

SUMMARY REPORT SABBATICAL LEAVE AY 2008 – 2009

Title: *Identification and Comparison of Gray Literature in Two Polar Libraries: Australian Antarctic Division and Scott Polar Research Institute*

Submitted by: Daria O. Carle, Associate Professor / UAA Science Librarian

Gray literature collections were investigated and compared at the libraries of the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) in Tasmania and the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) in Cambridge, UK. These important collections are problematic because they are not well documented, often have limited access, and are arranged by subject using a classification system specific to polar libraries. Tangible results of the project include tables showing the approximate number of gray literature items in both the geographic and polar subject categories. Finding aids were also developed as a way to improve access to these collections for library users.

In addition, 172 references from four different Antarctic expeditions in the early part of the 20th century were selected as a representative sample; 64 from AAD and 108 from SPRI. While small, the sample was a focused topic with enough variety of materials to provide good examples for accessibility issues. Inquiries are continually received at AAD and SPRI for information related to these four expeditions, so improving access will benefit researchers and other potential users. Furthermore, making the material more available is very timely, anticipating renewed interest from the public with the approaching centennial celebrations of two of the expeditions coming up in 2010 and 2011.

Using UAA's *RefWorks* to compile the references, the types of materials represented in the sample were identified. The majority were reprints of journal articles (69%). Other publication types included newspaper articles (9%), books (11%), unpublished material (9%), and personal communication (1%). Missing items were also noted (12%). Some duplication of materials was found within the two libraries, and the same was expected when the collections were compared. However, despite the similar subject nature of the collections, only ten items (6%) were found in both libraries.

Solutions for improving access, such as linking the gray literature collections to broader initiatives are addressed in more detail in my final report. Providing the references in a metadata format to include in an online catalog or website would also increase visibility and use of the materials. Suggestions for improving the organization of the gray literature collections and reducing duplication of materials within the collections are also discussed.

Since my return, I have consulted on a grant a library colleague at Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS) is submitting to the Council on Library and Information Resources for an international project to improve accessibility to ARLIS' "hidden collections." The proposed methodology is very similar to my project, using *RefWorks* to provide access to unique but previously unavailable material important to Arctic and Antarctic researchers.

Additional professional activities undertaken during my sabbatical year include presenting and publishing a paper at an international conference, and collaborating on a project to archive project management documents for an Antarctic marine census project. A brief listing of these and other professional activities is attached, and more details can be found in my final report.