PLC 2020 Postponed to June 2021

Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

As announced to the membership in late March of this year, the Polar Libraries Steering Committee and the hosts of the 28th Polar Libraries Colloquy made the decision to postpone the 2020 Colloquy due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Colloquy will instead be held 6–12 June 2021 at the same venue as originally planned in Québec, Canada. Many thanks and best wishes to the planning committee and our future hosts at the Université Laval in Québec City.

William Mills Prize To Be Awarded for Both 2020 and 2021

by Julia Finn
Chair, William Mills Prize Committee

As many of you know, the winner of the 2020 William Mills Prize for Non-Fiction Polar Books was due to be revealed at the June 2020 PLC meeting. With the Colloquy’s postponement to June 2021, the prize committee made a few adjustments and decided to proceed with the 2020 Mills prize and offer one for 2021 as well.

The 2020 Mills Prize was still limited to books published during 2018 and 2019. Nominations closed on 31 March 2020, as originally planned, with the committee receiving a whopping 36 nominations for the prize.

The 2020 Mills Prize will be announced this year on 1 September by email, media release, web/social media posts, and in the fall 2020 issue of the Polar Libraries Bulletin. The 2020 prize money will be awarded when the winner is announced.

The launch of the 2021 Mills Prize will take place 1 October 2020, with a call for nominations for books published in 2020. Nominations will be accepted for the 2021 prize until 15 February 2021.

To submit a nomination, contact prize committee chair Julia Finn at millsprize@gmail.com.

—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. He was Keeper of Collections at the Scott Polar Research Institute from 1989 to 2004 and, among other tributes, was honored by the National Science Foundation for his contributions to the U.S. Antarctic Program. He eventually visited Antarctica, where the Mills Glacier, which flows into the SW side of the Evans Ice Stream and on into the Ronne Ice Shelf, was named for him. Mills’ last work was Exploring Polar Frontiers: A Historical Encyclopedia.

Visit the PLC website for qualifications for nomination and a list of past nominees and winners; see pp. 11–13 of this issue for the 2020 nominees.
Stories of COVID-19 from Spring 2020

DENMARK’S POLAR LIBRARY

by Cecilie Tang Møldrup, Librarian
Polar Library, University of Copenhagen

How did we shut down?

Early in March of this year, some months ago now, the Danish prime minister went on television and announced that the society was going on lockdown. We were still allowed to go outside, but there was no school for the kids and no work for non-essential personnel. We were given only two days notice to close the library, so we copied our most critical material to a hard disc, and then we all started working from home.

How have we been working?

In the beginning, the University sent out an email to make sure we continued to order from our suppliers and also keep up with our subscription-based publications. We have therefore spent this strange time ordering a lot of books, especially from small publishing houses, even though the books will not arrive before the lockdown is over. Having the orders placed can maybe help some of these book suppliers survive this hard time for the economy.

We have been contacting our journal suppliers to make our subscriptions run longer into the future and also to pay up front. This has been a positive process, and most of the vendors have actually told us they are doing well. We have had some challenges with out-of-print materials, as those providers seem to be harder to contact, but overall it has been great.

With regard to the students and faculty, we started out by providing a service whereby we helped them discover and access e-books. It quickly turned out that many of our materials are not available as e-materials. We then gave advice for ways to obtain alternative resources through Arctic and Antarctic Regions and JSTOR, as well as through many national and Greenlandic databases.

After about a month, we were allowed to go to the library for short periods of time to scan materials. So two times a week, a librarian would spend four hours at the library to scan the materials that students or faculty members had requested.

How will we reopen?

By early May, we will know if we are allowed to reopen after two months of working from home. The schools were reopened at the end of April, and now maybe it looks like it could be time for the universities and libraries to do the same.

When we do reopen it will surely be a different world. Here are some of the changes we are expecting at this point:

• All visitors to the Polar Library will need to make an appointment in advance. This will allow us to monitor the number of people in the library at any one time, and also enable us to secure the recommended personal distancing of two meters between reading spaces.

• Only one librarian at a time will be allowed to be working in the library. Much of the work will still be done from home.

• We will provide hand sanitizer at the desk where people arrive and encourage them to wash their hands before entering. We have restrooms just outside the library doors.

• Library instruction as well as all other teaching will be done over Zoom.

There will be more changes, but for now this is where we stand. Wishing you all the best.

