

# FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

1/6/2012

*This newsletter is available weekly and previous issues are available at [http://lam.alaska.gov/about\\_lam/FridayBulletin.html](http://lam.alaska.gov/about_lam/FridayBulletin.html).*

*Submissions for the Friday Bulletin should be sent to [linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov](mailto:linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov) and may be edited for content and length if used.*

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## NEWS FROM THE DIVISION

### WHO WE ARE: LINDA THIBODEAU (LAM DIRECTOR)



This is the most exciting and interesting job I have ever had – and I have had a rather chequered career. Starting work as a speech therapist, I have also been a special education teacher, a reading and social studies and English teacher, a school librarian, a school administrator, and charter school program manager. I have taught K-12, been a member of several teaching teams and helped start the middle school movement in the Anchorage School District.

Integrating all of these experiences has prepared me somewhat for the variety of activities involved as Division Director. Primarily, I would say that I have a broad background to support the educational

initiatives that are the breath of life for our division. We not only preserve objects and paper materials; we use our museum, archival and library collections to help students, researchers and all others learn about Alaska's history and present. I am proud to assist these educational goals in every way possible.

Our division has embarked on a number of projects that constantly stretch us all: some of these are SLAM, the new state library, archives and museums building that we are planning for the division; the OWL (Online With Libraries) grant-funded project to augment broadband-based services to public libraries; the acquisition and renovation of the Stratton Library in Sitka.

Everything about this job is exciting and every day is a new challenge. I love coming to work!

## **EVOS RECORDS PROJECT WEBSITE**

Just in case you haven't noticed, the Alaska State Archives' Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Litigation Records Appraisal and Processing Project has its website up (see <http://archives.alaska.gov/valdezProject.html>). The project overview is interesting and includes some great pictures, but I especially like how the Frequently Asked Questions gives insight to archives and records management in general, while answering questions that really are likely to come up in conjunction with this project. In particular, check out the answer to "Why dispose of any of the material? Why not keep all of it?" With some modification, the response may prove helpful not only to those in archives, but to those in other cultural institutions who have to explain why we can't just keep it all.

## **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GRANT OPPORTUNITY: NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICES**

From their press release:

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is accepting applications in the Native American Library Services Basic Grants grant program, with a deadline of March 1, 2012.

The following members of the IMLS staff are available by phone and e-mail to discuss general issues relating to these grants:

Alison Freese, PhD, Senior Library Program Officer  
202/653-4665  
[afreese@imls.gov](mailto:afreese@imls.gov)

Traci Rucker, Library Program Specialist  
202-653-4689  
[trucker@imls.gov](mailto:trucker@imls.gov)

#### **Web Conferencing with Program Staff**

IMLS invites you to participate in one of two pre-application Web conferences to learn more about the program, ask questions, and listen to the questions and comments of other participants. The Web conference schedule for the FY12 Native American Library Services Basic Grants program is as follows:

Tuesday, January 17, at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Alaska Time  
Tuesday, January 24, at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Alaska Time

For more information about this funding opportunity, including program guidelines, contacts, and webinar access information, see <http://www.ims.gov/applicants/detail.aspx?GrantId=15>.

See the IMLS grants search tool at <http://www.ims.gov/recipients/grantsearch.aspx> to view their archive of grants. Search grants by grant name, institution, or project type.

#### **UNIV. OF PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM ONLINE COLLECTIONS DATABASE**

Many museums post their collections databases, including our very own Alaska State Museums (see [http://www.museums.state.ak.us/about\\_collections.html](http://www.museums.state.ak.us/about_collections.html)), but it still provides an interesting example.

- Among the search options, you can limit results to those with an image and/or to those that are currently on display.
- Once you have your results, you can add choices to “my finds” and then save the list or share it in a variety of ways. I find that this additional functionality makes the resource much more usable.
- When I searched on Alaska, nearly 20,000 items were returned, over 400 of which include pictures.
- This might be another handy database for cultural institutions and the general public, and provides a nice example of features to consider in our own electronic projects.

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**Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian and Director**

Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums - Alaska Department of Education and Early Development  
PO 110571, Juneau, AK 99811-0571 - Tel: 465-2911 - Fax: 465-2151 - [linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov](mailto:linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov)