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## Canadian Inuit newspapers and periodicals: past, present and future

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**97 Newspapers**

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<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/index.htm>



### **Abstract**

*The Canadian Inuit people have lived in the Canadian Arctic for centuries and are one of several aboriginal peoples of Canada. As their culture's oral tradition shifted and became written, newspapers, newsletters and small magazines became an essential form of communication for communities. This paper surveys the newspapers currently and formerly published, by and about Canadian Inuit, spanning the past half century. It also describes existing collections, abstracts and indexes and paper bibliographies that have significant relevance for locating these Inuit titles. The information collected during this study has been collated into a web resource. Entitled "Caninuit: a comprehensive bibliography of Canadian Inuit periodicals", this website is a unique resource for students, arctic scholars and Inuit communities to discover Inuit periodical publications when they use Internet search engines for their research.*

## Introduction

Dear colleagues, I am very pleased to present this paper to you today. My study of Canadian Inuit periodicals (newspapers, newsletters and magazines) this year has been supported by McGill University, as I was granted a sabbatical leave in 2007 to begin what is for me is a new area of study.

I would like to thank the members of the IFLA Newspaper Section for providing this opportunity to speak about my research at this open session of the 74<sup>th</sup> IFLA General Conference.

The theme of today's session is "*The North American Ethnic Press*" and the goal of my paper today is to introduce you to the newspapers published in Canada's Arctic by or about Canadian Inuit communities. I will begin by providing brief historical information about one of Canada's aboriginal peoples, the Inuit and describe the development of Inuit literacy, writing systems and literature.

I will present the bibliographies that have informed my study of this media and describe the significant collections of these titles in Canadian libraries and cultural centres. I will also share search vocabularies for locating information in online catalogues and relevant abstracts and indexes.

I will continue with a survey of the newspapers that are currently published or have been published over the past five decades across the Inuit regions of the Canadian Arctic. These publications have significance for Inuit communities and I will outline the reasons why this is so.

I will conclude with a description and sample screens from a new web resource that I have been constructing to bring together this information on the Internet, so that it can easily be searched. Entitled "*Caninuit: a comprehensive bibliography of Canadian Inuit periodicals*", this website will hopefully become a useful resource for all interested in Canadian Inuit newspapers, newsletters and magazines.



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Canada's Inuit People

- Aboriginal people of Arctic Canada
- "Inuit" means "the people"
- "Inuktitut" is the Inuit language
- Live north of the 50<sup>th</sup> parallel

August, 2008 74<sup>th</sup> IFLA Conference, Québec City

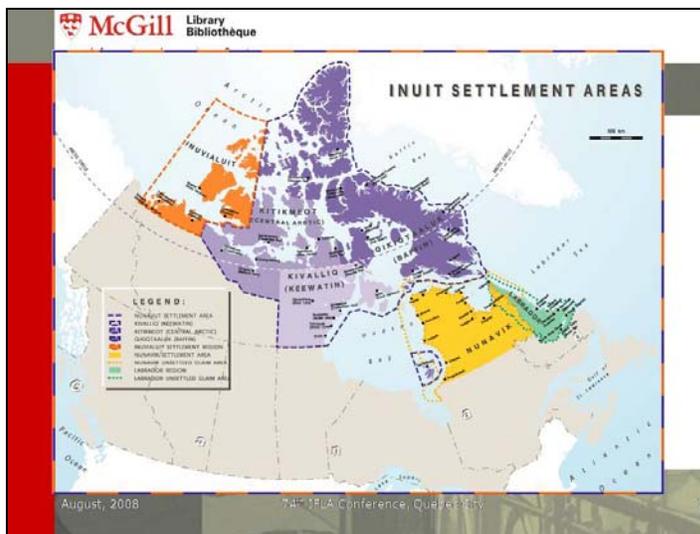
## Background information about Canada's Inuit people

Until the early 1970's, Canada's Inuit people were usually referred to as "Eskimos". This name is a European term, which has its linguistic roots in the French word "Esquimaux". Professor Louis-Jacques Dorais, a Laval University anthropologist explains in his history of the Inuit that the French word was probably a translation of an Indian (Algonquian) language term meaning "raw meat eaters" or "those who speak a foreign tongue". Indians are First Nations peoples who also lived in Canada, before Europeans arrived and as this example shows, were a different and distinct culture from the Inuit.

Today, the term "Eskimo" is viewed as the "non preferred term". Some Inuit find the term offensive or derogatory. It does remain part of the large body of literature published that documents Canada's Inuit and the term must be kept in mind when constructing search strategies in bibliographic tools.

The "preferred term", is "Inuit" meaning "the people" in Inuktitut, the Inuit language. Inuit is the term that Inuit use to refer to themselves. The singular form of Inuit is "Inuk".