CORONA VIRUS SPRING IN FINNISH LAPLAND

by Susanna Parikka, Director
Lapland University Consortium Library

The global pandemic also affected Finland and after that, everything happened very quickly. Libraries here have struggled to keep up people’s spirits during these difficult times but librarians have quickly adapted and developed new ways of involving people via internet and social media.
In 2010, the librarians of the Centre GéoStat at the Bibliothèque de l’Université Laval acquired a geographic map of great historical value, the polar map made by Gerardus Mercator (1595). This acquisition marked the beginning of an accelerated development of the Library’s collections on Northern Studies, reflecting the importance of this topic at the Université Laval. Several years later, in September 2018, the first version of Atik\textsuperscript{u}, The Northern and Arctic Studies Portal, was launched. Its goal was to highlight these magnificent collections, but above all, to meet the growing documentary needs of university students and researchers, northern Indigenous communities, public and private organizations, as well as the general public. The following introduces the content and concept of the Atik\textsuperscript{u} portal, and presents the features of its newest, recently released version.

An Inter-University and Multidisciplinary Portal

Meaning “caribou” in the Innu language, Atik\textsuperscript{u} was thus named in honor of this emblematic species of arctic and subarctic regions. Moreover, its logo evokes the characteristic panache and spirit of this animal. The idea behind the Atik\textsuperscript{u} project was to create an online inter-university portal, available in both French and English, that would bring together from a multidisciplinary perspective, the documentary resources relevant to the study of northern Canada, Quebec, and the Circumpolar North. In addition, to promote the interdisciplinary nature of northern research, Atik\textsuperscript{u} is equipped with effective research tools that allow it to forge links between the various documentary resources it includes.

Aspiring to become a key tool for everything related to the North, Atik\textsuperscript{u} brings together a wide variety of high-quality, multidisciplinary documentary resources, such as databases, dictionaries and encyclopedias, old photographs, maps, online movies, statistics, etc. To date, more than 230 specialized documentary resources on the North, the Arctic, and various scientific areas of expertise (including natural sciences, engineering and technology, health sciences, human and social sciences) have been brought together on this knowledge portal.

Interface and Menus

To make this project a reality, three universities joined forces to set up this unique tool: Université Laval, McGill University, and Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS), all three founders of the Institut nordique du Québec (INQ). The latter, which played a major role in the birth and development of the portal (Atik\textsuperscript{u} is hosted on the INQ website), relies on the partnerships with the Nunavik Inuit, the Crees of Eeyou Istchee James Bay, Quebec Innu, and Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach. In total, around 30 librarians from the three universities, as well as six INQ employees, were tasked to carry out this endeavor.
Although the first version of the portal was released in 2018, it was only with the recent May 2020 migration to Drupal, a content management system, that the portal’s features could be improved thanks to the launch of the 2.0 version.

**Atiku 2.0: Search Features**

The user has several options for locating documents in the new Atiku portal. The simple search allows you to find information using keywords, and it explores the main bibliographic fields (titles, authors, subjects), as well as the personalized description of each resource. Multiple keywords can be used, and Boolean operators (AND; OR), quotes (for exact phrase searching), or the hyphen (to exclude a specific keyword) can be applied. This option is useful for finding information quickly with terms from everyday vocabulary.

Using a very familiar and intuitive approach, the advanced search offers a set of filters to specify information needed according to the documentary or thematic collection (or sub-collection), the type of access to consult a document’s full text, or the field of expertise targeted for the resource. In addition, this search option offers a subject index, which brings together the complete list of all topics covered. When choosing the documents to include in Atiku, the librarians working on this project also made sure to add one or more subject tags to each of the selected resources to speed up retrieval. Another feature of the advanced search is the title search box, which is useful when looking for known titles so that non-relevant resources can be quickly and easily eliminated.

### Advanced Search

This page allows to perform a search using filters on all resources available in the Atiku portal, along with a search by title. To perform a search by keywords, use the Basic Search of the portal.

Displaying 1 - 20 of 231 results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>ACCESS TYPE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- ANY -</td>
<td>- ANY -</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLLECTION</th>
<th>DOMAIN</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- ANY -</td>
<td>- ANY -</td>
<td>- ANY -</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The advanced search option gives access to five filters to explore the content of the portal.**

Another way to conduct research in Atiku is to explore its resource collections, each described by a short text explaining its relevance within the portal. Searching by collection offers an alternative that is both more succinct than the advanced search, but better directed than the simple search option. Some of the collections bring together resources addressing the same theme (e.g., Study the North; First Peoples of the North; General Public), while others focus exclusively on document type (e.g., Archives and Artefacts; Databases; Maps, Atlases and Geospatial Data; Dictionaries and Encyclopedias, Online Films; Statistics).

Two search filters are available to specify information needs. One includes a list of sub-themes in which the content varies from one collection to another. For example, sub-themes for the dictionaries and encyclopedias collection make it possible to distinguish multidisciplinary resources, disciplinary resources, or those specialized in linguistics. The second filter is used mainly to determine the type of access. It is especially helpful in locating open access resources that are free of charge.
What's Next?
The next stages of development will be notable thanks to the launch of new thematic collections and additional participants joining the portal. The new thematic collections consist of First Peoples of the North, aimed towards the indigenous communities as well as the students and researchers in Northern Studies and the General Public. These will offer popular resources on topics such as the history of the Arctic or the impact of climate change on the North.

As with the other collections, identifying open access resources will be emphasized in order to help non-university users find quality information as efficiently as possible. Finally, new Quebec universities will be joining the Atik initiative this year, not only to highlight their respective collections, but also to take advantage of the opportunity to pool unique information resources on the North and the Arctic. All in all, an adventure to keep an eye on....

Collections by Resource Types

- **Archives and Sources**: Selection of Web resources that disseminate archival materials, but also artifacts and works of art related to the North and the Arctic, and in particular to Aboriginal peoples.

- **Databases**: The selected databases provide access primarily to journal articles, but also to reports, theses, books, etc. related to northern, arctic or aboriginal studies.

- **Dictionaries and Encyclopedias**: The dictionaries, encyclopedias and other selected reference documents are specialized in Northern, Arctic or Aboriginal studies, or have significant content in these fields.

- **Maps, Atlases, and Geospatial Data**: Selection of Recommended Maps, Atlases and Geospatial Data for the Study of Northern Quebec, Northern Canada and the Circumpolar North.

- **Online Films**: Selection of Web resources for viewing documentaries and reports on the North and the Arctic.

- **Statistics**: Selection of statistical resources concerning the demography, the economy, the Aboriginal peoples and the natural resources of Northern Quebec, Northern Canada and the Arctic.

The portal includes three thematic collections and six collections organized by type of resource.
All of the public libraries in Finland were closed for 2.5 months but have opened with restrictions as of 1 June so it is now possible to visit them. Huge amounts of books were borrowed before the closing, and the use of e-books has risen since then. With universities it is different. All universities and universities of applied sciences were closed in mid-March and remain that way. The students moved to remote studies and the staff started working from home. Only a very few people were allowed in the campus buildings for housekeeping, technical reasons, and so on.

The main role of academic libraries is to help students, researchers, and university teachers make progress in their work, but it is especially challenging during this hard time. The libraries were ordered to close, with one small exception. Depending on the leaders of the university, it was possible to continue a very restricted lending of printed books, carefully taking strict safety matters into consideration.

Here at the Lapland University Consortium Library, we began this restricted “take away” lending starting 15 May at two of our four libraries. This option was very helpful for many students and researchers, especially those in the process of writing their theses and dissertations, since, of course, not everything is online.

During this pandemic our library, like other academic libraries, has been open and available on the internet. Most of the library staff is still working from home, but we give guidance via chat, email, and telephone on how to use electronic journals, e-books, and databases, and how to find information on specific subjects. Information literacy courses are still being held virtually.

One bonus feature is that we have acquired an extraordinary number of new e-books. Also, some of the international and national publishers have opened their e-materials for free, but only for this coronavirus period. This means there is a lot of work for library staff to make this additional e-material technically available and market it to our users.

Here in Northern Finland, which makes up a third of the entire country, we have had another kind of plague this spring: floods. Lapland had record-breaking amounts of snow this winter and when the snow melts, all of that water flows to the sea in the grand rivers. Rovaniemi lies in the crossroads of two large rivers so serious flooding that usually comes once in 50 to 100 years was predicted.

