

Polar Libraries Bulletin

POLAR LIBRARIES COLLOQUY



Fall 2023, Issue 88

PLC in Tromsø, Norway—Preparations Underway

Plans have been progressing well for the 29th Polar Libraries Colloquy, to be held 9-14 June 2024 at the Fram Centre in Tromsø, Norway. The host committee has been working hard to offer a stimulating and enjoyable conference in beautiful northern Norway.

The 2024 Colloquy theme is *Arctic Connections: The 29th Polar Libraries Colloquy* and will showcase the work of northern and Arctic researchers from various fields, with an emphasis on the significant role played by librarians and libraries in polar studies.

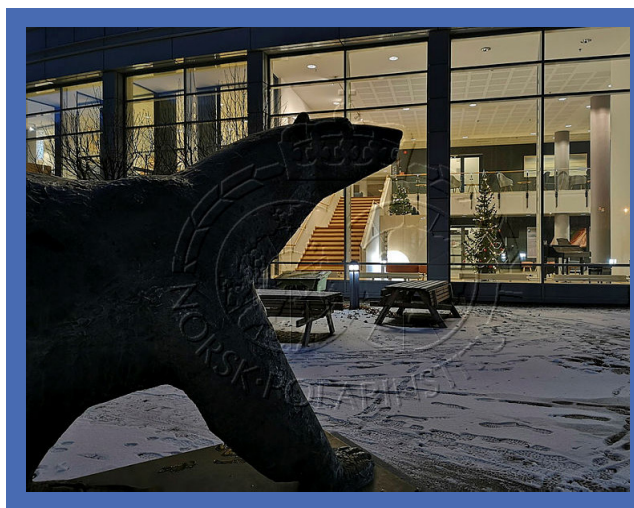
Conference themes include: Sámi and indigenous peoples in the north; polar libraries and archives; polar ecology, climate, and environment management; polar research data management; polar politics and history; and other related polar information topics.

More information about the 29th Polar Libraries Colloquy can be found on the [PLC 2024 website](#). For further questions, contact Ivar Stokkeland: ivar.stokkeland@npolar.no

—From the editors

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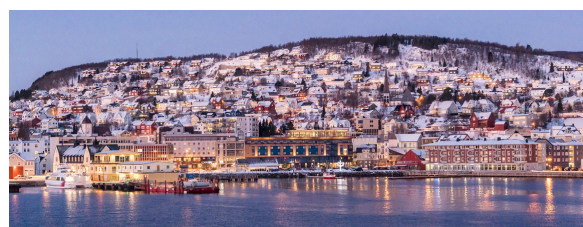


The 29th Colloquy will be held at the Fram Centre, where the Norwegian Polar Institute is located. (Photo: A.K. Balto, NPI)

JOIN US! Become a PLC Member

Polar Libraries Colloquy provides an international forum through which librarians and others concerned with the collection, preservation, and dissemination of information dealing with the Arctic and Antarctic regions discuss issues of mutual interest and promote initiatives leading to improved collections and services. The Colloquy meets biennially, alternating between Europe and North America.

PLC membership provides opportunities to foster greater international collaboration and is open to any interested person or institution. Dues are 30 GBP for individuals or 60 GBP for institutional members. To join PLC, complete the [online membership form](#) and send payment as directed. For queries, contact Treasurer Andrew Gray: andrew.gray@ucl.ac.uk



Tromsø sunrise. Image by [Michelle Raponi](#) from Pixabay



From the Editors

Since our last issue, we are sorry to report that co-editor Cecilie Tang Møldrup has stepped down from the *Bulletin's* editorial team. While we will miss Cecilie's contributions, we are thrilled to share that Past PLC Chair Peter Lund from the Scott Polar Research Institute will be joining the team.

In this issue, we continue our series of articles from our colleagues in Tromsø. In the [Spring 2023](#) issue, Ivar Stokkeland from the Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI) wrote about the history of the NPI, and Andreas Klein from University of Tromsø (UiT) gave us an overview of special collections at the UiT Library. See page 4 of this issue for part two of *Andreas' Rariora in Ultima Thule: Special Collections at Tromsø University Library*. Just a small taste of what you can look forward to at the 2024 Colloquy!

Also, your fellow members want to hear about your institutions and how you do things at your libraries! We are looking for submissions related to "How to Be a Polar Librarian" and "About my Library." Is there something interesting/strange/rare in your collections that you want to highlight? Are you trying something new? What's an "average" day like at your library? How did you become a Polar Librarian? We look forward to hearing from you!

~ Christie and Susanna (and soon, Peter!)

Please send submissions for the *Bulletin* to all three co-editors:

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Send Us Your Webinar Ideas!

What topics would you like to see offered as webinars? Do you have expertise you would like to share? Send your ideas and suggestions to the editors at the contact information listed above.



Tasiilaq, Greenland. Image by
[Bernd Hildebrandt](#) from Pixabay.

PLC on Social Media

Want to keep up with your PLC colleagues?
Join us on Facebook or Twitter!
Facebook: [PolarLibrariesColloquy](#)
Twitter: [@PolLibColloquy](#)



In Memoriam: David H. Stam (1935–2023)

The Polar Libraries Colloquy community was saddened to hear of the death of David Stam on 7 February 2023 in Syracuse, NY, from complications of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). He was 87.

A long-time PLC member and advocate, author, scholar, and frequent contributor to the *Polar Libraries Bulletin*, David had a long and distinguished 40+ year career as an academic librarian at a number of prestigious institutions. Most recently named as Senior Scholar in the Syracuse University History Department, he had been the Syracuse University Librarian Emeritus and served as director of libraries there. He served in the same capacity for the Milton S. Eisenhower Library at Johns Hopkins University. Prior positions include associate director of the Newberry Library of Chicago, the Andrew W. Mellon Director of the Research Libraries of the New York Public Library, and librarian at Marlboro College in Vermont.

