGS quadrangle maps; Climatic Atlas of the Outer Continental Shelf Waters and Coastal Regions of Alaska; Current Research Profile for Alaska; early sets of village profiles for use in community and regional planning; and the Alaska Subsistence Bibliography. AEIDC’s legacy and collections are today preserved and made available through ARLIS, which AEIDC helped create and co-founded, and which has won state and national awards in its own right.
Dave published widely and was a leader on many committees and boards including the Alaska Council on Science and Technology; the Arctic Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); and the Polar Research Board of the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, where he assumed a leadership role in shaping Arctic science policy. He was instrumental in founding the Alaska Academy of Engineering and Sciences. Dave was awarded numerous commendations, including a U.S. Civil Service/American Political Science Association Congressional Fellowship Public Service Award from AAAS; the Degree of Honorary Doctor of Science from UAA; and a Graduate of Distinction Award from NY College of Forestry, Syracuse University.

One of his most distinguishing characteristics was his readiness to mentor young scientists and professionals, many of whom went on to assume prominent leadership roles in their subsequent careers. He was especially concerned with fostering cross-cultural communication, and pioneered a number of methodologies in use today for transferring highly technical information to lay audiences.

He retired in 1988 to enjoy his lifetime passions of woodworking, traveling, and reading, as well as interacting with his dogs, with friends he had made from all walks of life, and with family in Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, Alaska, and the Lower 48. Despite increasing physical disability resulting from a nearly fatal accident at age 17 when he broke his back, he retained his Irish humor and sunny outlook.

Nan Elliot, writer, filmmaker, and former AEIDC staff member, had this to say in a Compass piece published in the Anchorage Daily News (Elliot 2011):

> [Dave] was a scientist, a maverick, and a visionary. He was also a wonderful boss.

With a team of scientists of every hue, graphic artists, mapmakers, librarians, and communication specialists, Hickok studied Alaska’s resource problems from an interdisciplinary perspective and presented material to the public (and those creating policy) in beautifully created, award-winning atlases, films, books, comprehensive databases, library resources, seminars, reports, and radio programs.

The amazing part about Dave was that he believed in us…. [I remember when] Jill Fredston walked into Dave’s office, unannounced, straight out of graduate school. Dave created a position for snow and ice right then…she has gone on to become one of the leading experts [on avalanche safety].

Others wrote this about Dave (AEIDC 1999):

**Jacob Adams, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation**

I had the privilege of working with David as one of my senior advisors shortly after ANSCA was passed…. His love for the Arctic showed in his efforts to provide the best advice to the Inupiat village corporations and the regional corporation.

His ability to interact with people and making them comfortable was an important asset so that we could gather information from our Elders about land use in the Arctic. I learned a lot from him and his capable staff about technical terms used...
High North Research Documents: Your Source for Research Documents on the North

by Leif Longva and Stein Høydalsvik
University Library of Tromsø, Norway

High North Research Documents (High North RD) is a freely available database providing access to research documents of relevance within the thematic scope of the high North. Developed by the University Library of Tromsø and launched in late January 2012, the nearly 150,000 records included as of April 2012 cover documents written in any language on any subject related to the high North. High North RD is an extremely valuable tool for researchers and students, as well as public policymakers, decision makers in the public or private sector, NGOs and interest groups, and anyone else interested in the high North.

Background
Open access to research documents is a global trend. Numerous higher education and research institutions all over the world have established open archives to make research documents freely available. Similarly, the number of open access journals is growing steadily. Open access research books and monographs are also starting to appear.

High North RD takes advantage of the freely available metadata from these sources to extract documents relevant to the high North. We do this with the kind help and cooperation from Bielefeld University Library and its Bielefeld Academic Search Engine (BASE), which the Bielefeld Library developed and has run since 2004. Using the common standard, Open Archives Initiative – Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH), BASE now harvests almost 2,200 open sources containing research documents from around the world. As of April 2012, BASE has metadata from approximately 35 million records.

How?
High North RD is an overlay service on top of what is harvested by BASE. High North RD extracts all relevant documents through a simple but intelligent textmining algorithm. The extraction process is mostly done automatically, but does involve a manual control. The extracting algorithm will be further developed and improved. As the corpus of open access research literature grows and is included in BASE, so will the High North RD keep growing in volume.
The method of automatic extraction from heterogeneous metadata is, to our knowledge, new. Our method means that High North RD will cover all subject fields and include documents in any language. However, because English-language documents currently predominate, we need to further develop the extracting algorithm for various other languages.