High water at Rovaniemi and the Arctic Centre. (All photographs courtesy of S. Parikka)
COVID-19 Stories continued

Fortunately, the forecasts were taken seriously, with different alternatives for the flood showing how the water could affect various parts of the town. As a result, the basements at both the University of Lapland and the Arctic Centre had to take precautions to avoid water damage. The Arctic Centre is particularly vulnerable because of its location along the river bank and risks flooding annually when water levels get too high. This year, however, the flooding was much more extreme, and if not for the preventive measures taken, water would have flowed into the building’s basement and caused much damage. Luckily, the worst is over and all is well now. Over all, the damage to Rovaniemi was quite small because of the safety precautions taken by the whole town.

The professional support of librarians of the world is very important for all of us to keep continuing with our daily work. This exceptional time will end someday, so let’s be courageous and keep safe!

SPRI LIBRARY’S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

by Peter Lund, Librarian
Scott Polar Research Institute

On 20 March 2020, the Scott Polar Research Institute closed its doors and I loaded my car with an office chair and a backlog of books and reports for the team to catalogue from home. I returned to my house with a sense of déjà vu having experienced the closure of libraries in Christchurch, NZ, after the earthquakes of 2010 and 2011.

As March turned into April, the SPRI library team focused on providing online resources to support the teaching of students. (In addition to our role as a research library we also support Geography undergraduates studying papers such as Geography of the Arctic and Glaciology). Starting with these papers, we created reading lists using Leganto, which interfaces with our other Ex Libris products (Alma and Primo) used by the University of Cambridge libraries. We are now helping our colleagues in the Geography Library with the creation of other reading lists, anticipating that a greater amount of online teaching will take place in the 2020–21 academic year.

Along with reading lists, we’ve been busy checking availability and making recommendations for the purchase of e-books based on the requirements of these reading lists. We have been fortunate that the university has made additional funds available for purchasing e-books.

We are also supporting our postgraduate students in Polar Studies who are writing up their theses, signposting them to SPRI’s collection of theses online. Our Senior Library Assistant is helping to staff the University Library’s online call service using Google Hangouts software.

We are enhancing our support for researchers, too. Eleanor, our Arctic Information Specialist, has researched and expanded our online resources covering Siberia and the Russian Arctic. The Polar Studies LibGuide points researchers to a growing list of e-resources in these areas as well as in Russia more generally. We continue to investigate how best to decolonise the Library. Naomi and Laura in the Thomas H. Manning Archives are cataloguing materials as well as writing a grant application.

Our work has been sustained inevitably by plenty of breaks, and we’ve enjoyed staff well-being events, such as a weekly themed quiz (A Sense of SPRIsolation by Sam, a PhD student who has appeared on UK TV quiz shows like University Challenge and Only Connect) and a Through the Keyhole quiz. We continue to meet our colleagues in the Institute for our long-standing tradition of morning coffee break, but held virtually instead each day through Zoom.

As I write this we’re planning a phased return to SPRI, initially aiming to provide a scan and deliver service within the restrictions of social distancing. We are learning different ways of doing some things and our services will, I think, look different next year.
COVID-19 Stories continued

MUSINGS OF A RETIRED LIBRARIAN, AUTHOR & RESEARCHER

by David H. Stam
Syracuse University Librarian Emeritus, Former USS Galveston Librarian and Retired PLC Member

As a long-retired librarian, I no longer have a library to be concerned for, but readers might be interested in my experience as a suddenly independent scholar working on a large bibliographic project dealing with the reading of polar explorers. The project grew out of my recently published Adventures in Polar Reading: The Book Cultures of High Latitudes, and consists of about 6,000 pages of texts from a wide body of transcripts by and about the readings from polar readers and other maritime figures such as whalermen. I’m very pleased to say that the Mystic Seaport Museum in Mystic, Connecticut, has taken an interest in the compilation and hopes to mount a version of it on their website fairly soon. It was relatively easy to add examples of such reading while our research libraries were open and accessible. With the virus pandemic, however, my own library of Syracuse University is, I suspect, typical of university libraries throughout the world right now. Doors are closed to physical access, and the very successful faculty delivery service, which delivers books to campus offices from the university’s collections and interlibrary loans from collections world-wide (including our PLC libraries), has been temporarily suspended. I have at home three now overdue books which I’m unable to return to our ILL office.

If I’m desperate in my hunkered-down condition, I can usually buy more recent books from ABEBooks or Amazon at fairly low prices. And at least in the U.S. we still have a postal service to deliver presumably virus-free copies to my home office. I’ve done this a few more times than I’d like to admit to my wife, fellow-PLC member Deirdre Stam. I think she tolerates it as therapy in these fraught times. The fact that I’m physically handicapped adds a further impediment to access.