David also served on the boards of many library-related organizations such as the Research Libraries Group, Association of Research Libraries, and the American Trust for the British Library. In addition, he served on the library board for the Metropolitan Museum of Art and was a long-time member of the Grolier Club of New York City. A classical music devotee, he served for many years on the board of the Society for New Music, as well as a number of other local boards supporting social and cultural organizations.

As a Journalist Second Class in the US Navy, he participated in Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica in 1956, where his lifelong fascination with polar exploration began. After spending several years on assignments in South America and throughout the Atlantic, David's final duty posting was as the ship's librarian aboard the USS *Galveston*, launching his long career in librarianship. In 1962 he completed his MLS at Rutgers University and received a PhD in History from Northwestern University in 1978.

PLC is most familiar with David from his books on polar topics, co-authored with his wife of 59 years, Deirdre, also an accomplished academic librarian, scholar, and PLC member. (And fellow musician; they met as bassoonists in a New York orchestra in 1962.)



David H. Stam. Photo credit: [Literary Hub](#)

A recent collaboration, *Adventures in Polar Reading: The Book Cultures of High Latitudes* (Grolier Club, 2019), was one of two Honorable Mentions for the 2020 William Mills Prize. David described more about researching the reading customs of polar explorers for that project in "New Publications," reviewed in the [Spring 2020 issue](#) of the *Polar Libraries Bulletin* (p. 14–15). An earlier work by the couple, *Books on Ice: British and American Literature of Polar Exploration*, was published in 2005 (Grolier Club). In addition to numerous articles and other publications, David edited the *International Dictionary of Library Histories* (Fitzroy Dearborn, 2001) and published his memoir, *What Happened to Me: My Life with Books, Research Libraries, and Performing Arts*, in 2014 (AuthorHouse).

David fit the definition of a true Renaissance man: a very clever person who is good at many different things. His absence will be felt by the Colloquy, the wider polar community, and we will all miss him very much as a colleague and as a friend.

—Adapted from obituaries published in the [Syracuse Post Standard](#) (9–12 February 2023); [The New York Times](#) (24 February 2023); and [American Libraries](#) (p. 63, June 2023). Various past issues of the *Polar Libraries Bulletin* were consulted for further documentation.

— **Daria O. Carle**, (Former *Polar Libraries Bulletin* co-editor), UAA/APU Consortium Library, University of Alaska

Rariora in Ultima Thule: Special Collections at Tromsø University Library

by **Andreas Klein**, PhD
Senior Academic Librarian, Tromsø University Library

Part 2: Indigeneity, health, and art

UiT The Arctic University of Norway strives to provide the international scientific community and the public with new findings and relevant studies on indigenous issues. Accordingly, this responsibility is an underlying theme in the special collections at Tromsø University Library. In this connection, the open shelf Indigenous collection and private archives in the library's holdings are worthy of mention.



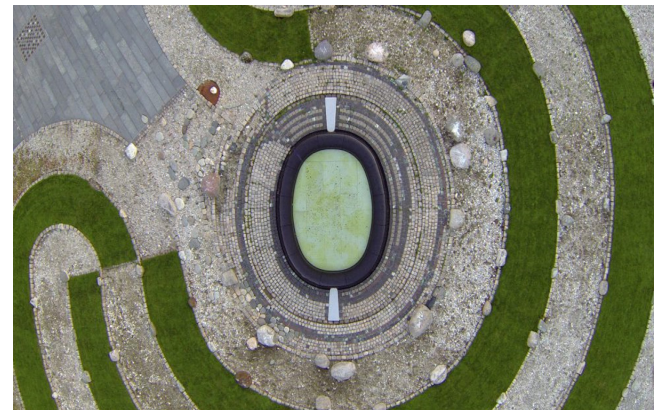
Álgoálbmotčoakkáldat/The Indigenous Collection with an untitled sculpture by Aage Gaup (1943–2021), KORO.003693. Photograph by Kjell Ove Storvik.

The **Indigenous collection** (*Álgoálbmotčoakkáldat* in Northern Sámi) is situated in a quiet corner room of UiT's biggest branch library, the Cultural and Social Sciences Library. With its door bearing the colours of the Sámi national flag, several artworks embellish the room and provide a suitable setting for its more than 10.000 titles covering a wide variety of relevant topics. As Sámi linguistics and language technology are important focus areas at UiT, textbooks and dictionaries on all Sámi languages and numerous other indigenous languages can be found here. The books in the collection deal with indigenous knowledge systems, worldviews, art, history, literature, and much more. The windows of the room face two key sites on the main campus *Breivika*: Guttorm Guttormsgaard's (1938–2019) *Labyrinten*

(the labyrinth), the university square inspired by Sámi designs, and *Solplassen* (the sun square) in front of the main cafeteria.

Indigenous ways of life and identities are among the red threads in the works of multi-artist Iver Jåks (1932–2007). Born into a family of reindeer herders in Kárášjohka/Karasjok, he studied Fine Art at various institutions in Norway and later Denmark. In his paintings, drawings, sculptures, installations, and *duodji* (Sámi handicraft), he developed a clear aesthetic language inspired by the symbols, materials, and designs of the Sámi and their lands. The influence his Danish wife Inger (1920–2010) had on his work and life can hardly be overstated. In Jåks' own words: "It is difficult to say where I would be or what would have become of me had I not met her. A village idiot, probably." (Eilertsen et al. [eds.]: *Ofelaš Iver Jåks Veiviseren*, Tromsø 2002, p. 28, my translation).

