

I Was There: The 25th Polar Libraries Colloquy Hubert Wenger Award Recipient

by *Joë Bouchard*

Université Laval Library
Québec City, Québec, Canada

From 29 June to 3 July 2014, the 25th Polar Libraries Colloquy was held in Cambridge, UK. I had the great opportunity to participate in this event as the recipient of PLC's [Hubert Wenger Award](#), which was established in 1996.

It was my first participation at the Colloquy, and I was also the first librarian to represent Université Laval at this forum. This is a bit surprising, considering the importance of Northern Studies in our university, and also the importance of this field in our library collections, but better late than never!

It is difficult to imagine a more stimulating environment than Cambridge in which to hold

an event like this one. The long tradition of research and teaching is remarkable in the many colleges that make up the university. The Cambridge University Library and the college libraries (particularly St John's College Old Library!) command respect. Also, more than one librarian was very impressed upon entering these mythical places for research on the Arctic and the Antarctic; these are, respectively, the Scott Polar Research Institute and the British Antarctic Survey. It was a privilege to hold our conference in the halls of these organizations. Finally, it must be said that the Colloquy had been really well planned and that everything was set up to make life easier for all of the participants.

But the PLC had more to offer than this exceptional setting. It was mostly a place to meet colleagues coming from many parts of the world, from Svalbard to New Zealand to Italy. It was a *rendez-vous* bringing together colleagues doing similar work; a gathering where all of us working in the field of polar research, dealing with the same kind of information and data, the same types of questions from students, teachers, and researchers, could learn from each other. This forum was where librarians facing the same challenges, same difficulties and hard times in their organizations or even profession, could share and discuss common experiences.

The PLC was mainly a place where colleagues could inspire us with their ideas and the projects they have implemented in their libraries. An occasion to see other realities, create contacts, start international collaborations, all in a real spirit of camaraderie. It was simply a not-to-be-missed event in 2014 for all librarians and professionals of polar information. Maybe those who could not be present should mark, right now, these words, clearly visible, on their 2016 calendars: *PLC-Fairbanks-Alaska!*

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A Note from the PLC Chair

I had looked forward to our 2014 meeting in Cambridge since before the 2012 Colloquy in Boulder had even begun. As an intellectual center, an architectural puzzle box, and one of the prototypical universities, Cambridge has legendary status. It was the perfect setting for a Colloquy where we gained a renewed sense of direction for the PLC, based on the international focus that sustained the organization in the first place.

I expected to encounter history at the PLC, and I was not disappointed. Seeing some of the Scott Polar Research Institute's collections in their lovely surrounds was a treat. And I will never forget reading down the handwritten, 17th-century shelf list encased in the original shelving of St John's College Library.

But no one seemed to be resting comfortably on their laurels. We glimpsed leading-edge research at the British Antarctic Survey and SPRI. We learned about librarians engaging their communities in new ways, with new technologies. Heather Lane took some of us into the [Fitzwilliam Museum](#) to see the *Discoveries* exhibit, which played with the very idea of collecting and display in a way none of us had previously seen.

This context inspired us to take on larger questions and problems as an organization. The swiftly changing Polar Regions are at the fulcrum of changing world systems, and good, shared information about them will be key to building a more sustainable world. I do not know whether that makes us traditionalists or radicals, but I look forward to seeing what unfolds.

Shelly Sommer, PLC Chair
Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado, USA

PLC 25 Group Photo



Attendees in front of Scott Polar Research Institute. (Photograph courtesy of M. Brannemann)



PLC: First Impressions

by *Paula Williams*

Maps, Mountaineering & Polar Collections
International Collections
National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh

On the first day...

... a busy and interesting programme awaited when I arrived in Cambridge for the Polar Libraries Colloquy 2014. Spread across the city between the Scott Polar Research Institute and the British Antarctic Survey, it looked like it was going to be a fascinating and instructive four days.

As Curator of Maps, Mountaineering & Polar Collections at the National Library of Scotland (NLS), I have been looking after our Polar Collections for only the last three years and still feel like a beginner in the field. This is the first time NLS has been a member of and represented at the PLC, so I was delighted to attend.

NLS is a legal deposit library, gaining a copy of every book, serial, and map published in the UK, thus comprising a collection of more than 17 million items and still growing. It also has a vast Manuscript Collection, primarily with a Scottish focus. Nested within lies the Polar Collection, which has been actively curated and collected over the last 50 or more years, although its contents stretch back to the beginnings of polar exploration.

At the heart of the Polar Collection is the personal archive and book collection of Glasgow-born Sir James Mann Wordie, geologist on Shackleton's Endurance expedition, and later president of the Royal Geographical Society and Chairman of SPRI. Based in Cambridge for most of his life, he had a highly successful academic career and became master of St John's College. He was a significant influence on polar, and particularly Arctic, exploration. His book collection alone numbers almost 4,000 items.

On the second day...

... I found myself questioning the role that I, and the Polar Collection I curate, had to play in the PLC. NLS is neither based within the Polar Regions nor serves an obvious polar research community.

What was I doing here? I was personally very much interested in what people had to say, along with the diversity of the programme; indeed the friendliness of the group had much to recommend it, but I was struggling to see where we could fit in. Despite papers about collaborating with non-polar collections and gaining new user groups, I was uncertain as to how I could apply these principles in our situation.

On the third day ...

... it became clear to me that this multidisciplinary group is suffering from many of the same issues as the community of map curators with which I am familiar, and I suspect this is happening across the information professions. Pressures on budgets mean that librarians in all sectors are working in increasing isolation, unable to share and benefit from each other's experiences and best practices.

