

FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

11/14/2014

This newsletter is available weekly and previous issues are available at <http://lam.alaska.gov/fridaybulletin>.

Submissions for the Friday Bulletin should be sent to linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov and may be edited for content and length if used.

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NEWS FROM THE DIVISION

REDUCED HOURS AND SERVICES FOR HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS DURING MOVE

Beginning immediately, the Alaska State Library's Historical Collections will curtail reference room hours and reference services in order to physically move the majority of its collections to the secure vault in the new SLAM (State Libraries, Archives & Museums) building in Juneau. The move will take several months, during which the reference room will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. with limited access to collections. Email and virtual reference services will continue but may be somewhat slower than usual, because all of the staff will be working to facilitate the move. We appreciate your patience during this time, and we will reinstate full service as soon as possible.

A similar closure of the Alaska State Archives will take place as it moves its collection in March 2015.

LIBRARIES BUILD COMMUNITIES: VISTA PROJECT

We are recruiting a team of 3 VISTAs, with one each to serve in Coffman Cove, Thorne Bay, and the village of Kake. The goal of the Libraries Build Communities project is to improve the educational and economic opportunities for residents in Coffman Cove, Thorne Bay, and the village of Kake, while also increasing the effectiveness, services and sustainability of the public library in each of these communities.

The VISTA volunteers will work collaboratively with local and state agencies, schools and non-profits: To conduct community needs assessment and use assessment information to develop workshops, online self-paced training opportunities and resources that focus on financial literacy, job readiness skills and entrepreneurship; To create early literacy centers in each library and develop programs that promote early literacy, numeracy skill and school readiness; and To improve library services by developing library trustee training, volunteer recruitment and management procedures and grant writing; In Kake, the VISTA volunteer will develop a plan that addresses the decision-making, financing, policies, services, facilities, staffing and technology involved in creating a combined school/public library.

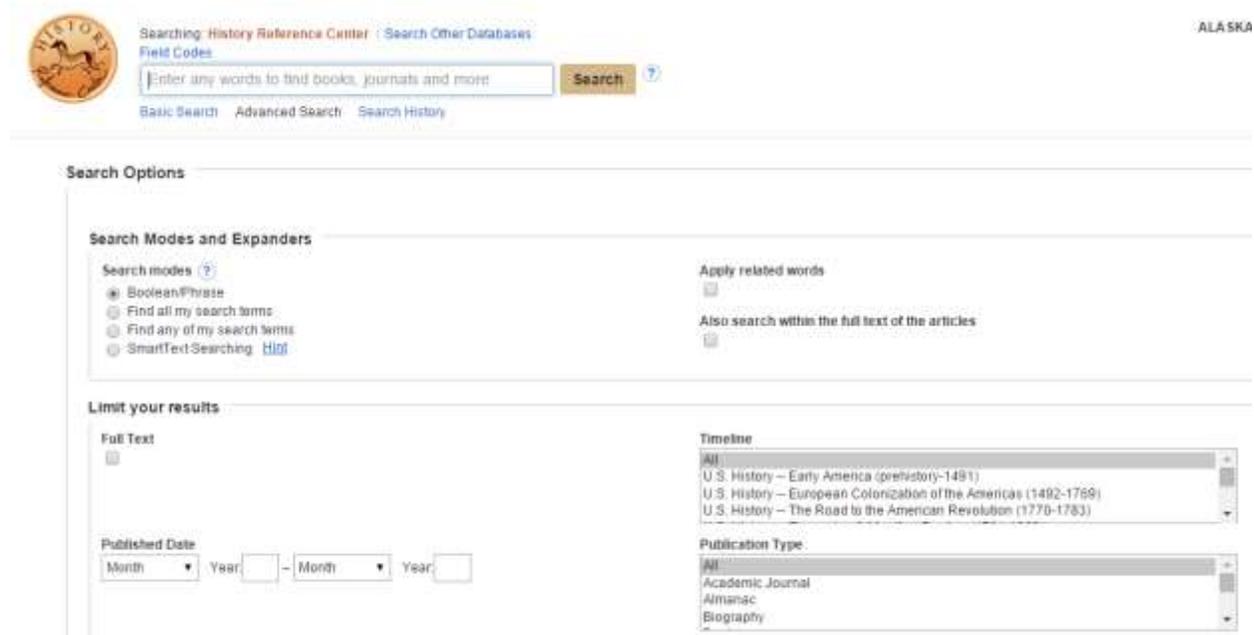
**Benefits include: Monthly living allowance (\$1,222), relocation costs (\$0.34/mile up to \$1000) and settling in allowance (\$550), health benefits, child care assistance, training, and an Education Award (\$5,730).

To more about the Libraries Build Communities Project and the apply, please use the following url <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=58021>

GETTING PRIMARY SOURCES FROM HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

You may have heard that the [History Reference Center](#) (in [SLED Databases](#)) has primary source material. Here is how to find it:

Click on “advanced search” under the search box. This will give you a screen like this:

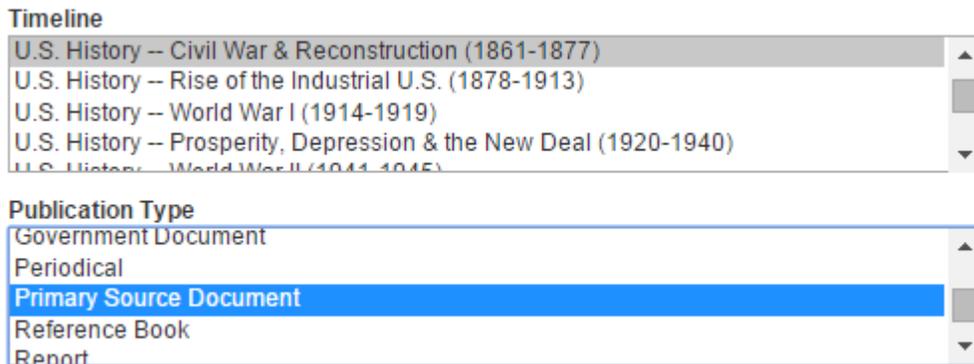


The screenshot shows the History Reference Center search interface. At the top left is a circular logo with a horse and the word "HISTORY". To its right is the text "Searching: History Reference Center" and a link "Search Other Databases". Below this is a search box with the placeholder text "Enter any words to find books, journals and more" and a "Search" button. Under the search box are links for "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", and "Search History". In the top right corner, the text "ALASKA" is visible.

The main section is titled "Search Options" and contains several sections:

- Search Modes and Expanders:** Includes "Search modes" with radio buttons for "Boolean/Phrase" (selected), "Find all my search terms", "Find any of my search terms", and "SmartText-Searching" (with a "Hide" link). There are also checkboxes for "Apply related words" and "Also search within the full text of the articles".
- Limit your results:** Includes a "Full Text" checkbox and a "Published Date" section with dropdown menus for "Month" and "Year" (with a hyphen between them).
- Timeline:** A dropdown menu showing "All" and three historical periods: "U.S. History -- Early America (prehistory-1491)", "U.S. History -- European Colonization of the Americas (1492-1769)", and "U.S. History -- The Road to the American Revolution (1770-1783)".
- Publication Type:** A dropdown menu showing "All", "Academic Journal", "Almanac", and "Biography".

Next, choose the time period that you are interested in under “timeline” and choose “primary source document” under publication type as shown below:



Then click the search button. You should then get a list of primary source documents from that time period, formatted something like this:



Many of these documents are taken from *The Essential Documents of American History* (2009) which was compiled by Norman P. Desmarais and James H. McGovern of Providence College.

HOURLY OF CODE IN ALASKAN LIBRARIES

As of this writing, the following Alaska libraries had either signed up for doing an Hour of Code event somewhere between 12/8 – 12/14/2014 or had indicated they would do so:

- Craig Public Library (Craig)
- Homer Public Library (Homer)
- Nenana Public Library (Nenana)
- Wendler Middle School Library (Anchorage)

Learn more about this global effort to make computer programming available to all at <http://hourofcode.com/us>. As of this writing, 84 Alaskan institutions, mostly schools have committed to doing an Hour of Code event this see. See <http://hourofcode.com/us/events/all/us/ak> for the full list.

