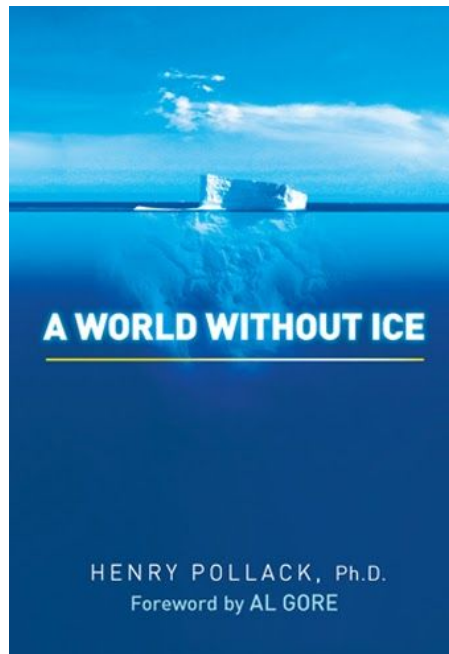
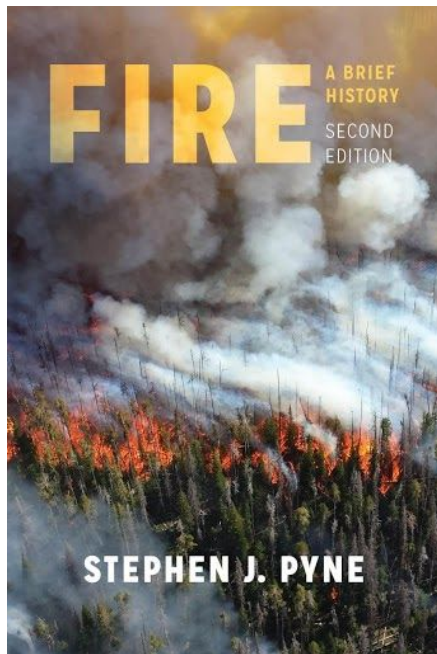


# The Future of Print Report: Fire and Ice

By: Emily Pattni, Curation Specialist for the Future of Print

Project dates: April 1, 2020 to April 30, 2020

Report updated: October 1, 2020



Photos of Stephen J. Pyne's *Fire: A Brief History* and Henry Pollack's *A World Without Ice*

## About the Future of Print

ASU Library was awarded a \$381K grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to experiment with different ways in which libraries present print materials to the public. We know that information is more digitally accessible than ever before. As students turn to what is quick and convenient for them, ASU Library is exploring how to present our print materials in ways that remain engaging and relevant to the twenty-first century user. Through a series of book displays, The Future of Print team hopes to gain a sense for how students perceive print collections, how they use the library, and what it takes to engage them in physical books. For more information on our projects, visit <https://lib.asu.edu/futureprint>.

## Philosophy

*Fire and Ice: Elements of Change on a Dynamic Earth* is a conceptual display bringing together two of Earth's transformative elements, fire and ice. This focus was chosen to inspire visitors to learn about climate change and consider their role in Earth's changing environment. Topics addressed include fire (both its natural role and the exacerbated devastation linked to human activity), water (in oceans and in desert riparian environments), desert ecosystems, glaciers, the polar ice caps, extinction events, desert plants and animals, and the culture of the Southwest. Along with nonfiction and fiction books, poetry, and media materials, artifacts were selected to guide viewers through an interactive experience. Physical artifacts include weathered wood, volcanic rocks, pinecones, and seeds illuminating anthropogenic impacts upon Earth's systems.

The display was curated by Wes Edens and René Tanner, with assistance from Emily Pattni, Open Stacks Curation Specialist, and the ASU campus community in recognition and celebration of Earth Month 2020. Due to Covid-19, library locations were closed and the physical display was postponed indefinitely. We decided to transform this collection into a virtual featured collection, by listing available e-books, government documents, and openly accessible media on a [library guide](#). This allowed us to show the wide-range of materials that are available online to users, and gave us a model for creating virtual featured collections in the future.

