



Welcome to the 30th Polar Libraries Colloquy!

The 30th Polar Libraries Colloquy, *Polar Regions: Past, Present, and Future* is quickly approaching! The 2026 meeting will take place 7-13 June and will be hosted by the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

We want to thank the host committee, Laura, Jason, Michele, and their colleagues, for all of the hard work they've done to organize this year's Colloquy and their willingness to adapt to a hybrid in-person/virtual conference. A listing of over 20 papers, presentations, and workshops can be found on the [PLC 2026 website](#).

An icebreaker reception on 7 June at the conference hotel will kick off the week's events. Most sessions will be held at the Byrd Center, although Tuesday's sessions will take place at OSU's Thompson Library. Other Colloquy highlights include unveiling this year's winner of the William Mills Prize for Non-Fiction Polar Books. See page 12 for a list of the 30 nominations received this year.

In addition, the organizers have planned a number of engaging tours and events throughout the week, including:

In This Issue

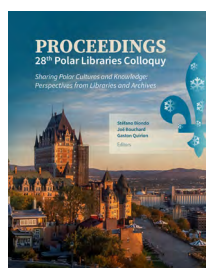
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- University Archives and Book Depository
- Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum
- Advanced Computing Center for Art and Design
- Thompson Library
- Ohio Statehouse
- Columbus Metropolitan Main Library & Topiary Park
- Controlled Environment Agriculture Research Complex at Waterman Farm

We look forward to connecting with colleagues, learning about new work and projects in the area of polar information, and enjoying what Columbus, Ohio has to offer!

2022 PLC Proceedings



Thanks to editors Stéfano Biondo, Joë Bouchard, and Gaston Quirion, the [2022 PLC Proceedings](#) are now available. The 28th Polar Libraries Colloquy, *Sharing Polar Cultures and Knowledge: Perspectives from Libraries and Archives*, took place at Université Laval in Quebec City from 5-11 June 2022. In addition to the full papers, the proceedings also include posters, biographical notes, and the complete program of the event.



From the Editors



Welcome to the Spring 2026 issue of the *Polar Libraries Bulletin*! The 30th Polar Libraries Colloquy in Columbus, Ohio is fast approaching and we are looking forward to connecting with our PLC colleagues, whether in person or online. You can

find the full schedule on the [Colloquy website](#).

While we are thrilled to hear Peter's retirement news (p. 4), we're also a little sad that he'll be stepping down as *Bulletin* co-editor. If you are interested in joining our editorial team, or if you'd like more information, please contact us.

We hope the Colloquy will inspire you to submit a contribution to the Fall 2026 issue. Articles and book reviews are always welcome. Plus, 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? Feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you!

The deadline to submit content for the Fall 2026 issue will be **30 September**.

~ Christie, Susanna, and Peter



Image by [ALKalenski](#) from Pixabay.

Please send submissions for the *Bulletin* to the 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 [Bulletin editors](#).

PLC on Social Media

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Join us on Facebook or X!
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Polar Libraries Bulletin AI Policy

The editors of the *Polar Libraries Bulletin* recognise that AI tools can assist authors. This policy on the use of AI has been created to ensure authors remain accountable for works submitted to the *Bulletin*. This policy is adopted from the [AI Contributions to Research Content](#), which forms part of the research ethics policy of Cambridge University Press.

- **AI must be declared** and clearly explained in the articles submitted just as scholars do with other software, tools and methodologies.
- **AI does not meet the *Polar Library Bulletin's* requirement for authorship**, given the need for accountability. AI and LLM tools may not be listed as an author on any scholarly work published by the *Bulletin*.
- **Any use of AI must not plagiarise**. Scholarly works must be the author's own, and not present others' ideas, data, words or other material without adequate citation and transparent referencing.
- **Authors are accountable** for the accuracy, integrity and originality of their research papers, including for any use of AI.

~ from the Editors

Team News from the Scott Polar Research Institute

Peter Lund will be retiring as Librarian at the Scott Polar Research Institute and as a co-editor of the *Polar Libraries Bulletin* in July 2026.

Peter writes...

After 11 years at SPRI it is time to hand over the stewardship of the Polar Library. It has been a joy to manage the library and of course to be part of the wonderful Polar Libraries community. I hope to move to Scotland in my retirement and to climb some mountains. I may actually have time to read more polar books too. I'm delighted to let you know that I will be succeeded at SPRI by Frankie Marsh. Frankie is re-joining the Institute having previously worked in the Polar Library as a Senior Library Assistant. More recently she has held roles in University of Cambridge libraries at Plant Sciences, the Botanic Garden and the Medical Library.

In further staffing news, Grace Collingwood has recently joined the SPRI Library as Senior Library Assistant.

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. Individual membership will cost 30 GBP, and cover a single person. Institutional membership will cost 60 GBP, and allow three persons to be named as individual members. Additional persons may be added to an institutional membership at 20 GBP each. To join PLC, complete the [online membership form](#) and send payment as directed. For queries, contact Treasurer Andrew Gray: andrew.gray@ucl.ac.uk

Martha Andrews—A Tribute

by **Daria O. Carle**, Science & Engineering Librarian, and **Nancy Lesh**, Alaskana Librarian
—both retired from the University of Alaska Anchorage Consortium Library

Contributors Note: An 'In Memoriam' piece recognizing Martha's passing was previously published in the Spring 2025 *Bulletin*. At that time, Daria was asked by the *Bulletin* editors to write a tribute to Martha for this issue and she invited fellow library colleague and long-time PLC member Nancy Lesh to collaborate with her. The two of us also contacted three retired PLC members to share their recollections of Martha:

- Judie Triplehorn, former librarian at the Geophysical Institute in Fairbanks, Alaska
- Julia Finn, former librarian with Indian & Northern Affairs Canada and current chair of the William Mills Prize Committee
- Ron Inouye, former University of Alaska Fairbanks librarian for Alaska & Polar Regions Collections

What follows is a bit more about Martha's accomplishments and a compilation of our thoughts and memories about her.