There is one bright spot in this historically driven project, the online work of the HathiTrust to provide online texts of millions of public domain works. These include titles from the beginnings to the present end of copyright coverage, roughly the late 1920s, with an annual moving target of 75 years ago. This historical collection would be of little help to most of our scientifically oriented librarians and users, but they are better served with more current information online anyway.

The HathiTrust service is a great boon to me and my fellow historians (David Walton, why did you leave us?). My colleagues at Mystic Seaport have found a way to link HathiTrust texts to the entries in the reading transcripts. Some texts are free for everyone to access, but the 17+ million digitized items in the Trust database itself are available free to members, including most university libraries. Check your local institution’s status with your librarians—they’re at home awaiting your call.

—Editors’ Note: Adventures in Polar Reading: The Book Cultures of High Latitudes was nominated for the 2020 William Mills Prize (see p. 13 of this issue; see p. 14 for Stam’s description of the work).

—From the Mystic Seaport Museum’s website and Wikipedia: The largest maritime museum in the U.S., Mystic Seaport is notable for its collection of sailing ships and boats and for the re-creation of the crafts and fabric of an entire 19th-century seafaring village. It consists of more than 60 historic buildings, most of them rare commercial structures moved to the 19-acre site and meticulously restored. It is home to the Charles W. Morgan, the world’s oldest surviving merchant vessel and the only surviving wooden whaling ship from the 19th century American merchant fleet, which at one time numbered 2,700. The Museum operates the G.W. Blunt White Library, specializing in American maritime history. Its focus includes ships (passenger ships, merchant marine, ocean liners, Coast Guard, naval, and pleasure), immigration, yachting, voyages, women at sea, crew lists, whaling, discovery, and exploration.
COVID-19 Stories continued

OUR EXPERIENCE IN ALASKA

by Daria O. Carle and Juli Braund-Allen
Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage

At the University of Alaska Anchorage, the entire campus and dormitories closed after the mid-March spring break, and all classes changed to online only. An exception was the Consortium Library, which has remained physically open to students, staff, and faculty, and requires a university ID card to enter. Library hours were shortened; scrupulous cleaning instituted (with a system for signaling whether computers, chairs, tables, etc., are clean or not); and interlibrary loan and other services have continued.

For many of our users, the ability to have a quiet place to study, with access to computers, fast internet, and/or specialized software has been especially appreciated. We’ve also received some interesting requests, including use of our large meeting room (which accommodates proper physical distancing for four people) for a thesis defense, as well as one of our study rooms for a cello lesson over Zoom.

We are providing reference and research assistance remotely, as are the Alaska Medical Library and ARLIS, the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services. ARLIS is also focusing on scanning some of its historic collections and making them available on its website, documents that have previously only been available in-house. For more information about the Consortium Library during COVID-19, see this article in UAA’s Green & Gold News.

Soper’s World: A Journey into the Canadian Arctic through Art

Submitted by Shannon Christoffersen
Manager, Data and Information Services
Arctic Institute of North America, University of Calgary

J. Dewey Soper travelled extensively throughout the Canadian Arctic during 1923–1931 as a naturalist for the National Museum of Canada, documenting flora and fauna and recording the landscape in sketches and paintings. He is famously remembered for having discovered the nesting grounds of the Blue Goose (Anser caerulescens) and is celebrated by the Inuit as Kiameate (Preserver of Birds).

Aided by the local Inuit, this accomplishment occurred in the spring of 1929 on Baffin Island’s Bluegoose Plain near Bowman Bay. The Dewey Soper Bird Sanctuary was established in his honor in 1957. For more about his extraordinary life, see his obituary and this brief Wikipedia entry.

The Arctic Institute of North America (AINA) houses the world’s largest collection of Soper’s art and has collaborated with the University of Calgary Library...
Soper’s World  continued

and Cultural Resources and the Department of Geomatics Engineering to digitize this material and develop an interactive educational resource and virtual exhibit. Soper’s World: A Journey into the Canadian Arctic through Art launched in September 2019. It combines art and archival material from the University of Alberta Archives and Library and Archives Canada, with specimens from the Canadian Museum of Nature to tell the story of Soper’s work in the Canadian Arctic.

