

THE ITALIAN ANTARCTIC PROGRAMME LIBRARY: HOLDINGS, ACTIVITIES, EXPERIENCES IN THE FIELD OF POLAR SCIENCES.

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Key terms: information management; scientific libraries; polar regions; Antartica;

Programma Nazionale di Ricerche in Antartide

The aim of this presentation is to introduce the Library and documentation centre of the Consortium for the exploitation of the Italian Antarctic Programme (PNRA S.c.r.l.).

The Italian Antarctic Programme was born in 1985. Since then 22 scientific expeditions have been performed, in the framework of 11 research projects. At the same time was instituted the library and documentation centre of the Italian Antarctic Programme with the following aims: to collect, preserve and provide national and international publications on Polar regions; to support Italian research in Antarctica; to promote the knowledge of Arctic and Antarctic regions; to cooperate with national and international institutions involved in Antarctica.

PNRA Library is a scientific library specialized in Polar sciences. It holds publications on: biology and medicine, geodesy, geophysics, geology, glaciology, physics and chemistry of the atmosphere, astrophysics, oceanography, environmental chemistry, law and geographical sciences, technology.

The PNRA Library owns about 4.000 books, 260 printed journals (40 subscribed and 220 exchanged or as a gift), 50 thesis, 250 technical reports and grey literature. Library also collects pictures, movies, VHS, CD-ROM, DVD and preserve a collection of 680 maps representing the Antarctic continent.

PNRA Library is part of the ENEA Libraries network, which allows to participate to the ENEA collective catalogue and to access the electronic resources subscribed by this institutions. It has been joining the ACNP collective catalogue and the NILDE network since 2002.

As a documentation centre PNRA Library manages the PNRA Bibliography, that is a database actually containing about 4700 records describing publications produced from 1985 till now with the funds of the Antarctic project.

PNRA Library also cooperates with other Polar libraries in Italy and it is member of the Polar Libraries Colloquy, an international association of libraries and institutions dealing with Arctic and Antarctic regions.

As a scientific library it is concerned with some common questions: providing document delivery and inter library loan service, sharing electronic resources, managing non conventional publication as grey literature, multimedia, maps.

These common problems and the existing cooperation drive us to build a network of libraries and researchers involved in earth sciences.