As one of the original members of the Northern Libraries Colloquy in 1971, PLC's predecessor, Martha remained actively involved in the organization during her long career before retiring as librarian at the Institute of Arctic & Alpine Research (INSTAAR) at the University of Colorado Boulder in 2003. She attended and presented at 13 Colloquies from 1976 to 2002, and co-hosted the 1988 Colloquy in Boulder in collaboration with the National Snow & Ice Data Center. Adding to the history of the first three Northern Libraries Colloquies by Nita Cooke on PLC's website, Martha helpfully compiled synopses for Colloquies up through 2008 in Edmonton. She also successfully obtained numerous grants over the years to create, maintain, and ultimately computerize arctic and polar databases, most notably the Arctic and Antarctic Bibliographies.

Martha began working on the Arctic Institute's Arctic Bibliography project when she was a geography graduate student at McGill University in the 1960s. When she became INSTAAR's librarian in 1981, her work related to polar information continued. In 1999, recognizing her "outstanding service to the polar information community and her ongoing contributions [that] have enhanced dissemination of Arctic knowledge and information," Martha was honored as one of the Fellows of the Arctic Institute. Her "important role in the recent conversion of the Arctic Bibliography into a searchable computer database by the American Geological Institute" was



Martha Andrews near Iqaluit, Canada, 1975.
Photo courtesy of INSTAAR.

highlighted. (AINA News, *Arctic* 52 (4): 433 (1999); JSTOR accessed 26 April 2026.)

Martha is not only well known for her commitment and dedication to polar information, but her outgoing personality and wicked sense of humor are attributes that her colleagues recall with great fondness. Judie remembers Martha as friendly to everyone and as a very helpful resource on difficult issues or reference questions. She went on to say that Martha was very supportive of PLC and that her compilation of PLC History is a valuable reference source.

Julia also describes Martha as friendly and that she was "very kind to me when PLC was in Cambridge in



Martha Andrews—A Tribute *continued*

1994. I did not know anyone and she made sure to spend some time with me, sort of taking a new person “under her wing.” I remember really appreciating that.” Julia also recalled that Martha came to Ottawa a few years later to staff a table at a small conference at the University of Ottawa and asked if Julia could join her. Martha made sure to contact Julia’s manager after the event to say that her help at the event was appreciated, which was very kind.

Another memory of Martha that Julia shared was when PLC was in Ottawa in 2004. Martha had lived in Ottawa years before, and during the Colloquy, Martha asked about going to a Chinese restaurant where she and her husband used to eat, that just happened to be in Julia’s neighborhood. Martha was delighted and Julia remembers that the two of them and their husbands enjoyed the meal and dinner conversation very much.

Ron sent his recollections of Martha:

As a newbie to the then 12th Northern Libraries Colloquy in Boulder in 1988, I met Martha, who knew everyone, their research and personal interests (and idiosyncrasies), and made certain everyone felt welcome. She introduced the new members to the group, and made certain Colloquy events and socials went well. Her “mother hen” tendencies and discretion were a hallmark. Martha continued the welcoming traditions of Nita Cooke (Boreal Institute for Northern Studies in Edmonton) and Nora Murchison (Arctic Institute of North America in Montreal) into the organization that broadened its scope and was subsequently renamed as the Polar Libraries Colloquy after that 1988 Boulder meeting.

Having been involved in the arctic research community through both library colleagues and her husband’s work, Martha early on recognized the importance of the library and related database needs. Her abilities to train and support graduate students for this important library development was commendable.

Individuals like Martha provided the professionalism and collegiality which bound together the individuals of the Polar Libraries Colloquy.

Daria’s first memory of Martha was when I was the newly hired Science Librarian at CU Boulder in the early 1990s. Martha invited me to visit INSTAAR and gave me a tour of the library, which at that time served a very active and involved group of scientists and researchers studying polar issues. She often invited me to INSTAAR receptions for visiting librarians from Fairbanks and other northern locations. Once I moved to Alaska in 2000 to take a similar position at UAA and became a member of PLC myself, I learned much more about Martha’s activities in the organization. I often met Martha for lunch when I made trips back to Colorado to visit friends and former colleagues. She was always interested in what was going on in PLC and continued to advocate for archiving the Colloquy’s history.

Nancy first met Martha on the pre-conference trip of the 6th NLC in Fairbanks in 1976. I was the leader on a train trip north from Anchorage, with an overnight at Mt. McKinley Park (then so named). We had arranged for the final stop to be at the last flag stop before Fairbanks, a place where there were literally no buildings, informing the travelers that this was Fairbanks. It got a good laugh! The train trip was a great introduction to PLC and the attendees enjoyed the chance to get to know each other for two days in a very casual setting. With her kind inclusive manner and deliciously delightful sense of humor, Martha was the best person to include everyone in the conversations and activities, and made it a great trip for all.

I also had the pleasure of joining a group of Colloquy members, including Martha and her husband John, on a post-conference trip to Churchill, Manitoba in 2000 after the 18th PLC in Winnipeg. They were delightful people to travel with: pleasant, interested, interesting, and easy about going with the flow. I enjoyed them both immensely!

Martha was a mainstay in the Colloquy for many years. Her extensive experience and skill in developing the Arctic and Antarctic Bibliographies, and her guidance in the role Colloquy could play in developing and distributing these publications has been discussed by others in this tribute. This subject

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Continuity of Access to Arctic Knowledge at Arctic Today

by **Soraya Lahlou**

Head of Partnerships, Arctic Today



Over the past decade, [Arctic Today](#) has documented geopolitics, security, business and environmental policy across the Arctic. This body of reporting now represents a unique resource for researchers, students, and institutions.

Effective this spring, **content older than one year will be reserved for supporting institutions as part of our Arctic Knowledge Archives.**

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Access to Arctic Knowledge Archives can be requested [here](#). Please feel free to contact Soraya Lahlou directly at soraya@arctictoday.com should you wish to discuss this further.

Arctic Today is a non-profit organization supported by readers and institutional partners. This model preserves editorial independence and ensures long-term access to over ten years of Arctic reporting.

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Another concrete example of our impact is that our contributors' work was cited 13 times in a U.S. Congressional report last year, underlining the credibility and relevance of our archives.

You may also subscribe to our free [weekly newsletter](#) to follow current Arctic developments.

Martha Andrews—A Tribute *continued*

was of major importance as printed bibliographies were being replaced by digital versions during this period, as she described in a "passionate session" at the 6th colloquy (1976) when she informed the group that the 16-volume Arctic Bibliography would no longer receive funding from any government source in the US or Canada. I believe her guidance, knowledge, contacts, and work in this area are her major contribution to PLC.

Hers was also a steady hand in guiding other Colloquy activities, including writing the history of the organization and synopses of each meeting through 2008, and in arranging that the papers of PLC be housed in Rasmuson Library's Archives at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Her commitment and belief in the work of the Colloquy was recognized in 2004 when she was given an Honorary Membership.

And finally, just a side note from Nancy and Daria. When we were contacting people who had known and worked with Martha, we realized that many of them were elderly or deceased. As a result, much of their valuable input and remembrances into the personalities and work of PLC have been lost. We know everyone is busy with their lives, but it is our hope that we will all take a little time to jot down or record thoughts and memories of our colleagues who have made significant contributions to the organization before we lose access to this valuable part of Colloquy history.



Seabirds, Scottish Islands, and the Southern Oceans: Brian Roberts Cabinet at the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) Library

by **Bronte Evans Rayward**
Scott Polar Research Institute

Introduction

The SPRI library and archive holds significant copies of primary and secondary material on the life and works of Brian Roberts. Roberts was a key figure in British polar science and government policy. He was an ornithologist and later a diplomat. He negotiated and drafted portions of the Antarctic Treaty, and later environmental conventions such as the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals. The large collection of material pertaining to Roberts in the SPRI Library and Archives deserves more scholarly attention.

Brian Roberts Background

Brian Roberts was born in 1912 and throughout his childhood lived in the family home at Woking. Roberts attended Uppingham School. He then read Geography at the University of Cambridge. SPRI and its staff were involved in the logistics and organisation



Roberts was a keen ornithologist throughout his life, and his PhD was titled 'The Biology of Some Antarctic Birds'.

of Roberts' involvement in university expeditions to Iceland (1932) and Greenland (1932), and later the Graham Land Expedition (1934-1937). This early period in his career was a formative influence on Robert's strong vision for how knowledge about the Polar Regions might be systemised, and thus effectively utilised by researchers and institutions.

In 1946 he became a part-time Research Associate at SPRI. This position allowed him a significant influence on the development of the SPRI library, working closely with SPRI librarian of the period Harry King. Robert's editorship of the *Polar Record* also allowed him to exert power over the operation of research and organisation of information at SPRI. In 1944, during WWII, Roberts was recruited to work in a position in the Foreign Office advising on polar matters. In 1945 he revived the Interdepartmental Antarctic Place Names Committee through which he consolidated power to influence, and operationalise, his long ambition to 'straighten-out the place names' in the Antarctic.¹ Roberts was a key figure in the United Kingdom's polar community as the mid-twentieth century wore on due to his approach, vision, and dedication to the organisation of polar information.

Brian Roberts' Filing Cabinet

In the Scott Polar Research Institute Library there is a filing cabinet of material that was utilised by Brian Roberts during his career at the Institute and in the British Foreign Office. The presence of personal journals, photographs, annotated reprints, itineraries, and other source material, within the folders is significant to understanding Roberts' early influences and interests. For example, the handwritten, personal journal that Roberts kept whilst camping on the Isles of Scilly as a teenager reveals themes including a love of remote islands, and an interest in human dynamics and ornithology, that were consistent across his life and career. The organised documentation of formative childhood

¹Roberts and Heavens, *Penguin Diplomacy: Brian Roberts, Polar Explorer, Treaty Maker and Conservationist*, 205.

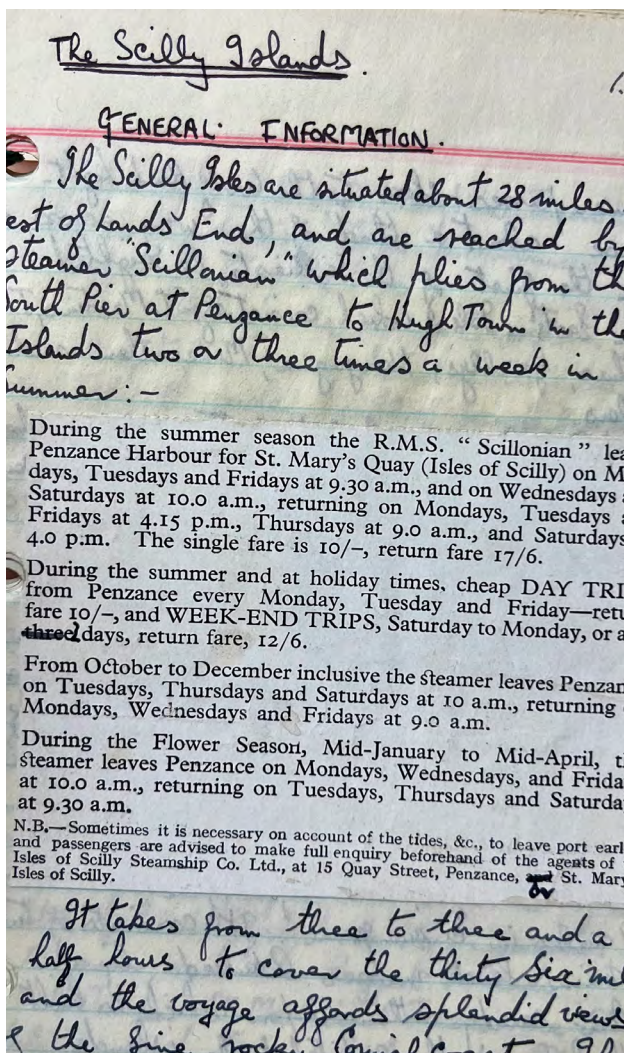


Seabirds, Scottish Islands, and the Southern Oceans: Brian Roberts Cabinet at the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) Library

camping trips is rich for interpreting influences on a figure who became central to the unfolding of the United Kingdom's Antarctic relationships, and interpretations and constructions of Antarctic history through his work with the SPRI library on systemising polar information. The material also has great potential to contribute to writing broader environmental and multi-species histories of the Antarctic continent. It provides rich resources for considering the relationship between imaginaries of Scottish places, science, sovereignty and governance,



Photograph of Finlay MacQueen of St Kilda in Roberts' cabinet drawer. Photograph taken by Robert Atkinson, 1938.