The couple willed their private archive comprising sketches, paintings, correspondence, tools, and objects to a foundation that decided to deposit it at the university library. As of August 2023, the cataloguing of this materially rich collection is nearing completion, and we currently work with digitizing and conservation measures.



Detail of Guttorm Guttormsgaard's Labyrinten, KORO.001352. Photograph provided by uit.no.



Rariora in Ultima Thule continued

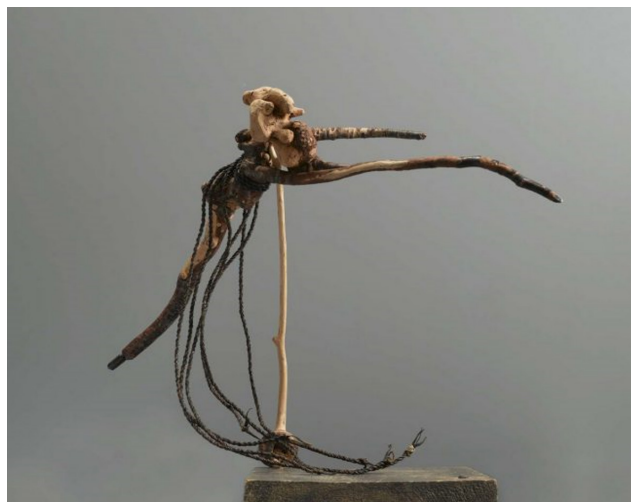
Iver Jåks is regularly called a Sámi artist. In several opinion pieces and interviews, he elaborated on his vehement opposition to such a designation. He referred to himself merely as an artist – without any defining and constraining adjectives. We invite you to head to *Breivika* campus when visiting Tromsø for the 29th PLC (June 9–14, 2024) – many pieces of art are on display, and Jåks is well-represented.

When the renowned and controversial American physician Daniel Carleton Gajdušek (1923–2008) died in Tromsø, his book collection was bequeathed to the university library. Gajdušek had worked with several indigenous peoples in Oceania and in 1976 received the Noble Prize in Medicine for his groundbreaking research on the kuru disease among Papua New Guinea's Fore people. He brought more than fifty children, mostly boys, from his research trips to the United States to live with him and pursue a school education. In all cases, the parents had given their consent. In 1997, Gajdušek confessed to charges of child molestation. Having served his prison sentence, he left the country on probation and went on to spend most of his time in Amsterdam and Tromsø. [His book collection](#) of close to one thousand titles—many of them dealing with indigenous peoples of the Americas—and his [private archive](#) including close to fifty diaries are held at Tromsø University Library.

Health, both physical and mental, and indigeneity play an important role in the private archive of Knut Lunde (1867–1937), a self-studied healer whose medical practice was grounded in Sámi tradition



Lunde's patient journals (1905–1937) detailing several tens of thousands of consultations. Photograph by Marianne Kaldager.



Myggen (the mosquito), one of the many artworks by Iver Jåks exhibited on Tromsø campus, KORO.005835. Photograph by Guri Dahl.

and naturopathic medicine. Over the course of forty years, he treated tens of thousands of patients. Lunde had no formal medical education. Nevertheless, his detailed hand-written patient journals and extensive correspondence witness of an equally experienced and humble approach towards his patients. When he knew he could not help, Lunde said so. The fact that he received twenty-three patients on the day before and one more on the day of his death speaks for itself. The pastoral care he provided appears to have been as important as the self-produced medicine he prescribed. This is evident in the approximately 27.000 letters of his extant correspondence: desperate, chronically, at times severely ill people addressed him as a last resort, in many cases summarizing years of hardships and family tragedies in heart-wrenching letters and asking Lunde to pray for them. Many patients thought of him as someone who could perform miracles also in a spiritual sense. The letters came from virtually everywhere: Scandinavia, large parts of Europe, even the Americas and Africa. Through newspaper reports, Lunde gained the involuntary reputation of a miracle doctor who could heal it all. Unsuccessful charges of quackery made by medical professionals did not damage his reputation as a healer with special abilities. Even the route of the famous postal ships (*Hurtigruten*) connecting large parts of coastal Norway was changed to service Brøstadbotn where Lunde lived and to give patients the opportunity to consult him in person. Following

continued on page 10



Polar Libraries Colloquy at UArctic Assembly 2023

by **Stéfano Biondo and Joë Bouchard**
Université Laval

From May 23 to May 26, we had the pleasure of participating, with a large number of delegates, in the UArctic Assembly, held at Université Laval, Quebec city.

First, we should mention we were surprised by the size of the event and the wide variety of activities in the program, which spanned four days. We had the privilege to attend various presentations and panels. Among the activities to be highlighted, we can mention a panel that brought together indigenous filmmakers to talk about their work in their communities and the importance of the film industry in these communities, or a discussion session where members were asked to propose criteria for qualifying an institution's northern or indigenous character.

The most important activity for us was representing the PLC in the UArctic Assembly meeting. Stéfano took part in all the votes to represent PLC. We note that 17 new members have joined the UArctic group this year, including, for example, Keyano College (based in Fort McMurray, Alberta), Harvard University and Glasgow University. It would probably be a good idea for the PLC to ask whether librarians or archivists from these institutions would be interested in joining the PLC.

Certainly, a very significant moment was the Assembly's vote to officially accept the DALAM network as UArctic's new Thematic Network. 138 people voted to accept DALAM, and no one refused. So we must congratulate the members of DALAM on this success!

It was also possible during the event to present a beautiful poster on the DALAM network, created by Shannon Christoffersen. For a full hour, our colleague from Université Laval, Susanne Brillant, who is actively involved in the network, came with us to present the poster and answer participants' questions about DALAM. There was a great deal of interest in DALAM, and it was a fine opportunity to spread the word about the network.