The ancestors of Canada's Inuit population arrived from Asia over 7,000 years ago. Called Dorset and Thule peoples, they crossed the Bering Strait into North America and migrated across the Canadian Arctic from west to east, settling north of 50 degrees latitude. Living in small nomadic groups, the Inuit had been entirely self-sufficient, dependent upon hunting, fishing and gathering for their survival.



### Inuit settlement regions

This map of Canada's Arctic has four coloured regions corresponding to the current Inuit settlement areas. (Please refer to the session handout for a large colour reproduction of this map.) This map has been copied with permission from the Makivik Corporation's website, an Inuit owned economic development company representing the Inuit in the province of Quebec.

The orange area in the western arctic is the “**Inuvialuit Settlement region**”, located in Canada’s Northwest Territories. This region has a population of approximately 3,000 Inuit living in six communities.

The purple area in the central arctic is called “**Nunavut**”. This region became a self-governing Canadian territory in 1999. Nunavut has the largest Inuit population in Canada, numbering 22,500. Its territory is divided into three regions: Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Baffin. Nunavut comprises one fifth of Canada’s land mass and contains twenty-six communities, the largest number of Inuit communities in Canada.

The yellow area in the eastern arctic is called “**Nunavik**”, in the province of Quebec. Nunavik is home to 8,700 Inuit who live in fourteen coastal communities.

The green area on the eastern arctic shore is called “**Nunatsiavut**”. This region comprises a northern region of **Labrador**, the western area of the province of Newfoundland & Labrador. Labrador is home to 2,300 Inuit who live in six coastal communities.

The image shows a presentation slide from McGill Library. The slide has a red vertical bar on the left side. At the top left, the McGill Library logo is visible with the text 'McGill Library Bibliothèque' and 'Information • Innovation • Service'. The main title of the slide is 'Canada's Inuit culture'. Below the title, there is a bulleted list of three points: '1950's move to settlements', 'Traditional values linked to the land', and 'Knowledge of elders - wisdom, storytelling'. To the right of the third bullet point, there is a small image of a book cover titled 'THE INUIT WAY' with a subtitle 'A GUIDE TO INUIT CULTURE'. The book cover features a photograph of three people. At the bottom of the slide, there is a footer with the text 'August, 2008' and '74th IFLA Conference, Quebec City'.

### Canadian Inuit culture

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the vast majority of Canada’s Inuit people still lived a traditional lifestyle based upon the land and a nomadic existence. Trading posts, Christian missions and police detachments altered this nomadic life. After World War II, the Canadian government increased services to the arctic. Schools, nursing stations and government offices were built and Inuit were strongly encouraged to settle in permanent villages. By the 1970’s, nearly all of Canada’s Inuit people lived in one of the small communities in the arctic.

This trend has continued into the present day. The Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) is the political organization that represents all of Canada’s Inuit population. Their *2007 Inuit Statistical Profile* states that: “Of the 45,075 Inuit living in Canada in 2001, **36,640 or 81%** lived in one of four Inuit regions in the Arctic.”

A highly readable introduction to Canada's distinct Inuit culture has been published by Pauktuutit, the Inuit Women's Association of Canada. Revised in 2006, *"The Inuit way: A guide to Inuit culture"* describes traditional and modern Inuit life and explains Inuit cultural values. Canadian Inuit now have a foothold in two worlds, the traditional world and the modern one. A constant value has been the important emphasis placed upon the oldest members of the family. *"Elder family members are considered wise and essential sources of knowledge about the past. They are often sought out for their story telling and advice on many issues"* (Panktuutit 26).



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## Oral to written

- Storytellers, songs, shamans
- Arctic explorers – anthropological reports
- Christian missionaries
- Inuktitut writing systems

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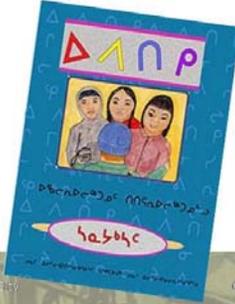
### Oral to written tradition

Inuit culture has always had a very strong and well developed oral tradition. It is the myths, tales and songs that elders have told and have sang in Inuktitut, at family and community gatherings that have ensured that traditional beliefs, symbols and values were transmitted from one generation to the next. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, arctic explorers recorded Inuit poetry and songs in their anthropological reports. Knud Rasmussen, Franz Boas and Diamond Jenness published the first texts of Inuit poetry. Christian missionaries arrived in the arctic in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They challenged Inuit traditional beliefs as they worked to convert Inuit families to Christianity. As part of this conversion, the missionaries transcribed biblical scripture into a written form of Inuktitut.

