

Polar Libraries Collaborating Through E-science Distribution and Communication

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Almost three years ago, the international scientific community began its push towards the 4th International Polar Year (IPY) for 2007-2008. During this endeavor, more than sixty countries and thousands of scientists conducted hundreds of projects at both poles, which cover a wide range of topics from the hard sciences to social research.

With so many participants and the accompanying reams of research data, several research and science libraries have collaborated in an effort to gather this data, for both past and present IPYs, and make it available for researchers and students of science through electronic distribution and communication.

This collaboration has resulted in three data-related projects: International Polar Year Publications Database (IPYPD), Discovery and Access of Historic Literature of the IPYs (DAHLI), and the International Polar Year 2007-2008 Bibliography. The libraries and archives involved in these projects include the Scott Polar Research Institute Library, the Cold Regions Bibliography Project, the Roger G. Barry Resource Office for Cryospheric Studies @ NSIDC, and the Arctic Science and Technology Information Systems. All of these projects are available to the world and each other via websites and electronic databases. Emails complete the e-science distribution as the method of communication between these libraries.

Not only do these libraries and archives contribute to the above projects, they also have sponsored individual IPY events in an effort to inform their constituents of the various scientific activities occurring around the world.

This paper describes the ways in which the libraries, their users, and the scientists interact to both provide and manage the data generated by over a hundred years of polar research.