

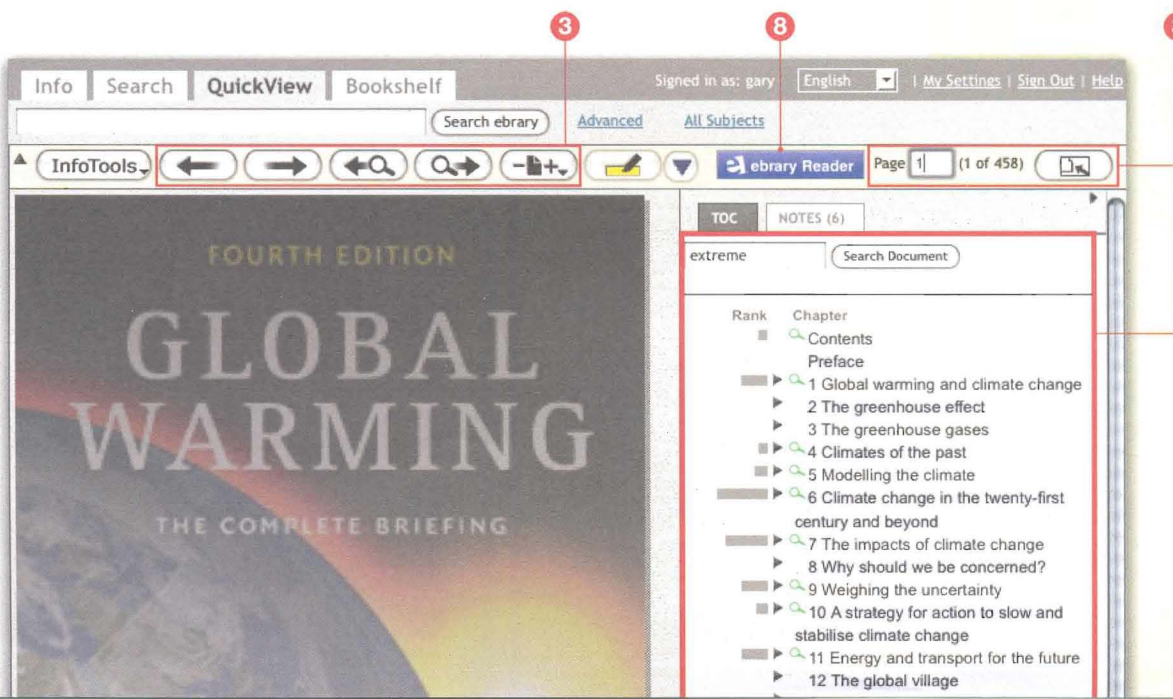
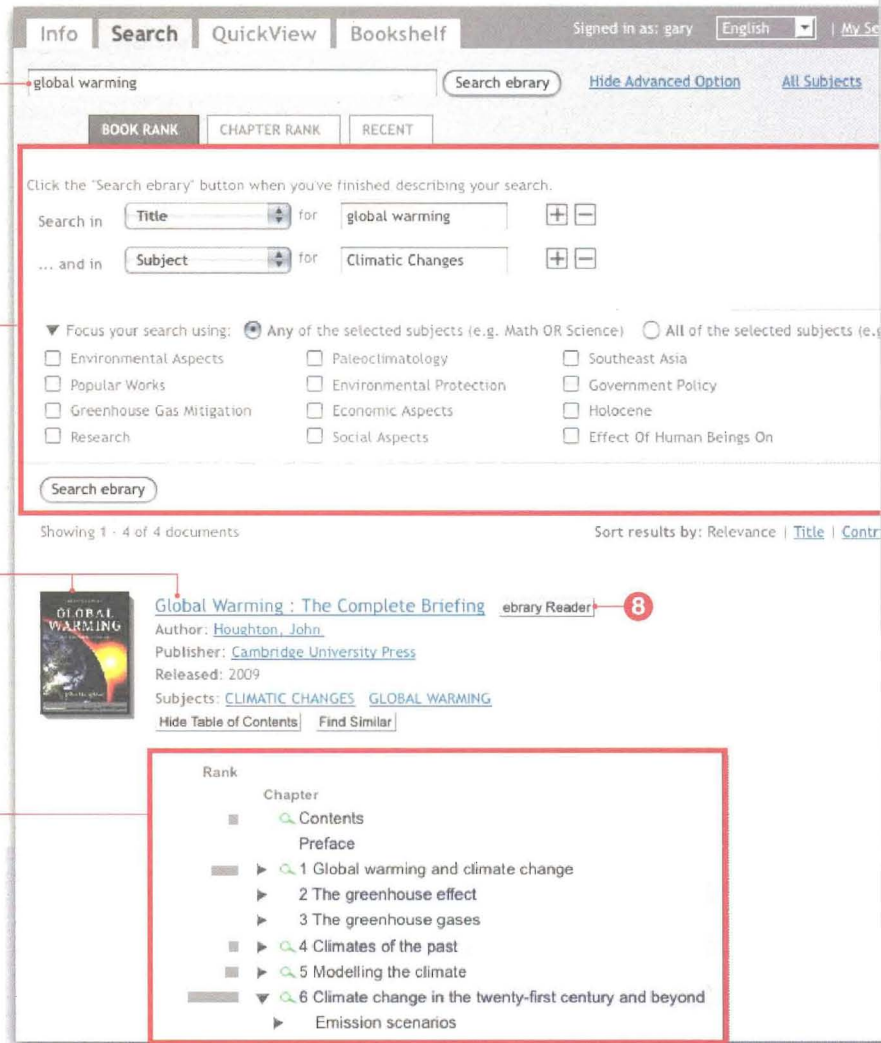
# Quick Start Guide



