Arctic Exploration

Leeds Central Library Research Guide

Our Research Guides list some of the most useful, interesting and unique items at Leeds Central Library, many drawn from our Special Collections. Others are listed in our online catalogues.

Contact us for more information:
Visit: leeds.gov.uk/leisure/pages/information-and-research-library
Email: informationandresearch@leeds.gov.uk
Tel. (0113) 247 8282

Please note: * indicates an item from our Special Collections. ID may be required to view these items.

- The British Search for the Northwest Passage in the Eighteenth-Century (1962) – Glyndwr Williams 998 WIL
- A Chronological History of Voyages into the Arctic Regions (1971; originally published in 1818) – Sir John Barrow 919.8 BAR
- Steam Whaling in the Western Arctic (1977) – John Bookstoce Q 639.28 BOC
- Lords of the Arctic: A Journey Among the Polar Bears (1983) – Richard Davis 599.78 DAV
- In Search of Arctic Birds (1992) – Richard Vaughan 598.0998 VAU

Ethnography and Anthropology

- English-Eskimo and Eskimo-English Vocabularies: Preceded by Ethnographical Memoranda Concerning the Eskimos in Alaska and Siberia (1890) – Roger Wells 497.1 VOC
- My Life with the Eskimo (1924) - Vilhjalmur Stefansson Q 919.8 STE
- The People of the Twilight (1928) – Diamond Jenness 917.1 JEN

William Scoresby (Yorkshire Explorer)

- Sabbaths in the Arctic Region (1850) – William Scoresby Y 919.8 SCO
- Memorials of the Sea: My Father: Being Records of the Adventurous Life of the late William Scoresby, Esq. of Whitby (1851) – his son, the Reverend William Scoresby Y B SCO
- The Story of Dr Scoresby, the Arctic Navigator (1876) – William Scoresby Y B SCO
- An Account of the Arctic Regions with a Description of the Northern Whale-Fishery: Volumes 1 & 2 (1869; originally published in 1820) – William Scoresby Y 998 SCO
- William Scoresby: Arctic Scientist (1976) – Tom and Cordelia Stamp Y B SCO
- The Polar Ice and The North Pole (1980; originally published between 1815 and 1825) – William Scoresby Y 998 SCO
Accounts of Expeditions

- A Voyage Towards the North Pole Undertaken by His Majesty's Command (1774) – Constantine John Phipps \( \text{SR} \ Q \ 910.9 \ PHI^* \)
- Narrative of a Journey to the Shores of the Arctic Ocean in 1833, 1835 & 1835: Under the command of Captain Back (1836) – Richard King \( \text{SR} \ 919.8 \ KIN^* \)
- Narrative of an Expedition in H.M.S. Terror: Undertaken with a View to Geographical Discovery of the Arctic Shores in the Years 1836-1837 (1838) – George Back \( \text{SR} \ 919.8 \ BAC^* \)
- A Whaling Cruise to Baffin's Bay and the Gulf of Boothia (1874) – Albert Hastings Markham \( \text{919.8} \ \text{MAR} \)
- Ice-Pack and Tundra: An Account of the Search for the Jeanette and a Sledge Journey Through Siberia (1883) – William H. Gilder \( \text{915.7} \ \text{GIL} \)
- The First Crossing of Greenland: Vols. 1 & 2 (1890) – Fridtjof Nansen \( \text{919.8} \ \text{NAN} \)
- My Arctic Journal: A Year Among Ice-Fields and Eskimos (1892) – Josephine Diebitsch \( \text{919.8} \ \text{PEA} \)
- The Great Frozen-Land: Narrative of a Winter-Journey Across the Tundras and a Sojourn Among the Samoyads (1895) \( \text{919.8} \ \text{JAC} \)
- "Farthest North": Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration 1893-1896 – Vols. 1 & 2 (1897) – Fridtjof Nansen \( \text{Q} \ 919.8 \ \text{NAN} \)
- Northward Over the "Great Ice": A Narrative of Life and Work Along the Shores and Upon the Interior Ice-Cap of Northern Greenland in the Years 1886 and 1891-1897; with a Description of the Little Tribe of Smith-Sound Eskimos, the Most Northerly Human Beings in the World (1898) – Robert Peary \( \text{919.82} \ \text{PEA} \)
- With Ski and Sledge over Arctic Glaciers (1898) – Sir Martin Conway \( \text{919.82} \ \text{CON} \)
- Beyond Pelsora Eastward: Two Summer Voyages to Novaya Zemlya (1899) – Harry J. Pearson \( \text{919.86} \ \text{PEA} \)
- A Thousand Days in the Arctic (1899) – Frederick George Jackson \( \text{919.8} \ \text{JAC} \)
- Farther North than Nansen: Being the Voyage of the Polar Star (1901) – Luigi Amedeo Abruzzi \( \text{Q} \ 919.8 \ \text{ABR} \)
- New Land: Four Years in the Arctic Regions (1904) – Otto Sverdrup \( \text{GC} \ 919.8 \ \text{SVE}^* \)
- Nearest the Pole: A Narrative of the Polar Expedition of the Peary Arctic Club in the S.S. Roosevelt (1907) – Robert Peary \( \text{Q} \ 919.8 \ \text{PEA} \)
- Through the Kara Sea: The Narrative of a Voyage in a Tramp Steamer through Arctic Waters to the Yenisei River (1932) – Leonard Matters \( \text{GC} \ 919.8 \ \text{MAT}^* \)
- Across the Top of the World: The British Trans-Arctic Expedition (1969) – Wally Herbert \( \text{919.8} \ \text{HER} \)