An image of Robert's personal journal kept during his childhood visit to the Scilly Isles.

and the history of the United Kingdom's interaction with Antarctica. It also provides insight into the development of conservation and scientific activities in the Antarctic regions, providing evidence of the complex definitions, disciplinary approaches and attitudes to environmental research in the mid-twentieth century.

Examining source material, which was accumulated by Brian Roberts, and particularly the material deposited in the SPRI basement cabinet, is significant to determining the historical events, communities, places, and research cultures that were influencing the relationships between the United Kingdom and Antarctica in the mid-twentieth century. The SPRI library thus holds an important resource for historical and geographical research on Roberts, and the British relationship with Antarctica, for researchers into the future.





UiT and UAA: A Cooperative (and Earlier than Expected!) Visit

by **Daria O. Carle**, retired Science & Engineering Librarian, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage and **Cornel Borit**, Senior Academic Librarian, The Arctic University of Norway (UiT), Tromsø, Norway

In the autumn semester of 2025, The Arctic University of Norway (UiT) in Tromsø was involved in the One Ocean Expedition, part of a 12-month voyage around the world (April 2025 – April 2026) aboard the Norwegian tall ship *S/S Statsraad Lehmkuhl*, the floating ambassador for the United Nations' Ocean Decade. UiT chartered the ship for two legs, one from Greenland through the Northwest Passage, and the second on to Whittier, Alaska, where the passengers would disembark for the final destination in Anchorage, all to unfold between 5 August and 4 October 2025.

Participants included 89 students along with 26 UiT educators from all faculties, the university library, the university museum, administrative coordinators, and communication experts. During the voyage the group was to learn about environmental changes and socio-economic impacts of the past, identify driving trends, and imagine possible, probable, and preferable alternative futures of the Arctic. The backbone for the educational component of the voyage was the course, *Arctic Future Pathfinders – A Journey through the Northwest Passage (AFP)*, an interdisciplinary, multimodal, and experiential

course offered to M.A. and PhD students from ten universities from four countries. The UiT University Library was represented by senior academic librarian Cornel Borit, who taught the module, *Information Literacy – An Appraisal and a Forecast*, as an integrated part of the AFP course. In addition, he managed the Library Corner, a floating collection consisting of 82 titles (books and articles), which catered to the bibliographic needs of the course.

Although the initial plan was to sail through the Northwest Passage from Kalaallit Nunaat, Nuuk, Greenland to Iqaluktuuttiaq, Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, Canada until 28 August, and then to Whittier, Alaska until 4 October, the Canadian government would not allow the vessel to enter the Passage due to severe ice conditions. Therefore, the first stage unexpectedly ended on 20 August in St. John's, Canada, and the entire itinerary had to be changed on short notice. Since the remainder of the voyage had to continue, the ship sailed south with a skeleton crew, through the Panama Canal and then north along the west coast of the US to Vancouver, Canada, where it would depart with a different group of passengers in mid-September.



Arctic Future Pathfinders at the UAA/APU Consortium Library. Photo courtesy Karine Nigar Aarskog.



UiT and UAA *continued*

Meanwhile, the second stage organizers were forced to completely redesign the course, including an online component, and pivot from a journey aboard ship to one overland instead. This part of the trip began in Edmonton, Canada on August 28 and ended in Anchorage, Alaska on 15 September. From Edmonton, the group took a chartered flight to Cambridge Bay on 30 August, a small community of less than 2,000 people located on Victoria Island in the Canadian Arctic. Few accommodations are available in Cambridge Bay, so participants had to be prepared to sleep in a tent camp and to eat traditional foods.

Despite the change in plans, the course offered a very full program in Cambridge Bay. The opportunity to engage with local elders was a highlight, and was incredibly instructive as they told their very powerful stories. Two elder hunters in particular, one hired for logistical support and the other as a polar bear guard for the tent camp, were also invited to share their experiences. Listening to the trauma stories from tuberculosis, mental health issues, and the lingering effects of residential schools, contrasted with what the participants had learned in Greenland, was very humbling and meaningful to everyone.

After Cambridge Bay, the participants spent one night in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and then on to visit Anchorage. Where, at least at UAA, people were scrambling to make last minute arrangements after receiving the frantic email on 26 August with the news of the change of plans and the request to visit UAA on 8 September for a week instead of the original single day in October! UAA's Institute of Social & Economic Research (ISER) Director, Diane Hirshberg, one of the recipients of that email, led the effort and partnered with UiT's Department of Education and UAA's School of Education to co-host the course participants. She invited the Consortium Library faculty to join them as well. UAA's School of Education found housing and arranged for campus space and ISER dealt with bureaucratic details, export controls, and other official requirements.

The Library gave a panel presentation during the visit, featuring Page Brannon, Head of Instruction and Research Services, who gave an overview of the

Consortium Library and its subject liaison program; Rebecca Moorman, Head of Technical Services and UAA Representative to UArctic, discussed the Alaska Native Subject Headings Project and UArctic's Thematic Network, DALAM; Taylor Keister, Humanities Librarian, described UAA's Alaska Native Studies Program and the Library's Alaskan Collection; Daria Carle, Science & Engineering Librarian, focused on Arctic research related to science and engineering, and discussed the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program and the Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS); Anna Bjartmarsdottir, Allied Health Librarian, provided information on the Alaska Medical Library and the Arctic Health database; and Arlene Schmuland, Head of Archives & Special Collections, elaborated on the Alaskan archival collections housed at the Consortium Library.