As an automatic textmining process will never be perfect, it is important to make use of the knowledge our users hold and engage them in improving the quality of High North RD. The service includes a feedback function by which users are encouraged to identify documents not relevant for the high North so they can be removed.

**What?**

High North RD is made up of any and all kinds of research-based documents. Examples of some of the important types of documents you will find are doctoral dissertations, peer-reviewed journal articles, books and book chapters, research reports and conference papers, and master theses. You will also find photos, as well as film and sound clips presenting personal interviews or lectures, or documenting life in the North in past or present times.

Our methodology ensures that no matter where in the world a document is produced or published, as long as it is open access and harvested by BASE, and as long as it is relevant to the high North, it should be found in High North RD. Documents on the Antarctic area are included as well, as many of these materials may relate to issues concerning the North. One notable advantage for users who are searching or browsing the database is that the documents have been preselected as relevant to northern regions.

**Lessons Learned**

As mentioned, the reason BASE is able to harvest from open access sources worldwide is that these sources commonly use the OAI-PMH standard. Unfortunately, some of the sources include records without any full-text documents, or they include records whose documents have restricted access. If such records are not easily identifiable in the metadata, which they seldom are, it means that non-open access records will be
harvested along with the open access ones. Thus, although we try our best to weed them in both BASE and High North RD, you may sometimes find records without any open access documents.

So far we have received very positive feedback from users, which is encouraging. We are convinced that modern and efficient communication between scholars and the need to disseminate research results to society at large, means that open access to research is the future. Another benefit is the ease with which open access metadata lends itself to creating tailor-made services. At this time, we are therefore not deterred by the fact that High North RD is limited to open access documents.

The Road Ahead
Since High North RD covers all areas of the circumpolar North, knowledgeable contributors from other institutions and other geographic areas and other interested persons are invited to join a team of editors. The task for this team will be to further improve the extracting algorithm so that it better identifies relevant documents. We expect that the workload for the editorial team would be very limited. Please contact us if you are interested in joining the High North RD editorial team.

Please also send us feedback, especially about any documents that should be removed. We need your help in making the High North RD an even better service.

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Forty Years of the PLB continued from page 2


Kay Shelton of the Alaska State Library joined Nancy to co-edit the Bulletin from 1990 through 1994. During these years, along with updates on the several polar databases which were accessible electronically, the Bulletin reported on new ways of communicating through electronic bulletin boards and listservs. Although OMNET and other commercial computer services hosted these boards and listservs, it is the Colloquy’s own listserv, Pollib-l, that has served as an important complementary source of Colloquy news since it was created in January 1994.

Pollib-l is a private, subscribers-only electronic mailing list/discussion group on the Internet, offering a “one to many” messaging service (described in Issue 43). Pollib-l was set up by Eric Tull at the University of Calgary. He and Ross Goodwin, also at the University of Calgary, managed this listserv together for many years until Eric retired in 2003. Ross continues to manage Pollib-l. This service for people involved with polar libraries or polar bibliographic databases provides a place to receive help with difficult reference questions or to make short announcements that cannot wait for the next issue of the Polar Libraries Bulletin. The listserv is well suited to shorter messages and those of more ephemeral value. Pollib-l started with 52 subscribers and had increased to 174 by 2011 (Goodwin 2011).

At the 12th Northern Libraries Colloquy in June 1988, the Colloquy voted to change its name from Northern Libraries Colloquy to Polar Libraries Colloquy (PLC) and the Bulletin was re-named accordingly from Northern Libraries Bulletin to Polar Libraries Bulletin. Issue 37 (Winter 1990) was the first to reflect the name change, complete with a new ISSN (0048-0789) and the note that it was “published and distributed by the Alaska State Library.” Four years later in 1992 at the business meeting of the 14th PLC, the Colloquy approved a vote of thanks to the Alaska State Library for its support of the Bulletin since its inception in 1971. Issue 43 (1994), was the last issue to receive this support, which included production and distribution. Nancy and Kay were thanked for a job well done.


William Mills at the Scott Polar Research Institute and Lynn Lay of the Byrd Polar Research Center took over as Bulletin editors with Issue 44, Summer 1995. During their tenure, several important achievements of the Colloquy were reported that had implications on continued support for the Bulletin and its transition into a more distinctive publication.

