

[Polar Books](#) is an International Polar Year project featuring a collection of books about the Arctic and Antarctica that reflect IPY themes and are internationally endorsed by IPY.

The Polar Resource Library is a contribution from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to the legacy of International Polar Year. It holds education and outreach materials from the books as well as materials developed through the IPY Education and Outreach Committee and the International Programme Office. Materials in this library include full books, book excerpts, posters, photos, artwork, poems, teachers' guides and activity sheets. Contents of this virtual library are freely available for education and outreach purposes.

Quality books slated for publication up to March 2011 (two years after IPY) will continue to be added to the Polar Books collection. Books must fit well within IPY themes, include information about IPY, and have a broad target audience. Children's books and teachers' resources are welcome. Project members cooperate on IPY promotion activities and provide resources from their books for free use in IPY education and outreach.

Polar Books is coordinated jointly by UNEP/GRID-Arendal and the IPY International Programme Office. The project is managed by Joan Eamer (editor, *Global Outlook for Ice and Snow*), Fredrik Granath (author, *Vanishing Arctic*) and Lucia Sala Simion (photographer, *Antarctique, Coeur Blanc de la Terre*). The project operates as a collective: authors and editors of Polar Books review all submissions to ensure that candidate books for the collection reflect and advance IPY themes, have good mechanisms for review of scientific contents, and that the materials to be provided for public use will be useful as online education and outreach resources.

How to use the Resources

The site is located at www.unep.org/publications/polarbooks.

- You can access the resources by browsing the book collection (select "Polar Book Collection" from the left menu).
- Each book has a short write-up about the book and its authors along with listings and links to the online resources from the book.
- To go straight to the resources and to find material of a particular type or on a particular subject, select "Polar Resource Library" from the left menu.
- Now you have a choice - search or browse. At the top of the page there is a site search box – just type a word or phrase into the box and hit "search". This will go through all the materials in the library and return a list of resources.

For example, if you search for "penguin", you will come up with a list that includes 5 book excerpts, one piece of artwork, one photo and 3 classroom or do-it-yourself activity sheets.

- To browse the resources, from the main “Polar Resource Library” page, select either the entire collection or one of the subsets: science, Arctic, Antarctica, or multilingual (non-English) collections.
- You will see a list of resources, with thumbnail photos of the book covers and short descriptions, organized by resource type.

Try this: select the science collection and then click on “Science and issues” in the list. You will find a list of downloadable book chapters on many aspects of polar science and on issues like climate change and the polar regions. Click on the links and explore!