BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY IN BERLIN

by Christie Ericson

In June I had the opportunity to visit Humboldt University while on vacation in Berlin, Germany. I’ve always wanted to visit this university, whose alumni, professors, and lecturers include Albert Einstein, Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Max Planck, W.E.B. Du Bois, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, and many more notable scholars. I made arrangements to have a tour of the main university library, the Jakob und Wilhelm Grimm Zentrum (Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Center).

I was very fortunate to have a great tour guide, Matthias Harbeck, who is the subject librarian for Ethnology, Folklore Studies, and Social Anthropology.

Although I speak some German, I chickened out and chose English when Matthias asked if I would prefer the tour in German or English.

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The award-winning Grimm Center, which was completed in 2009, was designed by Swiss architect Max Dudler. Much of the private library of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm is housed in the Center’s Special Collections. I had learned that the Grimm Center was modeled after American university library service models and found many similarities between the Center and the UAA/APU Consortium Library, where I work.

The Grimm Center is open to the general public—any German resident over 16 can register for a library card and borrow materials. As you enter the library, the two-story foyer is lined with stand up OPAC information/circulation desk. All materials are RFID (radio frequency identification) tagged and the library also uses self-checkout stations, an automated book return system, and an electronic kiosk for secure self-serve holds pickup. There is a separate support desk for computer and media questions.

No bags or backpacks are allowed into the main part of the library and lockers are available to store personal items. Cubbies are also available for students to store library materials in if they are not done using them.

The central reading room, which is actually spread over multi-level tiers and is architecturally stunning, is available only to university students and not to the general public. There is also a separate reading room for parents with small children, complete with a ball pit!

The Grimm Center contains about two million print volumes and is dedicated to expanding its electronic holdings. The Center also has a mandate to retro-convert catalog data from its older collections and to digitize selected materials, including unique materials from the former German Democratic Republic (GDR). The book stacks are arranged symmetrically around a central building axis and each floor is divided into sections. In addition to its call number, an item will have a location code, such as 3.0G, which means it will be located on the 3rd floor in section G.

The Grimm Center has been very popular, seeing around 5000 visitors per day. Such popularity also brings challenges. Although there are over 1200 study spaces, students often have a hard time finding a place to work. There are often not enough lockers to accommodate student needs. Group study rooms are also in high demand. Library staff also face challenges in balancing the provision of resources to university

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students and to the general public, including an increasing homeless population using the library.

As is the case with many architectural designs, aesthetics and practical functionality don’t always coincide. Matthias explained many of the challenges of the design of the new building. There are two information desks situated symmetrically on each floor, but in reality only one of the desks is staffed and some floors are not staffed at all. There was also little signage in the building, and although Matthias noted that “no one reads signs,” they needed to do something to help wayfinding.
The traditional reference desk on the first floor is tucked back behind some pillars, and I didn’t even know it was there until Matthias pointed it out.

A very nice outdoor events/reception patio was built on the top floor, but you need to go through the secure Special Collections area to get to the restrooms.

In addition to the tour of the Grimm Center, I also arranged a meeting with the director of the library school at Humboldt

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University, Dr. Michael Seadle. The Institut für Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft (Berlin School of Library and Information Science) or the IBI, for short, is a member of the international iSchool caucus, a collective of 25 information schools around the world.

Dr. Seadle is currently the chair of the iCaucus and is also a member of ALA’s Western European Studies Section (WESS), which I recently joined. We had a great conversation about LIS education in the U.S. and Germany.
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Patty Brown

What an exciting time to attend the ALA annual conference. The Supreme Court’s landmark ruling in support of same-sex marriage was announced just prior to the presentation of Opening General Session keynote speaker Roberta Kaplan. Ms. Kaplan, described as a litigation superstar, shared her story of the defeat of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

This was followed by the People First Award presentation to the Enoch Pratt Free Library for demonstrating exemplary leadership during several days of riots in Baltimore. They remained open while buildings around the library burned.

Participating in ALA Council meetings as an observer and presenting for the Association of Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds (RNTLOAK) were firsts for me. Council I was a learning experience. For those of you interested in ALA Council proceedings, I would recommend that you check out Daniel Cornwall’s blog posts https://librarianfromalaska.wordpress.com/2015/07/03/alaac15-
alacouncil-all-my-councilor-reports/comment-page-1 or see ALA Council Actions at http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_actions. These experiences lead me to the AkLA page where I read, “The goals of the organization are to promote vibrant libraries that deliver outstanding services to their users and to provide professional development opportunities.” My thoughts follow:

At our May meeting, the executive council voted to join ALA’s joint student membership program. Alaska library students may now join AkLA and the American Library Association for one low price of $38 from now through August 31, 2016. Student membership in ALA is a special discounted membership available for students engaged in a program of study or certification in MLS/MLIS, NCATE, or LTA programs for no more than five total years of eligibility.

This special dues rate is designed to help students access the benefits, networking, and career resources that come with membership. Currently, 37 Chapters partner with ALA in the joint student membership program. To apply, complete the online form through ALA’s secure database.

Mary Jo Joiner, our Pacific NW Library Association representative, reported that five participants and two mentors from Alaska will attend PNLA LEADS, a week-long leadership institute, this fall in Long Beach, WA. Congratulations to attendees Catherine Melville, Erin Hollingsworth, Karen Kresh, Sara Saxton and Sigrid Brudie and thanks to our mentors Mary Jo Joiner and David Ongley. Additional thanks go to Mary Jo for writing the successful ILC grant for funding for Alaska participants.