This is a false economy, with individuals in effect having to reinvent the wheel over and over again in ignorance that their near library neighbours have already solved the problem. An example of this may be PLC presenter Marcy Bidney's use of a geographic front end for user discovery (Day 1 session: *Creating a Collaborative Digital Polar Archive*). An obvious and already developed idea in map circles, geographic front ends have huge potential for many polar collections where place is the readers' first point of approach to the collection.

Additionally, financial constraints and changes in approach often mean that there are no longer specialist librarians, but rather librarians who need to work holistically across diverse subject areas. This means it is harder to justify attendance at an event like this, and indeed more difficult to keep up with the field, when there may be several fields to monitor at once. E-journals, Twitter feeds, and discussion lists are good ways to keep in touch, but nothing beats face-to-face conversation and exchange of ideas.

Challenges imposed by new technologies are also common ground; for example, how best to integrate, and where necessary preserve, digital formats into existing collections? Librarians are ideally suited to lead the way in the organisation



PLC: First Impressions *continued*

of all this so-called new information and, most importantly, to help our users find it, in the same way we have always done.

Currently, in the worlds of both polar collections specialists and map curators, discussions range through the topic of digital preservation (or the possible lack of it), to who is responsible for it and how to make the information being preserved available to our readers. Also a frequent topic is the training needs of readers, and indeed librarians, including use and creation of the data, the need for a unified approach, and the setting and maintenance of standards for data recording.

PLC's strength lies in its multidisciplinary nature, which actively fosters discussion and dynamic interchange of views and ideas. It is a stimulating environment in which to learn more about, not just all things polar, but libraries in general.

On the fourth day...

... I recognised that size isn't everything. This day's presentation by Maria Pia Casarini Wadhams (*The Istituto Geografico Polare "Silvio Zavatti": An Issue of Book Classification*) helped me realize that the NLS Polar Collection is not insignificant within the wider polar research community.

Discussions throughout the Colloquy held an underlying current of possible futures and changes

in the polar environments, which may have a huge impact on us all. The need for information about the poles, their environment, political boundaries, and economic exploitation will be greater than ever and not confined to academic researchers. Collections like NLS, open to the general public and with a historic collection built up over hundreds of years, will definitely have a role to play.

Final thoughts...

Therefore, my thanks go specifically to Andrew Gray at BAS, who in knowing about our Polar Collection, extended us the invitation. More generally I thank everyone at the Colloquy. If my first experience is anything to go by, attendance and membership are valuable and helpful. Equally, if my thought process throughout the event is at all typical, the rare opportunity to take a time out, to reassess our own collections within the international library world, and to come away renewed and invigorated with an increased understanding of our role and purpose, is essential.

Please use my experience as an example of the worth of this group to explain why we all need to come together to discuss the changing polar library landscape.

I hope to see you all in Fairbanks in 2016!

A Summary and Well Wishes from the Outgoing PLC Treasurer

The Colloquy's finances are in good shape.

As of June 2014 there were only a few outstanding expenses associated with the 2014 Cambridge Colloquy. Final cash balances will depend on the sums raised by the auctions and by any balancing of the final accounts for the Cambridge meeting.

There has not been a major recruitment effort since the 2012 Colloquy.

It has been a pleasure being part of the PLC and polar community. I wish you all a great Colloquy and hope you enjoy your time in Cambridge.

With best wishes to everyone,

Jo Milton
Cambridge
20 June 2014



My First PLC: Thoughts from a Newcomer

by *Martin French*

Scott Polar Research Institute
University of Cambridge

The 25th Polar Libraries Colloquy was hosted by the Scott Polar Research Institute (where I am a library assistant) and the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge. Having only been a member of the SPRI library staff for a year, I had not had a chance to attend any previous Colloquies and thus was very lucky to be able to attend this one.

Over the four days, we listened to interesting talks on a variety of subjects within the *Connecting Communities* theme of the Colloquy: collaborating, creating, and communicating. Projects such as film restoration and publishing of books were covered, and discussions ranged from altmetrics to the European Arctic Information Centre initiative. The keynote speech was about the work of the Antarctic Heritage Trust restoring the various huts left behind from historic expeditions in Antarctica. One aspect that impressed me was that there were always questions asked after the talks were finished; I have been to similar events where the invitation for questions is met with silence.

There were also opportunities to socialise with the other attendees and share stories, swap notes, and learn a bit more about what other polar libraries are doing. Although this year's PLC was not as well attended as some, there was a good mix of countries and regions represented: the US, Canada, New Zealand, Svalbard, and many more. It was interesting for me to see and meet the people from these various institutions; I had only ever really heard about them or seen their names mentioned in publications, so meeting them in person made more of a connection for me.

During the breaks, we did not just talk about our libraries and patrons; I was involved in conversations about music, books for children that deal with subject matters such as disability and death, and much more. Opportunities for recreational activities were also provided; on Wednesday, I led a group to the University Library's Map Room, while my colleague Sarah Middle took some people to visit St. John's College Library. There was a dinner that evening (which, unfortunately, I was not able to attend) and a silent auction. It was interesting seeing what items had been brought from different parts of the world; sadly, I was outbid on most of the soft toy items! Finally, on the last day, a coach trip down to the Greenwich area of London allowed people to visit the various places of interest in that part of the city.

