

ALASKA STATE LIBRARY
2007 REPORT



CELEBRATION OF STATEHOOD - JULY 3, 1959
GOV. & MRS. BILL EGAN
RIDE IN PARADE IN CELEBRATION
OF ALASKA STATEHOOD
CAROLINE JENSEN COLLECTION. ALASKA STATE LIBRARY PCA 417 143

“AT THE ALASKA STATE LIBRARY,
YOU WILL FIND GREAT COLLECTIONS AND
FRIENDLY STAFF
WHO TAKE PRIDE IN HELPING
PEOPLE WITH GENUINE HOSPITALITY AND
PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE.”



From the State Librarian

On behalf of those who serve at the Alaska State Library, it is a pleasure for me to invite you to read this annual report highlighting many of our activities for the year 2007.

As an integral part of the Department of Education and Early Development, life-long learning and education of Alaskans is a primary concern. The Alaska State Library's overall mission is to provide access to government information; to collect, organize, preserve and make available materials that document the history of the state; and to promote the development of libraries statewide. Ours is a broad mission, and it is a tribute to our creative, dedicated, and talented staff that we have been able to offer the programs and services featured here.

In our quest for a new building to house the state's unique collections and enhance the services of the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums, we have abbreviated our long mission statement to say that we collect, protect and connect our resources with Alaskans and their libraries and historical and cultural institutions. A new building is needed not only because the collections have outgrown their present spaces, but more importantly we hope to better protect and provide access to the materials.

At the Alaska State Library, you will find great collections and friendly staff who take pride in helping people with genuine hospitality and professional expertise. Whatever brings you to the Alaska State Library, whether you are an individual seeking information or reading material on Alaska history, current issues, or in special formats, or are a representative of an Alaska library needing assistance with your programs to serve your community, we trust that you will continue to be pleased with your experience with us.

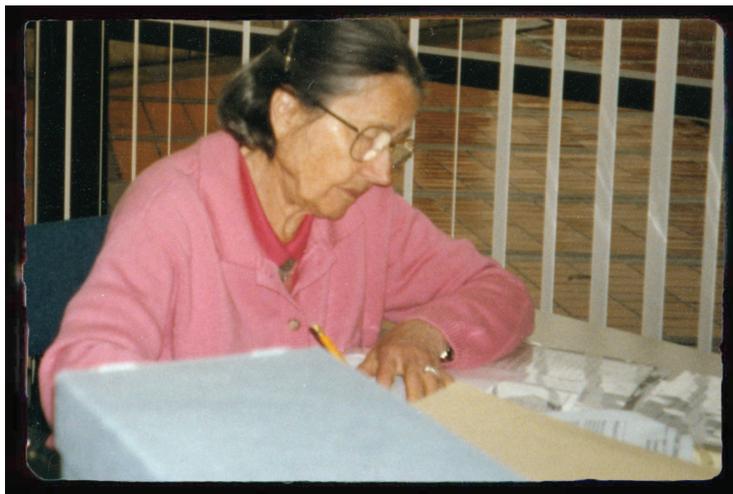
As we celebrate Alaska's 50 years of statehood, please take time to see what we have to offer at our website at library.state.ak.us in addition to the highlights noted in these pages. We look forward to serving you in the coming years.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathryn H. (Kay) Shelton

ALASKA STATE LIBRARIAN
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS

FEBRUARY 28, 2008



DR. FEDERICA DE LAGUNA RESEARCHES IN THE HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS, 1996.
ASL-P134-JUNEAU-ASL-57.

“OF PARTICULAR NOTE,
THE LIBRARY WELCOMED THE
FIRST INSTALLMENT
OF THE DR. FEDERICA DE LAGUNA COLLECTION,
A PHOTOGRAPHIC TREASURE OF
NATIVE CULTURES FROM
AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL POINT OF VIEW.”

This Year in Alaska Historical Collections

The Alaska Historical Collections collects and preserves primary and secondary source Alaska research materials. Then we forge connections between these historical materials and users - state agencies and the legislature as well as state, national, and international researchers.

In addition to welcoming researchers into our reading room, the Historical Collections brings the library to researchers and students online. This year we added over 2500 items onto the Alaska Digital Archives and helped other organizations to plan digital projects. Items from the rich Historical Collections were also shared with the Library of Congress to add Alaska materials to its American Memory collection website.

With grants from the Alaska Historical Commission, Judge James Wickersham's diaries, consisting of about 3600 daily entries, 1909-1929, have been digitized and transcribed. We have been enjoying his "shoot from the hip" political style; another highlight is the first statehood bill introduced in U.S. Congress in 1916.

A photograph exhibit titled "Schools in Rural Alaska" was hosted by the Alaska State Museum Shop in Juneau during the 2007 legislative session and the summer tourist season. The exhibit features 20 images from the Evelyn Butler and George Dale Collection and the Records of Alaska Schools. Currently hung in the Governor's conference room in the State

Capitol, it will be offered as a traveling exhibit and on our website.

An online weblog, or blog, invites the public-at-large to identify and enjoy a few of the images which arrive at the collections with little to no identifying information. This mystery photo website has assisted in identification.

Division personnel assisted colleagues in Sitka in assessing and addressing the preservation needs of the C.L. Andrews and Alaska Reference Room collections at the Stratton Library after the closing of Sheldon Jackson College. Also they sponsored a one-day statewide training in MPLP - More Product, Less Process. As a result, backlogs are being reduced in institutions throughout Alaska as collections of primary materials are being processed to a minimum level and made accessible to the general public.

The Alaska Historical Collections continues to add to its remarkable Alaskan collections in every imaginable format. Of particular note, the Library welcomed the first installment of the Dr. Frederica de Laguna Collection, a photographic treasure of Native cultures from an anthropological point of view. As part of welcoming the collection to its permanent home, we hosted a reception and talk by Marie Francoise Guedon, Dr. de Laguna's executor and publisher. This part of the collection features Tlingit and Eyak cultures in the 1930s. It is anticipated that more of the collection will be received in 2008.

March 30th. 1916.
The 49th Anniversary of the signing
of the Treaty of the Purchase of Alaska
from Russia.
I introduced the first Alaska
Statehood Bill today.
H. R. 13987

It seems that R. P. Mackeyford and
his friends are reporting in Alaska
that I have entered into an agreement
with him to surrender the control

DIARY OF JUDGE JAMES WICKERSHAM.

"MARCH 30TH 1916.
THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF THE PURCHASE
OF ALASKA FROM RUSSIA.
INTRODUCED THE FIRST ALASKA STATEHOOD
BILL TODAY. H.R. 13987"

Digital Access to the Historical Collections

The Alaska State Library provides enhanced access to its historical records through a variety of electronic resources with particular emphasis on retrieval of information over the internet.

Libraries have a long tradition of cataloging books in order to make them accessible. Describing Alaska's primary source materials, such as photographs, manuscripts, and documents, is a more recent effort which is crucial to making available some of the most important materials in the State Library's collection, particularly those materials in the Alaska Historical Collections. Since most of the materials are not available for loan, this availability is central to the State Library's mission to offer intellectual access to the material.

MARC records now direct researchers to archival collections through the library's catalog (Capital Cities Libraries Information Center). Collection level guides to archival materials are available through multiple gateways such as Capital City Library's catalog and Northwest Digital

Archives. Participation in the Northwest Digital Archives places archival collections from the Alaska State Library in context with materials from dozens of collecting institutions throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Complete inventories of the archival collections, previously available only within the library, are being made available on the Alaska State Library web server where they are accessible directly to researchers.

Alaska's Digital Archives has become an essential resource for researching Alaskan history. Over 30,000 items are currently available, with 11,000 items contributed by the Alaska State Library Historical Collections. This project is shared with a consortium of Alaska institutions and repositories and is housed at the UAF Rasmuson Library.