This exciting public education project was created through the aid of an Academic Research and University Libraries: Creating a New Model for Collaboration sub-grant award from the University of Calgary Libraries, and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. AINA underscores that Soper’s excursions occurred on the lands of the Inuit people of Nunavut’s Qikiqtaaluk region, without whose knowledge and help the work showcased in this exhibit would not have been possible.

SouthPole-sium v.5 Coming Up in 2021

The Antarctic Circle and The California Contingent, along with our co-sponsor, The Northern California Chapter of The Explorers Club, have announced that the SouthPole-sium v.5 is to be held in San Francisco, 23–25 June 2021 (with a possible delay a year later to 22–24 June 2022, if COVID-19 issues haven’t been resolved by January 2021).

A mass e-mailing with further details will be sent in May, with registration information (or an announcement of a year’s delay) commencing sometime in January 2021. See our SouthPole-sium website or contact coordinator Robert Stephenson, rob@rs41.org, for more information.

Whenever we next convene, it will be an extension of these informal, non-science oriented, book and history-focused gatherings that commenced in Jaffrey, New Hampshire, in 2012, then continued in Scotland (2015), Oslo (2017), and Dublin (2019).

— Robert Stephenson, Coordinator

Call for Book Chapter Proposals

Library & Information Sciences for Arctic & Northern Studies

Co-editors Spencer Acadia and Genevieve Parente are calling for chapter proposals for a forthcoming book to be published by Springer on the theme of library and information sciences (LIS) in, for, and about the Arctic and the North. With a working title of Library and Information Sciences for Arctic and Northern Studies, it follows up Library and Information Studies for Arctic Social Sciences and Humanities (to be published December 2020 by Routledge; see https://bit.ly/routarct).

Defined broadly, LIS involves and is interested in librarianship, archives, museology, data science, and knowledge studies. Coverage is multidisciplinary,
William Mills Prize

2020 Nominees


2020 William Mills Prize

Nominees continued


2020 William Mills Prize

Nominees continued


Fellow PLC member David H. Stam reports that his long-awaited (by him at least) study of polar reading was recently published by the *Grolier Club* in New York. The book attempts a new approach to the history of reading as exemplified in the reading customs of polar explorers. The main thesis of these essays is that for some of the men of polar expeditions reading was their most important way of coping with boredom. Every sailor knows the maxim, “Hurry up and wait.” In the Navy, Stam learned another dictum: “Never go anywhere without something to read.”

Based in part on his own naval experience, including duty in Antarctica and as Librarian of the...
**New Publications continued**

**USS Galveston**, Stam has used extensive archival and book research to examine the printed needs of several polar expeditions. These include Adolphus Greely in the International Polar Year of 1881–83 in northernmost Canada; an analysis of shipboard- and expedition-based periodicals throughout the so-called “Heroic Age” of exploration (ca. 1880–1921); a definitive essay on the enduring books of Ernest Shackleton’s legendary journey aboard the *Endurance*; a parallel study of the primarily religious literature distributed as Loan Libraries of the American Seamen’s Friend Society; and finally an account of the three libraries assembled by Richard Evelyn Byrd for the first three successive Antarctic bases at Little America (1929–41).

The study locates examples of polar reading, from the Bible and Book of Common Prayer, to some perennial favorites, Darwin, Browning, and Tennyson. Less frequently but wherever possible, it documents what these readers thought about what they had read and the circumstances in which they had been reading. Included in the appendices are extensive and fascinating examples of ship and base library catalogues.

The book opens with a biography of the book itself aptly called “Adventures in Polar Writing,” an autobiographical account of how this book came to be written. It concludes with a chapter entitled “Quo Vadis,” which contains extensive suggestions on topics of research that Stam’s methodology might enable for other writers. Its target audience includes librarians and archivists, book and print historians, a general audience of enthusiasts, and more specialist experts on polar history.

The volume is intimately connected with the Polar Libraries Colloquy. Both Stams have been members for over 20 years, and they have presented their research at several of PLC’s conferences. Through it they met William Mills, who became a close friend, mentor, and eventually collaborator on all things polar. Other influences were David Walton, Philip Cronenwett, and Vibeke Sloth Jacobsen.

David Stam goes on to write: Most importantly, the road to this publication began with ideas planted 20 years ago at our first Colloquy in Winnipeg in 2000. We—Deirdre and I—are very grateful for PLC’s role in our work.