## Full Selection Methodology

In November of 2019, Wes Edens, a liaison librarian in the Social Sciences Division of the Engagement & Learning Services directorate, emailed us about the possibility of creating a book display focused on environmental topics such as desert, ice, and the climate. He attached a list of possible books and invited René Tanner, an associate liaison librarian for the Humanities Division, into the conversation. We agreed to collaborate, noting that it was a great fit for ASU's Noble Library, which was undergoing a collections redesign to bring together materials related to STEM and social sciences. When it was announced that physical library locations would be temporarily closed due to Covid-19, we saw this as an opportunity to create our first virtual featured collection, showing users the many resources accessible to them in digital formats. Because it took us about two weeks to create and finalize a library guide, this strategy can easily be utilized in the future to reach our communities.

Chad Deets, the Project Coordinator for Government Documents, shared a list of government documents addressing climate change, wildfires, and glacial history. We added these to Wes' original list and identified more items which gave us a list of [85 books and DVDs](#) that aligned with the collection theme. Although a majority of these items exist only in their physical formats, we were able to identify several e-books

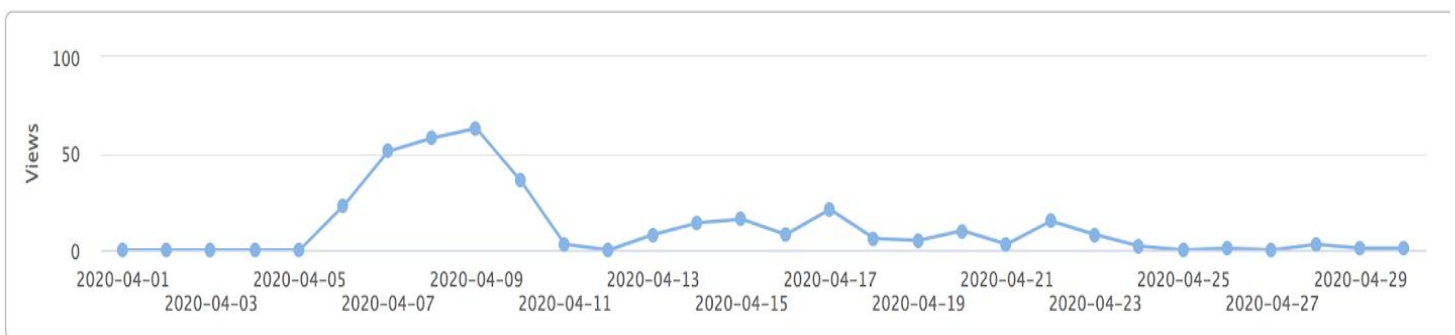
available through the Library’s catalog as well as openly accessible government documents, images, and videos.

## Assessment Mechanisms

### Library Guide

We created a library guide to organize the resource types by e-books, videos, government documents, images, and poetry. For items available in the catalog or through a government website, the cover art and a description of the item were included to enhance the browsing experience. Links were also provided along with instructions on how to access each resource. Throughout the month of April, the library guide received 356 site visits.

**Figure 1**



This chart shows daily site visits for the month of April. At its peak, there were 63 site visits on April 9th.

### Trivia Quiz

In order to increase engagement around the collection theme, we put together a quiz using Google Forms, titled “How much do you know about our planet?” This included twelve trivia questions about the environment. At the end, correct answers were shown along with explanations. 30 participants anonymously took the quiz, scoring 7.97 points out of 12 on average (67%). Although the purpose of this quiz was to educate and add an interactive element to the library guide, it was interesting to compare which topics were commonly missed and which were frequently answered correctly. We have not yet made plans to utilize this information.

## Discussion

This project was our first opportunity to create a virtual featured collection. With multiple campuses and students in both online and residential settings, this approach allows us to be more visible to those who do not (or cannot) come to one physical library location

to experience a featured collection. Moving forward, we would like to explore ways to increase engagement by creating more online learning experiences. Ideas include adding more interactive elements, collaborating with online courses, and identifying alternative platforms to library guides. Working with library liaisons can ensure that the resources we are adding will be of relevance to the ASU community and provide a pathway to share the collection with their students, faculty, and staff. Overall, this collection showed the Library's ability to quickly adapt to an online environment as well as the many materials available in digital formats.