Visit the website of the Alaska State Library Historical Collections, and explore the resources of Alaska's rich heritage.

LIBRARY.STATE.AK.US/HIST



EMPLOYEES KATIE FEARER AND MAEGHAN KEARNEY AT WORK IN THE REFERENCE SECTION.

“MATTHEW FELT VERY SPECIAL TO GET YOUR REPLY
- HE SPENT AT LEAST 5 DAYS
TELLING EVERYONE WHO WOULD LISTEN THAT HE
GOT AN EMAIL FROM ALASKA’S LIBRARIAN.
AT THE END OF THE PROJECT,
THE TEACHER WILL SEND ME THE
POWERPOINT PRESENTATION, AND MATTHEW
AND I WILL SEND IT TO YOU.
AGAIN, THANKS FOR YOUR REPLY,
AND MY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF ALASKA FOR A VERY INFORMATIVE
AND EASY-TO-USE WEBSITE.”

MOTHER OF STUDENT

This Year in Information Services

Unlike a traditional public library, Information Services focuses on materials that help State employees do their work and collects documents from State agencies. We catalog materials for all sections of the library as well as answer cataloging questions from librarians across the state. In short, Information Services is the government research and current-awareness arm of the State Library.

Information Services is the home of three government document depositories — a set of Canadian government publications, a Federal documents depository, and the Alaska State Publications Program.

The Program collects materials from State of Alaska agencies and distributes them to the Library of Congress and selected libraries around the state. The Program preserves State electronic publications using the LOCKSS system in an informal partnership with universities across the United States. In 2007, the Program cataloged over 2500 State publications; the majority of these would not have been cataloged and available to Alaskans without our cataloging.

We answered over 10,000 questions last year from the simple to the complex for State agency employees, tourists, schoolchildren, and libraries across the nation through our Ask-a-Librarian service.

We provide State employees with ongoing information alerts about legislation and regulations, provide news in their field, and supply current journal articles through our Information Alerts services. In monthly workshops, we teach state employees and members of the public how to use the rich information services available to them, many purchased by us on their behalf.

In the last five years, Information Services has emphasized our online presence, and we are expanding our web-based services every year. Many journals and databases are available on our website, and we provide online resource guides for every State department as well as an index of statistics published by the state. State employees can sign up for our services on the web and receive information in their email. Essentially, Alaskans can visit our library without ever stepping through the door.

We have a collection of Alaskana available throughout the state via our active interlibrary loan service. We helped our patrons borrow over 2200 resources from other libraries and processed over 1300 requests to lend resources to other libraries. We share and maintain a catalog with the other libraries in Juneau, allowing us to provide more effective and efficient service to all of our patrons.



EMPLOYEES DANIEL CORNWALL AND SHERI SOMERVILLE DISCUSS A NEW DATABASE OFFERING.

“PERFECT! I GOT ADDITIONAL INFO AS WELL.
THANKS SO MUCH... IT IS LIKE A GIFT!”

STATE EMPLOYEE

Information Services Gets the Word Out

Breaking free of the physical confines of the library has been the overreaching goal of Information Services for the last year. While increasing digital resources provided by the library have gone far in achieving this goal, we also have begun offering a series of workshops designed not only to highlight our services, but to help patrons in using those services.

In 2007, we started holding hands-on classes for State employees. Held on a variety of topics, the classes offer introductions to research tools in an environment that encourages exploration and discourse between State departments.

Librarians guided patrons through databases, like GovSearch, and showed them how to conduct effective searches. State employees learned tricks and tips to get better results when querying Google and when to choose a different resource. A class on free and low-cost images, audio files, and video files was filled to capacity with people interested in spicing up their webpages and presentations. Other topics covered in this series included finding full-text articles online, federal government information sources, and RSS feeds on pertinent issues.

After establishing our classes for State employees, we built on our success by offering a set of informal workshops to the public. Encompassing a wide array of subjects, these workshops are held during the lunch hour and encourage a loose, free-flowing exchange of information and ideas.

