After attending the fantastic Alaska Library Association Conference in beautiful Ketchikan, Alaska, I am reminded how important it is that we have these opportunities to come together, share our ideas and learn from each other. The AkLA Conference jolted me from my routines and reminded me to see the bigger picture. I’m already looking forward to next year’s conference in Anchorage, March 8-11, 2018.

It blows me away that Alaska’s library staffs accomplish meaningful work for communities in remote areas with insufficient funding to meet the extensive needs. What Alaskan libraries and library workers do well is work together and work efficiently. We are stronger together, and this absolutely benefits our users. As your President, it is an honor to be a part of the organization that helps unite us. I look forward to serving the association to the best of my abilities.

I have included a brief update from the legislative session below and information about the Institute of Museum & Library Services funding. As you may already know, President Trump has proposed to eliminate all IMLS funding. Please remember that the advocacy committee and its chair, Katie Baxter, are a resource for advocacy advice.

**Update from Juneau:** Good news so far. As it currently stands, no cuts have been proposed and there are no differences between current versions of the
House and Senate operating budget on OWL, Broadband Assistance Grants, or Library operations. These are funded at the amount the Governor had in his original budget submission. We have entered into a contract for lobbying services with Ray Matiashowski and Associates, and they are providing updates as we move through the legislative session.

**IMLS Update:** Look for an IMLS Advocacy page on the AkLA web site. It is vitally important that we reach out to Senators Murkowski and Sullivan to help save IMLS funding.

These are the programs that will stop operations on July 1, 2018 if IMLS is cut:

1. Alaska Talking Book Center
2. Alaska Mail Services
3. Ready to Read Resource Center
4. 800 # and ILL Backup Service
5. Alaska Library Network
6. Summer Reading Program
7. Continuing Education grants to attend conferences
8. Professional Development grants AkASL awards to school librarians
9. School Library Consultant - Jared Shucha
10. 25% of funding for Live Homework Help
11. $300,000 for SLED statewide databases and the Discovery service
12. Battle of the Books grant to develop lists of books for next year
13. 50 libraries funded by IMLS Native American Basic Library grants will lose their annual operating grants
14. IMLS enhancement grants to libraries and museums will disappear.

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**AKLA 2017 – THE ART OF OUR WORK**

**Session: The Art in Bookmaking**

This was a hands-on session taught by artist Bonnie Thompson Norman of The Windowpane Press. She brought a selection of various types of unusual formats of books to showcase her work. They were fantastic, and very inspiring. There was a short discussion on choosing paper and how to identify and work with the grain of the paper in the different styles of books that she demonstrated. We also learned about different adhesives and tools to use.

In the session we made pop-up books, folded paper books, sewn bindings, Jacob’s ladder-style books, accordion-fold books, as well as a book that was bound with paper folding techniques instead of adhesives. In the session we used odds and ends of paper and the results were remarkable. It gave one a taste of the possibilities in book craft. To date, I have used only one as a project in the library, the book from a single folded page, but plan on using some of the other techniques as well.

*Kimberly Baxter*  
Craig Public Library
Hello to all who are interested in collection development! I’m Karen Jensen and I oversee the selection of databases, journals, and books (yes, we still buy books!) that we acquire at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Libraries. I took the reins of the CD Roundtable in March; I hope you all will consider participating.

I sent a message out to the Collection Development listserv but all is quiet these days; only two people responded. I know many receive the emails; 55 people are signed up for the listserv.

If you are interested in collection development at any level, you are welcome to join the listserv (see the AkLA web page for details) and contribute your ideas, suggestions, and program proposals for the next conference.

In recent years, CD Roundtable has sponsored panel programs at conference on weeding, e-books, and other topics. Long ago of course, this group worked on a major initiative to create a resource-sharing agreement statewide. What are your collection development and acquisition-related concerns today? The more ideas submitted, no matter how seemingly unrealistic or utopian, the more likely we will be able to put together something interesting for next year’s conference. We all know how fast the year goes by.

