Since 1992, a year after Clara Sitter suggested the Alaska Library Association create a scholarship for students pursuing a Master of Library Science (MLS) degree, fifty-one Alaskans have been awarded the AkLA scholarship. Initially a single $2000.00 scholarship was awarded each year. By 2001 the number of scholarships awarded and the amount of the scholarship had increased to $4000.00 due to additional funding from the Alaska State Library.

While not all AkLA scholarship recipients have chosen to remain in Alaska, many of those that have remained have become library and community leaders. Some past AkLA scholarship recipients include: Elise Tomlinson, Director of the Egan Library for the University of Southeast, Juneau; Stacey Glaser, Director of the Chukchi Consortium Library, Kotzebue, and current AkLA President; Ann Dixon, Director of the Homer Public Library; Mollie Good, Director of the Valdez Consortium Library; Linda Wynn, Records Manager for Sealaska and past AkLA President.

The decision to pursue an advanced degree is never made lightly. Earning an MLS requires a huge commitment of time, energy and money, often involving individual and family sacrifices. Those Alaskans who decide to pursue a Master’s in Library Science may be comforted to know that they have the support and financial backing of a larger library community.

Not sure if you are ready to pursue an advanced degree? I hope these shared experiences from some past AkLA scholarship recipients help
you decide to apply for the AkLA Scholarship and pursue your MLS.

* At first I was hesitant to apply for the AkLA Scholarship because I wasn’t certain that I wanted to work in Alaska for two years after graduation. But nowhere else would I have received the greatest job ever, Library Director of the Valdez Consortium Library. Alaska is a place of opportunity. Get your MLIS, put your time in here in Alaska, and the possibilities are endless. The kind of experience I am gaining right now wouldn’t have happened in the Lower 48. Take advantage of the scholarship, and take advantage of the library jobs our state has to offer. For those of you not from Alaska, consider it. It is a unique and wonderful place, and Alaskan librarians are some of the best people you will ever work with. Mollie Good, Valdez Consortium Library

* The scholarship made a big difference for me as it helped me get through school with fewer loans. Clearly, I would not be where I am today, professionally, without the degree. AkLA helped me make that happen. Sure, I would have done it anyway, but the amount I’m paying each month to my loan is less, and I will not be paying for as long as a result of that scholarship. Even more important to me was the feeling that I had a community which supported me. It saw that I’d make a great librarian, wanted me to succeed, and invested in me. That makes me even more passionate to give back to our organization. D’Arcy L. Hutchings, UAA Learning Resources Center

* I’m living the dream. In 2011, I was awarded the AkLA Scholarship for Graduate Library Studies to put toward my MLIS degree at Drexel University. Thanks to the support of my previous co-workers at Seward Community Library & Museum, AkLA membership, educated professors, and fellow librarians in the Twitterverse, I have grown in knowledge and developed respect for information professionalism. Through these privileges and experiences I would encourage anyone who has the same dream to share knowledge, organize information, and run with a greater sense of purpose... DO IT. Alaskan librarians and information specialists are always happy to cheer you on and guide you toward your goal. Amy Carney, Publications Specialist, Alaska State Library
Information on the Alaska Library Association scholarship is available online, http://akla.org/scholarships/application-and-reference-forms/. Completed application and reference forms must be received by January 15 of the award year. For more information contact Julie Niederhauser, Julie.niederhauser@alaska.gov or call 907-465-2916

Julie Niederhauser
Public Library Coordinator
Alaska State Library

25 FAMOUS LIBRARIANS WHO CHANGED HISTORY

J. Edgar Hoover:
Legendary head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover, founded it in 1935. As its director, he led domestic investigations from 1924-1972. In his early life, however, Hoover went to night school at George Washington University and supported himself by working at the Library of Congress. There, he was a messenger, cataloguer and clerk. In 1919, Hoover left the Library of Congress and worked as a special assistant to the Attorney General.