Sir John Franklin and his Lost Expedition

- Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal; or, Eighteen Months in the Polar Regions in search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition in the Years 1850-1851 (1852) – Sherard Osborn \( \text{SR} \ 919.8 \ \text{OSB}^* \)
- Voyage of the Prince Albert in Search of Sir John Franklin: A Narrative of Everyday Life in the Arctic Seas (1851) – W. Parker Snow \( \text{SR} \ 919.8 \ \text{SNO}^* \)
- The Last of the Arctic Voyages: Being a Narrative of the Expedition in Search of Sir John Franklin, During the Years 1852-54, with Notes on Natural History (1855) – Sir Edward Belcher \( \text{Q} \ 919.8 \ \text{BEL} \)
- A Narrative of the Discovery of the Fate of Sir John Franklin and His Companions (1859) – Sir Francis Leopold McClintock \( \text{919.8} \ \text{MAC} \)
- The Search for Franklin (1970) – Leslie Neatby \( \text{919.8} \ \text{NEA} \)
- Arctic Breakthrough: Franklin's Expeditions, 1819-1847 (1971) – Paul Nanton \( \text{Q} \ 919.8 \ \text{NAN} \)

Biography, Memoir and Literature

- The Life and Travels of Thomas Simpson, the Arctic Discoverer (1845) – Alexander Simpson \( \text{SR} \ \text{B} \ \text{SIM}^* \)
- Memoirs of Hans Hendrik, the Arctic Traveller: 1853-1876 (1878) – Hans Hendrik
- My Life as an Explorer (1927) – Roald Amundsen \( \text{B} \ \text{AMU} \)
- From the Ends of the Earth: An Anthology of Polar Writing (1958) – found by Augustine Courtauld \( \text{919.8} \ \text{COU} \)
- Northeast Passage: The Life and Times of Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld (1973) – George Kish \( \text{B} \ \text{NOR} \)
- The Polar Rosse: John and James Clark Ross (1973) – Ernest Dodge \( \text{919.8} \ \text{DOD} \)
- The Arctic Diary of Russell Williams Porter (1976) – ed., Herman Friis \( \text{Q} \ 998 \ \text{POR} \)
- Parry of the Arctic: The Life Story of Admiral Sir Edward Parry, 1790-1855 (1963) – Ann Parry \( \text{B} \ \text{PAR} \)

History, Geography and Zoology

- Arctic Zoology: Volumes 1 & 2 (1874-1878) – Thomas Pennant \( \text{SR} \ \text{590 PEN}^* \)
- The Polar Regions (1861) – Sir John Richardson \( \text{919.8} \ \text{RIC} \)
- On Greenland's Closed Shore: The Fairy-Tale of the Arctic (1930) – Isobel Hutchison Wylie \( \text{919.82} \ \text{HUT} \)
- To the Arctic! The Story of Northern Exploration from Earliest Times to the Present (1949) – Jeanette Mirsky \( \text{998} \ \text{MIR} \)
- The Russians in the Arctic: Aspects of Soviet Exploration and Exploitation of the Far North, 1937-1957 (1958) \( \text{919.8} \ \text{ARM} \)
- Race for the North Pole (1961) – John Edward Weems \( \text{919.8} \ \text{WEE} \)