What are some things we might work on? Here are a few random thoughts:

• Demand driven acquisition
• E-book acquisition models
• Shared book archives
• Selection tools
• Subject profile collections
• Judicious weeding
• Publishers to watch out for–beware!
• Collection assessment
• Electronic resource management systems
• Measuring the impact of your collections
• What to do with self-published donations
• Bibliography–why and how in the age of social media

I’ll be calling for a Roundtable meeting in July or August so that we can come up with some program proposals in time for the conference call-out in September. So put on your thinking caps and start your list of ideas!

Karen Jensen
Collection Development Officer
Rasmuson Library
University of Alaska Fairbanks
kljensen@alaska.edu

http://www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/future/digitalbadges/
ALCTSFundamentalsOfCollectionDevelopmentAndManagement
AKLA CONFERENCE:  
PUBLIC LIBRARY, MARKETING, AND PROJECT OUTCOME

This year I was fortunate enough to get a Continuing Education Grant from the Alaska State Library. I used this money to fund my conference attendance in Ketchikan in February.

I always enjoy going to conference. The sessions, the speakers, and being around other library people never fail to energize me. For me, this year’s standouts were the Public Library Roundtable, M is for Marketing, and the Project Outcome Regional Training.

The Public Library Roundtable really brought home the fact that, no matter what size our community, we are dealing with universal issues in our libraries. Our discussion centered most on patrons experiencing homelessness and what libraries can do to assist them.

While we didn’t come up with a grand plan that solves homelessness, we did discuss what other communities are doing to help, and I believe we came up with some great topics for further discussion. I would expect to see more on this topic next year at Anchorage.

M is for Marketing gave great guidance in finding unique giveaways to tie in with our electronic resources. My favorite was printing information on the Home Improvement Reference Center on paint samples from Home Depot. I’m looking forward to using some of their ideas at outreach events this summer.

My library is interested in utilizing Project Outcome for some of our larger programs, so I went to the Regional Meeting to find out more. It offers standardized program evaluations in a variety of areas. The information entered will aggregate for your library, state, and at the national level.

I’ve already administered one lifelong learning survey, and I’m planning a follow-up survey in a few months. The website itself will be undergoing an update soon, and I’m hoping the changes will allow me to further customize some of the surveys offered.

Of course, the most valuable part of attending conference is networking and exchanging ideas with other Alaska librarians.

http://www.ala.org/pla/initiatives/performancemeasurement
www.projectoutcome.org

Project Outcome offers an innovative and easy-to-use platform for public libraries to measure the impact of their programs and services. Staff are able to easily measure patron outcomes using the field-tested surveys, quickly analyze their data using ready-made reports and interactive data dashboards, and take action using the results. This on-demand webinar provides an overview of the toolkit and examples of how libraries have been able to benefit from using Project Outcome.

Stacia McGourty
Adult Services Coordinator
Z.J. Loussac Public Library
As any youth services librarian will tell you, preparing for a fun-filled and engaging summer reading program takes months of planning and preparation.

There are guest presenters to line-up, field trips to arrange, books to review, and supplies for crafts, games and learning activities to gather.

Developing summer reading activities that appeal equally to children, teens, and adults can easily overwhelm the most energetic and enthusiastic youth services librarian. Fortunately, quality summer reading resources (manuals containing program ideas, artwork, and publicity) are readily available to libraries participating in the Alaska Statewide Summer Reading program. These resources are created by the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), a consortium of states working together to provide public libraries with a unified and high-quality summer reading product. CSLP is responsible for creating artwork that will accompany specific themes.

The Alaska State Library purchases a statewide membership to the Collaborative Summer Library Program, which allows every public library participating in the statewide summer reading program to join CSLP as well.

While the Public Library Coordinator serves as Alaska’s state representative to CSLP, any library staff member interested in becoming involved in the organization may register to serve on one or more of the CSLP manual, inclusion, or ad hoc committees.

The Collaborative Summer Library Program is a democratic, participatory, and transparent organization. CSLP earns money through the sale of the promotional summer reading products that they

(Cont. on pg. 6)
produce and sell through their exclusive vendor Demco. The money the organization earns pays for State representatives to travel to the annual meeting, contracts with illustrators, and the printed, online, and USB versions of the summer reading manuals. Members are expected to serve on one or more committees and actively participate during the annual meetings. The high quality summer reading manuals are created through the hard work of members, who donate their time soliciting for program ideas, evaluating the content, and writing the manuals.

