Polar Studies Resources in the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College
By Kristin Garcia and Kathy Hart

The Hood Museum of Art, begun as the Dartmouth College Museum in 1772, is one of the oldest and largest college museums in the country. The strong interest in research and exploration of the Arctic at Dartmouth, especially during the 1950s while Vilhjalmur and Evelyn Stefansson were on campus, continues to this day. With more than 3,000 objects from and about the Arctic in the Museum’s collection, the Hood strives to make these objects available for research, both through public exhibition and individual appointments with Dartmouth faculty, students and outside scholars. The 2007 Hood Museum of Art exhibitions Thin Ice: Inuit Traditions within a Changing Environment, centered around the Hood’s Inuit collections, Our Land: Contemporary Art from the Arctic, showcasing objects organized by the Peabody Essex Museum and the Government of Nunavut, and Subhankar Banerjee: Resource Wars in the American Arctic celebrated Dartmouth’s continued interest in the Arctic and the International Polar Year. Catalogues for both exhibitions are available for purchase and can be located through online booksellers. To see installation images from both of these past exhibitions, please use the links below:

Our Land: Contemporary Art from the Arctic exhibition panoramas:
http://hoodmuseum.dartmouth.edu/av/ourland/index.html

Thin Ice: Inuit Traditions within a Changing Environment exhibition panoramas:
http://hoodmuseum.dartmouth.edu/av/thinice/index.html

Researching the Hood Museum of Art’s Arctic collections
The unique opportunity to study an object first hand can greatly impact a student or scholar’s research and supplement previous text-based research with a visual component. All of the Hood Museum of Art’s collections are searchable online, with images of many objects also available. By clicking on the link below and following the instructions on the page to which you are directed, your search can be defined by a number of indexes, from artist name, ethnic group, and object material to name only a few.

http://hoodmuseum.dartmouth.edu/collections/search.html

Current Dartmouth College students and scholars conducting research projects can contact the Hood Museum of Art’s Assistant Registrar, Cynthia Gilliland, at cynthia.gilliland@dartmouth.edu or at 603-646-2746 to schedule appointments to see
specific objects located through online searches of the Museum’s database from the link above.