To sum up, if anyone new to the Colloquy were ever in doubt over whether or not to attend, I would heartily recommend attending. Not only is it a chance to compare research and keep up-to-date with the latest developments, it is also a great opportunity to strengthen your network of contacts within the polar libraries community and to visit other countries. The Colloquy for 2016 is due to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska, so I should probably get my passport in order!

— *Editors' Note: For a wealth of information about the European Arctic Information Centre initiative (EUAIC) referred to in the article, click on the [Arctic Centre's webpage](#). For information about the Antarctic Heritage Trust and its partners, history, and activities, visit the [New Zealand webpage](#). The [UK Antarctic Heritage Trust webpage](#) contains a link to the [UK Cultural Spot](#), featuring beautiful photographs and information about life in the Antarctic, and about the UK's work in conserving Antarctic buildings and artifacts. The UK's page also contains a YouTube link to briefing videos about the Antarctic sites.*



Who Attended PLC 2014? And Where Did They Come From, Anyway?

Librarians, other professionals, specialists, and friends who registered for this year's Colloquy were: Bev Ager, Rosie Amos, Ellen Bazeley-White, Marcy Bidney, Rohini Biradavolu, Naomi Boneham, Alvin Borle, Joë Bouchard, Marcel Brannemann, Michael Bravo, Sandra Campbell, Daria O. Carle, Maria Pia Casarini Wadhams, Naomi Chapman, Georgina Cronin, Ryan Cronin, Cathrine L. Fjeldstad, Martin French, Bella Gerlich, Grant Gerlich, Mark Gilbert, Flora Grabowska, Andrew Gray, Liisa Hallikainen, Philip Hatfield, Mike Hibbs, Gloria Hicks, Ieuan Hopkins, Stein Høydalsvik, Janey Huber Reacher, Berit Jakobsen, Vibeke Sloth Jakobsen, Laura Kissel, Michael Kissel, Heather Lane, Bryan Lintott, Anna Malaos, Lucy Martin, Sarah Middle, Dennis Moser, Kathy Murray, Niamh O'Mahony, David Ongley, Susanna Parikka, Joanna Rae, Rowena Rouse, Christian Salewski, Helge Salvesen, Tommy Schomacker, Hilary Shibata, Outi Snellman, Lisa Sobieniak, Shelly Sommer, Ivar Stokkeland, Shannon Vossepoel, David Walton, Isabella Warren, Paula Williams, and Jeremy Wong.

Registrants represented 31 libraries, centers, institutes, or other entities from nine countries. These were:

Canada

Arctic Institute of North America, UCalgary, Alberta
UAlberta, Edmonton, Alberta

Denmark

Polar Library, Eskimology and Arctic Studies,
UCopenhagen

Finland

Lapland University Consortium Library, Arctic
Centre, Rovaniemi
University of the Arctic, ULapland, Rovaniemi

Germany

Alfred Wegener Institute, Hemholtz Centre for Polar
and Maritime Research, Bremerhaven

Italy

Istituto Geografico Polare "Silvio Zavatti," Forlì

New Zealand

Victoria University of Wellington

Norway

Norwegian Polar Institute Library, Tromsø
The University Centre in Svalbard,
Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen
UTromsø Library

UK

British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge
British Library, London
Judge Business School, UCambridge
King's College, London
National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh
Oxford Brookes University, Oxford
Scott Polar Research Institute, UCambridge
St. John's College, UCambridge
UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, Cambridge

USA

Alaska Medical Library, UAlaska Anchorage
Alaska Polar Regions and Archives,
UAlaska Fairbanks
American Geographical Society Library,
UWisconsin-Milwaukee
Byrd Polar Research Center, The Ohio State
University, Columbus
Elmer E. Rasmuson & BioSciences Libraries,
UAlaska Fairbanks
Iñisaġvik College Library, Barrow, Alaska
Institute of Arctic & Alpine Research,
UColorado Boulder
Keith B. Mather Library, Geophysical Institute,
UAlaska Fairbanks
North Slope Borough School District Library,
Barrow, Alaska
Roger G. Barry Archives and Resource Center,
National Snow & Ice Data Center,
UColorado Boulder
UAA/APU Consortium Library, UAlaska Anchorage



A Note from the Past PLC Chair

It has been an honour and privilege to serve as Chair of the PLC for the last two years. Since my first PLC in Winnipeg more than 14 years ago, I have greatly benefitted professionally and personally from my participation in the group. It is a great group of people, and I sincerely hope I can participate in the next Colloquy in 2016.

Although I was unable to attend the last two Colloquies due to a freeze on international travel in my own organization, I have felt I was with you in spirit. Many thanks to those members of the Steering Committee who had to step up in my absence, notably Laura Kissel, Shelley Sommer, and Sandy Campbell.

As librarians and their parent organizations are increasingly facing reduced budgets for international conferences, it may be time to look at alternatives for members and prospective members who could not participate otherwise. Such alternatives could include full or partial participation in Colloquy events via video conferencing, webcasts, and webinars. Although nothing can replace face-to-face conferences with all the benefits of networking, meeting new people, traveling, etc., the ability to participate virtually would still be preferable to no participation at all.

The PLC is especially challenged in this area, as we are a small international group whose members come from areas as widely dispersed geographically as Alaska, Norway, and Australia. One of our ongoing challenges has been to attract new members, and perhaps using such alternatives would help in this regard.

I realize we are a relatively small organization with limited means, but it is still food for thought!

I look forward to seeing you at the next Colloquy!