In closing, the Assembly approved the holding of the next edition, to be held at the same time as the UArctic congress, from May 29 to June 3, 2024 in Bodø, Norway. Just before the 29th Polar Libraries Colloquy in Tromsø! For 2025, a proposal has been put forward for Inari, Finland, in the heart of the Sami region.



DALAM poster presentation by Susanne Brillant and the PLC team



Delegates at the Indigenous-themed social evening



Inuit singing performance on Wednesday evening, May 24



Delegates at the UArctic Assembly 2023

Photo credits: Martine Lavoie



Decolonization of Arctic Library and Archives Metadata (DALAM) Thematic Network Update: September 2023

by **Sandy Campbell**

Secretary, DALAM

PLC Liaison, University of the Arctic

DALAM has been busy this summer, but we also took a break in July/August, while many of our polar members took their summer holiday to enjoy the long hours of sunlight of the Arctic summer.

DALAM Organization and Administration

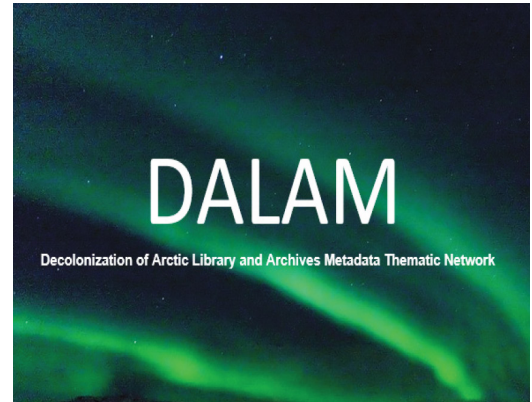
On May 24, 2023, DALAM received final endorsement by the University of the Arctic Assembly at the meeting in Quebec, making DALAM a full thematic network. DALAM members, Stéfano Biondo, Joë Bouchard and Susanne Brillant were present to witness the endorsement.

Since the endorsement, we have taken several steps to strengthen DALAM's organization and structure.

1. A formal secretarial role was created, and Sandy Campbell was established in this role.
2. A list-serve was created for DALAM, managed by Shannon Christophersen at University of Calgary.
3. An archival collection was created for DALAM's records at the Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives (APRCA) at University of Alaska Fairbanks. The records parallel those of the Polar Libraries Colloquy, which also reside at APRCA. DALAM records are open to the public and currently include DALAM's foundational documents and the first years' agendas and meeting notes. Additions to this collection will be made periodically. Rachel Cohen (Archivist, APRCA), Laura Kissel (Secretary, PLC) and Sandy Campbell (DALAM Secretary) organized this collection.

Communications and Outreach

DALAM has two posters available for members who wish to present about DALAM at conferences and meetings. These are available by contacting Shannon Christophersen: shannonv@ucalgary.ca



In April, DALAM Network Lead Susanna Parikka attended the UArctic Thematic Networks Leads meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland and displayed the DALAM poster in the Arktikum foyer, bringing DALAM to the attention of the other Thematic Networks, as well as the general public.

Susanna reported on the meeting in the [Spring issue](#) of the *Polar Libraries Bulletin*.



DALAM poster at UArctic Thematic Networks Leads Meeting. Photo courtesy S. Parikka

In May at the University of the Arctic Assembly at the meeting in Quebec, members also presented a DALAM poster, allowing attendees to learn about DALAM.

In August, Susanna Parikka presented the DALAM poster to the IFLA WILC Conference in Rotterdam, where more than 3000 attendees from 150 countries

DALAM Thematic Network Update *continued*



Photo courtesy S.Parikka

had the opportunity to learn about DALAM. [Editors' note: See p. 11 of this issue for Susanna's WILC report.]

Educational Activities

DALAM's June meeting was a learning activity with a discussion led by Robin Desmeules (McGill

University) of [Best Practices for Authority Work Relating to Indigenous Groups in the U.S.](#), published by the Latin American and Indigenous Peoples of the Americas SACO Funnel, May 2023. At this session, participants had the opportunity to consider how these best practices might be applied in the Arctic environment.

At DALAM's September meeting, guest speaker Professor Jonna Häkkinä (University of Lapland) spoke about the [Nuohhti](#) service which provides digital access to Sámi material in European archives. This interface allows for a simultaneous search of Sámi-related materials held in thirty European memory organizations in Finland, Germany, Sweden,

and Norway. The results display includes a map which shows the geographic origin of the documents retrieved. The project also worked with the Sámi communities to develop [ethical guidelines](#) for the use of these materials. The guidelines are integrated with the results display.

Looking Forward

DALAM will hold its biennial in-person meeting at the Polar Libraries Colloquy 2024, in Tromsø, Norway, June 9 – 14. Members are beginning to think about the issues and questions on which we would like to focus.



Susanne Brillant explains DALAM Poster.
(Photo courtesy S. Biondo)

Nominations Open for 2024 William Mills Book Prize

The 2024 William Mills Prize Committee is accepting nominations of titles for the William Mills Prize for Non-Fiction Polar Books, honoring the best Arctic or Antarctic non-fiction books published throughout the world. The deadline to submit a nomination is **15 March 2024**, and the winner will be announced at the upcoming Polar Libraries Colloquy in Tromsø, Norway in June 2024.

Established in memory of William Mills—polar librarian, author, and a core member of PLC during its formative years—the prize consists of \$500 US,

certificates for the author and publisher, and the right to use the William Mills Prize logo when advertising the winning book.

Qualifications for nomination, as well as a list of past nominees and winners, can be found on the [PLC website](#). Note that the publication time frame for the 2024 award is January 2022 through December 2023.

For more information or to submit a nomination, contact Julia Finn, William Mills Prize Coordinator, at millsprize@gmail.com.



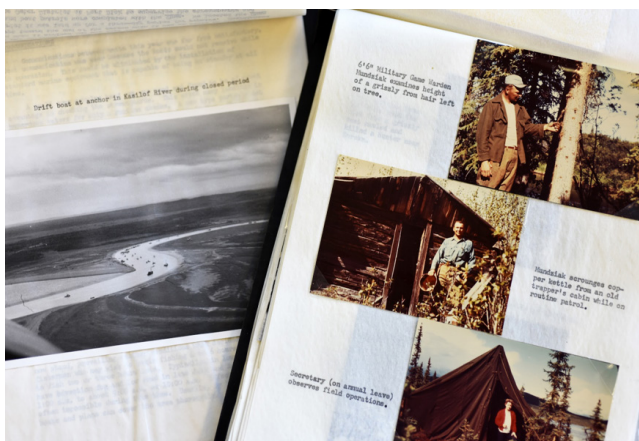
Alaska Resources Library and Information Services

Ensuring Preservation and Access to Alaska's Natural and Cultural Heritage

by **Brandy Watts**

Director, Alaska Resources Library and Information Services

As the combined library and repository for the Alaska Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and



Annual Fishery Report, Cook Inlet District, Alaska, 1953 and Annual Game Report, Anchorage District, Alaska, 1955, United States Fish & Wildlife Service.

University of Alaska Anchorage, [Alaska Resources Library and Information Services](#) (ARLIS) holds material that spans upwards of a century.¹

Archive

With half of the ARLIS collections consisting of archival materials, the vast majority of which has never been seen by the public, there is a hidden archive within ARLIS that reflects the rich history of Alaska's natural and cultural resources.

The Archive contains original and rare materials pertaining to the natural and cultural heritage of Alaska and spans more than a century. It includes a variety of material types and formats: photograph negatives, prints and slides, 8mm and 16mm films, field notebooks, reports, folios, scrapbooks, manuscripts, hand annotated maps, overlays, and transparencies. Taken together, the Archive includes

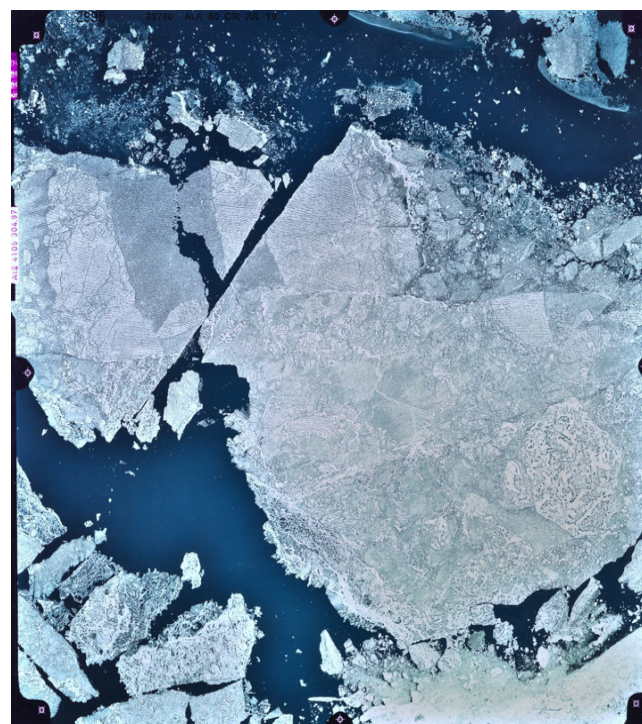
hundreds of collections from federal and state agencies, which represents the vast and variegated history of Alaska's land, people, and resources.¹

Future Exhibitions

Carefully curated exhibitions will highlight materials from the archive and special collections. Displaying rare and original items alongside recent research findings, the exhibitions will focus on efforts to document and conserve Alaska's natural resources past, present, and future, which will facilitate public engagement and understanding of the value of the historically diverse collections across ARLIS.

Collection Materials Viewing Room

Visiting researchers will be provided a room for viewing archival, rare, and special collections materials from the collections with staff oversight.



Sea ice in Barrow Quad, Alaska, aerial photograph, chromogenic print, 1979, National Aeronautics Space Administration/Alaska Department of Natural Resources.



Alaska Resources Library and Information Services continued

Mission

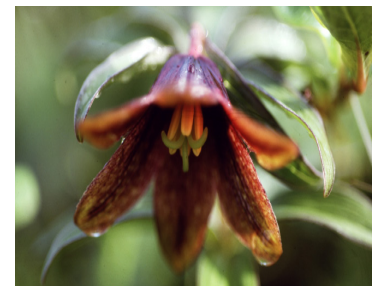
Better informing the public through preservation and access to materials about the natural and cultural resources of Alaska. Supporting research, management, and decision-making leading to wise development and stewardship of Alaska and Arctic regions.

ARLIS serves as a central library and archive for information supporting the management of 235 million acres of federal and 100 million acres of state land and water resources throughout Alaska. Much of the information at ARLIS is critical to researchers and decision makers at all levels, and many materials are not available anywhere else in the world.

¹ARLIS formed in October 1997 as a merger of these collections: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Habitat Library); Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council's Oil Spill Public Information Center (OSPIC); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 7 (FWS Library); U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office (Alaska Resources Library (ARL)); U.S. National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office (NPS Collection); U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Regional Office (USGS Library); U.S. Minerals Management Service, Alaska OCS Region (MMS Library); and the Library of Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center (AEIDC) of the Environment and Natural Resources Institute at University of Alaska Anchorage. The BLM library included the collection of the United States Bureau of Mines, Alaska Field Operations Center Library (as the Bureau of Mines closed a year earlier in 1996). Since then, ARLIS has absorbed other collections in whole or in part which have closed; these collections include: Alaska Natural Heritage Program; Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission; Auke Bay Laboratory (Juneau, Alaska) (under National Marine Fisheries Service); BP Environmental Library; Juneau-John Rishel Mineral Information Center; United States Forest Service, Alaska Region (Juneau Library).



Alaska, Julius Rockwell, chromogenic print and field notes, 1976-1981.



Chocolate Lily, Russell Creek, Alaska. M. Zeillemaker, 35mm color photograph, June 1992, Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, United States Fish & Wildlife Service.

Rariora in Ultima Thule continued

his death, the route change was reversed. Lunde's private archive had been stored in a barn for a long time and was heavily contaminated when the university library received it. Cleaning and sorting the material has proven particularly challenging, and due to the documents' sensitive contents and health hazard, for now access can only be given as an exception. However, efforts to catalogue and digitize the archive in its entirety are underway.

An extensive collection of sensitive documents, the Lunde archive is a unique record of alternative medical practice. The intriguing life of Knut Lunde furthermore demonstrates the multi-ethnicity of Northern Norway and how a Sámi healer from humble backgrounds could impact the lives of thousands of people across the globe. In recent years, there has been an increased interest in Lunde among researchers and the public. See (in Norwegian) Kaldager, Kramvig, and Sikku: "Samiske spor i arkivet" [Sámi traces in the archive], *Nytt Norsk Tidsskrift* 40-1 (2023) pp. 18–29, <https://doi.org/10.18261/nnt.40.1.3>.

DALAM at the 2023 IFLA WLIC

by **Susanna Parikka**, Library Director
Lapland University Consortium Library



The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) is the global voice for libraries, representing the interests of the profession and working for improving services worldwide. IFLA

holds an annual

conference for the whole library and information services sector, the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC), alternating cities and continents. This year the conference was held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 21-25 August. It brought together over 3000 participants from 150 countries and all different types of libraries for the 88th time.

My intention was to present Thematic Network DALAM in a poster form to library professionals all over the world. The theme for the conference was "Let's work together, let's library" with the sub-theme of "Building a sustainable future through the SDGs." The work in DALAM is related to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 10, Reduced Inequalities.

The DALAM poster was planned jointly by Sandy Campbell, Shannon Christoffersen, Sharon Farnell, Susanna Parikka, and other members of the DALAM network. It was designed by Shannon Christoffersen.

I think it was important for DALAM to get some global visibility. All the posters will be stored in IFLA's open web archives. During the conference, the attendees were able to view the posters on their own. There were also two special poster sessions when we were able to present our posters. I had some interesting conversations and got new contacts.

Common hot topics in the library world now are literacy, sustainable development, and AI.

The conference program included plenty of fine presentations, some even in the field of decolonization.

The majority of the members voted against the next IFLA WLIC being held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, but the decision was still made by the lead. This controversial decision led to many discussions, and many library associations said that they will boycott IFLA WLIC 2024. IFLA's values include democracy and freedom of speech, but these will be threatened in Dubai through censoring of the presentations and posters beforehand. As of 3rd October, according to IFLA's website, the decision has been made to withdraw the invitation to hold the next WLIC in Dubai. There will be no IFLA WLIC next year.

The city of Rotterdam is the largest seaport in Europe, very multicultural, with high buildings and extraordinary architecture, cycle lanes and cyclists everywhere, and lots of water – you could even take a water taxi, a small yellow-black fast motorboat.



Rotterdam. Photos courtesy S. Parikka



Social Media at the Byrd Center Polar Archives

Check out this [series of videos](#) about some of the interesting artifacts in the Byrd Polar And Climate Research Center Archival Program (Polar Archives). Polar Curator Laura Kissel highlights a number of collection items in these short videos and also shows the massive stacks area where the polar collections are stored! The videos will be released one at a time in the next couple of months on the [Byrd Center](#) and the [Polar Archives](#) Facebook pages. Follow us!

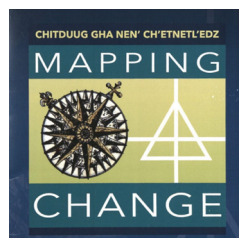


Polar Curator Laura Kissel presents items from the Ohio State University's Polar Archives in a series of short videos.



Promoting the videos on the Byrd Center Facebook page

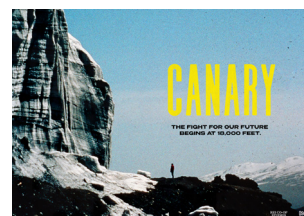
2016 PLC Proceedings



A big THANK YOU to PLC member Daria Carle for her work in editing the 2016 Proceedings! The 26th Polar Libraries Colloquy, *Mapping Change: Chitduug Gha Nen' Ch'etnetl'edz*, was hosted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks, 10-15 July 2016. The program and proceedings are hosted on the University of Alaska institutional repository, [Scholarworks](#). View these proceedings, as well as the proceedings of other past colloquies, on the [PLC website](#).

Documentary Film: Canary

Canary, a newly released documentary, features the life of Ohio State scientist Dr. Lonnie Thompson. See it if you have the chance, and learn more about the incredible life and science of one of the world's leading climate researchers.



Film description: "Witness the extraordinary life of Dr. Lonnie Thompson, an explorer who went where no scientist had gone before and transformed our idea of what is possible. Daring to seek Earth's history contained in glaciers atop the tallest mountains in the world, Lonnie found himself on the frontlines of climate change—his life's work evolving into a salvage mission to recover these priceless historical records before they disappear forever."