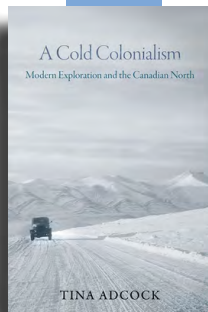
In between classroom sessions for the course, the group spent a busy week in Anchorage, starting with a social meet and greet event on the campus. They visited the Alaska Native Heritage Center and met with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium representatives. More stops took place at the Anchorage Museum's Arctic Studies Center, the Anchorage Solid Waste Facility, the Anchorage Law Enforcement Museum, as well as a meeting with Anchorage mayor, Suzanne LaFrance. The trip concluded at the end of the week when the students and educators flew back to their respective hometowns.

This joint effort of many different entities and institutions from Greenland, Norway, Canada, and the US is a perfect example of Arctic cooperation and engagement. It also further demonstrates the role that polar libraries can play in the dissemination of information and service to support the mission of building and supporting Arctic research and polar scholars. The group spent a busy week in Anchorage, starting with a social meet and greet event on the campus. They visited the Alaska Native Heritage Center and met with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium representatives. More stops took place at the Anchorage Museum's Arctic Studies Center, the Anchorage Solid Waste Facility, the Anchorage

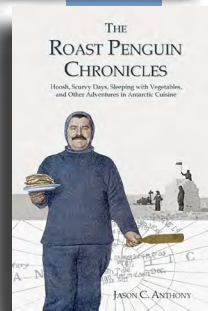
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2026 William Mills Prize Nominees

Editors' Note: *The Mills Prize honors the best Arctic or Antarctic non-fiction books published throughout the world. First awarded in 2006, it was established in memory of William Mills, polar librarian, author, and core member of PLC. 30 nominations were received for 2026. Visit the [PLC website](#) more information about the prize as well as a list of past nominees and winners.*

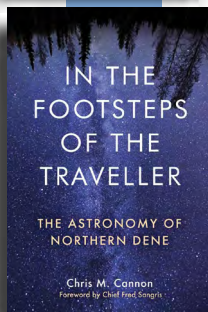


Adcock, Tina. 2025. *A Cold Colonialism: Modern Exploration and the Canadian North.* Vancouver: UBC Press.



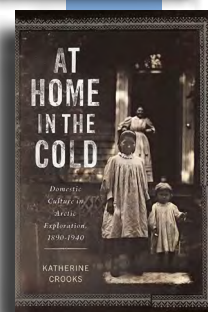
Aglukark, Susan and Andrea Warner. 2025. *Kihiani: A Memoir of Healing.* Toronto: HarperCollins.

Anthony, Jason C. 2025. *The Roast Penguin Chronicles: Hoosh, Scurvy Days, Sleeping with Vegetables, and Other Adventures in Antarctic Cuisine.* New York: Compass Rose Publishing.



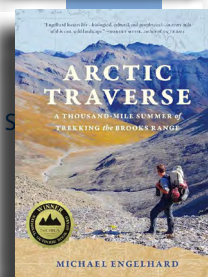
Bennett, Mia and Klaus Dodds. 2025. *Unfrozen: The Fight for the Future of the Arctic.* New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Cannon, Chris. 2025. *In the Footsteps of the Traveller: The Astronomy of Northern Dene.* Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press.



Cronin, Elizabeth, ed. 2024. *The Awe of the Arctic: A Visual History. Essays by Elizabeth Cronin, Elizabeth C. Delinger, et al.* Berlin: Hatje Cantz; and New York: The New York Public Library.

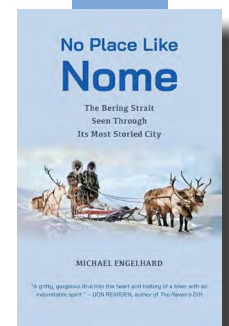
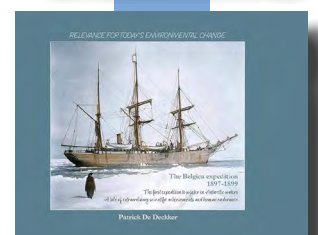
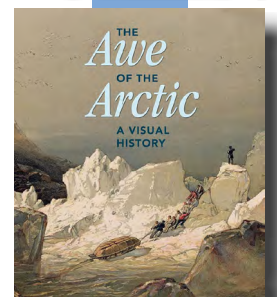
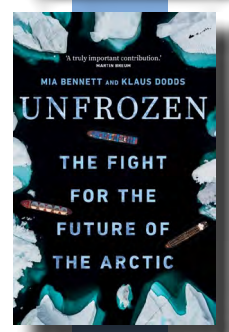
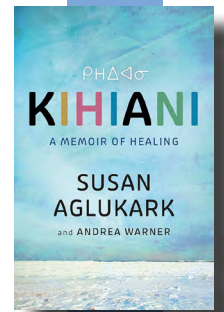
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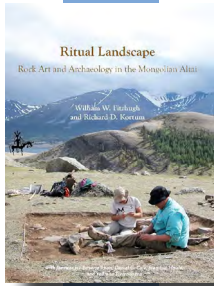
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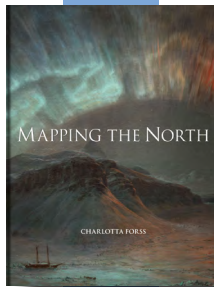
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2026 William Mills Prize Nominees *continued*

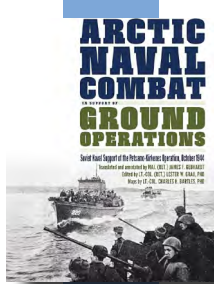


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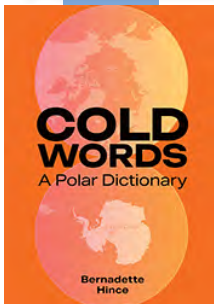
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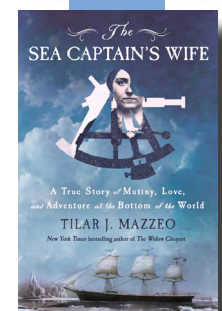
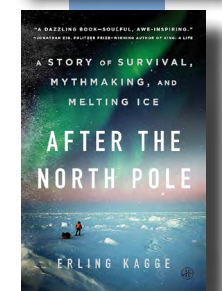
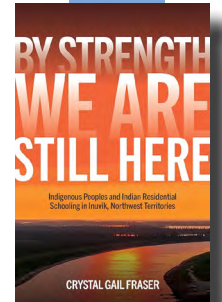
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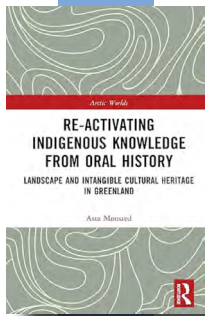
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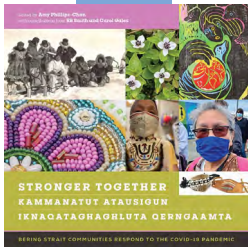
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2026 William Mills Prize Nominees *continued*