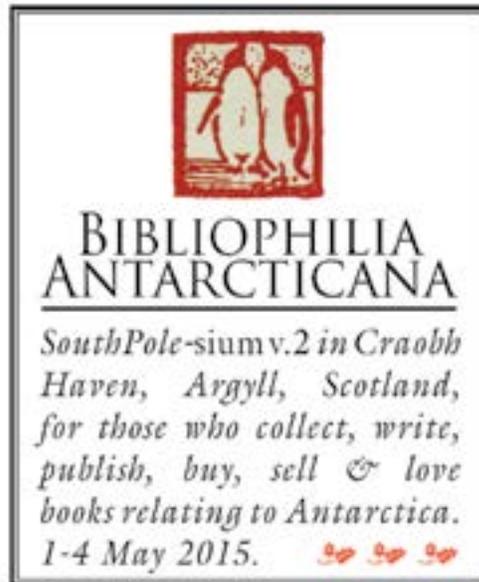
Pierre Beaudreau, Past PLC Chair
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Gatineau, Quebec

The University of Alaska's Institutional Repository and the *Polar Libraries Bulletin*

Over the past few years, the University of Alaska (UA) has been developing an institutional repository, [ScholarWorks@UA](#), to preserve and share electronic research and institutional materials. If you browse Communities and Collections from the link, you can access the full text of a growing number of papers, publications, archival collections, dissertations, theses, and more. The materials are produced by such diverse UA entities as Alaska Native Studies, the Institute of Social and Economic Research, the Justice Center, the Geophysical Institute, Alaska Sea Grant, and the Institute of Arctic Biology.

The repository also includes papers and project summaries by faculty, and senior projects and theses by students. Content focuses broadly on subjects such as Health, Wildlife, Education, Art, Engineering, Languages, Ecology, and Politics, most with an arctic emphasis. Runs of publications, such as the *UAA Student Showcase Journal*, are also being included.

Here on the UA Anchorage campus, Metadata Librarian Erik Carlson has taken the lead with editors Juli Braund-Allen and Daria O. Carle in adding the *Polar Libraries Bulletin* to the repository. The request for the *Bulletin* to be included in ScholarWorks@UA was made by Carle at the 2014 Colloquy, where approval from PLC attendees was granted. Signed permission slips were obtained from many of those attending and will be requested of future contributors.



COME to Craobh Haven, Argyll, Scotland, and meet, mingle and converse with those who love books, art, music, maps, history and the Antarctic. Enjoy sharing your thoughts, knowledge and passions with others who you may know, know of, or have never met before. Give a short presentation. Ask questions. Trade notes. Bring things to 'show and tell.' Buy and sell books. See Antarctic art, view artifacts, hear music, perhaps enjoy a movie. And good food and wine will be close-at-hand. Visit sights and sites throughout Scotland, some even with Antarctic connections.

Details at **<http://www.antarctic-circle.org/gathering2.htm>**

To express interest in attending or to ask questions e-mail

antarctic-circle@comcast.net

Or call Robert Stephenson 603-532-6066 or 603-532-POLE

Registration will commence in June 2014. 🐧 🐧 🐧

A South Pole-sium in Craobh Haven, Argyll, Scotland • 1-4 May 2015. Sponsored by The Antarctic Circle.



Reflections on PLC 2014, Cambridge

by *Sandy Campbell*

J.W. Scott Heath Sciences Library, Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

It was 20 years ago that the Polar Libraries Colloquy last met in Cambridge. That was before I was involved in polar libraries, but I remember Linda Seale and Robin Minion, my colleagues at the University of Alberta Libraries, heading off to the UK to attend the 15th PLC that year. Like that earlier meeting, this Colloquy was a joint effort by the Scott Polar Research Institute and the British Antarctic Survey, and gave us the rich experience of meeting at each venue on alternate days.

To be present at BAS and SPRI is to be immersed in the world of Arctic, and especially Antarctic research. This meeting is probably as close as I will ever get to being in the Antarctic.

Our first session at SPRI plunged us into the Antarctic environment. Anna Malaos (UK Antarctic Heritage Trust), who had worked at the Port Lockroy historic site in Antarctica, showed us photographs of the restoration of buildings on the Antarctic Peninsula, and of visits by the increasing numbers of tourists who arrive on cruise ships.

SPRI, of course, has an amazing on-site museum that allowed us to get close to both Antarctic and Arctic exhibits. SPRI staff gave us a tour of the Shackleton Memorial Library and the SPRI Archives. We were able to see the only remaining piece of Shackleton's ship *Endurance*—part of the spar—mounted above



Scott Polar Research Institute. (All photographs courtesy of S. Campbell)

the entrance to the Library, as well as the large table where much polar expedition planning has taken place. We were also charmed by the ship's bell from Scott's *Terra Nova* tolling "eight bells" at noon.

At the entrance to BAS, we were greeted by the statue commemorating the sledge dogs that worked on Antarctic teams. Those of us who presented at BAS shared the stage with a fully loaded sledge and a mannequin dressed for



Sledge Dog Monument outside the British Antarctic Survey.

the Antarctic. In the yard visible from the meeting room were shipping containers filled with goods for expeditions. Two had snow-machines stored on top of them. Arriving early one morning, I watched three men carefully fold what appeared to be a large tent, which I presumed was part of an expedition's equipment.

The BAS Library served as the venue for the Colloquy's silent auction, to which generous colleagues donated a variety of interesting things. There were several versions of spirited drinks, branded merchandise from various institutions, and of course, books and candy. There were the inevitable bidding wars, exacerbated by senior BAS staff who had discovered the auction. I came away with an umbrella from Ohio, a country cookbook from Quebec, a USB key from Italy, and a geology book from Svalbard.