Every annual meeting begins with an orientation for any new members. Everyone, even CSLP members with several annual meetings under their belt, is encouraged to attend the orientation and be on hand to welcome new members.

Annual reports from board members are included in the conference packet, and the annual meeting is organized so everyone is present during the reporting from standing and ad hoc committees. Two stationary microphones are set up near participants so anyone wanting to comment on a CSLP Board of Director’s decision, share a suggestion for an activity to be included in a manual, or ask a question may do so.

Each year, the Alaska State Library invites a youth services librarian to attend the CSLP Annual Meeting as a first-time attendee. This is a great opportunity for a librarian to learn about the Collaborative Summer Library Programs and the process involved in selecting the summer reading themes, slogans, and illustrators, and the committees responsible for developing the summer reading manual content and products. It is also an opportunity for a first-time attendee to share his or her knowledge about the types of programs and themes that appeal to Alaskans.

First-time attendees from Alaska are also introduced to and become acquainted with youth services librarians from around the country and from as far away as Samoa and Micronesia. This year’s first-time attendee was Holly Davis, the dynamic children’s librarian from the Haines Borough Library.

How does the magic of the summer reading programs happen? For 17 summers at the Haines Borough Public Library, I have received a wonderful treasure trove of ideas, art, and incentives each year to make amazing summer programs happen for people in Haines, and I never knew the whole story. Alaska’s public library coordinator, Julie Niederhauser, sends summer reading kits to libraries all over Alaska. It is the same program that is used in many places throughout
the United States and in Bermuda, Guam, American Samoa, and Micronesia. But how do these manuals get written? Who chooses the fun and catchy slogans? Where do they find these great illustrators whose original and eye-catching art appeals to children, families, and readers in so many places?

This year in Charleston, South Carolina, from April 10-12, I found the answers to some of the questions. It all started in 1987 in Minnesota, when ten libraries got together to form the Collaborative Summer Library Program. They chose a theme, artwork, and incentives that public libraries in the area could purchase and use. This grassroots movement has grown tremendously since then. It is now a very large group of dedicated librarians from all over the country and world. They work together to be sure there are high-quality summer reading programs every year for children and youth all across the United States and beyond. With committees of volunteers for the different manuals and more, the Collaborative Summer Library Program embodies the best of the famous quote from Margaret Mead: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Holly Davis
Children’s Librarian
Haines Borough Library

JUNEAU WINS ALA GRANT: GREAT STORIES CLUB PROGRAM

Public libraries often serve as school libraries for students not lucky enough to have their own librarian. The Juneau Public Library hosts class visits for young people in private religious schools, the charter school, and young people who live in the residential treatment facilities of Juneau Youth Services. We also have a book club at the Johnson Youth Center, part of the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice.

In 2016 we won an ALA grant that supplies books and supporting materials to run a book club with these teens. The Great Stories Club gives “underserved youth facing significant challenges the opportunity to read, reflect, and share ideas on topics that resonate with them.” Each cycle includes 11 copies of three books on a theme, a scholarly essay exploring that theme, activity ideas, training, and a list-serv of all participants.

The results were fun and rewarding, so when the grant administrators put out a call for advisors, I decided to go for it. I was surprised and delighted that we were selected as a test site for future grant cycles. My responsibilities began with a full-day planning meeting at the Brooklyn Public Library.

There were nine librarians in attendance, as well as representatives from ALA and NEH (National Endowment for Humanities), three scholars, and three authors: M.K. Asante, Nate Powell, and Andrew Aydin. With such strong credentials in the room I was concerned that people might look down on the lowly librarians, but instead it was the opposite. As we were the only participants who work directly with young people, they were very interested in what we had to contribute.

There are three basic themes in place for the next three grant cycles, and a billion wonderful book suggestions. Beginning in June we’ll have books to share with the participants at the Johnson Youth Center and Juneau Youth Services. Their feedback will help to shape the next three cycles. After all, they are the real experts in what is meaningful and engaging to teens.

For more information on the Great Stories Club:
https://apply.ala.org/greatstories

Amelia Jenkins, Youth Services
Juneau Public Library
In its first meeting in more than a year, the Juneau Chapter gathered at the Douglas Library, where we caught up on the most recent news from each library and shared some key things we learned at the Ketchikan conference, focusing on some tips and tricks on using Excel and EBSCO. We got so caught up in it that we actually ran over our allotted hour!

Our next meeting is scheduled for the morning of May 6 at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building—I guess since we have been open almost a year, we should stop calling it “new.” We have a special tour of the Alaska State Museum planned, free for members, a light brunch, and a brief membership meeting.

For more information about any of our meetings, or to reach a chapter officer with any questions, see http://akla.org/juneau/

Freya Anderson, Chair
AkLA Juneau Chapter

Battle of the Books selection two times, in 2006-7 and in 2015-16, and recently entered its 17th printing—with over 120,000 books sold! Cindy's website has just been updated with information on how to book this dynamic author for your school or library—check it out at cindylouaillaud.com

Delta Library Director Joyce McCombs was delighted to host Raven Homeschool students on Dr. Seuss's birthday.

Students looked through the vast collection of Seuss books in the library and listened to Miss Joyce read her all-time favorite Seuss story, "Green Eggs and Ham." The students also watched "The Lorax" and were tickled that a snack and sip were included with the movie.

As a grand finale, a parent helping with the field trip offered to read the library copy of "Horton Hears a Who" in Russian! Book bags, Seuss book marks, buttons and stickers were handed out to all after the show. Pictured with the students are Raven Homeschool director Heidi Mintun and Library Director Joyce McCombs.

(Cont. on pg. 9)
Raven students with book bags and Joyce McCombs, Librarian

Recess at Twenty Below

Joyce McCombs, Director
Delta Community Library
It’s hard to work in Youth Services and not have heard of Every Child Ready to Read 2.0 and the five early literacy practices it lays out to enhance and grow young children’s pre-reading skills. The practices were created to be easy and natural so that parents and caregivers can do them with their children every day. However, these practices are also things that we as librarians can try to incorporate into the interactions we have on a daily basis with the children that come to our libraries, and we can also model these practices for the parents and caregivers who come with them. One easy way to do this is through storytimes. I’d like to share with you some tips that you can incorporate into your storytimes at your libraries.

**Early Literacy Practices at Storytime**

**Read**

We do some of our best teaching while reading to a child. The advantages of being read to from birth can continue well into the grade school years. When you read to a child, you demonstrate to them that the printed words tell a story. You are showing them how to hold a book and which direction the words go. Picture books are an excellent way to build vocabulary as picture books contain rarer words that don’t always make it into day-to-day conversations.

• Choose larger books and books with clear pictures that make it easier for bigger groups to see
• Choose books with repetition of phrases or actions
• Include puppets, props, and other aids to assist with understanding and interest
• Choose books with nursery rhymes, poetry, and songs as well as books with environmental sounds, rhyming, and alliteration
• Choose books about familiar things and situations, familiar characters and familiar animals, but don’t be afraid to read books that stretch children’s knowledge and vocabulary and encourage their imagination

**Sing**

Singing songs and reciting rhymes slows down language, and the melody and rhythm make it easier for children to hear and separate syllables. Songs, rhymes, and poems help a child hear the different parts of words and the beginning sounds of words. Using rhymes, children can start to differentiate between different beginning sounds so that they learn that nose, toes, and goes, with their different beginning sounds, have completely different meanings. Singing also makes learning language fun!

• Choose music with a strong rhythm and songs that are familiar. Singing slower makes it easier for younger children to follow, and singing faster will provide a fun challenge for preschoolers. Rhyme or song lyrics can be printed on handouts or displayed on posters in the storytime area so that adult caregivers can participate and learn the words
• Offer fingerplays to add fun and build fine motor skills – small finger movements may be frustrating for the youngest crowds, so offer alternatives with whole hand and arm movements

**Play**

Playing helps develop social and emotional skills and has an important role in reading readiness. Children learn to think creatively and symbolically, using objects to represent real items. Play helps children expand their knowledge of their world. Through pretend play, children learn story-telling skills, sequencing—putting the events of the story in order (beginning, middle, end) —and comprehension—understanding the flow of the story and the responses, motives, and actions of the characters.