NEWS FROM L.A.M.S IN ALASKA

APPS TO HELP KIDS CODE

Claudia Haines of the Homer Public Library recently sent us reviews for a couple of apps aimed at teaching basic computer programming to young(ish) audiences:

[Kodable](#)

Developer: SurfScore

Platform: iOS (iPad only)

Price: Free, with in-app purchases for additional levels and option for classroom subscription

Ages: 6-8

Kodable is a colorful, richly featured app that introduces kids to programming in a 2D game-style format. The stars of the app are fuzzes, fuzz balls exploring the universe. Young coders guide the fuzzes around the Kodable world by using drag and drop directional arrows (commands) to move the fuzzes along squares and collect coins. The free version of the app features 45 levels that are completed sequentially. Narrated tips and a small hand hover over correct commands if help is needed.

Music can be turned off in the settings menu on the home screen. The free version of the app has in-app purchases for additional levels and links to the classroom subscription version. Up to five profiles can be made

Lightbot

Developer: [Lightbot Inc.](#)

Platform: iOS (Mac, iPhone/iTouch, iPad), Google Play, Amazon (Kindle Fire), Windows, Web Browser (**Hour of Code free lite version**)

Cost: \$2.99 (*Lightbot One Hour Coding* version of the app is free- see note below)

Ages: 5+, recommended for ages 9-11

Lightbot is a 3D game-style app that teaches the basic concepts of programming. Each of 50 levels is played in order and teaches young coders to use commands to solve puzzles by moving a whimsical robot from square to square and lighting up specific tiles. The app introduces programming vocabulary and encourages an understanding of procedures, loops and conditionals. The app includes coins and stars to show progress. No in-app purchases, ads or social media links. Background music can be toggled on/off and instructional text language can be changed in the home screen. *Lightbot Jr.*, a simpler version designed for younger coders, is also available.

Note: *Lightbot One Hour Coding*, a special iOS and Android version released for the 2014 Hour of Code event, is temporarily available and offers a limited, free version of the full app. It's includes 14 levels.

If you are not familiar with December's Hour of Code event, [check out the FAQ](#). And let us know if you're hosting an event!

LEGOS AT JUNEAU PUBLIC LIBRARIES

We recently saw this mailing list message from Juneau Public Libraries describing their use of Legos received from the Lego Foundation via the Alaska State Library:

The Juneau Public Libraries has launched their LEGOS during a Science Friday at the Library program on November 7th, 2014. We are so thankful for this great new resource and we are looking forward to hours of fun programming and good old free and creative play. Usually we structure our Science Fridays with video, information presentation, and activity, but with the LEGOS we put them out and let the kids and their parents create. We had 42 children and 18 adults completely engrossed in their Junior Maker projects for over hour and half. Attached is our Thank You poster to the LEGO Foundation, the ALA, and the Alaska State Library for this wonderful donation to our library system. You can see more photos from our Science Friday LEGO program as well as all our programs on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/libraryevents.

Here is the thank you poster:



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAKE TECH SUPPORT CALLS CAN COST YOU MONEY, SECURITY

According to the federal internet protection site OnGuardOnline.gov, scam artists are employing “Tech Support Scams.” From the website,

In a recent twist, scam artists are using the phone to try to break into your computer. They call, claiming to be computer techs associated with well-known companies like Microsoft. They say that they’ve detected viruses or other malware on your computer to trick you into giving them remote access or paying for software you don’t need.

These scammers take advantage of your reasonable concerns about viruses and other threats. They know that computer users have heard time and again that it’s important to install security software. But the purpose behind their elaborate scheme isn’t to protect your computer; it’s to make money.

To fight these scammers, OnGuardOnline.gov offers the following tips:

- Don’t give control of your computer to a third party who calls you out of the blue.
- Do not rely on caller ID alone to authenticate a caller. Criminals spoof caller ID numbers. They may appear to be calling from a legitimate company or a local number, when they’re not even in the same country as you.
- Online search results might not be the best way to find technical support or get a company’s contact information. Scammers sometimes place online ads to convince *you* to call *them*. They pay to boost their ranking in search results so their websites and phone numbers appear above those of legitimate companies. If you want tech support, look for a company’s contact information on their software package or on your receipt.
- Never provide your credit card or financial information to someone who calls and claims to be from tech support.
- If a caller pressures you to buy a computer security product or says there is a subscription fee associated with the call, hang up. If you’re concerned about your computer, call your security software company directly and ask for help.
- Never give your password on the phone. No legitimate organization calls you and asks for your password.
- Put your phone number on the [National Do Not Call Registry](#), and then [report illegal sales calls](#).

For more on this scam and other things to look out for, visit <https://www.onguardonline.gov/articles/0346-tech-support-scams>

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