Reflections on PLC 2014 *continued*



Speakers shared the stage with a loaded sledge and a mannequin dressed for Antarctic travel during presentations at the British Antarctic Survey.

Of course, the most interesting items were reserved for the outcry auction at the banquet. David Walton (BAS) introduced the objects on auction in his usual style. (You looked great draped in that scarf, David!) The prize of the evening was a multi-coloured, multi-pronged head scratcher, which according to Walton, had some highly sensual, and perhaps even relationship-enhancing properties. Those of you who have attended Colloquy auctions in the past know that Walton is a gifted auctioneer, who could probably sell ice to the Inuit. The head scratcher found a home with our new PLC colleague from New Zealand. Everyone bid generously, and both the silent and outcry auctions considerably enhanced the Wenger Award fund.

The Colloquy *Proceedings* will be published later in the year, so I will not detail all of the excellent presentations and posters, but I note a trend towards audience participation in conference presentations. Rosie Amos and Naomi Chapman (SPRI) demonstrated how they use polar library and archive resources for public outreach. They

first encouraged us to play a game in small groups, which involved selecting members of an Antarctic expeditionary team from cards that described characteristics of historical figures who took part in expeditions. Then we all exercised our voices in a karaoke session, singing lyrics about thermohaline circulation to the tune of *Sweet Child O' Mine* by the American rock band Guns N' Roses (see page following for the lyrics).

If you are not familiar with the tune, click [here](#) for the original Guns N' Roses version on YouTube. Clicking [here](#) will allow you to compare the original song with the climate-change karaoke version (complete with background information about the large-scale ocean circulation known as the thermohaline [THC]), as well as view a video of Amos participating at Museums Showoff, where she both performs and describes her experience of creating learning resources as part of her outreach work for SPRI's Polar Museum. Many thanks to both Amos and Chapman for a song that, once heard, can never be forgotten!

But the prize for innovation in audience engagement would have to go to Ivar Stokkeland (Norwegian Polar Institute). In order for the audience to really understand and internalize the ambiance and experience of his library outreach program, which involves evening book talks and a cash bar, we were all encouraged to enjoy a mid-afternoon glass of wine during his presentation.

The Polar Libraries Colloquy never disappoints and you always learn something new. I am looking forward to 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska.

PLC 2016 Venue

Elmer E. Rasmuson & Biosciences Libraries, University of Alaska Fairbanks, was selected as the host site for the 2016 Colloquy. It will mark the 40th anniversary since PLC last met in Fairbanks, and the 20th since it last gathered in Anchorage. Much in Alaska has changed in this time, but not the warmth with which all will be welcomed. Here's to 2016!





Sweet Thermohaline

Wanna know about the THC?
It's governed by sea water
density,
a conveyor belt
you know will pass you by.

The Gulf Stream with its
salty base
brings a warmer climate to
another place,
but then the water cools
mixed under Arctic skies.

This ocean current that
started here
across the globe remains
Atlantic, Pacific
and Indian,
Thermohaline its name.

Now Europe
seems like a warm safe
place
where I myself abide,
but if the THC should
stop
to quietly pass it by?

Oh Thermohaline
Oh Thermohaline

Oh Thermohaline
Oh Thermohaline

Where will it go?
Where will it go now?
Where will it go?

Oh Thermo-ha-liiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiine!



The Meaning of Ice

Wins 2014 William Mills Prize for Non-Fiction Polar Books

The Polar Libraries Colloquy is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2014 William Mills Prize for Non-Fiction Polar Books is *The Meaning of Ice: People and Sea Ice in Three Arctic Communities*, edited by Shari Fox Gearheard, Lene Kielsen Holm, Henry Huntington, Joe Mello Leavitt, Andrew R. Mahoney, Margaret Opie, Toku Oshima and Joelle Sanguya. It was published by the International Polar Institute Press in 2013.

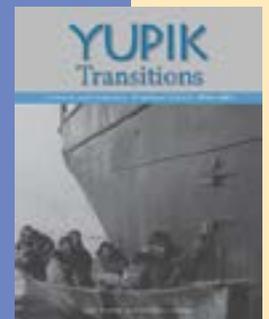
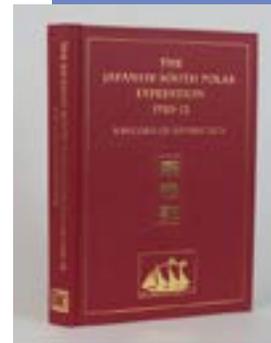
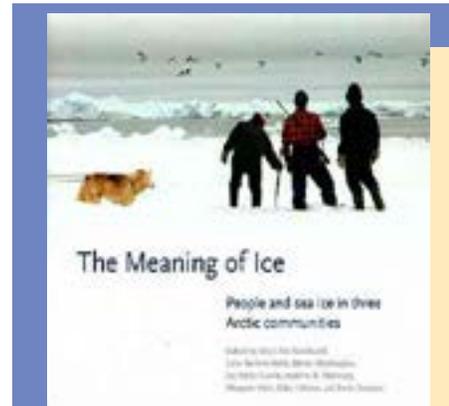
The prize winner was announced at an awards ceremony on 3 July 2014 in Cambridge, UK, at the PLC's biennial conference. The prize honours the best English-language Arctic or Antarctic non-fiction book published throughout the world during the two years between Colloquies. It was first presented in 2006 and includes a US \$300 award. The prize was named in memory of William Mills, a polar librarian and author, who had previously been a core member of PLC.

