

***The International Polar Year Publications Database:
The First 4000***

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The International Polar Year Publications Database (IPYPD) is attempting to identify and describe all publications that result from, or that are about, IPY 2007-2008 and the three previous IPYs. The IPYPD is produced by an informal consortium of the Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS), the Cold Regions Bibliography Project (CRBP), the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) Library, the Discovery and Access of Historic Literature of the IPYs (DAHLI) project at NSIDC, and NISC Export Services (NES). The IPYPD was made public on March 1, 2007, the first day of IPY 2007-2008, at www.nisc.com/ipy. It is updated four times per year, and described 3992 publications as of May. The records in the IPYPD contain citations, abstracts, detailed subject and geographic indexing terms, and DOI or URL links to online publications.

The IPYPD makes use of existing polar bibliographic information systems, so that reporting a publication to the IPYPD ensures that, where appropriate, it is also cited in the Bibliography on Cold Regions Science and Technology, the Antarctic Bibliography, the SPRILIB databases and the ASTIS databases. The purchase of National Information Services Corporation (NISC) by EBSCO Publishing has complicated the flow of information, and at this writing we do not yet know whether new IPYPD records will continue to be added to the Arctic & Antarctic Regions database.

The IPYPD has so far encountered two significant problems: many IPY researchers are not yet aware that they should report their publications to the IPYPD, and it has been difficult to find funding for comprehensive coverage of the publications of the three previous IPYs. In spite of these difficulties, the database is growing rapidly as the results of IPY 2007-2008 start to appear in the literature. Work on the IPYPD will continue for at least the next ten years.