During our Lunchtime Learning, we covered some of the more popular topics from those offered to State employees and added some geared to help patrons outside of work. Sources for tax information, online consumer health resources, even puzzles designed to boost brain agility were new areas explored by these workshops.

We are happy to say the workshops have been popular with State employees, our primary target audience. To help publicize our educational opportunities, we created an automated announcement list. Subscribers to the list receive notices of upcoming classes and events at the library. We've also created an education wiki with resources from current and past classes and an opportunity for attendees to comment and build upon connections made during classes.

LIBRARY.STATE.AK.US/IS/INFO_SERVICES_TRAINING.HTML

This Year in Library Development

The Library Development coordinators promote a cooperative network of strong libraries for Alaska's citizens, provide leadership and educational opportunities for school and public libraries, and administer state and federal grants. Routine activities include advising school and public libraries via phone, email and during site visits as well as administering state, federal and private grants. Our goal is to connect with libraries throughout the state and help them serve their communities in the most effective way.

Education for librarians translates into better services for people who use libraries. In 2007, coordinators led programs, some supported in part by grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), including:

- A Professional Development Institute for mid-sized libraries focused on personnel management and building community support.
- A Technology Workshop, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, offered the opportunity to explore Web 2.0 and nitty-gritty networking to librarians.
- The Barrow Library Camp offered a week of basic library operations training at the Illisagvik College and Tuzzy Library.
- Leadership training for directors of Alaska's largest libraries offered a dynamic session by Valerie Gross on *Creating the Indispensable Library: Community Engagement*.
- A library construction seminar brought together sixteen library directors working on new buildings to learn about best practices and the resources available in Alaska that can help them navigate capital projects.
- An institute for youth services staff featured sessions on the statewide summer reading program, grant writing, reading motivation, an idea exchange and a session by children's literature consultant Judy Freeman, author of *Books Kids Will Sit Still For*.
- The School Library Leadership Academy offered a rare in-state professional development opportunity for certified teacher librarians on a variety of topics including Web 2.0 tools, reading motivation programs, and the newest books for children and teens.

The Library also initiated the effort to build a more formal Alaska Library Network, devoted to fostering cooperative projects that benefit Alaska libraries. An early ALN project rebranded Databases for Alaskans as the Digital Pipeline. Several video tutorials were added in collaboration with the Anchorage School District and UAA/APU Consortium Library. ALN is funded in part by a grant from IMLS.

SLED continues to provide Alaskans with selected web sites that can answer nearly any question. Websites are reviewed regularly for content, broken links and usefulness by a dedicated committee of librarians, and its web page continues to

be the doorway to our best online resources for the public.

For people without a public library, the Regional Services program, managed by the Juneau Public Library and Fairbanks North Star Borough Library, provides books by mail and served over 1400 users in 2007.

ListenAlaska was initiated in early 2007 as a pilot project and is proving to be popular.

Libraries now provide downloadable audiobooks. In its first year, it offered 2100 titles with over 20,000 checkouts.

With an IMLS grant from the Alaska State Library, the Anchorage Public Library laid the groundwork for a Ready to Read Resource Center, a statewide resource for libraries and agencies that provide childcare or parenting instruction. This program will be fully functional in 2008.

The Alaska Native Issues Roundtable met in April to discuss library services to their communities and to draft recommendations for the new LSTA five year plan. The group

of eight brought forward recommendations, including a future summit of Alaska Native Information Professionals.

The Alaska State Library again sponsored a statewide summer reading program that offers free and low-cost materials to public libraries throughout the state. This program helps children and teens main-

tain their reading skills when school is not in session. Most Alaska public libraries offer the program, and over 10,000 children

and teens participate. In 2007 the theme was "Get a Clue!"

Live Homework Help continued to be offered through SLED with a grant from IMLS. The use of the service continues to grow as the service became Apple as well as Microsoft compatible, with almost 14,000 sessions logged in 2007.