As the publisher's description explains,

The Meaning of Ice celebrates Arctic sea ice as it is seen and experienced by the Inuit of Canada, the Iñupiat of Alaska, and the Inughuit of Greenland, who for generations have lived with it and thrived on what it offers. *The Meaning of Ice* is an important contribution to understanding the Arctic and its people at a time when the region is undergoing profound change, not least in terms of sea ice (click [here](#) for publisher's page).

This year, for the first time, two other nominated publications received Honorable Mentions. The first, *The Japanese South Polar Expedition 1910–12: A Record of Antarctica*, by Lara Dagnell and Hilary Shibata, published by Bluntisham Books and The Erskine Press, provides the only translation of Nobu Shirase's account of the first exploration of Antarctic territory by Japan.

The second, *Yupik Transitions: Change and Survival at Bering Strait, 1900–1960*, by Igor Krupnik and Michael Chlenov, published by the University of Alaska Press, is a compelling portrait of the struggle of the Yupik people of Siberia to maintain their culture and



identity in the face of actions taken by Russian and Soviet authorities, especially during the Cold War.

The 2014 William Mills Prize winner was selected by a group of PLC members from the US and Canada (Julia Finn, Chair; Ron Inouye; Milbry Polk; and Robert Stephenson). Seventeen nominations qualified for consideration this year, the most ever since the inception of the prize. A full list of all titles nominated for the 2014 prize, including the shortlisted titles, is available on the PLC [website](#).

For more information about the 2014 William Mills Prize, contact Julia Finn at millsprize@gmail.com.

Minutes of the 25th PLC Business Meeting

3 July 2014, Cambridge, UK

In absence of Chair Pierre Beaudreau, the meeting was called to order by Chair-Elect Shelly Sommer at 14:00.

1. Approval of the Agenda
Moved: Bella Gerlich Seconded: Marcel Brannemann
2. Approval of the minutes of 2012 PLC Business Meeting in Boulder as published in the Fall 2012 issue of the *Polar Libraries Bulletin*.
Moved: Bella Gerlich Seconded: Sandy Campbell
3. Business Arising
 - A. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Treasurer Jo Milton, David Walton presented the report for the period 2012–2014.
 - B. William Mills Prize for Non-Fiction Polar Books

The prize went to *The Meaning of Ice: People and Sea Ice in Three Arctic Communities*, 2013, edited by Shari Fox Gearheard, Lene Kielsen Holm, Henry Huntington, Joe Mello Leavitt, Andrew R. Mahoney, Margaret Opie, Toku Oshima, and Joëlie Sanguya, published by the International Polar Institute Press.

Shelly Sommer accepted the award on behalf of Gearheard, and read a message of thanks Gearheard had prepared.

Members of the Williams Mills Book Prize Committee, especially Chair Julia Finn, were recognized for their service in selecting the winning title. Other members of the Committee were Ron Inouye, Milbry Polk, and Robert Stephenson. Finn will continue as Chair for the 2016 Mills Prize award and would welcome additional Committee members. Please contact her at millsprize@gmail.com if you are interested in helping to select the winning title for 2016.
 - C. Hubert Wenger Award recipient, Joë Bouchard, was recognized and congratulated. Bouchard expressed his thanks to the Colloquy for the award.
4. New Business
 - A. Changes to the Steering Committee membership
 - i. Shelly Sommer assumed the role of Chair.
 - ii. As per the Constitution and Bylaws of the PLC, the Steering Committee elected Shannon Vossepoel as Chair-Elect.
 - iii. Andrew Gray was nominated for Treasurer and affirmed by the membership.
 - iv. Laura Kissel was nominated to continue as Secretary and affirmed by the membership.



Minutes of the 25th PLC Business Meeting *continued*

v. Nominations for Member-at-Large positions were taken from the floor, and the following were affirmed by the membership:

- a. Rohini Biradavolu
- b. Marcel Brannemann
- c. Liisa Hallikainen
- d. Heather Lane

B. PLC Webmaster

Joanne Noel wishes to resign as PLC Webmaster. The membership recognized her long service to our organization and expressed their thanks for her work. Shannon Vossepoel agreed to accept the position on an interim basis, but indicated that she would gratefully accept help for more advanced tasks. Members were encouraged to volunteer, with Sarah Middle offering to work with Vossepoel on the website.

C. Changes to the Hubert Wenger Award

The award as it currently exists pays the recipient's registration fees. The Steering Committee recommended adding US \$400 cash to the award. In addition, the Committee recommended that banquet costs, when charged separately, should also be covered. These changes were affirmed by the members. Some discussion ensued about the possibility of awarding more than one Hubert Wenger Award. Members determined that this would be decided on a case-by-case basis.

D. Creation of the Harry King Student Award

The Steering Committee moved to create the Harry King Student Award. This new award would be for graduate students majoring in Arctic/Antarctic studies or Library and Information Science, who are local to the PLC hosting venue. It would waive registration fees for the conference and banquet. The recipient would be expected to participate in the conference by presenting a poster or a paper. This new award was affirmed by the membership.

5. Other Business

- A. The Steering Committee recommended a budget expenditure of US \$200 to be used for advertising and brochures to help recruit new members.
- B. It was determined that a "members only" website would be of value to paid members of the PLC.
- C. The Ohio State University and the Scott Polar Research Institute will review their holdings and work on digitizing *Proceedings* of past Colloquies that have not yet been digitized.
- D. Members were reminded that they need to update their profiles in the *Polar Libraries Directory* hosted by SPRI. All members are responsible for keeping their information up-to-date. Please access the *Directory* [here](#) (the page may load slowly).