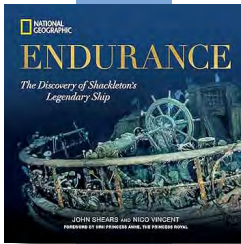


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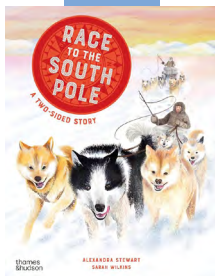
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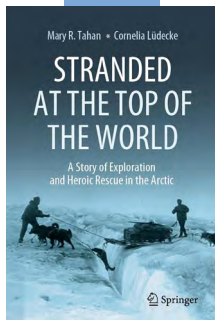
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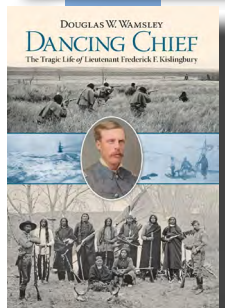
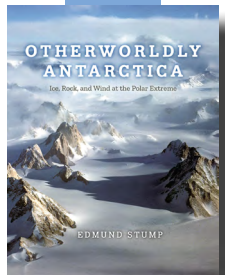
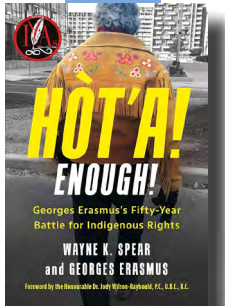
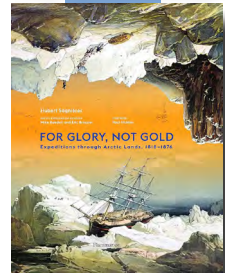
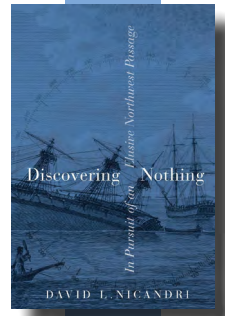
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A New Skolt Saami Alphabet Book

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

There are nine Saami languages still alive and one of them is Skolt Saami. Now there is a project that will establish a common language arena for Skolt Saami people living in Norway and Finland. The main goal of the Interreg Aurora funded project, *Oummu rââst raaj* (in English: People cross the borders), is to strengthen the Skolt Saami language and cultural environment.

The project aims to a shifting towards a positive attitude to Skolt Saami language and culture and enabling language learning support and motivation at different levels. In addition, the project will increase visibility of the Skolt Saami language and culture on a larger scale, inviting wider audiences to get introduced.

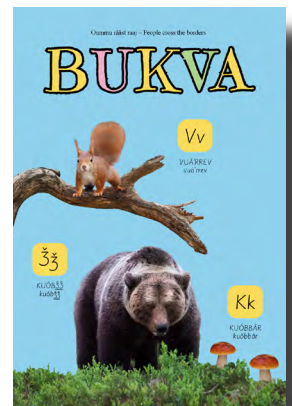
The project period is 1 September 2024 through 31 August 2026. The lead partners in the project are the municipality of Inari in Finland and the municipality of Sør-Varanger in Norway. The Tana and Varanger Museum Siida foundation is also a partner. The foundation runs the four Sámi museums in the eastern part of Finnmark (Norway).

Bukva

Oummu rââst raaj – *People cross the borders* has produced a Skolt Saami alphabet book. The book is called Bukva and it was published on Saami National Day, 6 February 2026.

Bukva is a Skolt Saami children's book which includes the alphabet used in Skolt Saami language, with a word and a picture for every letter. With Bukva, children can get to know the letters and vocabulary of the Skolt Saami language and learn to read through an inspiring and interestingly illustrated book.

The author of the book is Taarna Valtonen, and the working group includes Kimberli Mäkäräinen, Mariann Bernhardt and Lempi Lehtinen. The graphic design was carried out by the *Oummu rââst raaj* project, with Lempi Lehtinen as the designer.



Bukva is available free of charge, primarily for the use of early childhood education and schools around Finland and Sør-Varanger municipality (Norway), and a limited number of books are also available for Skolt Saami children and families. You can also borrow the book from libraries around Finland as well as Sør-Varanger bibliotek, the library in Kirkenes (Norway).

Bukva is available to everyone as an [e-book in PDF format](#), free of charge. You can also find it at [Google Play](#) and [Internet Archives](#).

More information:

Interreg Aurora

[Oummu rââst raaj - People cross the borders](#)

Inari.fi - Skolt Saami Language

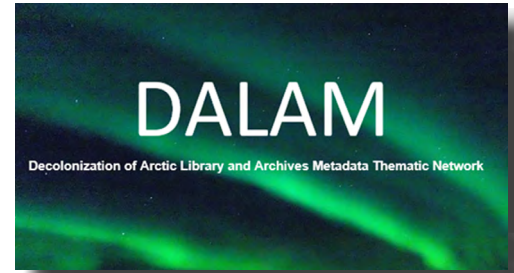
[Bukva](#)



Decolonization of Arctic Library and Archives Metadata (DALAM)

Thematic Network Update: October 2025 to April 2026

by **Sandy Campbell**
Secretary, DALAM
PLC Liaison to University of the Arctic



Since our last report, DALAM has met six times— (2025: October, November); (2026: January, February, March, April), taking winter break in December.

Membership

DALAM has members from twelve countries (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greenland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, United States, United Kingdom).