You can provide a space for children to play at your library. You can have toys and activities

(Cont. on pg. 11)
that accommodate a range of ages and stages of development and which encourage caregivers to play with their children. However, you’ll want to avoid toys and activities that are rigidly structured or those that have one intended outcome.

- Provide physical activities including clapping, bouncing, jumping, and marching in place
- Use props such as puppets, flannelboards, scarves, and musical instruments

Specific Tips for Using Props During Storytime:
- Puppets
  - Use puppets to introduce stories or transition between activities and/or as greeters
  - Play peekaboo with the puppet
- Scarves
  - Play peekaboo games
  - Wave scarves, first standing in place to get a sense of movement in space, and then moving on to dancing for all ages if space allows
- Musical Instruments
  - Clean them after the program, especially when used by babies, who tend to put them in their mouths
  - Have enough instruments to go around
  - Shakers add action and each shake can represent a word or a syllable or keep rhythm in a song

Talk

Talking helps children learn about language. They can gain decoding and comprehension skills and pick up new vocabulary. Because language is essential to the rest of cognitive development, the simple action of talking with a child is one of the best ways to develop language during the brain development years. It’s important that the talking is an interactive exchange between adult and child and not a passive experience.

- Incorporate humor into various aspects of storytime, such as during transitions, songs, or other activities
- Offer opportunities for children to respond to open-ended questions (“What is happening?”; “How do you think they feel?”; or “What would you do?”) and to share their observations, thoughts, and ideas
- When asking questions, allow extra time for younger children to respond by babbling or talking
- Explain some unfamiliar words that come up in picture books; don’t replace them with more common ones

Write

Writing skills start to develop as a baby begins to learn fine motor skills. Grasping and holding things are the beginning of writing. Developing fine motor skills can start with activities like putting things into and out of a box, playing with playdoh, playing with shaker eggs and instruments, and by doing fingerplays. Drawing shapes and other doodles can help children increase their letter knowledge as they learn that each has its own unique shape. Encouraging children to draw and scribble helps children make the connection between written and spoken words.

- Shaker eggs and other props can build fine motor skills, the precursor to writing
- Offer activities before and after storytimes that allow children to color or draw
- Talk to children about their drawings, ask questions, and help them label their drawings

Final Thoughts

It’s very easy to incorporate the five early literacy practices into our work with young children. By doing so, we can enrich their lives by helping them grow their pre-reading skills during library activities and, by modeling this behavior, encourage their caregivers to use these practices at home. Let’s help Alaska’s children succeed!

Samantha Blanquart
Early Literacy Outreach Coordinator
Anchorage Public Library/Alaska State Library
The season is upon us, and librarians from all over the state are gearing up and laying plans for another Summer of Reading in Alaska. Read on for a look at the amazing and creative ways that libraries will be looking to “Build a Better World” through reading, active engagement, and creative thinking.

• **Gustavus Library** is currently recruiting adult volunteers to present programming that may include making “Rube Goldberg” machines, indoor and outdoor games, recycled book crafts, blackout poetry, robot building, hiking, slam poetry, music performance, engineering with LEGOs, Kinex, and other media, home design, multimedia production, sewing, face painting, game competitions, and more.

• **Anchorage Public Library** is transitioning from our traditional summer reading program to a summer learning program. Children, adults, and families will be encouraged to read and participate in a number of different learning activities. For example cooking involves reading (the recipe), math skills (counting/measuring ingredients), and executive function skills (doing steps in the proper order). In this new program, called Summer Discovery, as they complete their activities, participants fill up a log and they can earn a free book. We are issuing challenges all summer long with fun activity ideas for all ages (Birth to Elder) to do separately together and are excited to take patrons on a new summer adventure.

