

FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

10/23/2009

Contents:

- **MUSEUM COMMITTEE CANDIDATES SOUGHT**
- **SHERI POINTS OUT DISABILITY RESOURCES**
- **STATE MUSEUM RECOMMENDED BY NYT**
- **ARLIS RESOURCES BEYOND THE CATALOG**
- **ANCHORAGE READING RENDEZVOUS TOUCHES NEW ZEALAND**
- **MUSEUM TOUR VIA IPOD TOUCH**
- **UK NATIONAL ARCHIVES LAUNCHES IPHONE APP**
- **VIRTUAL SCHOOLHOUSE FROM LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA**
- **DON'T GIVE "CENSUS TAKERS" YOUR CREDIT CARD NUMBER**
- **FOODSAFETY.GOV**
- **LET MIT TEACH YOU COMPUTER PROGRAMMING**

MUSEUM COMMITTEE CANDIDATES SOUGHT

The Alaska State Museums (the Alaska State Museum in Juneau and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka) are seeking candidates for appointment to the Museum Collections Advisory Committee (MCAC). The MCAC is responsible for approving donations, acquisitions, and deaccessions for the Alaska State Museums. Members serve a three-year term without compensation. A minimum of two teleconferences are held annually, in the spring and fall.

Candidates should have knowledge and significant experience in at least one of the following areas: Alaska history, fine arts, natural history, archaeology, anthropology, or museology. Interested individuals should send a letter of interest and resumé by November 10, 2009, to: Glenn Cook, Alaska State Museums, 395 Whittier Street, Juneau AK 99801.

If you would like additional information before applying, please contact Glenn Cook at the Alaska State Museum at 465-2901 or glenn.cook@alaska.gov.

SHERI POINTS OUT DISABILITY RESOURCES

In a recent posting to the State Library's "Since You Asked" blog, Government Publications Librarian Sheri Somerville describes resources that should be useful to disabled persons seeking various kinds of assistance from the government. The post can be found at <http://askasl.blogspot.com/2009/10/resources-for-people-with-disabilities.html>.

STATE MUSEUM RECOMMENDED BY NYT

In case you missed it, the *New York Times* recommended the Alaska State Museum as an essential stop for people visiting Juneau for 36 hours. The article appeared in the 8/30/2009 issue and was titled "36 Hours in Juneau, Alaska." The article with photographs can be accessed at <http://travel.nytimes.com/2009/08/30/travel/30hours.html>.

If your museum, archives or library received some press coverage lately, please let us know and we'll highlight it for your fellow knowledge workers.

ARLIS RESOURCES BEYOND THE CATALOG

The Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS) library recently posted a document called "Hidden Collections: What's NOT in the Catalog" to their web site at http://www.arlis.org/Hidden_Collections_at_ARLIS.pdf. Some of the resources that can't be found in their catalog include:

- ADNR Aerial Photo Collection
- Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center (AEIDC) Photo Collection
- Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Shoreline Surveys
- Furs, Mounts and Skulls collection
- MAS Files (also called Mineral Assessment Studies or Mineral Availability System)

Thanks to ARLIS for taking some extra time to describe some of their special collections. We salute all efforts to increase access and visibility of library resources. (Hat tip to Becky Orford for this item.)

ANCHORAGE READING RENDEZVOUS TOUCHES NEW ZEALAND

Here is a report from Sue Sherif about the impact of a 2003 reading event in Anchorage:

"In April or May of 2003, AkLA-A sponsored a booth at the Anchorage Reading Rendezvous. The late John Iliff, Marty Osredker, Christy Ericson, and possibly others of you volunteered at that event. Our activity was a Book Crossings book exchange. We had labeled books to give away to children and adults. Since that event about only about a dozen of the several hundred books that we gave away that day have popped up in an account called Anchorage Reads at the Book Crossings website <http://www.bookcrossing.com/>.

Today (9/17/2009) I got a message that one of our books had been received on Tuesday in Queensland, Australia from someone in New Zealand: *Oliver's Story* by Eric Segal. Not great literature, but it's certainly well-travelled.

Another title of ours, *The Cleft* by Doris Lessing, was taken out of Book Crossing circulation and added to someone's permanent collection in St. Albans, Hertfordshire, UK in April of 2007.

Just shows that volunteering at the annual Reading Rendezvous can have some far-reaching consequences.

If you are interested in sending some of your own collection out into the world, check out the Book Crossings website.”

MUSEUM TOUR VIA ITOUCH

In a 9/1/2009 blog entry at <http://www.imamuseum.org/blog/2009/09/01/an-early-look-at-tap/>, the Indianapolis Museum of Art announced a preview of a multimedia tour of their new exhibit “Sacred Spain” via an application for the iPod Touch. The blog entry includes sample photos and video from the exhibit along with some technical details.

UK NATIONAL ARCHIVES LAUNCHES IPHONE APP

If you’re curious about the original design for James Watts’ steam engine, the State Papers of Henry VIII, WW2 propaganda posters or British history in general, you might consider downloading the new iPhone app from the UK National Archives at <http://www.apptism.com/apps/the-national-archives>.

VIRTUAL SCHOOLHOUSE FROM LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

Library and Archives Canada recently posted a new online exhibit titled “A Virtual Schoolhouse” at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/schoolhouse/index-e.html>. From the web site: “[This] website that presents how young people in Canada experienced education over 100 years ago. Since 1900, much has changed in Canadian education. Children now learn more subjects; they attend school in different types of buildings; and their classrooms are divided into grades and made up of a diverse population.”

DON’T GIVE “CENSUS TAKERS” YOUR CREDIT CARD NUMBER

A recent item on the Urban Legends Pages at <http://www.snopes.com/fraud/identity/census.asp> warns against scammers using the upcoming 2010 Census as a cover. These scammers may ask you for specific financial information such as credit card numbers or bank account numbers. A real Census worker will never ask for this kind of information. According to the Urban Legends Pages, real Census workers will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. A sign of a phony Census worker is an e-mail contact. The real Census Bureau may contact you by phone, mail or a home visit. They do not e-mail.

FOODSAFETY.GOV

The federal government recently launched a new website, FoodSafety.gov, to provide consumers with the latest on food recalls, safe food handling tips, and more! Featuring information from all federal agencies that deal with critical food and food safety information, FoodSafety.gov offers e-mail alerts and RSS feeds on recalled or potentially unsafe food. (via usa.gov)

LET MIT TEACH YOU COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

Are you curious about how to program computers, but don't know where to start? Check out this introductory course available from the MIT Open Courseware program:

6.00 Introduction to Computer Science and Programming (MIT)

<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Electrical-Engineering-and-Computer-Science/6-00Fall-2008/CourseHome/index.htm>

Description from Website: "Includes audio/video content: AV lectures. This subject is aimed at students with little or no programming experience. It aims to provide students with an understanding of the role computation can play in solving problems. It also aims to help students, regardless of their major, to feel justifiably confident of their ability to write small programs that allow them to accomplish useful goals. The class will use the Python™ programming language."

FRIDAY BULLETIN

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian and Director

Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums · Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
PO 110571, Juneau, AK 99811-0571 · Tel: 465-2911 · Fax: 465-2151 · linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov