

**THE SHACKLETON MEMORIAL LIBRARY AT THE SCOTT POLAR
RESEARCH INSTITUTE: A NEW INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE FOR THE
STUDY OF THE POLAR REGIONS**

William Mills and Robert Headland

Scott Polar Research Institute
University of Cambridge
Lensfield Road
Cambridge CB2 1ER
United Kingdom

Abstract: The Shackleton Memorial Library is a major extension to the existing Institute library. It is dedicated to the memory of the explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton and his son, the statesman and explorer, Lord Edward Shackleton. In addition to providing space for the rapidly growing library, archives and photographic collections, a special facility is included to accommodate up to 17 Visiting Scholars. Networked access will be provided to a range of in-house and Internet information resources. This poster outlines construction developments since the start of building in September 1997. The associated new information resources are described at this conference in the paper *SPRILIB MULTIMEDIA: new databases at the Scott Polar Research Institute*. The Shackleton Memorial Library will be opened officially on 20 November, 1998.

**SCIENTISTS' ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND THEIR INFORMATION-
SEEKING HABITS -- POSTER**

Gudrun Palsdottir

Librarian

Agricultural Research Institute, Reykjavik
& MA student in LIS
at the University of Iceland

ABSTRACT: Both qualitative and quantitative methodology was used to research access of scientists to information and their information seeking habits. The scientists work in small research institutes (with staff from ca 35 to 120) in the natural sciences in Iceland. In-depth unstructured interviews with 15 scientists, Sept. 1996 to May 1997, showed great difference in varieties of methods in gathering information. Most scientists agreed that the invisible college; contacting colleagues, working in national or international groups and attending conferences and meetings, were the most important factors in keeping up to date. Some relied solely on colleagues but other were

eager information hunters and used a wide variety of methods. Almost all regularly scanned 2-11 journals.

A mailed questionnaire sent to 85 authors of scientific articles working in five research institutes in the natural sciences showed the same tendency. The scientists became first aware of the majority of foreign articles they cited in papers, published 1994 and 1995, through references in the literature (38%) and colleagues (25%). Colleagues provided them with 21% of the papers they referred to but library subscriptions and interlibrary loans were most important, covering 60% of their citations. Searching databases and browsing in the literature did not count much but the interviews showed that the multiple effects must not be forgotten.

Citation analysis of almost all papers of scientists in the same five institutes confirms these findings. Over 60% of cited foreign literature in 1994 and 1995 can be found in relevant libraries. The libraries covered 83% of Icelandic citations.

Difference between the libraries ranged between 44% and 78% in accessibility to foreign cited journals. It can be explained by the fact that scientists served by the library that only covered 44% of cited journal articles referred to about 255 journal titles, while scientists in the other institutes cited between 90 and 175 titles. Locations of cited foreign journals in the NOSP-catalog (Nordic Union Catalog of Serials) showed that 95% of citations to foreign journals could be found in other libraries in Iceland or in other Nordic countries. Interlibrary loans between the Nordic countries are relatively easy and cheap and are widely used in the libraries concerned. These findings show that cooperation between scientists is important and for Icelandic libraries cooperation between Nordic libraries is vital.

**WLN RELEASE POLARPAC5 TO THE POLAR INFORMATION COMMUNITY
-- POSTER**

Sharon West
WLN, Inc.
Lacey, WA

ABSTRACT: In September 1998, WLN Inc., with the assistance of the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, released the latest version of PolarPac--edition 5. PolarPac, first issued in 1992, is an international bibliographic database on CD-ROM. PolarPac contains bibliographic records citing topics of interest to Polar