

Quick Start Guide

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3. **Explore the document** by navigating to search terms, searching for key words, jumping to relevant chapters, and flipping through pages.

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- Manage and share your research** by dragging books, highlights and notes into bookshelf folders, which can be emailed to peers or shared via URL.

8. If your institution offers ebrary's Unity Reader, which provides added functionality, launch it by **clicking on the ebrary Reader button**.

Additional Resources

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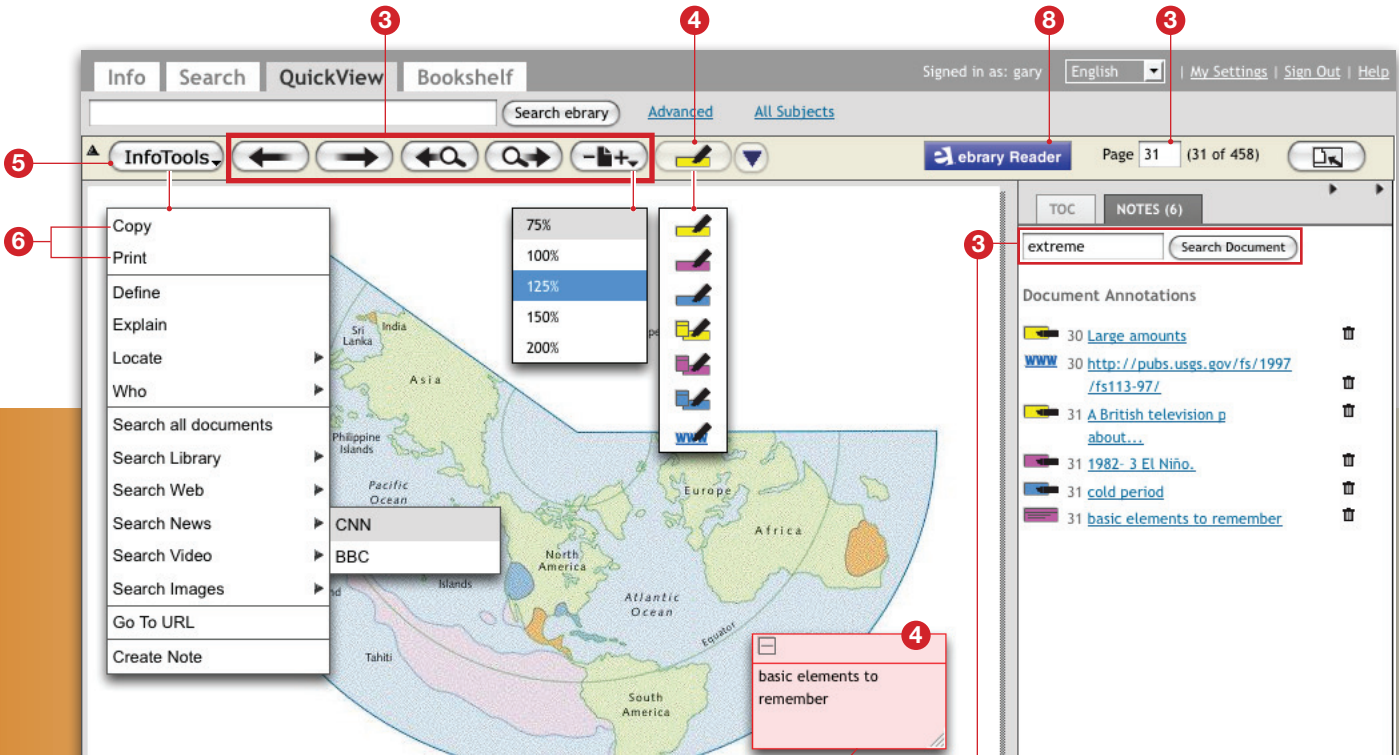
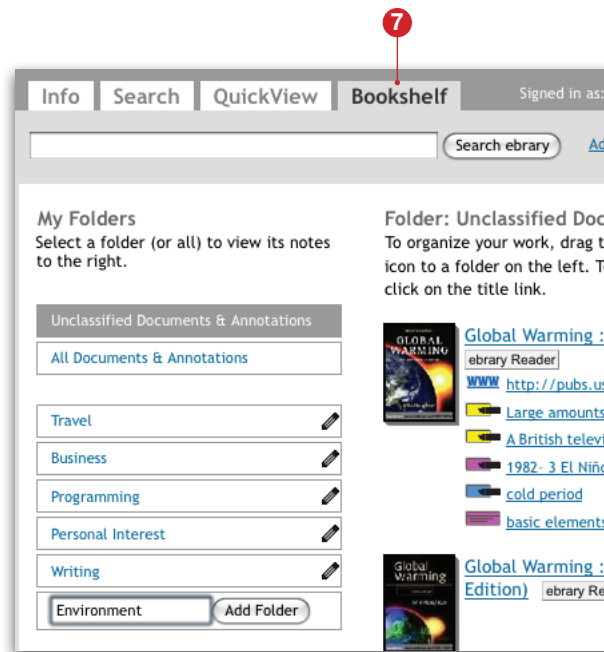


Figure 1.4 Regions where droughts and floods occurred associated with the 1982-3 El Niño.

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 millions of tonnes of sulphur dioxide into the stratosphere together with large quantities of dust. This stratospheric dust caused spectacular sunsets around the world for

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