In the past year 43 public libraries, 15 community libraries within schools, and all school libraries in Alaska benefited from participation in the E-Rate/Universal Service Fund program. This program, which gives up to 90% discounts on telecommunications and Internet bills, brings close to 1.5 million dollars of funding to public and school libraries each year.

LIBRARY.STATE.AK.US/DEV/LIBDEV.HTML



LIBRARIANS SPONSORED BY THE STATE LIBRARY AT WORK IN HOOPER BAY.

“DESPITE POWER OUTAGES,
A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR A COMMUNITY ELDER
GOING ON RIGHT OUTSIDE
THE LIBRARY IN THE SCHOOL COMMONS,
AND THREE DAYS OF NO HEAT,
THEY WERE ABLE TO GET THE PURCHASED BOOKS
ON THE SHELVES IN ROUGH ORDER
IN A LITTLE UNDER TWO HOURS
WITH THE HELP OF DOZENS OF HOOPER BAY
SCHOOL STUDENTS.”

Library SWAT Team Hits Hooper Bay

In August 2006, the western Alaska community of Hooper Bay lost its school in a fire that demolished the school building along with a number of teacher and community residences. Fortunately, the Lower Yukon School District was in the process of replacing the old school building. In December, Hooper Bay students resumed full days in the new school. The new school, arranged around a several-story commons area, serves around 400 students in all grades. Just off the commons is full-sized school library. With no district school library coordinator and a newly hired library aide with no formal training, Principal Ken Hagel was anxious to make the school library operational but needed help.

To the rescue came the School Library SWAT Team, a group of librarians funded by an interlibrary cooperation grant to the Alaska Library Association. Consisting of two State Library coordinators, three retired school librarians, and one school librarian from a neighboring school district who worked through her Christmas holidays, the team traveled to Hooper Bay in January 2007.

At the school they found the large library space piled high with boxes of books — 63 boxes of purchased books and more than twice that many boxes of donations from all over the state. Despite power outages, a memorial service for a community elder

going on right outside the library in the school commons, and three days of no heat, they were able to get the purchased books on the shelves in rough order in a little under two hours with the help of dozens of Hooper Bay students.

The rest of the week was devoted to sorting through the thousands of donated titles. They created an Alaskana section, a reference section, and an area for beginning readers. Working well into the evenings and with temperatures in the library that sometimes dipped down to 48° F, the SWAT team accomplished these objectives and managed to add catalog records for all the donated books that were put on the shelf.

Thousands of books that were duplicates, damaged, or not suitable for a school library collection were made available to teachers, students, and the community. There was high interest among students and parents in selecting books for home. A group of middle school boys discovered duplicate Harry Potter titles and inscribed their names in each of the books as soon as they claimed complete sets.

White-out conditions or low-lying clouds meant that the team was in Hooper Bay a few days longer than planned, but that gave them the opportunity to enjoy the repairs that allowed them to spend the last two days in a library with the temperature finally at 68° above!



STACKS OF 4-TRACK CASSETTES BEING PROCESSED.

“THE TALKING BOOKS
AND RECORDINGS ON 4-TRACK CASSETTES
CANNOT BE BOUGHT
AT THE LOCAL BOOKSTORE.
THEY ARE AVAILABLE ON LOAN WITH
SPECIAL PLAYBACK EQUIPMENT TO ELIGIBLE
HANDICAPPED PEOPLE.”

This Year at the Talking Book Center

The Alaska State Library Talking Book Center provides talking book and Braille services for patrons who cannot read standard print materials. The Center is a partnership between the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the Alaska State Library.

In 2007, this library had 1027 registered patrons and served approximately 600 Alaskans each month. While the library is located in Anchorage, it serves the state-wide community. The library provides machinery and materials in several formats to meet the needs of disabled Alaskans. A contract with the Library for the Blind in Utah provides Braille materials.