Lewis Carroll:
The author of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass, Lewis Carroll’s real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. Dodgson grew up in Cheshire and Yorkshire, England, and after graduating from Oxford with a B.A. in mathematics, he became a sub-librarian at Christ Church there. He left that position in 1857 to become a Mathematical Lecturer. Dodgson first told the story of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland to the three daughters of the Dean of Christ Church, in 1862. The book was published three years later and continues to be a popular and significant work of fiction today.

Laura Bush:
Former First Lady Laura Bush earned her Master’s degree in Library Science from the University of Texas at Austin after working as an elementary school teacher. As the First Lady of Texas, she supported George W. Bush’s political campaigns and started her own public projects regarding education and literacy. When George W. Bush became President of the United States, Laura supported librarian recruitment initiatives and toured many libraries around the world.

For complete article:
STORYTRACKS: NOT JUST FOR SUMMERTIME

StoryTRACKS, “picture books on parade,” is a great way for families to combine reading together, physical activity, and Alaska’s beautiful outdoors.

Each picture book page is on a laminated panel, and Velcro on the back allows it to be attached to a wooden stake. When laid out along a path, they add a whole new experience to reading. (They work well in the snow, and enterprising folks have even brought them indoors – on music stands!)

Both the story panels and the stakes – as well as cases for Activity Sheets and Guest Books – are available for free check-out from Best Beginnings. They’ve appeared all over Anchorage and Mat-Su, and can be made available elsewhere as long as it doesn’t involve shipping.

Ten titles are presently available:

- Bear Hunt
- Stretch
- Up, Down, and Around
- The Listening Walk
- Time to Sleep
- If You’re Happy and You Know It!
- How the Crane Got Its Blue Eyes
- The Jacket I Wear in the Snow
- Tracks in the Snow
- Silly Sally

How to Reserve a StoryTRACKS Set:
Sets (story panels plus stakes) may not be left unattended, and must be supervised by the organizing group to minimize vandalism or theft. Although borrowing is free, a credit card will be charged should any damage or loss occur.

To make a reservation, call 297-3309 or email bbrown@BestBeginningsAlaska.org. (If you’d like advice on preparing them for your community, I’ve learned a lot in the process, too.)

For more information: BestBeginningsAlaska.org/StoryTRACKS

Barbara Brown
Project Manager
Best Beginnings

(Cont. on pg. 5)
StoryTRACKS - Cont. from pg. 4

StoryTRACKS Talkeetna

StoryTRACKS Willow Elementary ★

Photos courtesy of Kim Flinn, Mat-Su Borough School District
After several months of trying to find some new video games for our two games computers, our youngest staff member convinced me that Minecraft had all the qualities that we were seeking: it could be played off-line, it was creative, it was mostly non-violent, and it was inexpensive. It was an immediate hit with our school-age patrons, as they literally ran from school to get to our game computers. The popularity also led to arguments over whose turn it was, and who should be next. We started setting the timer for 30 minutes per turn, but we still had the problem of the children who were watching getting very loud. Since our game computers are near both our work area and the public computers, the noise was very disruptive.

At our staff meeting we decided that we would enforce our regular noise restrictions more vigorously, which has resulted in less disruption. Another issue we discussed is the addictiveness of Minecraft. To address this we decided that children under 10 years old would be allowed to play Minecraft only one hour per day, and those 10 years old or older would be able to extend it to two hours, as long as everyone was getting a chance to play. We also made a rule that each player may only save one world on each computer, so that we would have enough memory on the computers.

The young staff member who advocated for Minecraft deletes the extra worlds each month. So far our new policies seem to be working well. The children are thrilled with the opportunity to create worlds, and are willing to accept our limits so that Minecraft is not disrupting others, or turning their minds into mush.