The PLC Constitution, approved July 7, 1994, was published in Issue 44, Summer 1995, and an amended constitution and bylaws approved June 21, 1996, was published in Issue 46, Autumn 1997. Article 5 established an annual membership fee, which eventually included a subscription to the Bulletin. However, Issues 44–47 did not have this financial support, and several organizational members, along with the PLC, contributed to production and distribution costs. Among these were the Byrd Polar Research Center, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory.

The Bulletin logo, originally designed for the 16th PLC by senior graphic artist Wanda Seamster of UAA’s Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center, was adopted at the 17th PLC as the official
Forty Years of the PLB continued from page 10

PLC logo. Her drawing of a penguin and polar bear holding a side view of the globe showing Greenland and Antarctica appeared on Issue 47, Winter 2000, replacing a North Pole-centered view of the globe that had been in use since 1976.

In Issue 47 the editors "were pleased to announce [at the 17th PLC business meeting] that the Polar Libraries Bulletin had won the 1998 Haworth Press Award, worth US $1000. The [editors'] view [was that] this award was testament in particular to the fine work of their predecessors, Nancy Lesh and Kay Shelton [editors from 1990–1994]."

William and Lynn retired as editors with the publication of Issue 47 (Winter 2000). In Issue 48–49 (Fall 2000–Spring 2001), they are thanked for their service by the next editors, Nancy Lesh and Cathie Innes-Taylor.


Nancy and Cathie, both with the UAA Library, began their term as editors in 2000. Issue 48–49 appeared in a dramatically fresh format. The new logo displayed on Issue 47 now looked even better in black on a white background! This new color scheme blended well with another innovative feature for the Bulletin—illustrations consisting of black-and-white photos and drawings. These featured the 18th PLC and field trip to Churchill, Manitoba. Photographs were interspersed with appropriate drawings outlining text.

Issue 48–49 (2000–2001) was sent to 369 individuals using a mailing list that had been developed over the years. The issue included...
Forty Years of the PLB continued from page 11

a membership renewal form, marking the first time that the PLC had solicited membership renewals by mail; 101 members paid the renewal fees. Issue 50–51 was sent to those 101 members, reducing production and mailing costs from US $948 to $284. Members were reminded that, as of Issue 50–51, the Bulletin would be mailed only to dues-paying members. The editors warmly thanked the many contributors to the Bulletin.

At the end of their successful term in 2005, the editors note in Issue 57 that “The Bulletin is the link among Polar Libraries Colloquy members between each Colloquy, and thus plays a very important role.” New editors were solicited.

Juli Braund-Allen and Daria O. Carle, 2006–present (Issue 58–)

Current editors Juli Braund-Allen and Daria O. Carle, also with the UAA Library, answered the call! The “Bulletin Back in Action” column in their first issue announced that they were sending the Bulletin out electronically; a note was added that the Bulletin could still be received by mail, if desired. The Polar Libraries Bulletin came online with color photographs and a new design and layout, courtesy of UAA graphic artist, Tim Jeter. With Issue 58, it also had an electronic ISSN (1944-1177). By Issue 61 (Fall 2008), Juli and Daria had taken over the design and layout themselves. Illustrated articles and news on the latest PLC are highlighted, as well as feature articles on digitization and other projects, libraries, book reviews, lengthy announcements, and also obituaries. Juli and Daria are to be complimented for the huge task of successfully transitioning the Bulletin from print to electronic format.

Conclusion

The Polar Libraries Bulletin has had an extraordinary 40-year run and has mainly succeeded through the skills of its many editors and ability to remain relevant from its humble beginnings to an up-to-date online product. All of the issues are now freely available online, and it is interesting to see how well our Bulletin still serves its original purpose even as it has incorporated new technologies to encompass new needs. It has provided news, continuity, quality, and interest to a dynamic body of librarians, archivists, administrators, scientists, scholars, and others whose interest and contributions have been crucial.

The community of polar and cold regions thus keeps in touch with great benefit to all concerned. In Issue 48–49 (Fall 2000–Spring 2001), Julia Finn, librarian with then-named Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, wrote “I am always amazed that


Forty Years of the PLB continued from page 12

Colloquy members, who must wait two years to get together, meet at Colloquy and visit with each other as if we have all been apart for only a few weeks. It has always been this way, even before email made reaching across the globe in minutes possible."