Activities

DALAM Digital Library

Through the fall, DALAM members, most notably Sharon Rankin (McGill University), worked on the development, populating and testing of the DALAM Digital Library. While the Digital Library was formally announced in the fall, much of the publicity continued into January 2026.

The January meeting was dedicated to reviewing a small survey that asked DALAM members to report their progress on decolonizing their metadata. While there were only nine responses to the survey, there were some interesting findings. In responding to the question “Select the best option that describes where your organization is in the process of managing decolonization of metadata”, members returned the following results:

9 responses



These results show that many of our members are taking first steps or actively working on issues around decolonization of metadata.

An important theme that appeared in the written responses was the need for additional staff time to address decolonization of metadata.

For the February meeting we were fortunate to have Lisa Goulet, UArctic Engagement Coordinator, join us to discuss the UArctic network building grant opportunities. Discussions have continued through the winter and at least one grant proposal will be going forward.

Communications and Outreach

Education and Training

November 19, 2025

- **Laura Kissel** (Byrd Polar & Climate Research Center and University Libraries)
- **Jason Cervene** (Byrd Polar & Climate Research Center)
- **Michael Flierl** (University Libraries, Ohio State University)

Title: **Seemingly New Problems in a World with AI: Data Provenance and Trust (PLC Occasional Seminar Series #1)**

This session considered the promises and pitfalls of artificial intelligence as it relates to data and metadata. The speakers highlighted some of the collections at the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, particularly the extensive Antarctic rock sample collection. Of note was the concept that while artificial intelligence search systems often return unvalidated information, curated collections in archives, museums and libraries provide sources



DALAM Update *continued*

of validated, factual information.

<https://dalam.omeka.net/items/show/83>

March 15, 2026

- **Krista McCracken** (Algoma University, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada)

Title: Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre

Introduction

The Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre is an on-campus centre dedicated to bringing together Survivor groups, church entities, educators, Indigenous communities, and other partners to research, collect, preserve, and share the history of Residential Schools across Canada. Portions of the SRSC collections relate to Indigenous peoples in the Arctic. The session showcased the community-led development of the collections.

<https://dalam.omeka.net/items/show/86>

April 15, 2026

- **Valentine Ribadeau Dumas** (Laval University, Quebec, Canada)

Title: Reconnecting “Ethnographic Artefacts” to “Inuit Tools”

After four years of collaboration between Université Laval, Nunavut Arctic College (Igloolik campus), and Igloolik High School, the virtual museum *Inuit Worlds, From Past to Present* was launched on April 1, 2026. Based on a collection of everyday objects gathered by anthropologist Bernard Saladin d’Anglure in the 1960s and 1970s in the Canadian Arctic—many of which came from the Igloolik region—and by giving a voice to local knowledge holders, this website now invites Inuit youth, scientists working in the Arctic, and the general public interested in learning about Inuit history, heritage, and cultural richness. Throughout this collaboration, these objects were used as memory prompts to foster connections between youth and Elders, as well as between Inuit participants and the Université Laval research team. Now finding its place both in Nunavut secondary schools and in academic settings, I will present here

the approach adopted in this collaboration, along with its many challenges and lessons learned. I will also introduce the next project of our research team, which likewise aims to reconnect a larger corpus of Inuit ethnographic archives with the northern communities concerned.

Publications

Brillant, S. and Bouchard J. « Vocabulaire décrivant les Peuples autochtones dans le RVM : Présentation au PBUQ (Le Partenariat des bibliothèques universitaires du Québec), 21 avril 2026 ».

Brillant, S. and Bouchard, J. « Vocabulaire décrivant les Peuples autochtones dans le RVM : Présentation à la Table de concertation du milieu archivistique québécois, » presentation to “[Table de concertation du milieu archivistique québécois](#)”. 15 Octobre 2025

Campbell, S. Meeting Notes: Thematic Network on Decolonization of Arctic Library and Archives Metadata (DALAM). *Polar Libraries Bulletin*, Fall 2025, Issue 92, p. 10, 11

Rankin, S. and Campbell S. DALAM Launches Digital Library, *Polar Libraries Bulletin*, Fall 2025, Issue 92, p. 4.

Posters and Presentations

Alfei, Pier Paolo. “Archives and transnational research on the history of the polar regions. Issues and prospects” [“Archivi e ricerche transnazionali di storia delle regioni polari. Questioni e prospettive”]. Lesson held in person on 24 March 2026 at the University of Macerata (Italy) during the course of “Archivistica” tenured by Professor Federico Valacchi.

Looking Forward

DALAM is looking forward to holding its biennial meeting at the 30th Polar Libraries Colloquy, *Polar Regions: Past, Present, and Future* in Columbus, Ohio, June 7 to June 13, 2026. The DALAM Meeting (Monday, June 8, 12:20 Eastern Time) will be a hybrid, to allow for participation by both on-site and remote attendees.



Book Reviews

Christopher, N. and A. Fullerton, eds. 2025. *Arctic Land Mammals*. Iqaluit, NU: Inhabit Media.

Reviewed by **Mary Clara O'Brien** and **Sandy Campbell**

This book is something new in Inhabit Media's *Animals Illustrated* series. It is a larger format (28.5 cm X 21.5 cm) and instead of being about one animal, it is a compilation of the earlier books in the series, covering arctic fox, hare, wolf, caribou, lemming, muskox, polar bear and wolverine. Like the individual books, each animal's section covers range, diet, babies, skeleton, weight and fun facts. Because the material has been compiled from the original books in the series, the text and images are of the same high quality that we have come to expect.

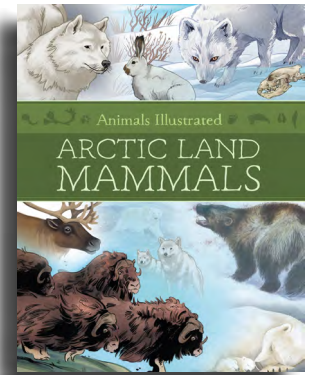
In addition to the individual animals, there are sections on: What is a Mammal?, Predators and Prey, Arctic Adaptations and Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (Inuit

Traditional Principles), Traditional Uses, and a Glossary of Inuktitut words.

