



Decolonization of Arctic Library and Archives Metadata (DALAM) Thematic Network Update: September 2023

by **Sandy Campbell**
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DALAM has been busy this summer, but we also took a break in July/August, while many of our polar members took their summer holiday to enjoy the long hours of sunlight of the Arctic summer.

DALAM Organization and Administration

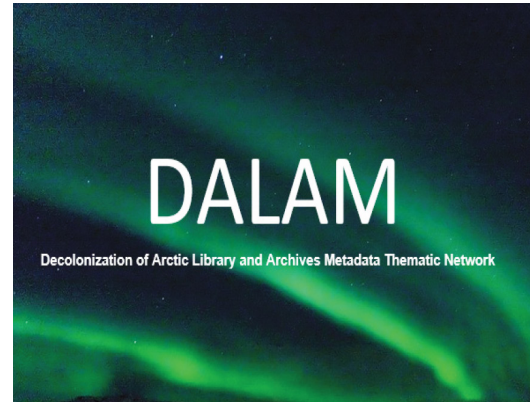
On May 24, 2023, DALAM received final endorsement by the University of the Arctic Assembly at the meeting in Quebec, making DALAM a full thematic network. DALAM members, Stéfano Biondo, Joë Bouchard and Susanne Brillant were present to witness the endorsement.

Since the endorsement, we have taken several steps to strengthen DALAM's organization and structure.

1. A formal secretarial role was created, and Sandy Campbell was established in this role.
2. A list-serve was created for DALAM, managed by Shannon Christophersen at University of Calgary.
3. An archival collection was created for DALAM's records at the Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives (APRCA) at University of Alaska Fairbanks. The records parallel those of the Polar Libraries Colloquy, which also reside at APRCA. DALAM records are open to the public and currently include DALAM's foundational documents and the first years' agendas and meeting notes. Additions to this collection will be made periodically. Rachel Cohen (Archivist, APRCA), Laura Kissel (Secretary, PLC) and Sandy Campbell (DALAM Secretary) organized this collection.

Communications and Outreach

DALAM has two posters available for members who wish to present about DALAM at conferences and meetings. These are available by contacting Shannon Christoffersen: shannonv@ucalgary.ca



In April, DALAM Network Lead Susanna Parikka attended the UArctic Thematic Networks Leads meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland and displayed the DALAM poster in the Arktikum foyer, bringing DALAM to the attention of the other Thematic Networks, as well as the general public.

Susanna reported on the meeting in the [Spring issue](#) of the *Polar Libraries Bulletin*.



DALAM poster at UArctic Thematic Networks Leads Meeting. Photo courtesy S. Parikka

In May at the University of the Arctic Assembly at the meeting in Quebec, members also presented a DALAM poster, allowing attendees to learn about DALAM.

In August, Susanna Parikka presented the DALAM poster to the IFLA WILC Conference in Rotterdam, where more than 3000 attendees from 150 countries

DALAM Thematic Network Update continued



Photo courtesy S.Parikka

had the opportunity to learn about DALAM. [Editors' note: See p. 11 of this issue for Susanna's WILC report.]

Educational Activities

DALAM's June meeting was a learning activity with a discussion led by Robin Desmeules (McGill

University) of [Best Practices for Authority Work Relating to Indigenous Groups in the U.S.](#), published by the Latin American and Indigenous Peoples of the Americas SACO Funnel, May 2023. At this session, participants had the opportunity to consider how these best practices might be applied in the Arctic environment.

At DALAM's September meeting, guest speaker Professor Jonna Häkkinen (University of Lapland) spoke about the [Nuohhti](#) service which provides digital access to Sámi material in European archives. This interface allows for a simultaneous search of Sámi-related materials held in thirty European memory organizations in Finland, Germany, Sweden,

and Norway. The results display includes a map which shows the geographic origin of the documents retrieved. The project also worked with the Sámi communities to develop [ethical guidelines](#) for the use of these materials. The guidelines are integrated with the results display.

Looking Forward

DALAM will hold its biennial in-person meeting at the Polar Libraries Colloquy 2024, in Tromsø, Norway, June 9 – 14. Members are beginning to think about the issues and questions on which we would like to focus.



Susanne Brillant explains DALAM Poster.
(Photo courtesy S. Biondo)

Nominations Open for 2024 William Mills Book Prize

The 2024 William Mills Prize Committee is accepting nominations of titles for the William Mills Prize for Non-Fiction Polar Books, honoring the best Arctic or Antarctic non-fiction books published throughout the world. The deadline to submit a nomination is **15 March 2024**, and the winner will be announced at the upcoming Polar Libraries Colloquy in Tromsø, Norway in June 2024.

Established in memory of William Mills—polar librarian, author, and a core member of PLC during its formative years—the prize consists of \$500 US,

certificates for the author and publisher, and the right to use the William Mills Prize logo when advertising the winning book.

Qualifications for nomination, as well as a list of past nominees and winners, can be found on the [PLC website](#). Note that the publication time frame for the 2024 award is January 2022 through December 2023.

For more information or to submit a nomination, contact Julia Finn, William Mills Prize Coordinator, at millsprize@gmail.com.