Miriam Dunbar
Director
Cordova Public Library

**Minecraft is a game about breaking and placing blocks. At first, people built structures to protect against nocturnal monsters, but as the game grew, players worked together to create wonderful, imaginative things.**

**It can also be about adventuring with friends or watching the sun rise over a blocky ocean. It’s pretty. Brave players battle terrible things in The Nether, which is more scary than pretty. You can also visit a land of mushrooms if it sounds more like your cup of tea.**
Book Buzz for Jan.-Mar. 2014

The Best Three Books (Why Only Three?) We’ve Read in 2013

Alta Collins, Teacher-Librarian, Northern Lights ABC School, Anchorage
- Powerless and Super (Supers of Noble’s Green series) - Matthew Cody
- Divergent, Insurgent, and Allegiant (Divergent series) - Veronica Roth
- Petey - Ben Mikaelsen

Daniel Cornwall, Alaska State Library, Juneau
- The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry – Rachel Joyce
- The End of Money: Counterfeiters, Preachers, Techies, Dreamers and the Coming Cashless Society – David Wolman
- Too Big to Know: Rethinking Knowledge Not That the Facts Aren’t the Facts, Experts are Everywhere, and the Smartest - David Weinberger

Sue Sherif, Alaska State Library, Anchorage
- Invasion - Walter Dean Myers
- Orleans - Sherri L. Smith
- And the Mountains Echoed - Khaled Hosseini

Miriam Dunbar, Cordova Public Library
- Flight Behavior - Barbara Kingsolver
- Bad Monkey - Carl Hiaasen
- I’m Your Man: The Life of Leonard Cohen - Sylvie Simmon

Janine Allen, Haines Borough Public Library
- The Faraway Nearby - Rebecca Solnit
- The Flamethrowers - Rachel Kushner
- After Visiting Friends: A Son’s Story - Michael Hainey

George Pasley, Ketchikan Public Library
- The Light Between Oceans – M.L. Stedman
- Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope and Repair – Anne Lamott
- Too Much Happiness – Alice Munro

Ann Dixon, Homer Public Library

(Cont. on pg. 8)
• The Orphan Master’s Son - Adam Johnson
• MaddAddam - Margaret Atwood
• The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared - Jonas Jonasson

Freya Anderson, Alaska State Library, Juneau
• Road to McCarthy: Around the World in Search of Ireland - Pete McCarthy
• The Hard Road to Klondike: An Irish Emigrant’s Travels in North America - Michael MacGowan
• Here Be Dragons - Sharon Kay Penman

Elizabeth Moreau Nicolai, Anchorage Public Library
• Yonohlossee Riding Camp for Girls - Anton DiSclafani
• The Caged Graves - Diane Salerni
• Relish: My Life in the Kitchen - Lucy Knisley

Sarah Preskitt, Anchorage Public Library
• The Execution of Noa P. Singleton - Elizabeth Silver
• Speak - Laurie Halse Anderson
• Hyperbole and a Half: Unfortunate Situations, Flawed Coping Mechanisms, Mayhem, and Other Things that Happened… - Allie Brosh

Paul Adasiak, UAF Elmer E. Rasmuson Library
• The Secret Life of Pronouns: What Our Words Say About Us - James W. Pennebaker
• Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can’t Stop Talking - Susan Cain
• Learned Optimism: How to Change Your Mind and Your Life - Martin E.P. Seligman

Wendy Zimmerman, Fairbanks NSB Noel Wien Public Library
• Scarcity: Why Having Too Little Means So Much - Sendhil Mullainathan and Eldar Shafir

Stacey Glaser, Chukchi Consortium Library, Kotzebue
• Pilgrim’s Wilderness: A True Story of Faith and Madness on the Alaska Frontier – Tom Kizzia
• My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist’s Personal Journey – Jill Bolte Taylor
• Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald – Therese Anne Fowler

Maite Lorente, Kettleson Memorial Library, Sitka
• Eleanor and Park - Rainbow Rowell

(Cont. on pg. 9)
(Book Buzz - Cont. from pg. 8)

- **The One and Only Ivan** - Katherine Applegate
- **Dog Songs** - Mary Oliver

And of course, picture books!