Because it is a compilation, there is no single author, but six author contributors are listed at the back. This volume functions like a children's encyclopedia to Arctic mammals. We hope that there will be a similar book on Arctic Sea Mammals.

Arctic Land Mammals would be a good option for public and school libraries that have not bought the individual volumes or for families that do not have all the volumes at home.

Highly recommended. 5 stars out of 5.



Williams, Kayla. 2026. *Labrador Skies*. Illustrated by Kayla Williams and Thamires Paredes. Iqaluit, NU: Inhabit Media.

Reviewed by **Mary Clara O'Brien** and **Sandy Campbell**

This picture book has been created by mixed Inuit artist/author, Kayla Williams, who grew up in Labrador. Williams has designed this book as a lullaby for a baby. At the beginning of the book we see a mother cuddling a baby and at the end the baby is asleep.

The text is a poem, but the rhythms are unpredictable and the rhymes are loose. There are few words on each page. The strength of the book is the illustration. At the beginning of the book, illustrator Thamires Paredes and the author, also an illustrator, have created a variety of images that are primarily of the winter night sky. Then, in later pages, the

focus shifts downward to what is happening on the land, under the night sky. Each of the images is attractive, with some bright colours contrasted against the dark of the night. In particular, images that show villages shimmering in the darkness are evocative. The book helps readers to experience the landscapes that the author describes in her last line as "the most beautiful place we could be."

Children's books about Labrador and Inuit in Labrador are not common, so this book is highly recommended for any library that collects polar children's books.

Highly recommended. 5 stars of 5.

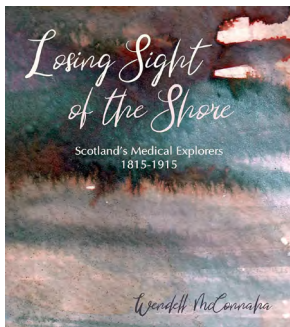




Book Reviews *continued*

McConnaha, Wendell. 2025. *Losing Sight of the Shore: Scotland's Medical Explorers 1815-1915*. Dunbeath: Caithness Whittles Publishing.

Reviewed by **Peter Lund**
Librarian, Scott Polar Research Institute



As a Librarian I order and receipt large numbers of books. I don't review very many though. I confess to have been seduced into reviewing this book after reading the cover notes. *"Throughout the century of exploration, over half of the explorers from this*

era were Scottish and often doctors who had received their training at Scottish universities. Why were so many Scottish doctors exploring a dangerous and unknown world and why were these medical explorers uniquely more qualified to lead this effort?" This book succeeds admirably in answering the question.

I should start this review by declaring that, as a Geography graduate from the University of Edinburgh, I studied in the Old Royal Infirmary

Buildings (an illustration of which appears on p. 35) so it's perhaps not surprising that I was drawn to this book. There are chapters on six of the most notable medical explorers: Joseph Banks, Archibald Menzies, Sir John Kirk, John Rae, Sir Charles Wyville Thomson and William Speirs Bruce. Be aware that only three of these explorers are really concerned with polar expeditions. Nevertheless, these chapters provide a well-researched summary of their life and travels so reading the summaries of these polar explorations is certainly rewarding. Equally fascinating are the preceding chapters which provide the context necessary to understand the Scottish identity, the role of the Scottish Enlightenment and of the Scottish universities, particularly their medical schools. The part played by chartered companies such as the Hudson's Bay Company is also covered. An appendix contains a list of some 73 Scottish explorers from the British Imperial Century and their universities.

Taken as a whole this book is a fascinating read for polar historians and anyone interested in nineteenth century exploration. If you just need a summary of the life and expeditions of notable polar explorers like William Spiers Bruce and John Rae or need to know about the birth of oceanography as a discipline, it's all in this book.

UiT and UAA *continued*

Law Enforcement Museum, as well as a meeting with Anchorage mayor, Suzanne LaFrance. The trip concluded at the end of the week when the students and educators flew back to their respective hometowns.

This joint effort of many different entities and institutions from Greenland, Norway, Canada, and the US is a perfect example of Arctic cooperation and engagement. It also further demonstrates the role that polar libraries can play in the dissemination of information and service to support the mission of building and supporting Arctic research and polar scholars.

—**Contributor's note:** Daria gratefully acknowledges the information gained from conversations in Anchorage with Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen, Professor of Northern Studies, UiT (17 April 2026) and Diane Hirshberg, ISER Director and Professor of Education Policy, UAA (10 April 2026).



And Last, But Not Least...

A Message From the Outgoing PLC Chair

The end of my time as PLC Chair has come. Passing the baton will happen in Columbus in June. My journey from Québec 2022 via Tromsø 2024 to Columbus 2026 has been very rewarding. So I want to thank all those wonderful people I have had the opportunity to meet and to work together with. Properly speaking, meeting wonderful people began already at my first Polar Libraries Colloquy in Boulder in 2012. There I had the honour of meeting, among others, retired PLC member Martha Andrews. She was very kind and told me about her trips to Finland with many good and funny memories. She also remembered very well the first person from my young university to participate in PLC 1988 in Boulder and sent her regards to him, which I passed on.

Long live PLC! Thank you all!
Susanna Parikka
PLC outgoing chair



Polar Libraries Bulletin
Spring 2026, Issue 93
ISSN 1944-1177

Formerly entitled Northern Libraries Bulletin when first published in 1972, the Polar Libraries Bulletin reflects the name change of the Northern Libraries Colloquy to the Polar Libraries Colloquy, as approved at the June 1988 biennial meeting.

The Bulletin is published twice yearly in the Fall and Spring. Members of the Polar Libraries Colloquy receive the Bulletin as part of their membership. Personal dues are £30 for a two-year period. Institutional dues are £60 and allow up to three persons to be named as individual members. To join PLC, complete the [online membership form](#) and send payment as directed. Questions regarding membership may be sent to Treasurer Andrew Gray at andrewgray@ucl.ac.uk.

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PLC Homepage: <https://www.polarlibraries.org>

Polar & Cold Regions Library Resources: A Directory: <http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/resources/directory/libraries/>