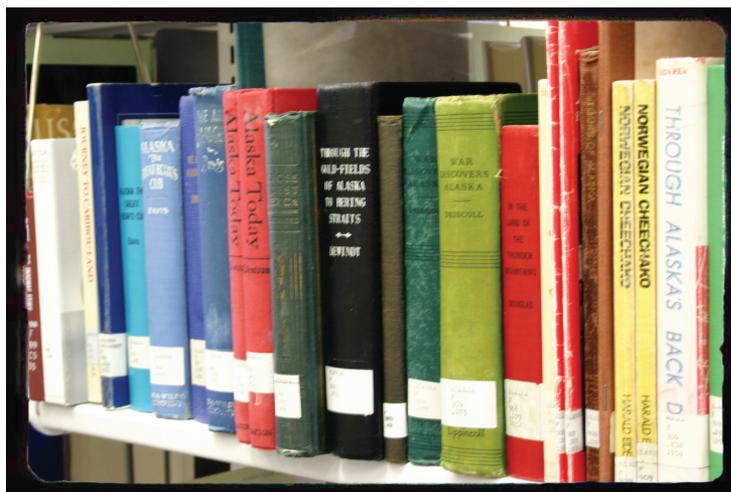
This service also supports the special library needs of K-12 students statewide.

In 2007, the Center served 72 juveniles (children up to 13 years in age).

Events in 2007 included a presentation at the 2007 Alaska Independent Blind Convention held October 4-6, 2007 in Anchorage that highlighted information about the upcoming transition to digital players and flash memory cartridges, which will begin Fall 2008.

The talking books and recordings on 4-track cassettes cannot be bought at the local bookstore. They are available on loan with special playback equipment to eligible handicapped people. Any U.S. citizen or resident who cannot hold a book or read standard print can apply to borrow these materials. The books, magazines, and playback equipment are mailed postage-free directly to the borrower.

LIBRARY.STATE.AK.US/DEV/TBC.HTML



SHELVES OF ALASKANA.

“AN IMPORTANT ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR WAS
THE REVIEW AND RENEWAL OF THE
FIVE-YEAR LIBRARY SERVICES TECHNOLOGY ACT (LSTA) STATE PLAN,
WHICH GUIDES THE ALASKA STATE LIBRARY
AS IT ADMINISTERS
OVER 60 GRANTS FUNDED ANNUALLY FROM THE
FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS).”

Library Services and Technology Act

An important activity for the year was the review and renewal of the five-year Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) State Plan, which guides the Alaska State Library as it administers over 60 grants funded annually from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Alaska State Library staff, particularly those in Library Development, worked closely with the Governor's Advisory Council on Libraries on the review of the old five-year plan and development of a new plan for the coming five years.

State Library Development coordinators teamed with librarians with special expertise to evaluate the grant projects funded with LSTA money over the past five years. The resulting evaluation found

that "progress was made on all five State Plan goals." These funds "give the State Library the flexibility to try innovative projects or new technologies, such as Live Homework Help," but also support the provision of "traditional library services, such as purchasing integrated library systems." The process highlighted the need to better document the accomplishments of long-standing grant-funded projects.

The planning team of Alaska State Library staff and the Governor's Advisory Council worked on a needs assessment and developed a plan responsive to the LSTA mandate and Alaska library needs, resulting in a current Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Alaska State Plan 2008 – 2012.

2007 Governor's Advisory Council on Libraries

Mary (Cathy) C. Boutin
Library User

Linda Henning
Library Trustee/Rural

Aldean Kilbourn
Library User

Patricia K. Kilmain
AkLA nomination/Public Libraries

Jacklynn Lorensen
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Public Library

Ann Myren
AkLA Nomination/Past-President

Elizabeth (Beth) R. Odsen
AkLA Nomination/Special Libraries

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Terrill A. Sullivan
Library User

Robert Vanderwege
AkLA nomination/School Library

Kathleen Wiechelma
AkLA nomination/Academic Library



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