This camaraderie has been greatly enhanced over 40 years by the Polar Libraries Bulletin. May it continue for many, many more.

References:


Editors’ Note:
All issues of the Bulletin may be found on the PLC website under Polar Libraries Bulletin. With the exception of the PLC Proceedings, material quoted in this article may be found through the link above. Issues posted are:

- Polar Libraries Bulletin from Winter 1990, Issue 37 to present

Another huge thank-you goes to Judie Triplehorn of the Keith B. Mather Library, Geophysical Institute, UA Fairbanks, for having the Bulletin digitized, and also warm appreciation to Arto Vitikka of the University of Lapland’s Arctic Centre in Rovaniemi, Finland, for posting all of the issues to the PLC site in 2008.

Aurora Viewed from Space

Click here to watch an amazing video of the aurora taken from the International Space Station as it crossed over the southern Indian Ocean on September 17, 2011. The sped-up movie posted on the NASA Video Library site spans the time period from 12:22 to 12:45 PM ET.

While aurora are often seen near the Poles, this particular aurora appeared at lower latitudes due to a geomagnetic storm caused by a coronal mass ejection from the sun that erupted on September 14, 2011.
October 1971, vol. 1, no.1, is on peach-colored paper. From here through no. 36, various shades of yellow, green, and blue are used. The number of lines in the header changes slightly.

October 1976, Issue 15, is on green paper. An unofficial Colloquy logo, which came into use at the 1975 PLC in Finland, has been added to the right corner.

Winter 1990, Issue 37, appears with green print on a grayish background. The logo has been enlarged and printed to the left, and the layout has been completely redesigned with an enhanced visual appeal. The ISSN has also changed to reflect the change in title. From Issues 44 to 47 the color changes to blue print on a white background.

Winter 2000, Issue 47, is blue on white, with a changed typeface. The new, official PLC logo appears prominently in the left corner. A shaded blue border at the bottom balances the design.

Fall 2000–Spring 2001, Issue 48–49, has changed to black-and-white, and the logo is slightly elongated. This design continues through Issue 57, with slight changes in framing and boxing of logo and title.

Spring 2007, Issue 58, is the first electronic issue. It is produced using InDesign and posted to the PLC site as a PDF. Members are sent a link to the PDF via email. The Bulletin is now freely available on the site. The logo, with the color of the aurora enhanced, is moved back to the upper-right corner and balanced by the banner’s extended design down the left-hand side.
in dealing with land. He also made it easy for the village people to understand these technical terms by creating a land selection game that was greatly enjoyed, but still made learning fun and easy.

**Don Behrend, Chancellor Emeritus, UA Anchorage**

Clearly, Dave Hickok was present at this creation of Alaska as we know it today...his work focused attention on the needs of Alaska and the methods to address them....

**Steve Cowper, former Governor of Alaska**

Dave was a true leader in the scientific community. He was able to transcend the limited perspective sometimes displayed by scientists, and persuaded many people in the realm of decision-making that scientific knowledge was a great asset to a young state like Alaska.... Of all his achievements I was most impressed with his willingness to take the time and effort to explain the principles of science to lay persons, particularly at a time when many of his peers believed that such understanding was beyond the abilities of non-scientists.

**Sal Cuccarese, former AEIDC Director**

One of the most distinguishing characteristics of [Dave's] career was [his] enormous capacity for bridging disciplines to derive common sense solutions to some of the most vexing problems of his day....

People trusted what he had to say because he talked directly to them in terms they could understand. Another reason he was so successful in his efforts can be attributed to his genuine concern for humanity. Dave had an overarching empathy for people and the human condition. This was readily felt by those he touched and was especially recognized by Alaska's Native peoples.

**Richard Hensel, former AEIDC staff scientist**

As AEIDC's Director, his management philosophy was to enlist talented, experienced, and competent professionals, pay them well, and then literally turn them loose to bring their creativeness to bear on technical assignments of varied description. Time and time again, this concept and multidisciplinary effort produced many award-winning published documents. Under Dave's directorship, AEIDC quickly gained the distinction of being on the cutting edge of environmental research, and it specialized in data acquisition and information transfer for over 15 years.

I remember a tactic [Dave] skillfully used to enable the less experienced [staff] to develop professionally. He would periodically force office occupants to change places (shake things up as he would say) whereby a seasoned professional would occupy the same office with someone of lesser experience—a cross-pollination process. A feeling of camaraderie always seemed prevalent in the workplace.

**Walter Parker, former Federal Field Committee member, and former Commissioner of the Arctic Research Commission**

It [was] one of my life's great pleasures to work with David.... [He] forged new ground in bringing about the necessary linkages between the environmental movement, the scientific community, and the federal and state governments to ensure the best achievable resolution of Alaska's problems in the turbulent 1970s. AEIDC was a constant source of input to the pipeline debate, ANILCA, and a host of other state and federal legislative efforts; input that was desperately needed to moderate between highly polarized factions by supplying and analyzing environmental and scientific data.

He was one of the first to recognize that only state and federal guarantees of habitat and wildlife protection would ensure the ability of Alaska Natives to retain some control of their future in a rapidly industrializing Arctic.... He never abated his efforts to educate the public and the political establishment on the realities of Arctic systems.

**Barbara Sokolov, former AEIDC Director and former Director of the UA Anchorage Library**

Dave taught me that it is usually beneficial to discuss an idea, no matter how unlikely, rather than dismissing it out of hand....many significant projects in Alaska have developed from a beginning that sounded most unpromising.... Dave's unswerving support of libraries as information centers was especially important to me as a librarian. When I took Dave to visit the new ARLIS library, a merger
of most of the natural resources libraries in the city [of Anchorage], he was very pleased and saw it as a logical step in preserving and making Arctic information available — a task to which he devoted much of his life. He told me that he had suggested such a coalition in the early 1970s to the then director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Arliss Sturgulewski, former Alaska State Senator

I first got to know [Dave] when I served as Planning and Zoning Commissioner… when we were much involved with post-earthquake development issues…. [He] had an uncommon ability to clearly articulate and combine the roles of science, the environment and [their] effect on the community.

He… was a rare individual who could transfer highly technical information to lay audiences. Amazingly for a scientist and teacher, Dave also played an influential role in giving strategic input on a number of major federal and state laws.

James Wickwire, attorney

I had the great privilege of working closely with Dave and AEIDC for several years in the 1970's in connection with implementing ANCSA land selection process on behalf of the Inupiat Eskimo people of the North Slope. Dave and his highly capable staff provided critical advice and resources to the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, which I have represented for the past 26 years, and the eight Village corporations on the Arctic Slope.

I participated with Dave in countless meetings with Inupiat leaders and directly observed the benefit of his wise counsel in that process. Unlike far too many professionals and consultants, Dave had a remarkable capacity to listen to the Inupiat people as they struggled with the concepts of townships, boundary lines, surveys, and the like. As an exceptionally keen student of Inupiat culture, Dave’s role in their land selection process was the key factor in its successful implementation.

William J. Wilson, former AEIDC marine biologist

[Dave] was a mentor to me and to all of his employees, teaching…and instilling in us a desire to develop and give to others the most accurate, comprehensive, and up-to-date information available…. [He] insisted on the application of knowledge fairly. He was neither pro-development nor preservationist. But he did believe in a solution… he worked with his staff personally and he contributed factual data and analyses to such issues as exploring and developing petroleum resources in the Arctic, and the transfer of lands and the means for self-sufficiency to Alaska’s Native peoples. And he did so objectively, without bias.

Preserving the data and knowledge of Alaska developed over the past many decades was Dave’s passion. He believed in libraries and information centers, and founded the first in Alaska that employed not only information specialists but also scientists who could interpret and apply specialized data and information.

As a University leader, teacher, and scientist, Dave was a pragmatic man. He was a fair man. And he was a humane and caring man.

Esther C. Wunnicke, former member Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska

Dave was the driving force behind the compilation of facts and analysis of issues needed by Congress to fairly resolve Alaska Native land claims…. The result was the 1969 publication of *Alaska Natives and*
the Land, which became the foundation document for Congress in its deliberations before enactment of ANSCA in 1971. Dave’s...ability to translate scientific information into lay language...was crucial to me as well as to the leaders of the newly formed Alaska Native regional and village corporations in evaluating the lands that were to be selected by and conveyed to them under ANCSA. There are a host of young scientists and land managers who gained their knowledge and skills working with Dave.

References:


In Memoriam: Hickok continued from page 16

With Dave are Jack Morry, Noah Ahgook, Danny Hugo, and Riley Morey.