—Thanks to **Laura Kissel**, Polar Curator, Byrd Polar Center, for these items.

News from University of Alaska Anchorage

Great news from *Bulletin* co-editor Christie Ericson! Christie reports that she was promoted to the rank of Professor of Library Science as of July 2023. Christie started at the University of Alaska Anchorage/Alaska Pacific University (UAA/APU) Consortium Library as a serials clerk 22 years ago. After working in several positions in serials and cataloging, she went on to get her Masters degree in Library & Information Science and was eventually hired into a tenure-track position at the Consortium Library as the Electronic Resources Librarian.

The Polar Bears and Penguins Trope:

A Book Review of Pendergast, G. *Dear Polar Bears*

By **Sandy Campbell**

Secretary, DALAM

PLC Liaison, University of the Arctic

Pendergast, Gabrielle. 2023. *Dear Polar Bears*. Illustrated by Marcus Cutler. Victoria, BC: Orca Book Publishers.

I rarely review a book that I think libraries should not buy, the logic being that precious review space should be given to works that deserve promotion. However, I think it is worth highlighting to colleagues that *Dear Polar Bears* by Gabrielle Pendergast (Orca, 2023) perpetuates an unfortunate polar trope: polar bears and penguins together in the same environment.

The website *TVTropes* dedicates a whole page to the polar bear/penguin trope and shows it occurring in 20 kinds of media from films, cartoons and books to manga, video games and advertisements.¹ The section on the trope in literature cites eight books. In several books the strange presence of both species together is explained by “immigration,” an odd twist on real animal migration. In another book, polar bears’ presence in Antarctica is explained by their being on “an exchange program with the Arctic Ocean.” In *Dear Polar Bears*, the bears are responding to an invitation from the penguins to come to Antarctica for a party and arrive on a ship, having made their way through the Andes, the Middle East and Africa.

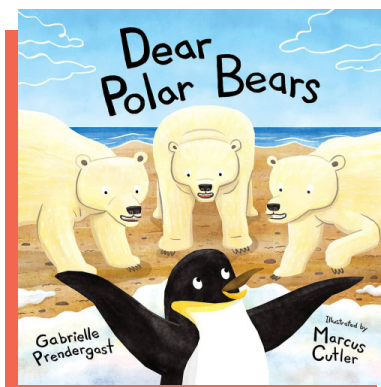
The presentation of polar bears and penguins together is such a common trope that when I had the privilege of attending one of the famous coffee breaks at the Scott Polar Research Institute Library in Cambridge in October 2022, it came up in conversation. Each morning at the Scott Polar Library the ship’s bell from the Terra Nova is rung, calling staff and researchers to the Library for coffee and conversation. At one of those coffee breaks, several staff and researchers discussed the fact that manufacturers of children’s pajamas sometimes use prints that show penguins and polar bears together. A creative SPRI staff member suggested that if it was necessary to use both species, they should at least put the polar bears on the pajama tops and the penguins on the bottoms, representing the separation of the

species into their correct Arctic and Antarctic environments.²

Technically, *Dear Polar Bears* is a good enough children’s book. It is a picture book with minimal text. It is designed to be read to children,

so there is an opportunity to verbally point out the inaccuracy. Marcus Cutler’s playful images cover most of the pages with bright colours. Cutler’s drawings do hint at the real-life issues that would occur should polar bears and penguins inhabit the same space. In several images, including the cover art, the bears appear to be hunting the penguins. On the second last page, a polar bear has a penguin in its mouth. Overall, were it not for the unfortunate content, it would be a book I could recommend.

In previous work on the development of criteria for selecting children’s health fiction, a colleague and I highlighted the importance of scientific accuracy, even in works of fiction.³ Children absorb scientific facts from fiction. It is one of the reasons that fiction is such an effective vehicle for communicating with children about health issues. Many children’s books use anthropomorphized animals to deliver their messages, and in that process, sometimes show animals with physiologically inaccurate characteristics. So, for example, we recommended that libraries avoid a children’s book in which a mother turtle was shown being pregnant with a live baby instead of laying eggs. We also recommended that libraries not buy a book about childhood tooth loss that had a beaver as its character – beavers, of course, having teeth that continually grow.



continued on page 16



New Publications

Mearns, Ceporah and Debicki, Jeremy. 2023.
It's Time for Berries. Illustrated by Tindur Peturs.
Iqaluit, NU: Inhabit Media.

Reviewed by **Cameron J. R. Machinski**

This picture book is about two girls, Siasi and Siloah, who are spending time with their *ninguiq* (grandmother). The book shows food gathering and preparation in all seasons. In spring, the focus is on fishing, in summer, gathering clams, and in winter, preserving the berries gathered in the fall. This book, in particular, focuses on the fall berry picking season.

Berry picking is an important part of Inuit culture. Ninguiq picks crowberries, blueberries and cranberries. She picks berries in the wind and the rain and brushes away the first snows to pick berries. She even goes out in the dark with a headlamp to pick berries.

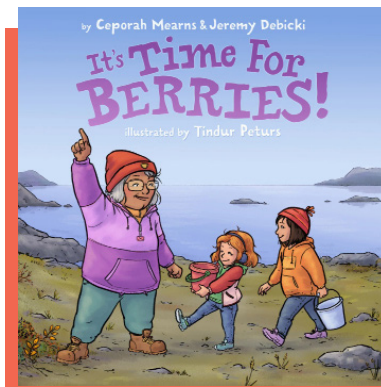
The illustrations in the book show Inuit family life today. They have a cartoon-like quality with black

line figures filled with solid colour. The landscape is tundra, with small houses and fish drying racks. The houses have oil drums outside for heating. There is a combination of old and new – a traditional sled

being pulled by a snowmachine. Fishing is shown as a traditional line and hook through a hole in the ice.