Minutes of the 25th PLC Business Meeting *continued*

- E. Dennis Moser, Head of Alaska & Polar Regions Collections and Archives at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, reminded the membership that the PLC Archives are held at UAF's Rasmusen Library. Members, particularly those in hosting institutions, are encouraged to submit their records to the UAF Archives. Contact Moser at djmoser@alaska.edu to make arrangements.
- F. Daria Carle reminded the membership that she and Juli Braund-Allen are seeking contributions for the *Bulletin*. Contact Carle at docarle@uaa.alaska.edu and Braund-Allen at jebraundallen@uaa.alaska.edu with submissions or suggestions.
- G. Heather Lane asked that papers for publication in the *Proceedings* for PLC 2014 please be submitted no later than September 30, 2014. Her email is hel20@cam.ac.uk.
- H. The 2016 Colloquy venue was announced: it will be held at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Bella Gerlich, Dean of Libraries, gave a short presentation about UAF and welcomed the group to Alaska in 2016!
- I. Special thanks were expressed to our Cambridge hosts, Heather Lane and Andrew Gray, as well as to other associated members of SPRI and BAS, for all of their hard work and for a successful 25th Colloquy.

Meeting adjourned at 15:00.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Kissel, PLC Secretary.

2014 PLC Steering Committee

Executive Members

Shelly Sommer

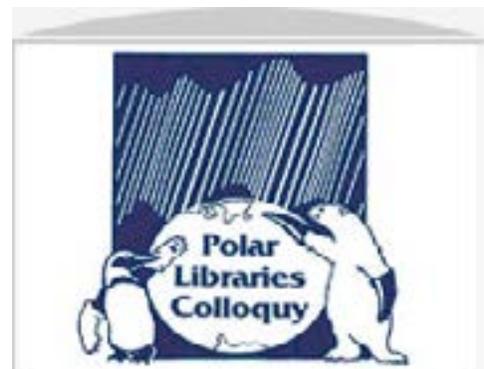
Chair

Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado, USA
shelly.sommer@colorado.edu

Shannon Vossepoel

Chair-Elect; PLC Webmaster

Arctic Science & Technology
Information System (ASTIS)
Arctic Institute of North America
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
shannonv@ucalgary.ca



Laura Kissel

Secretary

Byrd Polar Research Center
Archival Program
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio, USA
kissel.4@osu.edu

2014 Steering Committee *continued*

Andrew Gray

Treasurer

Library, British Antarctic Survey
Cambridge, UK
anday@bas.ac.uk

Members-At-Large

Rohini Biradavolu

Victoria University of Wellington Library
Wellington, New Zealand
rohini.biradavolu@vuw.ac.nz

Marcel Brannemann

Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar
and Marine Research
Bremerhaven, Germany
marcel.brannemann@awi.de

Liisa Hallikainen

Lapland University Consortium Library
Arctic Centre
Rovaniemi, Finland
liisa.hallikainen@ulapland.fi

Heather Lane

Scott Polar Research Institute
Cambridge, UK
hel20@cam.ac.uk

Ex-Officio Members

Juli Braund-Allen

Senior Bulletin Editor

UAA/APU Consortium Library
Alaska Resources Library &
Information Services
University of Alaska Anchorage
Anchorage, Alaska, USA
jebraundallen@uaa.alaska.edu

Daria O. Carle

Bulletin Editor

UAA/APU Consortium Library
University of Alaska Anchorage
Anchorage, Alaska, USA
docarle@uaa.alaska.edu

Sarah Middle

PLC Webmaster

Scott Polar Research Institute
Cambridge, UK
sm828@cam.ac.uk

Joanne Noel

Former PLC Webmaster

Aboriginal Affairs
and Northern Development Canada
Gatineau, Quebec, Canada
joanne.noel@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca

Sandy Campbell

Liaison, University of the Arctic

J.W. Scott Heath Sciences Library
Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada
sandy.campbell@ualberta.ca

Bella Gerlich

Coordinator, 2016 Colloquy

Elmer E. Rasmuson & BioSciences Libraries
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Fairbanks, Alaska, USA
bkgerlich@alaska.edu

Additional Members

Ross Goodwin

Listserv Administrator

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



New Publications

Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. 2014. *Inuit Cancer Control in Canada Baseline Report*. [e-report.] Toronto: Canadian Partnership Against Cancer.

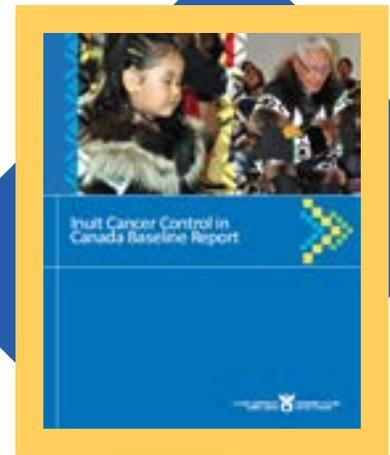
Reviewed by **Sandy Campbell**

J.W. Scott Health Sciences Library
Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre
University of Alberta, Edmonton

This is the second baseline report by The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. The first one, *First Nations Cancer Control in Canada Baseline Report*, was published in 2013. Both documents are free on the [Cancerview.ca website](http://Cancerview.ca), under the First Nations, Inuit & Métis tab.

