Friday Bulletin

News from the Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums

12/9/2016

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 patience.frederiksen@alaska.gov *and may be edited for content and length if used.*

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NEWS FROM THE DIVISION

Yup'ik Mask December Artifact of the Month

Sheldon Jackson Museum December 2016 Featured Artifact: mask (Yup'ik)

Learn more about our artifact this month.

Archive of Previous Artifacts of the Month

All artifact information is posted in PDF format, which can be viewed within your browser or a PDF viewer like Adobe Acrobat.

Alaska State Museum awarded paper preservation grant for Alaska sesquicentennial

The State Division of Libraries, Museums, and Archives (SLAM) is excited to announce a $15,000 grant to fund the paper conservation component of the upcoming sesquicentennial exhibit. The funding is part of the Alaska Historical Commission's 150th Anniversary of the Treaty of Cession and the Friends of SLAM are the fiscal sponsor. The funds will pay for the professional services of paper conservator Seth Irwin, who will conduct a condition survey of the Treaty-era paper-based collection materials identified by the State Library and Archives. Irwin will also perform conservation treatments on the most vulnerable and damaged materials. A selection of documents will be chosen from this grouping for exhibit and interpretation. Without proper assessment and treatment, most of the material from this era cannot exhibited. The obvious condition issues require very conservative restrictions because the staff is unsure if the level of handling and light exposure required for display will exacerbate damage. The State has previously not had the expertise on site nor the facilities available for proper paper conservation. Without the paper conservation component, the 2017 Sesquicentennial Exhibition would mainly consist of one large painting, and the opportunity would be missed to connect the public to the rich paper-based documentation that explores the context of the Treaty of Cession.

The direct results of the project will include a listing of Treaty-era materials within the State Library and Archive collections, condition assessment of these items, conservation treatment of a selection of these items, exhibition of a selection of these items, and a web exhibit. The indirect (but longer lasting) products include an expanded capacity for the State Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums to identify and prioritize paper conservation concerns and the commissioning of the first purpose-built paper conservation lab in the state of Alaska. This project will greatly increase the capacity of the state to care for its paper-based collections and springboard the state's ability to provide expertise and advice on paper-based collections conservation to other Alaskan institutions. While state finances will not likely permit the development of a full-time paper conservation position any time soon, a fully functional paper lab will allow the Division to contract paper conservation on a project basis. Previous projects and outreach have indicated that paper conservation is a longstanding statewide need.

NEWS FROM L.A.M.S IN ALASKA

Call for Nominations for Alaskana Award: Deadline 1/13/2016

Sharing a note from the chair of the Alaskana Ad Hoc Group:

> It's that time of the year again to nominate your favorite Alaska works for the annual AkLA Alaskana Award. The deadline for submission is January 13, 2017. The Alaskana award was established in 1994 to honor outstanding adult fiction and nonfiction works about Alaska published in any format. Works that will be considered make a significant contribution to the understanding of Alaska; exhibit originality, depth of research and knowledge of Alaska; and have been published in the calendar year preceding the AkLA conference (published in 2016) at which the award will be presented. The author is not required to be an Alaskan resident.
>
> Please include the following information with the nomination:
>
> - Author, title, place of publication, publisher, and date of publication (2016)
> - Full description of the work being nominated
> - Statement of the overall impact of the publication
> - Supporting documentation for this nomination should include critical testimony, such as published reviews or specially written letters that evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the nomination which will aid the review process.
> - If the nomination is published online, or an obscure publication, please provide a link or where to get copies from.
>
> Nominations must be received by Friday, January 13, 2016. You can mail, email or fax your nominations to me. My contact information is below. If you have any questions, feel free to call.
>
> Happy Reading,
> Teressa
>
> Teressa Williams, co-chair of Alaskana Ad Hoc Group
>
> Anchorage Museum
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> Anchorage, AK 99501
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You don't have to work in a library to nominate your favorite Alaskana for this award!

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Library of Congress, Digital Public Library of America to form new collaboration

The Library of Congress today signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Digital Public Library of America to become a "content hub partner" and will ultimately share a significant portion of its rich digital resources with DPLA's database of digital content records.

The first batch of records will include 5,000 items from three major Library of Congress maps collections—the Revolutionary War (loc.gov/collections/american-revolutionary-war-maps/about-this-collection/), Civil War (loc.gov/collections/civil-war-maps/about-this-collection/) and panoramic maps collections (loc.gov/collections/panoramic-maps/about-this-collection/).

"We are pleased to make the Digital Public Library of America a new door through which the public can access the digital riches of the Library of Congress," said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. "We will be sharing some beautiful, one-of-a-kind historic maps that I think people will really love. They are available online and I hope even more people discover them through DPLA."

"We couldn't be more thrilled to collaborate closely with the Library of Congress, to work with them on the important mission of maximizing access to our nation's shared cultural heritage," said DPLA's Executive Director Dan Cohen, "and we deeply appreciate not only the Library's incredible collections, but also the great efforts of the Librarian and her staff."

The Digital Public Library of America is a portal—effectively, a searchable catalog—that aggregates existing digitized content from major sources such as libraries, archives, museums and cultural institutions. It provides users with links back to the original content-provider site where the material can be viewed, read or, in some cases, downloaded.

For more, see press release at https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-16-207/library-of-congress-digital-public-library-of-america-to-form-new-collaboration/2016-11-29

Library Privacy Suggestions from the Electronic Frontier Foundation

The end of a year is a good time to review your privacy policies and think about what else you might do for your patrons. In a 12/5/2016 article, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) offers these suggestions:

1. Limit collection and retention of user information
2. Maintain policies and procedures for responding to government requests and for notifying users of requests received
3. Maintain accurate, accessible privacy policies, and notify users when they change
4. Use HTTPS for your whole website at all times, and push your vendors to do the same
5. Secure library computer browsers
6. Require third-party vendors to match library privacy practices for patron data

Some of the suggestions are easier than others. For more detail, read the full article:

Librarians, Act Now to Protect Your Users (Before It's Too Late) [EFF] https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/12/librarians-act-now-protect-your-users-its-too-late

Additional information on privacy & surveillance is available from the American Library Association (ALA). See http://www.ala.org/advocacy/privacyconfidentiality for more.

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