This is a bright and joyful celebration of berry picking that will resonate with many children who pick berries with their grandmothers.

Overall this book is highly recommended for school and public libraries and for families everywhere.



Reviewed by **Cameron J. R. Machinski**

This Inuktitut/English flipbook is number 9 in the Fun for Little Nunavummiut series. The other books cover Arctic hares, caribou, muskoxen, narwhals, polar bears, puppies, ravens, snow buntings, snowy owls, and walrus.

Because I do not read Inuktitut, I will only review the English half. Each book in the series contains seven activities in the form of pictures that provide



some information about the animal, a traditional story, puzzles, and games. In this case, the traditional story is about a polar bear catching an owl, while the story in the snowy owl book actually includes a lemming. In the

Ukaliq: Lemmings. 2022. Iqaluit, NU: Inhabit Media.

third activity, the reader must organize five pictures into an order of events. The fourth activity is a maze, where the reader can have fun finding ways for the lemmings to get to food without encountering predators. In the fifth exercise, some words are represented by pictures, which allows small children to name the next word, engaging pre-readers in "reading." The final activity is drawing in the missing details in a sketch of a lemming.

The attractive images in the book, by various illustrators, each have their own look and feel. The images, both drawings and photographs, will help to engage young children.

This is a good book for learning about lemmings and is recommended for home use. However, it is not recommended for children's libraries because some of the exercises require the reader to write or draw in the book.

New Publications continued

Pelletier, Mia. 2022. *Akpa's Journey*. Illustrated by Kagan McLeod. Iqaluit, NU: Inhabit Media.

Reviewed by **Cameron J. R. Machinski**

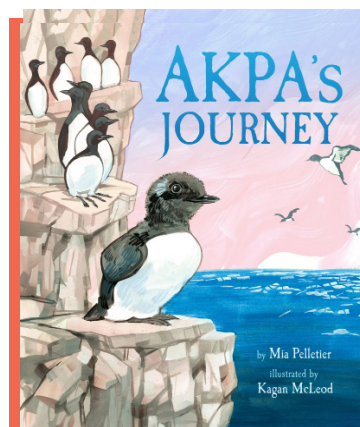
This picture book is a story about the journey of a young thick-billed murre, named Akpa, from hatching through adulthood. All baby murres begin migration unable to fly. They swim with the male parent, growing adult feathers, learning to hunt and gaining strength, maturing as they migrate.

The text does not include many difficult English words, but does include some Inuktitut words. These are explained in the text and in a glossary at the back of the book. For example, Akpa can smell ice and snow in the wind, which tells him that *ukiuliruut*, the edge of winter, is coming. There is

also a Canadian range map that shows where the birds live.

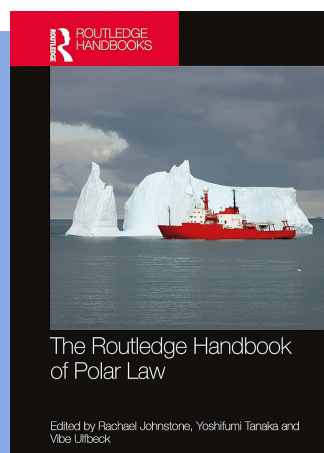
Kagan McLeod has filled the pages with realistic images of the journey. Each image fills two pages, with text overprinted. McLeod has done a good job of showing the sea and sky in daylight and at night and also includes underwater scenes.

This book is highly recommended for parents who read to their children, as well as school and public libraries.



Tanaka, Yoshifumi, Rachael Johnstone, and Vibe Ulbeck, eds. 2023. *The Routledge Handbook of Polar Law*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.

"Polar law describes the normative frameworks that govern the relationships between humans,



States, Peoples, institutions, land and resources in the Arctic and the Antarctic. These two regions are superficially similar in terms of natural environmental conditions but the overarching frameworks that apply are fundamentally

different. The Routledge Handbook of Polar Law explores the legal orders in the Arctic and Antarctic in a comparative perspective, identifying similarities as well as differences. It points to a distinct discipline of "Polar law" as the body of rules governing actors, spaces and institutions at the Poles. Four main features define the collection: the Arctic-Antarctic interface; the interaction between global, regional and domestic legal regimes; the rights of Indigenous Peoples; and the increasing importance of private law."

The unique insights from leading scholars in public international and private law, including a number of [UArctic Arctic Law Thematic Network](#) members, have contributed to the creation of a comprehensive account of what constitutes polar law today.

—Quoted and adapted from [the publisher's announcement](#) and [UArctic News](#).



Review of *Dear Polar Bears* continued

Some might argue that *Dear Polar Bears* is just a flight of fancy like books about unicorns or leprechauns, but those creatures are not real (I know the jury is still out on leprechauns). Polar bears and penguins are real. On the last page of the book, the young reader is left with an enduring image of polar bears and penguins frolicking together on a beach. The book is designed for children who are too young to have developed the geographical knowledge or the critical thinking skills to identify the inaccuracy in the work. For that reason, I would not recommend this book to children's libraries or school libraries.

0 stars – Not recommended

References

¹Polar Bears and Penguins. TV Tropes. <https://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/PolarBearsAndPenguins>. Accessed August 29, 2023

²Personal Communication. Rosie Amos, Learning and Public Engagement Coordinator, Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, England, October 2022.

³Tan, M., & Campbell, S. (2014). Selecting Fiction Books for a Children's Health Collection by M. Tan & S. Campbell. *The Deakin Review of Children's Literature*, 4(2). <https://doi.org/10.20361/G21G7F> Accessed August 29, 2023



Polar Bear. Image by [Margo Tanenbaum](#) from Pixabay



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