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The Yearbook of Polar Law

Alfredsson , Guðmundur and Koivurova, Timo (2009) *The Yearbook of Polar Law*. [Website]

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Abstract

The Yearbook of Polar Law, based at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law at the University of Akureyri in Iceland, covers a wide variety of topics relating to the Arctic and the Antarctic. These include: - human rights issues, such as autonomy and self-government vs self-determination, the rights of indigenous peoples to land and natural resources and cultural rights and cultural heritage, indigenous traditional knowledge, - local and national governance issues, - environmental law, climate change, security and environment implications of climate change, protected areas and species, - regulatory, governance and management agreements and arrangements for marine environments, marine mammals, fisheries conservation and other biological/mineral/oil resources, - law of the sea, the retreating sea ice, continental shelf claims, - territorial claims and border disputes on both land and at sea, - peace and security, dispute settlement, - jurisdictional and other issues re the exploration, exploitation and shipping of oil, gas and minerals, bioprospecting, - trade law, potential shipping lines through the northwest and northeast passages, maritime law and transportation law, and - the roles and actual involvement of international organizations in the Polar regions, such as the Arctic Council, the European Union, the International Whaling Commission, the Nordic Council, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the United Nations, as well as NGOs.

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Indeed, the research that the Yearbook of Polar law, Vol. 3, presents is extraordinary! Especially for scholars of Arctic governance, human and indigenous rights and political sciences this book is of interest. But there are significant shortcomings in the marketing of the volume, which must be primarily directed to the publisher: Firstly, the exorbitant price of almost 200€ make it truly a very rare purchase. Especially for students this amount is unacceptable. These points are very unfortunate and make the Yearbook of Polar Law merely accessible to a group of people locked in an ivory tower. Given the important, challenging, necessary and so-well researched contributions, this should not be the case. passages, maritime law and transportation law, and - the roles and actual involvement of international organizations in the Polar regions, such as the Arctic Council, the European Union, the International Whaling Commission, the Nordic Council, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the United Nations, as well as NGOs. The Yearbook of Polar Law is also available online.