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## Inuit writing systems

- Inuktitut Roman orthography  
*Qaliujaaqpait*
- Inuktitut syllabics  
 $\Delta\sigma^b\eta\zeta^c$



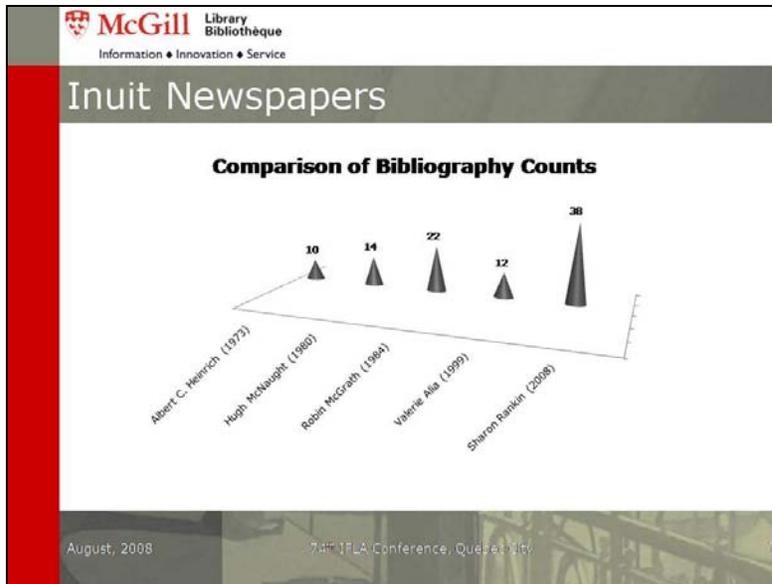
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### Inuktitut - written language

The Moravian missionaries arrived in Labrador from Greenland in 1771 and were the first to write and teach a Canadian Inuit dialect, using Latin characters. This script is referred to as "**Inuktitut roman orthography**". In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Anglican missionary Edmund J. Peck transcribed parts of these Moravian translations using symbols. This syllabic orthography is referred to as "**Inuktitut**".

In the 1970s, the various regional Inuit associations each standardized a different writing system. In Labrador and Inuvialuit, the versions use roman characters. In Nunavut and Nunavik, syllabics are used. These standardized orthographies are now used to express in written form of the Canadian Inuit spoken dialects. In the ensuing decades, as a syllabic character set became available for typewriters, word processors and computers, the handwritten characters in early publications were replaced by typeset characters. The availability of syllabic typeset greatly facilitates the publication of Inuktitut language newspapers.

The past few slides have been an extremely brief overview of Inuit culture and history. There are very many excellent sources for continued reading. Some of these titles I have included in the reference section of this paper. Let's now turn to the publishing history of Canadian Inuit newspapers.



## Canadian Inuit Newspapers – Bibliographies

In the 1980's and 1990's, there was a proliferation of newspapers and magazines written and published in Inuit communities. This fact is noted in Pamela Stern's *"Historical Dictionary of the Inuit"* in the entry for journalism and broadcasting.

*"Inuit journalism and broadcasting have been powerful tools in the struggle for land claims, self-government and aboriginal rights...Initial efforts at northern journalism were the work of Christian missionaries, but Inuit quickly participated as writers and reporters...The proliferation of northern newspapers and magazines indicates Inuit interest in public affairs and a desire for Inuktitut reading material"* (Stern 87).

The numbers on the slide are the counts of the Inuit newspapers that were recorded in several bibliographies located over this time period. In selecting the counts, I have included both those titles that are currently published and those that have ceased publication. A publication has been categorized as a newspaper if it contains community news and is published with some frequency. There seems to be a fluidity concerning the categorization of newsletters. They will often be called newspapers. I have excluded a newsletter that reports only on the activities of a specific association or interest group.

Albert C. Heinrich's bibliography was published in a 1973 issue of the academic journal *Canadian Ethnic Studies*. The entries were based upon questionnaire information sent to publishers and include ten newspaper titles.

Hugh McNaught studied the publishing history of newspapers in the Northwest Territories for his 1980 thesis. Community newspapers published between 1945 and 1978 were divided into six categories; school, government, special interest, adult education, religious and community. The Inuvialuit Settlement region published fourteen titles, recorded in this bibliography.

Robin McGrath's 1984 thesis entitled *"Canadian Inuit Literature: The development of a tradition"* is unique study of the how the Inuit oral tradition of literature in Inuktitut shifted to a written tradition of writing in English. McGrath describes in detail the

kinds of publications that make up the corpus of Inuit literature and newspapers figure prominently in this review. "The development of Inuit periodical literature, newspapers and magazines by and for Inuit, parallels that of Inuit books, and in some ways is a more important development because these periodicals, although relatively impermanent, encouraged readers, and writers who were or are of only limited proficiency" (McGrath 34). McGrath's appendix attempts to collect together all known information about this "unique body of literature". It includes a surprising number: almost one hundred titles, twenty-two of these titles are newspapers.