Cancer is a complex set of diseases. Inuit people are dispersed all across Canada's North, and the challenges involved in delivering cancer care, as well as in living with cancer, are multi-faceted and difficult. It is thus not surprising that the creation of a baseline document that tries to provide an overview of all of these complex subjects would be a monumental task of information integration and thoughtful presentation and design.

Inuit Cancer Control in Canada Baseline Report is not a scientific report but it is well researched and has an extensive reference list. The language used is comprehensible to the average reader. The content is divided into background information, cancer in



Inuit people, barriers to health service delivery, and the patient experience. Interspersed throughout the latter section are parts of Inuit cancer survivor Beatrice Bernhardt's story told in her own voice, which brings this big picture report instantly down to the individual and personal level.

Photographs, maps, charts, and tables supplement the text. Like the text, they present compilations of large amounts of data in easy-to-understand ways. For example, Figure 9. Cancer Care Travel Routes in Inuit Nunangat (p. 34) sourced from the [Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami](#) makes the information understandable at a glance.

As the report notes, "There is no word for 'cancer' in the Inuit languages; in Inuktitut 'cancer' is referred to as 'the sickness which cannot be fixed'" (p.25).

The whole question of cancer among the Inuit seems like a massive and complicated problem to comprehend, but this report does a good job of providing an integrated, broad-scope picture.

This is a helpful study for anyone working in health services and health policy in Canada's North and should be required reading for students in health professions who undertake electives in the North. It could also serve as a model for researchers developing baseline documents on other diseases and in other regions.

This work is strongly recommended for health libraries that have an Indigenous component and for polar libraries with a health component.

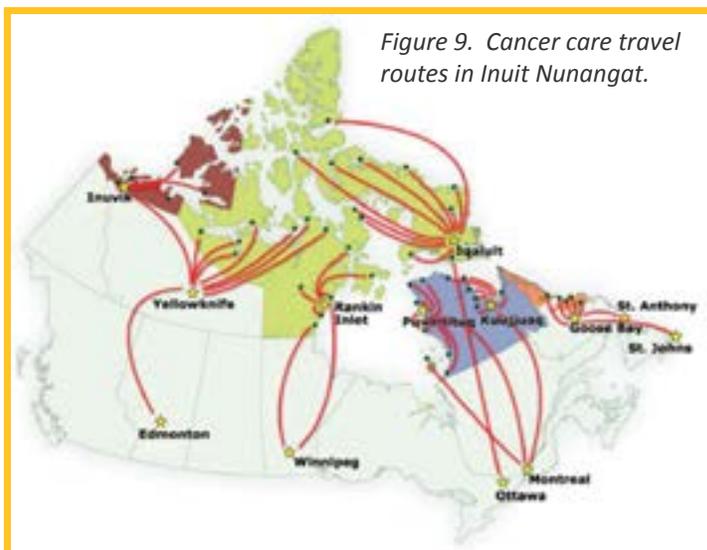


Figure 9. Cancer care travel routes in Inuit Nunangat.

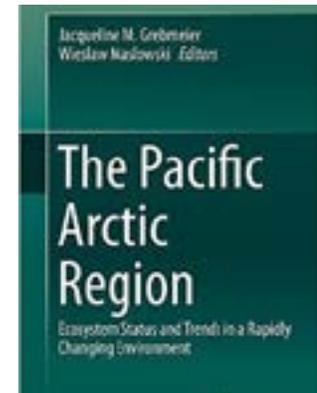


New Publications *continued*

Grebmeier, Jacqueline M., and Wieslaw Maslowski, eds. 2014.
The Pacific Arctic Region: Ecosystem Status and Trends in a Rapidly Changing Environment. Dordrecht, NL: Springer.

The Pacific Arctic region is experiencing atmospheric changes, rapid seasonal sea ice retreat, seawater warming, regional ocean acidification, along with other environmental changes and biological responses in lower to upper trophic organisms. Modeling of both physical and biogeochemical results indicates the potential for step-function changes to the overall ecosystem, both under current and in the projected conditions. This volume of synthesis papers was coordinated within the Pacific Arctic Group (PAG), a network of international partners undertaking and facilitating collaborative research in the Pacific-influenced Arctic seas and basin. The report also serves as a product of activities from the 2007–2008 International Polar Year.

Topics range from atmospheric and physical sciences to chemical processing and biological response to changing environmental conditions. Results highlight the need for continued data collection together with interdisciplinary modeling activities to track and forecast the changing



ecosystem of the Pacific Arctic in response to climate change. The PAG definition of the Pacific Arctic region extends from the northern Bering Sea into the Chukchi Sea and adjacent Arctic seas, and extending into the deep basins of the Arctic Ocean.

This publication ties together the latest information on ecosystem status and changes in the dynamic high-latitude system. It is a product of a multi-year, multi-authored PAG synthesis effort, with support from the US NOAA Arctic Program Office and individual agencies.

—Adapted from the book abstract and publisher announcement, available [here](#).



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The *Bulletin* is published twice yearly in the Fall and Spring. Members of the Polar Libraries Colloquy receive the *Bulletin* as part of their membership. Personal dues are £20 or US \$35 for a two-year period. Institutional dues are the same. Please send dues to PLC Treasurer: Andrew Gray, British Antarctic Survey, Madingley Rd., High Cross, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB3 0ET, UK. Questions regarding membership may be sent to him at anday@bas.ac.uk.

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

Please send submissions to Braund-Allen (jebraundallen@uaa.alaska.edu, phone 907-786-7666) or to Carle (docarle@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>
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University of Alaska Anchorage
3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508