

FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

11/20/2009

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CHECK OUT HIDDEN GEMS FROM STATE LIBRARY

The reference librarians at the Alaska State Library’s Information Services section share a new reference resource at all of their Wednesday staff meetings. They recently decided to share notes about these resources with the world at large through a new library blog. The blog is called “Hidden Gems Mined by the Alaska State Library” and is available at <http://hiddengems-asl.blogspot.com/>. Recent entries have included:

- Encyclopedia of Tourism
- Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian genealogy of Alaska
- [Environmental] Scorecard
- Legislative Information Notebook
- USGS Map Locator
- OAIster and ArchiveGrid
- Data.gov

If you do in-house trainings on the resources available in your library, archives or museums consider posting reviews/notes about these items to the web or publicize them in some other way. Your patrons and colleagues will benefit.

KATHY MILLER LEAVES HUNA HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Kathy Miller, executive director of the Huna Heritage Foundation made the following announcement by e-mail on 11/17/2009:

“I wanted to let all of you know that as of this Friday, November 20th, I will no longer be with the Huna Heritage Foundation. I have accepted a job in the lower 48 that is closer to my family.

Huna Heritage has started looking for a new Executive Director, and in the interim, Marlene Johnson, our Board Chairman, can be contacted with any information, questions, etc. The phone number at the Foundation is 907.523.3682, and the email to contact her at is heritage@hunatotem.com”

We wish Ms. Miller well in her next position and wish the best of luck to the Huna Heritage Foundation in finding a replacement.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR INDIGENOUS CONTEMPORARY ARTS PROGRAM

Grants of up to \$15,000 will be awarded to Native artists in the Western hemisphere and Hawaii to support exhibitions, installations, publications, and critical writing as well as new works. Full description and application instructions at http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=272300026. (Thanks to Zach Jones of the Sealaska Heritage Institute for this item.)

TWO ALASKAN MUSEUMS JOIN TWITTER

Two more Alaska museums have started Twitter feeds:

University of Alaska Museum of the North (<http://twitter.com/alaskamuseum>) had 148 followers as of 11/19/2009.

Alaska Native Heritage Center (<http://twitter.com/ANHC>) had 157 followers as of 11/19/2009.

Both museums have been added to the State Library’s list of museums that tweet at <http://twitter.com/AKStateLibrary/museums>. If your library, archives or museum is communicating via Twitter or another social network, we’d like to hear about it.

“ONE STROKE AND YOU ARE OUT” (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009 ALASKA MEDICAL LIBRARY NEWSLETTER)

The Alaska Medical Library, located at the Consortium Library in Anchorage, publishes a monthly health newsletter on a single topic that deserves wide distribution. The newest issue covers stroke in a down-to-earth approach that is accessible to any reader. Sally Bremmer, Health Sciences Librarian, writes: “Stroke may well seem like topic that’s been done to death. But truly when it hits close to home, it becomes the number one topic in the whole world to find out about, understand and take precautions against. I sure wish I had known more when this happened in my family. Please read One Stroke and You Are Out carefully. It could save a life – maybe your own!” Past issues cover shingles, rolfling, telemedicine in Alaska, cell phones, and nanotechnology, to name a few.

To read this issue: <http://consortiumlibrary.org/aml/publications/newsletters/AugSe09.pdf>

Go to <http://consortiumlibrary.org/aml/publications/> to sign up or unsubscribe to alerts for the newsletter, or to read back issues. (Thanks to Patience Frederiksen for this item.)

ALA ISSUE BRIEFS: ANALYSIS YOU CAN USE

Do you need to make the case that with decision-makers in your community that your public library is an essential service? If yes, then you might want to take a look at four issue briefs from ALA that highlight services your library is asked to provide on a daily basis:

- providing access to e-government services (PFD application, IRS tax forms, for example)
- supporting learners of all ages
- helping job-seekers find employment
- providing Internet access to the public

The briefs are available at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/issuesbriefs/index.cfm> (Thanks to Patience Frederiksen for this item.)

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG GETS AN ONLINE MUSEUM

The blog ResearchBuzz (<http://www.researchbuzz.org>) recently noted that Colonial Williamsburg has started an online museum at <http://emuseum.history.org/code/emuseum.asp>. The “eMuseum” encompasses 3,300 items that represent a cross section of the Museum’s 60,000 examples of “American, British, and Continental ceramics, glass, furniture, textiles, costumes, tools, firearms, numismatics, metals, prints, maps and drawings from the seventeenth, eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, as well as outstanding examples of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and twentieth-century American folk art.” Teachers of American history may be especially interested in this new eMuseum. (Hat tip to Freya Anderson for this item.)

GOOD AND BAD LIBRARY NEWS

The Good: Voters in California’s November election approved library ballot measures in the cities of San Mateo and South Pasadena (home of Caltech). More details on the California State Library blog at <http://blog.library.ca.gov/archive/2009/11/19/Outcomes-of-Library-Ballot-Measures-in-California.aspx>.

The Bad: Budget cuts have kept the Connecticut State Library from replacing retiring staff. Library will be closed on Mondays until further notice. More details available from the Connecticut State Library Blog at <http://cslibweb.wordpress.com/2009/11/19/monday-closings-to-continue/>.

REVIEW: BEST MP3 PLAYERS FOR AUDIOBOOKS

If your library subscribes to downloadable audio books, you might be interested in CNet’s recent review article, “Best MP3 players for audiobooks” at http://reviews.cnet.com/4321-6490_7-6547912.html. Reviews include information on battery life, bookmarking capability and more.

SCIENCELAB CAN POWER CLASSROOMS

If you're looking for ways to interest K-12 students in science, check the ScienceLab (<http://www.osti.gov/sciencelab>) from the federal Office of Science and Technology Information. The site offers links to online science activities by grade level. Also on offer are lesson plans, classroom resources, "Ask an Expert" links and even a performance of Tom Lehrer's song "The Elements" (see <http://www.osti.gov/sciencelab/ScienceArt.html>).

MORE FLU RESOURCES

Because of concerns about influenza, several vendors are providing free access to information on influenza from their normally fee-based resources. These may be helpful resources for library staff and patrons alike:

ebrary: <http://h1n1.ebrary.com> contains a growing selection of reports, papers, newsletters, posters, and other important materials from government agencies and other trusted sources. For more information, read their press release at http://www.ebrary.com/corp/newspdf/ebrary_H1N1.pdf.

Ebsco: Editorial teams will monitor research and update these resources at <http://www.ebscohost.com/flu/> throughout the flu season.

Gale: Download and share a handy widget with H1N1 facts on Science and History or Global News and Info. Information about the widget and a link to download it are at <http://www.gale.cengage.com/flu/>.

Of course, there are some great always-free resources as well. See especially the webpage and downloadable widget at <http://flu.gov>, from the US Department of Health and Human Services; the Flu page from Medline Plus at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/flu.html>, Seasonal Influenza (Flu) page from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>; and Influenza in Alaska at <http://pandemicflu.alaska.gov>. (Thanks to Freya Anderson for this item.)

UNCLE SAM SEZ "2012 NOT THE END"

With theaters across Alaska showing the doomsday movie "2012" with John Cusack, we thought you might enjoy a reality check from the GovGab blog of usa.gov. In a post titled "2012: The End of the World Myth" at http://blog.usa.gov/roller/govgab/entry/2012_the_end_of_the, the GovGab folks talk about how their call centers have been getting a lot of anxious calls relating to the end of the Mayan calendar on December 21, 2012. The entry also provides links to resources explaining that there is no credible threat associated with that date.

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