In *Un/covers the north: news, media and aboriginal people*, Valerie Alia provides a comprehensive review of aboriginal media in Canada and has a very useful appendix listing by region the newspapers and magazines published in the Canadian North. Twelve titles are Inuit newspaper publications in this 1999 publication.

The final bibliography count of thirty-eight is the number of newspapers entered this year into the *Caninuit* bibliography, a new web resource being constructed as part of my sabbatical research project.



### Primary Collections

Five collections in Canada have been significant for my study of this topic and it is within these libraries and cultural centres, that the paper holdings of Inuit newspapers can be found.

The **Library and Archives Canada (LAC)**, Canada's National Library located in Canada's capital city, Ottawa in the province of Ontario has significant holdings of Inuit periodicals. LAC provides its National Union Catalogue of over 30 million records online in a system called AMICUS<sup>i</sup>. The collections of LAC and 1,300 other Canadian libraries can be searched simultaneously in this catalogue.

The **University of Alberta Libraries** in Edmonton, Alberta has the most extensive university collection of Inuit periodicals in Canada. U of A, is a member of the American Association of Research Libraries, has one of the strongest research

collections in Canada and makes its collections accessible via the NEOS Library Consortium Catalogue<sup>ii</sup>.

The University of Calgary Library in Calgary, Alberta is home to the Arctic Institute of North America, (AINA). *“Created by an Act of Parliament in 1945, the Arctic Institute of North America is a non-profit membership organization and a multi-disciplinary research institute of the University of Calgary. The institute’s mandate is to advance the study of the North American and circumpolar Arctic through the natural and social sciences, the arts and humanities and to acquire, preserve and disseminate information on physical, environmental and social conditions in the North.”*<sup>iii</sup> The AINA collection is housed in the Gallagher Library and its partial contents can be searched online in the University of Calgary Library catalogue.

The Library of **Indian and Northern Affairs Canada**, (INAC) the Canadian federal government department responsible for First Nations and Inuit affairs, headquartered in Hull, Quebec has the largest special library collection of Inuit periodicals. Its INAC Library Portal<sup>iv</sup> is searchable on the web and provides a union catalogue for all departmental libraries as well many special research collections both inside and outside the department.



The fifth collection that was very useful in the preparation of the *Caninuit* bibliography is held in the **Avataq Cultural Institute**,<sup>v</sup> a documentation centre in Montreal, Quebec. Founded in 1980, this cultural institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and promoting the language and culture of the Inuit in Nunavik. The Avataq Documentation Centre is publicly accessible by appointment and its periodical database is searchable in the centre only.



## Search methods – locating Canadian Inuit newspapers

Locating bibliographic references for Inuit newspapers to determine where paper and online copies reside is not a straightforward exercise because there is no single controlled vocabulary term that can be used to search online catalogues for this type of material.

Some records in the Library and Archives Canada catalogue, AMICUS have the subject term "*Canadian newspapers*" followed by their place of publication.

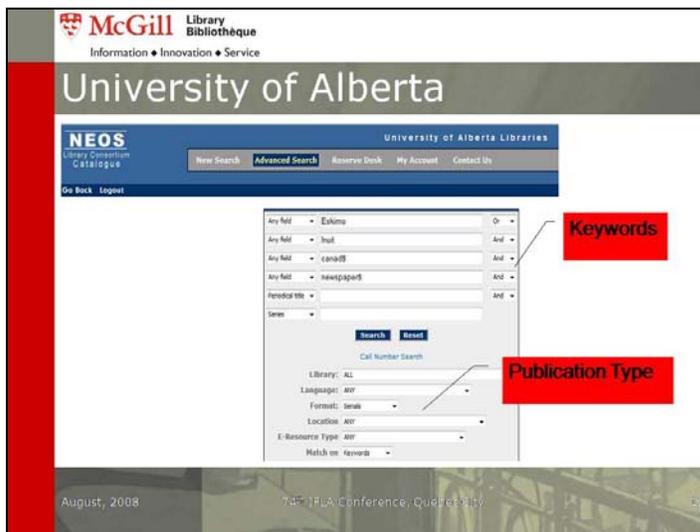
SUBJECTS: [Canadian newspapers \(English\)--Northwest Territories--Rankin Inlet](#)  
[Canadian newspapers \(Inuktitut\)--Northwest Territories--Rankin Inlet](#)

Using this heading and adding the keywords "*Inuit*" or "*Eskimo*" and limiting the results to publication type equal to "*serials*", a search in AMICUS database will result in eight records. This search result is misleading as the LAC collection does have more than eight newspaper titles.

If the search is reconstructed using keywords, a more representative search result of 27 can be obtained. The slide shows that by using a keyword anywhere search of the term "*newspaper*", truncated to find both singular and plural forms, and adding the keywords "*Inuit*" or "*Eskimo*" the results are a larger set.



This slide shows the first page of the keyword search result. In this set there are some false hits, but an examination of the record display quickly confirms if the title is relevant, for example item number 10.



The University of Alberta Libraries' NEOS catalogue has one very appropriate looking subject heading:

650: 0 : [Inuit|zCanada, Northern|vNewspapers.](#)

Hyper-linking on this term to locate other records with the same heading provides no results. A better result is obtained by using truncated keywords, Boolean logic and a limit to format equal to serials:

(Eskimo or Inuit) and canad\$ and newspaper\$

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# University of Alberta

NEOS  
Library Catalogue

University of Alberta Libraries

Go Back Limit Search Print Next X-Info Marked Logout

Search Results  
Any field "Eskim" OR Any field "Inuit" AND Any field "Canada" AND Any field "newspaper" search found 98 titles.

Pages: << 1 2 3 >>

#1	ANLC messenger Fairbanks, AK : Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 2001- University of Alberta Cameron - Science & Technology	2001
#2	Annual report - Rapport annuel Kauqwas, Québec : Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, [1995]: University of Alberta Internet and University of Alberta Cameron - Science & Technology	1995
#3	Kivalliq nigvut = Kivalliq news Yellowknife, N.W.T. : [s.n.], 1994- University of Alberta Cameron - Science & Technology	1994

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The 98 titles retrieved also contain false hits, most noticeably the annual report publications.

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## Subject headings

le portail des bibliothèques d'AINC  
Virtua  
the INAC Library Portal  
Français English Canada

- 1 [Canadian newspapers \(Inuit\) -- Northwest Territories.](#)
- 1 [Canadian newspapers \(Inuit\) -- Northwest Territories -- Frobisher Bay.](#)
- 1 [Canadian newspapers \(Inuit\) -- Northwest Territories -- Pond Inlet.](#)
- 1 [Canadian newspapers \(Inuit\) -- Northwest Territories -- Rankin Inlet.](#)
- 1 [Canadian newspapers \(Inuit\) -- Quebec \(Province\) -- Fort Chimo.](#)

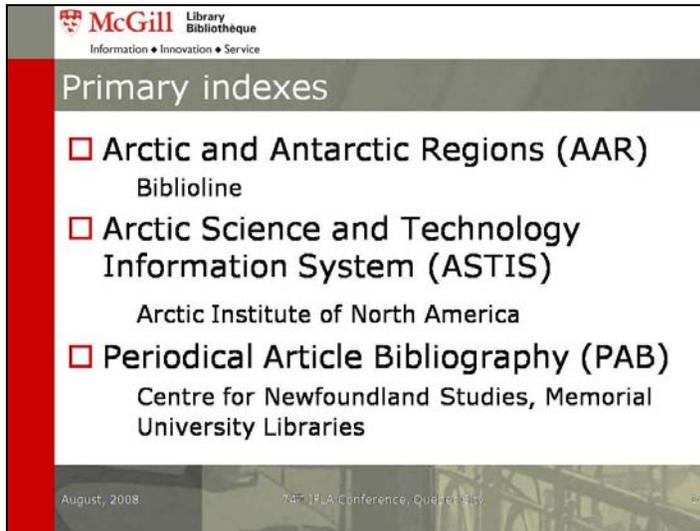
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The Department of Indian & Northern Affairs Canada has used controlled subject vocabulary in their catalogue records and browsing the subject headings will provide records for Inuit newspapers.

- 1 [Canadian newspapers \(Inuit\) -- Northwest Territories.](#)
- 1 [Canadian newspapers \(Inuit\) -- Northwest Territories -- Frobisher Bay.](#)
- 1 [Canadian newspapers \(Inuit\) -- Northwest Territories -- Pond Inlet.](#)
- 1 [Canadian newspapers \(Inuit\) -- Northwest Territories -- Rankin Inlet.](#)
- 1 [Canadian newspapers \(Inuit\) -- Quebec \(Province\) -- Fort Chimo.](#)

In summary, using the advanced search option is always recommended, so that several searching variables can be entered. Search strategies differ depending upon

the record coding practices of the catalogue being queried. As a general approach, it is always best to explore the controlled vocabulary headings first, and then use keywords, Boolean logic and format limiters.



### Online periodical indexes & abstracts

Canadian academic libraries normally license several indexes and abstracts to magazines and newspapers to provide indexed and full-text coverage to Canadian titles. Inuit newspapers are absent from all three of the following “mainstream” indexes:

- ProQuest’s “*Canadian Business & Current Affairs*” (CBCA)
- ProQuest’s “*Canadian Newsstand*”
- Gale’s “*CPI.Q*”

Ulrich’s<sup>vi</sup> online periodical directory, an authoritative source of bibliographic information on more than 300,000 periodicals of all types from around the world, has one Nunavut newspaper. It is clearly evident that Inuit newspapers remain hidden from the standard periodical directories. There is some coverage of their contents in the existing northern studies indexes.

“*The world’s largest collection of international polar databases providing comprehensive and multidisciplinary coverage of polar research*” is the **Arctic and Antarctic Regions (AAR)**<sup>vii</sup> database published by National Information Services Corporation (NISC). AAR is actually a compilation of records from twelve international sources; four of these sources are Canadian and they do have some indexing coverage of Inuit newspapers:

- ASTIS (Arctic Institute of North America)
- BOREAL (Canadian Circumpolar Library)
- BOREAL Northern Titles
- INAC (Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada)

The **Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS)**<sup>viii</sup> database can also be searched separately and free of charge from the Arctic Institute of North America’s website. ASTIS contains over 63,000 records describing publications and research projects about northern Canada.

The BOREAL databases describe the Canadian Circumpolar Collection held at the University of Alberta Library, Edmonton, Alberta. Also searchable as the **PolarInfo** database<sup>ix</sup>, this index contains over 300,000 records but is no longer being updated.

Another specific region index with coverage of Labrador titles is the **Periodical Article Bibliography (PAB)**<sup>x</sup>, a retrospective bibliography of Newfoundland and Labrador publications created and maintained by the Centre for Newfoundland Studies, at Memorial University Libraries in St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador.

The slide features the McGill Library logo at the top left. The title 'Inuvialuit' is in a large, bold font. Below the title, there are two main categories of publications, each preceded by a red square icon. The first category is 'Ceased - 5', with sub-items '3 mission' and '1 government'. To the right of this text is a small photograph of a coastal landscape with a body of water and a small building. The second category is 'Current newspaper - 1', with the sub-item '" Inuvik Drum"'. At the bottom of the slide, there is a footer with the text 'August, 2008' and '73rd FLA Conference, Quebec City'.

### Survey of Inuit newspapers by region

Now let's turn to short historical description of newspaper publications by Inuit regions.

#### Inuvialuit Settlement region

The earliest newspaper published in the Inuvialuit Settlement region, located in Canada's Northwest Territories was in the mid 1950's by the Roman Catholic Mission in Aklavik. The "**Aklavik Journal**" self subtitled "Canada's most northern newspaper" published each month for two years, except during break-up and freeze-up. The influence of climate and seasonal occupations that take people out onto the land, are always evident in the Inuit newspaper publishing periodicity. This newspaper was printed by offset lithography and had one column of text in English and the other in Inuktitut roman orthography.

A second mission newspaper published for two years beginning in 1968. "**The Bank Lands Letter**" was published in English by the Roman Catholic mission in Sachs Harbour. A third mission family newspaper was published for twelve years by the Anglican Church beginning in 1975 called "**Ilavut/Our Family**".

In 1966 in the community of Inuvik, a weekly newspaper called "**The Drum**" began to publish 1,400 copies per issue. This paper continues today as the "**Inuvik Drum**".

In 1975 the Government of the Northwest Territories, published for three years, the “**The Interpreter**” in English and Inuktitut syllabics and roman orthography.

In 1983, the Inuvialuit Communications Society began publishing a biweekly newspaper called “**Tusaayaksat**”. It was distributed to all 800 odd households in the region. The society lost federal funding in 1990 and the publication transformed itself into a magazine which is still being published.



By 2008, the “**Inuvik Drum**”<sup>xi</sup> is the only remaining newspaper in the Inuvialuit Settlement region. It is published in paper and online as one of a group of seven northern newspapers published by Northern News Services Limited. Daily news summaries are available free of charge on its website.



## Nunavut

In the central and eastern Canadian Arctic, there was a proliferation of community newspapers beginning in mid 1960s. In the Baker Lake, Cape Dorset, Cambridge Bay, Coppermine, Eskimo Point, Frobisher Bay, Igloolik, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet,

Rankin Inlet, Resolute Bay and Whale Cove communities a total of twenty-three print newspapers, with varying life spans were published between 1965 and 1980. McGrath (1991) concluded that one of the major reasons for the short life span of these publications relates to their foundations. *“Often spearheaded by a teacher, priest or community worker... the paper folds when he or she is transferred, willingly or otherwise, out of the community”* (McGrath 95)



Only one newspaper survived into the next three decades. **“Inukshuk”** began publishing in 1973 in the largest community in Nunavut, Frobisher Bay. In 1976, the newspaper’s name was changed to **“Nunatsiaq News”**. Nortext Publishing Corporation now publishes weekly print and online editions from Iqaluit. (Frobisher Bay was renamed *“Iqaluit”* in 1987. Iqaluit means “place of fish” in Inuktitut. The 2007 Combase<sup>xii</sup> newspaper readership survey reported that *Nunatsiaq News* is read each week by 6,200 people over 18 years of age in Nunavut and Nunavik. The online edition of this newspaper has a searchable online archive of issues from 1995 to the present day.<sup>xiii</sup>

There are two other newspapers currently published in Nunavut; **“Nunavut News”** also in Iqaluit and **“Kivalliq News”** in Rankin Inlet. Both of these newspapers are owned and operated by Northern News Service. The same web format is used by the company for all of its northern newspaper editions.

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# Nunavik

Ceased publications – 3  
 Current newspapers - 1  
**“Nunatsiaq News”**

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## Nunavik

The earliest newspaper published in Arctic Quebec is the **“Northern Star”**. Published in Fort Chimo, now called Kuujuaq (meaning great river in Inuktitut) this independent community newspaper published for four years beginning in 1961.

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# Nunavik

Ceased

**Atuaqnik** - the newspaper of Northern Quebec  
 January 1979 First Year FREE

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In 1974 **“Big Dipper News”** from Povungnituk published for a year. Similarly, the independent newspaper **“Atuaqnik”** in 1979 published only thirteen issues before collapsing due to lack of funds and too few trained reporters. (McGrath 1991)

The current newspaper of this region is **“Nunatsiaq News”** which also serves the population in Nunavut.

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## Nunatsiavut (Labrador)

- Ceased publications - 2
- Current newspapers - 1

**“ The Labradorian ”**



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### Nunatsiavut (Labrador)

The oldest Inuit newspaper **“Aglait Illunainortut”** was published in Nain, Labrador by the Moravian Missionaries from 1902 – 1914. Copies of this publication can be found in the Rare Books Collection of McGill University Libraries.

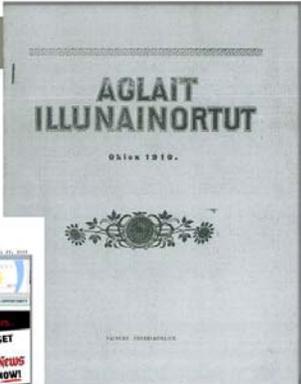
In 1970, **“Kinatuinamot Illengajuk”** was published weekly in Nain by the Labrador Inuit Association, in Inuktitut roman orthography and English.

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## Labrador

Oldest

Current




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The current weekly newspaper **“The Labradorian”<sup>xiv</sup>** is published by Transcontinental Media Network in Happy-Valley Goose Bay the largest community in Labrador. This newspaper reports on community events across the region and covers events in the Inuit coastal communities.

The decrease in numbers of Inuit newspapers in the 1990's has been studied by Alia (1999) and Avison (1996). One significant factor has been the withdrawal of financial support for aboriginal newspapers by the Canadian federal government. In 1990, the federal “Native Communications Program” was cancelled, forcing Inuit newspapers to

quickly restructure their finances. Some newspapers were unable to continue to publish.



### Importance of this Media

The importance of newspapers for Canadian Inuit cannot be underestimated. These publications have provided a medium to shape and preserve cultural identity, and they have been an accessible means to share information about land claims and government activities. Newspapers provide a venue for Inuit journalists and authors to tell stories, publish photographs and write political commentary.

Penny Petrone, author of *Northern voices: Inuit writing in English*, an anthology of Inuit literature describes the importance of journalism for Inuit writers: "*Acculturated Inuit young people are articulating the feeling of a generation caught in a crisis of identity trying to determine a way of life that will protect their tradition and at the same time cope with the massive outside influences in their lives...Journalism dominates the imagination and absorbs the intellectual energies of many of these talented writers.*" (Petrone 201)

In the existing Canadian Inuit literature anthologies, the majority of each bibliography contains writings that were first published in Inuit periodicals (newspapers and magazines). This media contains the published written original of Inuit writers' pieces. Many of these published articles have no other publication form. For this reason, preserving and providing access to the Inuit newspapers contributes to the preservation of the Canadian Inuit writing.

*"Community newspapers constitute a valuable primary historical source for observing how people perceive the world, their neighbours and the affairs within their communities".* (McNaught 1) Librarians are all too aware of the importance of newspapers as primary research sources of information.

