

Engaging with Communities, Applying Technology, and Facilitating Network Building: Experiences from the Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic Project

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The Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic project (ELOKA) facilitates the collection, preservation, exchange, and use of local observations and knowledge of the Arctic. Additionally ELOKA is collaborating with other researchers and organizations around the world who are engaged in addressing data management issues for community-based research. We are working to build a community that facilitates international knowledge exchange, development of resources, and collaboration focused on local communities and stewardship of their data, information, and knowledge.

This paper presents a review and critical evaluation of our experiences to date in three areas: i) engaging with communities, including Northern communities and communities of practice from the North and other regions ii) applying technologies to the acquisition, documentation, representation and long-term stewardship of local and traditional knowledge iii) working with other international partners to facilitate the development of a network in support of the exchange and stewardship of community knowledge. We conclude the presentation with an analysis of successes and ongoing challenges. An overview of best practices is provided and areas of future research are identified.

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