- **Jane, The Fox and Me** - Fanny Britt, Isabelle Arsenault, Christine Morelli, and Susan Ouriou
- **Bear Has a Story to Tell** - Philip C. Stead and Erin Stead
- **Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors** - Hena Khan and Mehrdokht Amini

**MJ Grande**, Juneau Public Library

- **Code Name Verity** - Elizabeth Wein
- **Dr. Seuss: The Cat Behind the Hat** – Caroline Smith
- **The Initiates: A Comic Artist and A Wine Artisan Exchange Jobs** - Etienne Davodeau

**Mary Jo Joiner**, Kenai Public Library

- **Light in the Ruins** - Chris Bohjalian
- **The 5th Wave** - Rick Yancey
- **After Her** - Joyce Maynard

**Aldean Kilbourn**, Keith B Mather Library, Fairbanks

- **Click! The Girl’s Guide to Knowing What You Want and Making It Happen** - Annabel Monaghan and Elisabeth Wolf
- **Poke the Box** - Seth Godin
- **Someone Knows My Name** - Lawrence Hill
- **The King’s Deception** - Steve Berry

**Roz Goodman**, Pedro Bay

- **Mistress of the Art of Death series** - Ariana Franklin
- **Leaving Everything Most Loved** (and all of the Maisie Dobbs series) - Jaqueline Winspear
- **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks** - Rebecca Skloot

**Patience Frederiksen**, Alaska State Library, Anchorage

- **Raven’s Gift** – Don Rearden
- **Live by Night** – Dennis Lehane
- **The Son** – Philipp Meyer
- **The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao** – Junot Diaz

**Stephanie Schott**, Anchorage Public Library

- **Eleanor and Park** - Rainbow Rowell
- **The Walking Dead** (Graphic novel series) - Robert Kirkman
- **In the Woods** - Tana French
Barbara Berg (Retired and Loving It!), Juneau
- Three Day Road - Joseph Boyden
- Facing the Wave: A Journey in the Wake of the Tsunami - Gretel Ehrlich
- Someone Knows My Name - Lawrence Hill
And others, for your amusement:
- Hallucinations - Oliver Sacks
- The Great Fire - Shirley Hazzard
- Fortunate Sons - Liel Leibovitz & Matthew Miller
- The Time Traveler’s Guide to … England (One each for Elizabethan and Medieval England) - Ian Mortimer
- Freeman - Leonard Pitts

Georgine Olson, Fairbanks NSB Noel Wien Public Library
- The Witness - Nora Roberts
- Who Fears Death - Nnedi Okorafor
- Ready Player One - Ernest Cline
Crossword Puzzle

Down
2. Chat with a librarian online (3 words)
3. Use this as your library card (3 words)
4. Free workshop that explains how to use the libraries
8. The place in Smathers Library that has a comic book collection, rare books and the University Archives
11. If you want a book about Picasso, you can find it at the ____ and Fine Arts Library
12. The biology collection is housed at the _______ Library (2 words)
16. If you want a musical score or a book about Mozart, go to the ___ Library
18. Arrange to keep your library book longer

Across
1. Students learning to be reporters and newscasters use this library, and you can too!
5. To find books at any of the campus libraries, use the ___
6. Keep up with library news tweets by adding us to your ____ stream
7. Another name for magazines, newspapers and journals
8. Professors, scientists, and other experts publish articles in this type of of periodical
9. A good place to get help with research while at a library (2 words)
10. Name of the library at Norman Hall
13. ______ at the off-campus access page to reach online articles, books, etc. (2 words)
14. This library has the business, literature, political science and rest of the humanities
15. Search Premier is a great database of full-text articles from lots of subject areas
17. Readings, books put aside just for your UF class by your professor (2 words)
19. The Legal Information Center has information on this subject

(Cont. on pg. 12)
Crossword Puzzle Answers

UF Libraries Crossword Puzzle

1. JOURNALISM
2. O CATALOG
3. PERIODICAL
4. REFERENCE DECK
5. EDUCATION
6. SCHOLARLY
7. TAR
8. T
9. E
10. A
11. C
12. LOGON
13. WEST
14. T
15. ACADEMIC
16. COURSES
17. RESERVES
18. LAW
19. C
20. I
21. E
22. R
23. S
24. N
25. G
26. A
27. B
28. P
29. D
30. C
31. I
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CALENDAR

ALA 2015 Midwinter Meeting, Chicago, IL    Jan. 30-Feb. 3, 2015