

Friday Bulletin

News from the Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums

7/15/2016

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

GREETINGS FROM PATIENCE FREDERIKSEN, NEW LAM DIRECTOR

I am excited to take on the challenge of leading the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums in a time when change never seems to stop. The outgoing director, Linda Thibodeau, has led the Division for the past eight years with distinction. The OWL Project and Program helped library patrons statewide with enhanced internet connectivity. The Alaska Native Libraries, Archives and Museum Summit (ANLAMS) led to the development of a statewide plan for improving these organizations. The Andrew P. Kashevaroff State Library, Archives and Museum building has provided the public with a magnificent facility that will also serve as a training location for library, archives and museum staff statewide. We will continue to develop projects like these that benefit libraries, archives and museums statewide.

As you all know, we are facing tremendous budget threats at the state and local level, just as we did when the price of oil crashed in the 1980s. Our organizations weathered that crash and we will weather this one. As long as we focus on our primary mission of service to our patrons, researchers and visitors, whether that service is over a public desk or in preserving collections behind the scenes, we cannot go wrong.

The Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums has a statewide mission to assist local libraries, archives and museums. Please feel to contact me with any ideas or concerns you have about this mission. I am especially interested in trends that your organizations are experiencing and in your ideas on how we can help you cope with these changes. I look forward to working with you to develop vibrant libraries, archives and museums that meet the needs of your communities. Thank you.

THANK YOU LINDA!

July 15th marks the last day of work at the division for Linda Thibodeau. Since 2008 she has served as Director of the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums and has had the title of Alaska State Librarian. This position is the capstone of Linda's career.

Linda began work as a speech therapist in the Juneau School District, then continued her education with a Master's degree in Speech Pathology & Audiology/Special Education from the University of Oregon. She worked as a special educator, reading teacher and classroom teacher in Juneau 1972-82, then as a classroom teacher in Anchorage 1982-1990, then in 1990 moved back to Juneau with her family to teach middle school.

In 1990 she began studying Library Science through the Alaska State Library's then-innovative distance delivery program with the University of Arizona, receiving a second Master's degree in 1994. She immediately became a librarian for the Juneau School District, first at two elementary schools, then at Juneau-Douglas High School. Her final school district position was as assistant principal at the high school. In 2004 she left the school district to work at the Alaska State library, first as a periodicals librarian, then as deputy and finally as director.

Linda is proud of a number of accomplishments from her years as an educator and librarian. She remembers bringing the middle school concept to, and serving on the first middle school teaching team, in the Anchorage School District; she was pleased to see her students soar in reading comprehension skills through a special reading/English/social studies block scheduling program. As a librarian, she adopted the mantra of her mentor, Ann Symons. That mantra was "We always say 'Yes' and then work to make it happen." At the State Library, she is proud to have been a part of the ANLAMs, OWL and SLAM building projects, and she tells us that she has especially loved watching the division rethink itself and coalesce as a team during the years of SLAM project funding, design and construction.

In retirement, Linda intends to spend more time with the family, more time being active instead of working at a desk, and less time worrying. She plans a road trip with her husband and dog, looking for 70-degree weather.

SHAKESPEARE FIRST FOLIO COMING TO KASHEVAROFF IN JUNEAU

First Folio! The book that gave us Shakespeare, on tour from the Folger Shakespeare Library, is coming to Alaska soon! Beginning July 26th and running through August 24th, a First Folio of Shakespeare's work will be on exhibit at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building in Juneau. We have a whole host of events to celebrate Shakespeare, in conjunction with the exhibit, including some that will be available through OWL. Check out the website at <http://lam.alaska.gov/FirstFolioAlaska>. If your library might be interested in joining in through OWL, check out the [OWL calendar](#) at or contact Claire Imamura at claire.imamura@alaska.gov or 907-465-2458 to find out about connecting via OWL videoconferencing.

MARK LISOWSKI: NEW VISTA IN THORNE BAY

There's a new Alaska State Library sponsored VISTA in Thorne Bay and we asked him to introduce himself:



Mark while hiking.

Greetings! My name is Mark Lisowski, and I am the new AmeriCorps VISTA Member serving in Thorne Bay for the "Libraries Build Communities Project." I am excited to be working closely with the community to increase and enhance services offered by the Thorne Bay library, gather resources, and most of all to culture the library space to become more of a community center. I will begin my service year in early May, 2016.

This will be (almost) my fourth term of service through AmeriCorps! While I was an undergraduate attending Ripon College in small-town Wisconsin, I made the choice to serve my first term with The Easter Seals of Wisconsin to assist in respite care for the disabled and their families. Once I graduated (May 2015), I served with the Department of Natural Resources in Iowa, building trails and various structures for the summer months. I began a term with AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) in October 2015, and exited the program in April to prepare for service with AmeriCorps VISTA.

I became inspired to serve in AmeriCorps because I believe it is a great way to be an activist for social and economic improvement. While I was studying English and Art History in college, I encouraged within myself a love and admiration for activism; I was intrigued by stories from history of passionate people who were vocal and expressive in their own ways about events that predate us. I wanted to make my mark in history as we live it now, and saw AmeriCorps as the way to make a difference.

OWL WEEK OF 7/4: SOCIAL SECURITY AND FRENCH

Last week OWL videoconference network usage included Social Security hearings and a French Language discussion group. Imagine what your library or agency could do with OWL.

If you're a library wishing to schedule a videoconference, use the [Videoconference Request Form](#).

If you're an agency or organization wishing to use the OWL Videoconference Network for either group or one on one video conferencing to save travel dollars, contact your local library or OWL Program Manager Daniel Cornwall at daniel.cornwall@alaska.gov.

See what's on tap in the coming weeks on the OWL Videoconferencing Network by visiting <http://library.alaska.gov/dev/owlCalendar.html>.

EBSCO KIDS INTERFACES RETIRED, USE EXPLORA

While we believe we've mentioned this before, we wanted to share this message from Lisa Dennis of EBSCO:

I just wanted to send along a friendly reminder that the old EBSCO K-12 interfaces – Searchasaurus, Kids Search and Student Research Center – were retired as of July 1, 2016. We have been reminding customers for quite some time about the phase out of these legacy products but just thought I'd mention it in case you receive calls from librarians.

If you haven't tried them yet, EBSCO has new K-12 interfaces listed on SLED:

- [Explora for Grades K-5](#)

A dedicated, graphically oriented search for EBSCO's health and education related databases, geared towards Kindergarten through 5th grades.

- [Explora for Grades 6-12](#)

A dedicated, graphically oriented search for EBSCO's health and education related databases geared towards grades 6-12.

- [Explora Educator's Edition](#)

Access lesson plans, student tools, curriculum standards and more, as well as a search of ERIC, Teacher Reference Center and Professional Development Center.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAKING HISTORY: CARLA HAYDEN CONFIRMED AS LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

We join many other institutions in congratulating Dr. Carla Hayden on her confirmation as the Librarian of Congress by a bipartisan Senate vote of 74-18. Senators Murkowski and Sullivan were among the ones to say "yea" to first professional librarian to hold the position in over 40 years, as well as the first woman and first African American Librarian of Congress.

Dr. Hayden previously oversaw the Baltimore library system and is quite well regarded for her work there. Prior to the vote, the American Library Association's (ALA) District Dispatch posted a list of [ten reasons to confirm Dr. Hayden](#).

ENGAGING HISTORY: DECODING THE CIVIL WAR | BUILD YOUR OWN PROJECT

We recently received a message from our friends at Zooniverse that we think will be useful to history buffs and students of all ages:

Come be a witness to the United States Civil War by transcribing and deciphering messages and codes from the United States Military Telegraph on [Decoding the Civil War](#).

We seek to engage experts and amateurs alike - our DCW Volunteer Corps - in a unique collaboration to transcribe and decipher a collection of almost 16,000 telegrams and 32 code books from [The Thomas T. Eckert Papers](#), an archive thought lost at the end of the war. You will be transcribing the daily telegram communications among Union officers, Cabinet members, telegraph operators, and others. The transcriptions, and ultimately the decoding, will contribute to national research, creating materials that will give insight into telegraphy, cryptography, civilian-military relations, and many other aspects of the war and American history more generally.

Perhaps the most meaningful outcome is the public access to previously unavailable historical records and the building of inquiry-based educational modules to bring history alive to classroom students. Help build a deeper understanding of the United States Civil War—Join our DCW Volunteer Corps now at www.decodingthecivilwar.org

Did you know that YOU can build a project like this if you have a set of images or digitized pages whose outsourcing or classification you wish to outsource? See <https://www.zooniverse.org/lab-how-to> for details. If you do build a project, we would LOVE to publicize it for you.

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