Building on the legacy of the International Polar Year

The vision of the Polar Information Commons (PIC) is to create a shared virtual resource mirroring the geographic commons of the Earth’s polar regions. The PIC will provide an open digital repository for vital scientific data and information and serve as a shared, community-based cyberinfrastructure fostering innovation, improving scientific understanding, and facilitating participation in polar research, education, planning, and management.

PIC Overview

1. Polar data sources expose their data to the world and share them, without restriction, through open protocols on the internet, e.g., the Creative Commons Zero (CC0) waiver.
2. Data are digitally labeled or branded as part of the PIC and are therefore clearly open for dissemination and use.
3. Data centers monitor new PIC data and assess and acquire important data for formal archiving, curation, and access through national and global data systems.
4. The PIC community establishes a set of norms on appropriate and ethical data use, including attribution of data, and encourages compliance through peer pressure, brand identity, involvement of science agencies, journals, etc.
5. The PIC provides useful tools and services for PIC data quality control, search, access, documentation, attribution, persistent identifiers, notification of data use, etc.

PIC Sponsors

For more information see www.polarcommons.org