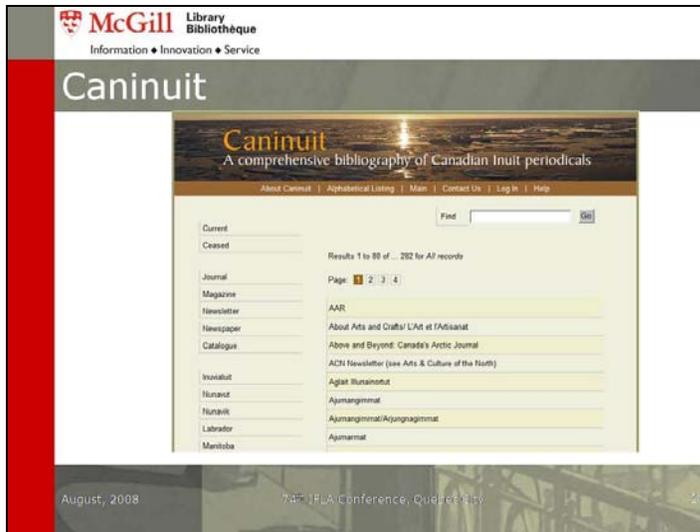


## Caninuit – Web bibliography

One of the motivating factors of my research project, the creation of a web bibliography of Canadian Inuit periodicals has been to remedy the invisibility of these publications.

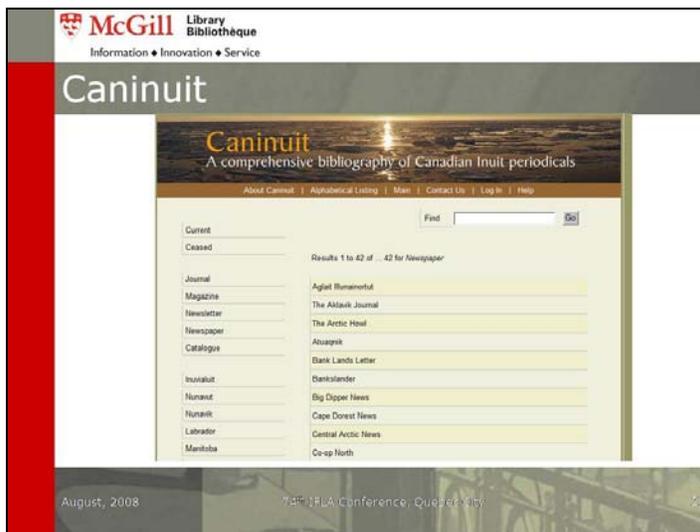


On the *Caninuit* website, each of the periodicals has a personality page, which includes a review describing the publication, bibliographic details (publishing history, location information), indexing information and links to digitized issues. Thumbnail cover images are being added to each of the records.



The website can be browsed in several ways:

- by current or ceased
- by format (journal, magazine, newspaper, newsletter, catalogue)
- by Inuit region
- alphabetically by title



The web resource is a work in progress. I plan to update *Caninuit* through the coming years as new information emerges, new indexing sources become available, new digitization projects provide access to full-text versions of ceased publications and additions as new titles become published.



## International Polar Year 2007 - 2008

This year is the celebration of the fourth International Polar Year 2007– 2008 (IPY)<sup>xv</sup>. The IPY is organized through the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The IPY program is creating over 200 projects, with thousands of international scientists who are studying the Arctic and the Antarctic from March 2007 to March 2009. Social science projects are also being funded as part of the IPY program. *"A special focus for the IPY year is education and outreach activities to demonstrate the truly global significance of contemporary and historical polar issues."*<sup>xvi</sup>

The creation of *"Caninuit: a comprehensive bibliography of Canadian Inuit periodicals"* contributes to this IPY theme, by ensuring that students, arctic scholars and Inuit communities will discover Inuit newspapers and magazines, when they use Internet search engines for their research.



Thank you for your time and attention during this presentation. I hope that the information presented to you today has been informative and one that will leave you with an interest to learn more about the Canadian Inuit people and their newspapers.

**Notes:** Web site links from the text of the paper

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- <sup>i</sup> <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/amicus/>
  - <sup>ii</sup> <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/searchcollection/>
  - <sup>iii</sup> <http://www.arctic.ucalgary.ca/>
  - <sup>iv</sup> <http://virtua.ainc-inac.gc.ca/>
  - <sup>v</sup> <http://www.avataq.qc.ca/spip.php?page=accueil&lang=en>
  - <sup>vi</sup> <http://www.ulrichsweb.com/ulrichsweb/>
  - <sup>vii</sup> <http://biblioline.nisc.com/scripts/login.dll>
  - <sup>viii</sup> <http://www.aina.ucalgary.ca/astis/>
  - <sup>ix</sup> <http://polarinfo.library.ualberta.ca/>
  - <sup>x</sup> <http://www.library.mun.ca/qeii/cns/pab.php>
  - <sup>xi</sup> <http://www.nnsl.com/inuvik/>
  - <sup>xii</sup> <http://www.nunatsiaq.com/advertising/moreinformation.html>
  - <sup>xiii</sup> <http://www.nunatsiaq.com/archives/archives.html>
  - <sup>xiv</sup> <http://www.thelabradorian.ca/>
  - <sup>xv</sup> <http://www.ipy.org/>
  - <sup>xvi</sup> <http://www.arctic.ucalgary.ca/index.php?page=ipy>

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