• The **Ketchikan Public Library** Teen Summer Program is being created, once again, by the Teen Advisory Group. After several years of "being nice," T.A.G. will be hosting "Will You Survive the Summer?" Each program (seven in all) over the summer will feature an apocalypse AND survival training including a Zombie Apocalypse with disease prevention, the Four Horsemen with Animal Rescue Dogs, and Mutant Oreos with food safety. Teens will also be invited to play Survival Bingo this summer (with Urban and Wilderness options) to earn prizes. As well as the usual tickets earned for using the library and coming to events, tickets are entered into drawings for prizes at the final event — a Choose Your Own Apocalypse night of storytelling and improv games. The Ketchikan Public Library children's department is going rogue and saying down with traditional summer reading programs! We are changing it up to a summer LEARNING program, and while still emphasizing reading, we will be encouraging kids to get outside, to serve their community, and to explore and learn about the world around them.

• **Wasilla Public Library**, like Anchorage and Ketchikan libraries, will also continue to incorporate a variety of activities and challenges beyond reading to engage children, youth, and adults this summer. Building a better world involves examining our own day-to-day routines, looking for ways to improve everyone’s quality of life, and putting those ideas into action. Whether we are cleaning up a local park, leaving a kind note for a stranger, or reading a book about others who have changed the world, we can all make a difference!

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*Sara Saxton*
Youth Services Librarian
Wasilla Public Library
Anchorage Chapter – AkLA
Save the Dates for 2017 AkLA-A Events

**June:** no events; enjoy the summer!

For the rest of the year, we are working to plan these events, subject to change; details will be sent when available:

**July:** BBQ at Doug’s house/fundraiser for scholarships to attend the 2018 AkLA conference in Anchorage.

Tuesday, **August** 1, 7-8:15 PM at Loussac Library:
Come see and tour the renovated Loussac Library.

Tuesday, **September** 12, 7-9 PM at TapRoot:
Trivia night at the TapRoot. Last time, we won.

Tuesday, **October** 10, 7 PM:
In this joint event with FLIP (Future Librarians and Information Professionals), we’ll hear from Sarah Pace, who is interning at the Consortium Library and completing a cumulative e-portfolio as part of her MLS degree. Campus parking is free on Fridays.

Tuesday, **November** 14, 7 PM at UAA/APU Consortium Library:
Session about advocacy.

Friday, **December** 8, 7-9 PM, place TBD:
InterLibrary Lush: Come celebrate the end of the semester and the start of the holidays by socializing with your fellow library professionals.

Hope to see you at these events in 2017!

*Ruth Terry*

*AkLA-A Vice President*

*rterry@alaska.edu*
GENERAL GUIDELINES TO PUBLISHING IN NEWSPOKE

Alaska Library Association Newsletter

Not accepted: paid advertising; material intended to “sell; make a profit” rather than to “inform.” Submissions viewed as advertisements, unless item is of particular interest to Alaska, Alaskan patrons, libraries, or is submitted by an AkLA member.

Accepted: Alaskana—books, book reviews, or articles relating to, or of interest to, Alaskan librarians and/or their patrons. Informative material related to libraries and librarianship, especially in regard to Alaska.

Most anything submitted by AkLA members—reasonably tasteful, of appropriate length, “decently” well-written; author is willing to submit to possible editorial changes. This may include length, perhaps spellings, downsizing of convoluted sentences... (Editor will make every effort to let the author know of, and pre-approve, any significant changes before the material is published in Newspoke.)

Other—determined on an individual basis by “the committee” (defined as a group of at least three AkLA members).

If the Newspoke editor, or the individual submitting, has questions or concerns about any submission, the matter will be sent on to the Newspeak Committee.
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E-list

CALENDAR

ALA Annual Conf., Chicago, IL               Jun. 22-27, 2017
Assn. Rural & Small Libraries Conf., St. George, UT       Sep. 6-9, 2017
Amer. Assn. School Librarians, Phoenix, AZ                 Nov. 9-11, 2017
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Denver, CO                     Feb. 9-13, 2018
AKLA Annual Conf., Anchorage                          Mar. 8-11, 2018
Public Libraries Conf., Philadelphia, PA               Mar. 20-24, 2018
ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA                Jun. 21-26, 2018