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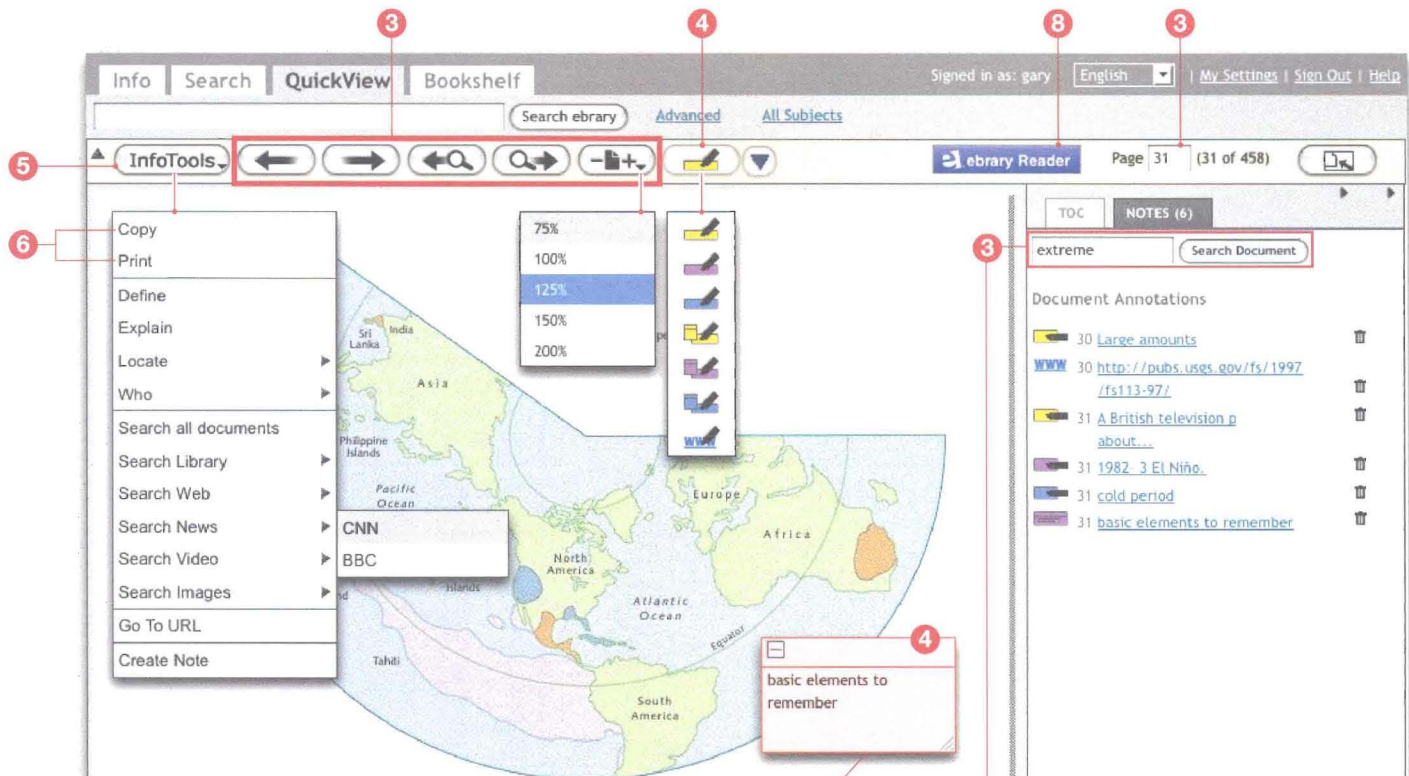
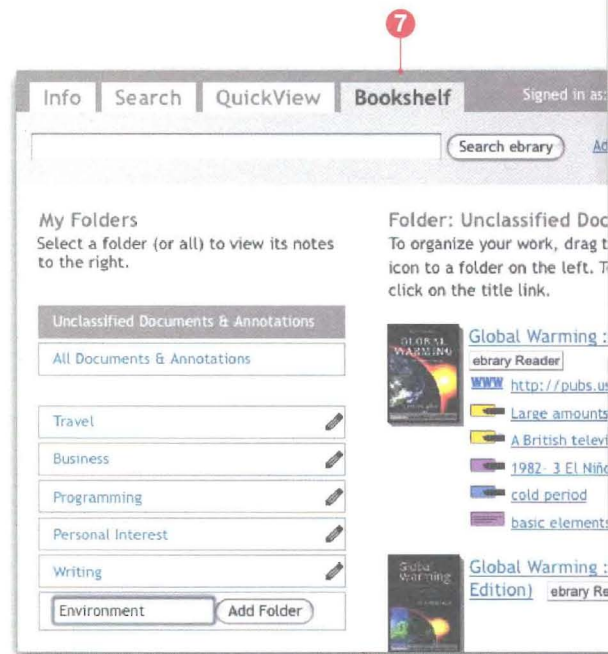


Figure 1.4 Regions where droughts and floods occurred associated with the 1982-3 El Niño.

But the question must be asked: how remarkable are these **extreme** events that I have been listing? Do they point to a changing climate due to human activities? Here a note of caution must be sounded. The range of normal natural climate variation is large. **Climate extremes** are nothing new. Climate records are continually being broken. In fact, a month without a broken record somewhere would itself be something of a record!

Many of us may remember the generally **cold period** over large areas of the world during the 1960s and early 1970s that caused speculation that the world was heading for an ice age. **A British television programme about climate change** called 'The ice age cometh' was prepared in the early 1970s and widely screened - but the cold trend soon came to an end. We must not be misled by our relatively short memories.

One of the largest volcanic eruptions in the twentieth century was **Mount Pinatubo** in the Philippines on 12 June 1991 which pumped tonnes of sulphur dioxide into the stratosphere together with a large amount of dust. This stratospheric dust caused spectacular sunsets around the world for

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