

FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

1/7/2011

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ALASKA OWL TAKES FLIGHT

On December 15-16, Alaska State Library, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, U.S. Department of Commerce and Rasmuson Foundation staff members joined with an excited group of librarians and community partners to celebrate the launch of the [Alaska OWL: Online With Libraries](#) project. The project will provide broadband Internet service to Alaska's 105 public libraries, as well as public videoconferencing network, training and support for e-rate applications.

The \$8.2 million project is jointly funded by a [U.S. Department of Commerce BTOP grant](#) of \$5.4 million to the [Alaska Department of Education and Early Development](#) and matching funds from the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), the [Alaska State Library](#) and [Rasmuson Foundation](#).

Libraries are part of the bedrock of Alaska's educational and social systems, but also a symbol of our democratic society. What libraries do is more relevant today than ever before and internet connectivity is an important aspect of how citizens can use their libraries.

Read a blog from the Rasmuson Foundation about the launch: <http://www.rasmuson.org/blog/>
Alaska OWL: Online With Libraries website: <http://www.library.state.ak.us/dev/owl.html>

STATE LIBRARY PRESERVES SITE OF LT. GOV CAMPBELL

As part of its ongoing efforts to preserve state government digital materials, the Alaska State Library's Government Publications section made a web snapshot of the Governor/Lt Governor pages on the last day of the Parnell/Campbell administration. These pages and ones previously collected for the Palin/Parnell administration can be viewed at <http://archive-it.org/public/collection.html?id=1200>.

WHAT'S IN THE ARCHIVES: COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION

Community transportation related records are the focus of today's tour of the Alaska State Archives conducted by Archivist Larry Hibpshman.

Alaska is well known for its air transportation. Here are two series that support community flying and describe airport establishment and maintenance for many local airports:

- Governor's Washington DC Office produced a file of rural airport overhead transparencies 1968-1990. The file shows aircraft, flying conditions & airports of every size: Small airports, workhorses like this Grumman Goose at Unga, large transports, international airports; examples of Alaska's Russian Far East trade.
- Division of Aviation Secondary Airport files 1959-1964 & Trunk-Secondary Airport Projects, 1959-1969

Some of our series relate to water transportation -- the ferry system and commercial fishing, and some to ground transportation. One thing I wish I could show you is our Alaska Road Commission maps & drawings, 1905-1957. Unfortunately our map collections were recently moved to the new offsite building and haven't yet been reorganized; they wouldn't have been convenient to retrieve.

2010 NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE

On Friday, December 17, 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama presented the 2010 National Medal for Museum and Library Service to five museums and five libraries at a White House ceremony. The awards are made annually by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to museums and libraries that have demonstrated a long-term commitment to public service through innovative programs and community partnerships.

Mrs. Obama thanked and congratulated the award winners and said, "But while some of your work may be national in scope, ultimately your most powerful impact is local. Each of you is an integral part of your community. Each of you strives every day to meet the needs of the people who walk through your doors. And that's particularly true in times of challenge and crisis, when many of you offer vital services, stepping up to be there for folks when they need you the most."

To view Mrs. Obama's full remarks or watch the video stream go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/12/17/remarks-first-lady-national-medal-museum-and-library-services-ceremony>

Winners of the 2010 National Medal for Museum and Library Service are:

1. Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, Fishers, IN
2. Explora, Albuquerque, NM
3. Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, CA
4. Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS
5. Nashville Public Library, Nashville, TN
6. The New York Botanical Garden, New York, NY
7. Patchogue-Medford Library, Patchogue, NY
8. Peter White Public Library, Marquette, MI
9. Rangeview Library District and Anythink Libraries, Adams County, CO
10. West Bloomfield Township Public Library, West Bloomfield Township, MI

NEW FEDERAL BLOGS

The Federal government announced a number of new blogs last month that might be of use to you or your patrons:

- Art Works - <http://www.arts.gov/artworks> - National Endowment for the Arts staff blog about the three facets of Art Works: works of art themselves, the ways art works on audiences, and art as work.
- DCoE Blog - <http://www.dcoe.health.mil/blog/Default.aspx> - The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) helps warriors and their families with psychological health and traumatic brain injury issues.
- Energy Blog - <http://blog.energy.gov> - posts daily on topics such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, policy, green jobs, and more.
- Keep Food Safe Blog - <http://www.foodsafety.gov/blog/blog.html> - Practical information and tips from the experts to help you and your family stay food safe.
- Medicare Blog - <http://blog.medicare.gov> - Informs Medicare recipients and their caregivers about the latest Medicare news.
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Funding Blog - <http://blog.citizen.apps.gov/NIAIDFunding> - Explores funding, policy, and other topics for NIAID's extramural research community.
- Say Can You See? - <http://blog.americanhistory.si.edu> - The National Museum of American History takes readers behind the scenes at the museum, sharing insights and information about exhibitions, events, collections, research projects, and more.
- SAMHSA Dialogue - <http://blog.samhsa.gov> - This blog from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) focuses on how behavioral health issues are essential to overall health.

PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNS MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES ACT OF 2010

Washington, DC—The President signed into law the Museum and Library Services Act of 2010 (S. 3984) on December 22, 2010.

The new law reauthorizes the existing programs of the Institute of Museum and Library Services with some important changes. The updated language calls on IMLS to take an active role in research and data collection and to advise the President and Congress on museum, library, and information services. This Act also clearly recognizes how libraries and museums contribute to a competitive workforce and engaged citizenry. New language focuses on the development of essential 21st century skills.

IMLS Acting Director Marsha L. Semmel remarked, "The vitality and innovation of America's library and museum sectors, and their commitment to the free flow of information and ideas, is one of the most valuable assets of our democracy society. I am pleased to see this law's emphasis on the essential role of libraries and museums in advancing early learning, workforce development, and education reform."

Speaking on the Senate floor, the Act's principal author, Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), said, "The Museum and Library Services Act represents our national commitment to the institutions that are essential to building strong and vibrant communities. Through a relatively modest federal investment, this law helps build capacity to support and expand access to library and museum services at the State and

local level." ([See full remarks](#)). The other original sponsors of the Museum and Library Services Act of 2010 were Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY), and Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC).

The legislation advances the roles of libraries and museums in education, lifelong learning, preservation and workforce development. IMLS has been particularly active in providing leadership to align the activities of libraries and museums around our national priority for an educated workforce, a priority of the Obama Administration and essential for a 21st century global economy. Many of the statutory changes update current language to recognize the vitality and utility of the nation's libraries and museums.

The expanded authority facilitates IMLS's evolving role as a partner with other federal agencies. The ubiquity of the nation's 122,000 libraries and 18,500 museums, the trust invested in them by their communities, and their focus on learning and community engagement make them outstanding partners in furthering our nation's policy goals in a whole host of areas including health, education, cultural preservation, the environment, and global awareness.

[Full text of S.3984, 111th Congress \(2009 - 2010\)](#) (PDF, 164kB) The findings of several IMLS-supported studies are reflected in the changes put forth in S. 3984 including:

- [Museums, Libraries and 21st Century Skills](#) underscores the critical role our nation's museums and libraries play in helping citizens build such 21st century skills as information, communications, and technology literacy; critical thinking; problem solving; creativity; civic literacy; and global awareness.
- [Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from the Internet in U.S. Public Libraries](#), a nationwide study carried out by IMLS and the University of Washington Information School and supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, estimates that 77 million Americans used public library computers to access the internet with 40% seeking workforce information, 37% focused on health issues, and 42% furthering their formal education.
- [Catalyst for Change: The LSTA Grants to States Program and the Transformation of Library Services to the Public](#) studied 6,000 project activities over a five-year period and documented the importance of state libraries to planning and evaluation of library services, the use of technology to transform the delivery of library services, and the role of libraries in strengthening human capital in communities across the U.S.
- [Exhibiting Public Value: Government Funding for Museums in the United States](#) examined funding from a variety of sources at the federal, state, and local level and found gaps. It found that overall federal funding for museums was concentrated in specific geographic areas and specific museum types. (IMLS was the only federal agency found to support museums of all types and in every state for all seven years examined in the study.) While the study shed light on the rich complexity of museum funding, it called for more research. Specifically, there is a great need for a consistent, reliable museum census, greater standardization of data in the field and among funders and administrative data managers, more information about the nature of museum support at all levels of government, and a more systematic analysis of the human or social impact of museum services.
- [A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections](#), a project of Heritage Preservation and IMLS, which revealed that our collections of objects, documents, and digital material are not only essential to America's cultural health, but are imperiled and in need of swift protective action. The study estimated that 190 million objects held by archives, historical societies, libraries, museums, and scientific organizations in the United States are in need of conservation treatment; 65% of collecting institutions have experienced damage to collections due to improper storage; 80% of collecting institutions do not have an

