

FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

12/18/2009

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

The staff of the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums wish all of our fellow Alaskans a great winter holiday and best wishes for a productive 2010. As the next two Fridays are Christmas and New Year's, a light version of the Bulletin will be published on the next two Thursdays (12/24 & 12/31).

STATE ARCHIVIST SEARCH EXTENDED UNTIL 1/4/2010

The recruitment period for Alaska State Archivist we announced last week has been extended until January 4, 2010. To get more information and/or apply, please visit: <http://notes.state.ak.us/wa/PostApps.nsf/0/7242C1C81555C7AA8925768D00022DE3?OpenDocument> or go to <http://workplace.alaska.gov>, click on "view job opportunities", then department, then Education and Early Development.

UAA ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS BLOG

Since April 2009, the UAA Consortium Library Archives and Special Collections section has been publishing a blog at <http://www.consortiumlibrary.org/blogs/archives/>. Entries focus on items from the collection and special collection librarianship. The blog has also discussed anthropologists dodging boulders. Really. Check out <http://www.consortiumlibrary.org/blogs/archives/2009/12/10/tales-of-danger-in-archives-or-was-dr-jones-really-ahead-of-his-time/>.

FUNDRAISING IDEA: CHRISTMAS WISH TREE PROGRAM AT SEWARD COMMUNITY LIBRARY

We recently visited the Facebook page of the Seward Community Library and came across a fun and interesting way for a library to get new materials. We asked to hear more and Maureen Callahan, Senior Library Assistant at the library explained the program this way:

“A Christmas tree is put up in the library by the first weekend of December. On the tree are large paper decorations (gingerbread men and snowmen) on which are pictures and descriptions of books and films the library does not own. For the last ten years the library has used an Ellison cutter to make the gingerbread men and snowmen but before that the staff simply attached descriptions of the items to large index cards which were hung on the tree. As soon as the tree is decorated, individuals and organizations are then invited to select items from the tree to sponsor. This year each item is for the children’s department, and \$15.00 will sponsor any book or film. The library orders the items selected in January and a bookplate is put in each book and film with a dedication of the sponsor’s choosing. The tree is usually left up through the first week of January, and often people who were not able to get into the library before Christmas will stop in to sponsor a book; so I encourage any library who is thinking of starting a similar program to leave the tree up for awhile after Christmas. The Christmas Wish Tree program was instituted many years ago by then-director Catherine Nicolas. Many enjoyable and worthwhile books have been added to the library through the program, which is in its 17th year.

AK RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS LAUNCHES BLOG, TALKS TURKEY

If you, your patrons, or students you know might be interested in hearing about how economics relates to Alaska, check out the “Alaska Economic Overview” blog at <http://economicinfo.org/>. This Alaska-focused blog has been produced by the Alaska Division of Research and Analysis. Recent postings have included:

- Black Friday, 2009
- Who’s fishing in Alaska?
- Why economists never get invited back for Thanksgiving
- Alaska’s fish fuel a major industry

The blog is written conversationally and seems like a great way to get people interested in economic data close to home.

WEIGH IN ON THE FUTURE OF THE BOOK

Here’s an opportunity to give your opinion on the future of the book and other printed materials:

“Will e-readers be the demise of the paper book? What will libraries circulate? What is the future of the book?”

You tell us. Take the 60-Second Survey on the future of the book:
<http://surveys.lrs.org/respond.php?sid=70>

Why? Recently, news outlets and blogs have been busy deriding and celebrating the recent ascension of e-readers. The growing popularity of this new format has come with murmurs about the death of paper books and some even surmise that as technology advances libraries will cease to exist!

Taking notice of the chatter, Library Research Service has decided to survey librarians on the matter. This 60-Second Survey asks your opinions on e-readers and how you think they will transform reading.”

Although the company doing the survey is asking for librarians, we’re sure they could use the input of archivists and museum workers as well.

SEVEN ARGUMENTS FOR BUILDING NEW LIBRARIES

Jamie LaRue, Director of the Douglas County Libraries in Colorado recently outlined reasons to build new libraries in a post titled “Seven Arguments for Building New Libraries” at <http://jaslarue.blogspot.com/2009/12/seven-arguments-for-building-new.html>. Some of the reasons could be used or adapted to advocate building new archives and museums as well. For example,

- Argument #2 - Library construction is a powerful economic stimulus, esp. in a recession. People often overlook that a public construction project employs architects, general contractors, local tradespeople, local suppliers, and so on, which in turn generates sales for local restaurants, gas stations, etc.
- Argument #6 - Library buildings manifest and reinforce a statement of community values. The library is a tangible sign of a community's commitment to individual inquiry, a safety net for the young and old, a secular sanctuary for people who need public space either for public contact or for private pondering. I remember pondering this comment from a member of the Greatest Generation: "In my day, we lived in modest homes, but built significant public monuments. These days, we live in palaces, and build government buildings out of split-face concrete."

LOOKING FOR ADA TRAINING?

If you are looking for information on complying with the American with Disabilities Act, try looking through the webinar archives of the Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center of the Great Lakes. The archives are found at http://www.onlineconferencingsystems.com/sedbtac_1/webinar_archives.htm#freeSeries. Recent offerings have included:

July 13, 2009: The why and how to create accessible PDFs

June 30, 2009: Legal Update on Title III Case law

March 3, 2009: Disparate Treatment vs. Disparate Impact

HELP IMPROVE USA.GOV

If you haven’t visited it yet, usa.gov is a great destination for all things government information whether you’re looking for where to complain about fraudulent e-mails, where to address social security questions or where to find a 24 karat gold ornament commemorating the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms 25th anniversary*.

Now you can make this great resource even better by participating in an improvement dialog at <http://blog.citizen.apps.gov/yourvoicematters/>. You can also vote on ideas presented by other citizens. This dialog will be open until January 8, 2010.

* See <http://www.treasuryhistoricalassn.org/ornaments.html>

CANADA SHIP REGISTRATION INDEX

Historians and genealogists might be interested in a new database from Library and Archives Canada. The database is called the “Ship Registration Index” and can be found at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/ship-registration/index-e.html>.

According to its web page:

“The Ship Registration Index Database (SRI) contains more than 78,000 entries of ships registered in ports of Canada between 1787 and 1966. Through this research tool, you can obtain information about a ship such as its name, its type, its official number, the year and port of registration, where it was built, its date of construction and, in some cases, what happened to it.”

KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT

If you or your patrons are trying to dig up basic information on US government agencies, check out the new United States Government Manual for 2009-10 at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/gmanual/index.html>.

As the official handbook of the Federal Government, the United States Government Manual provides comprehensive information on the agencies of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches. It also includes information on quasi-official agencies; international organizations in which the United States participates; and boards, commissions, and committees. The Manual begins with reprints of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

A typical agency description includes:

- * A list of officials heading major operating units.
- * A summary statement of the agency's purpose and role in the Federal Government.
- * A brief history of the agency, including its legislative or executive authority.
- * A description of its programs and activities.
- * Information, addresses, and phone numbers to help users locate detailed information on consumer activities, contracts and grants, employment, publications, and other matters of public interest.

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