emergency plan that includes collections, with staff trained to carry it out; and 40% of institutions have no funds allocated in their annual budgets for preservation or conservation.

SUSAN HILDRETH CONFIRMED AS DIRECTOR OF IMLS

Washington, DC—On December 22, 2010 Susan Hildreth's nomination to be director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) was confirmed by unanimous consent by the United States Senate. The Institute, an independent United States government agency, is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums.



“I am truly honored to have been appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as the fourth Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services,” said Hildreth. “I cannot imagine a more exciting and challenging responsibility than helping to create strong libraries and museums that sustain our heritage and culture and connect people to information and new ways of thinking.”

“Although we will certainly miss Susan in Seattle, she is going to be an outstanding leader for the Institute of Museum and Library Services,” said Senator Patty Murray (D-WA). “Susan and I share a passion for making sure that children across America get the literacy skills they need to succeed in school and in life. And I am confident that she will continue the Institute's great work supporting families and communities across the country.”

Hildreth was most recently head of the Seattle Public Library system. Before that she was California's state librarian. Prior to her position as California state librarian, Hildreth was at the San Francisco Public Library, where she served as deputy director and then city librarian. Her background also includes five years as deputy library director at the Sacramento Public Library, several years as Placer County's head librarian and four years as library director for the Benicia Public Library, all in California. She began her career as a branch librarian at the Edison Township Library in New Jersey.

Hildreth will serve a four-year term as the Director of the Institute. The directorship of the Institute alternates between individuals from the museum and library communities. She succeeds Marsha L. Semmel, who served as IMLS Acting Director since March 14, following the departure of IMLS Director Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Ph.D., at the conclusion of her four-year term. Semmel is currently the deputy director for museums and director for strategic partnerships.

STATE TO HOST FORUM ABOUT LIBRARY ARCHIVES MUSEUM PROJECT

JUNEAU -- On Wednesday, January 12, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. the design team and the State of Alaska will be hosting an open forum for the upcoming Library Archives Museum Project. The workshop will be held at the Silverbow Inn located at 120 Second Street, in Juneau.

The project is approaching a critical milestone and your feedback is important to us. Topics of discussion will include the results of a 30-day public comment period regarding the historical significance of the existing State Museum building, as well as the latest project developments

including floor plans and renderings. Join us to discuss the site and building design as we finalize the schematic design phase of the project.

The Library Archives Museum Project will result in a joint facility in Juneau for the state libraries, archives and museums. The current facilities are overcrowded, and some are in disrepair.

In 2002, the Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million to buy a 1.58-acre vacant lot in Juneau next to the Alaska State Museum. In 2006, the Legislature granted \$1.4 million for pre-planning and a needs assessment. In 2008, the Legislature appropriated \$7.5 million for architectural design of the LAM project. That work is ongoing.

For additional information see www.alaskalamp.blogspot.com or contact Brian Meissner at bmeissner@ecihyer.com or 907-561-5543.

GORDON BROWN IS HEAD OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT AT STATE ARCHIVES

We are pleased to announce that Gordon E. Brown began work in the position of Records Analyst III and head of the Records & Information Management Unit in the State Archives on January 3, 2011.

Gordon received his Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in History from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland and a Master of Philosophy in Digital Management & Preservation from the University of Glasgow.

He and Records Analyst II Linda Wynne will continue to bring quality service as you address your records and information management challenges. His direct telephone line is 465-2275.

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Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian and Director

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