These are just two opportunities (Cont. on pg. 7)
for professional development. There are many more. I would like to list them but have limited space so I suggest you join AkLA (Join now! or renew your membership) and the listserv to find out more. **Julie Niederhauser** does a wonderful job of keeping us informed of upcoming continuing education events, and the State Library offers us the chance to apply for CE grants.

As for vibrant libraries, in 2014 Library Journal listed Eight Star Libraries from Alaska. One of these Star Libraries, Craig Public Library, was a 2015 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winner. ♣

Libraries across this state are delivering outstanding services. This year could be your library’s opportunity to shine. Applications for the National Medal are due October 1. You can find more information at [http://www.imls.gov/applicants/detail.aspx?GrantId=13](http://www.imls.gov/applicants/detail.aspx?GrantId=13)

In other news, the AkLA finance committee, under the guidance of our able treasurer **Robert Barr**, is working towards reinvestment of funds and keeping our budget on target.

To assist in making this happen, Robert is in need of annual financial reports from any active chapters. Active and consistent reporting from our chapters and roundtables, annually at the minimum, will make the AkLA treasurer job much easier. Please contact Robert or myself if you have questions about this.

Three individuals, **Karen Jensen**, **Mike Robinson**, and **Patty Linville**, have been working diligently on updates and migration to a full web version of the AkLA Handbook. This is no small task so I’m thanking them in advance for their efforts.

Another active group of librarians has been working on the formation of a Youth Services Roundtable. This group has presented a description to e-council. The next step is to submit a petition with at least seven AkLA members. Please join them if you are interested.

Finally, please take a moment, if you have not yet, to thank your legislators for their support of libraries. After a tumultuous budget process, we still have OWL and Live Homework Help. ♦

♣ The Craig Public Library is located on the western edge of Prince of Wales Island in southeast Alaska. The library prides itself in demonstrating how "remote" doesn’t mean "isolated."

For complete article

Institute of Museum and Library Services
Nina Foster nfoster@susandavis.com

Left to right: Amy K. Marshall, Colin Rice, Mrs. Obama
The Cordova Public Library held a Dunk Tank Fundraiser for 4th of July. This tank was purchased several years ago by the volunteer fire department and is maintained by the city Parks & Rec department.

The water was cold, but no one seemed to get too chilled during the 10 minutes that they were on the “cold seat.”

The location was not ideal, as we were a bit worried that one of the 12 VIPs might fall 20 feet down over the railing when they were climbing up to get on the seat. Thankfully, that did not happen.

We had quite a few balls go over the railing, but volunteers climbed down to retrieve them. The event was very popular with spectators, and there were several boys who spent quite a bit of money to try to dunk the VIPs.

The target broke off midway through the event, but our handy Parks & Rec employee used duct tape to keep it attached to the metal rod. We raised $715 in two hours for furnishings for our new location in the Cordova Center!

The photo shows the police chief and his donut before he was dunked (but he kept his donut high and dry!)

Miriam Dunbar, Director
Cordova Public Library

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ANCHORAGE

Loussac Library was yarn bombed! On May 16, just as Reading Rendezvous was occurring on the lawn, Anchorage Guerrilla Knitters decorated the trees in blue and gold (for Anchorage’s centennial). Anchorage Guerrilla Knitters previously covered the trees fronting the Anchorage Museum of History & Art and has graciously accepted status as “resident artists” in Loussac’s Innovation Lab, holding knit-ins there to teach new knitters and provide a gathering place for knitters. More photos on their Facebook page at “Anchorage Guerrilla Knitters.”

Barbara Brown
Anchorage Public Library

(Cont. on pg. 10)
Haines Borough Public Library was honored to host Haida master weaver Delores Churchill and filmmaker Ellen Frankenstein for a screening of their new film, Tracing Roots: A Weaver’s Journey.

The Haines Borough Public Library was honored to host Haida master weaver Delores Churchill and filmmaker Ellen Frankenstein for a screening of their new film, Tracing Roots: A Weaver’s Journey.

The film follows master weaver Delores Churchill on a journey to understand the origins of a spruce root hat found with Kwäday Dän Ts’inchi, or “Long Ago Person Found” in the southern Tutchone language, a 300-year-old traveler discovered in a retreating glacier in Tatshenshini-Alsek National Park in 1999. A DNA study linked 17 people in Southeast Alaska and Yukon Territory as living relatives to the Long Ago Person Found through their maternal line.

The belongings found with the traveler provided a glimpse into who this man was and how he lived, with a 100-gopher-skinned robe, a woven spruce root hat, a walking stick, a spear, and more. The film connects the art form of weaving done today to traditions done centuries ago.

Ellen Frankenstein, filmmaker, offers a unique style of filming to tell a story and share her perspective.

Renowned artist Delores Churchill is generous with her knowledge; she learned Haida weaving from her mother Selina Peratrovich. Upon the arrival of our guests, we first visited the village of Klukwan where Ellen and Delores shared the story behind the making of the film.

We went on the local radio station for an interview to introduce the upcoming evening program, and master carver Wayne Price immediately texted me, excited to hear and see Delores Churchill. With his best paddlers, the North Tide Canoe Kwáan leader took Delores Churchill out on the bay in a traditional, hand-carved ocean-going Tlingit dugout canoe.

Mayor Jan Hill introduced Delores and the evening program saying, “She could not believe on an incredibly beautiful sunny evening in Haines that the library was jam-packed.” The film captured everyone’s attention immediately and a lively discussion followed. At the conclusion of the evening, Wayne Price welcomed Delores as an honorary member of North Tide Canoe Kwáan.

This special event would not have been possible without

(Chapters - Cont. from pg. 9)
the support of local organizations, including the Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp #5, the Friends of the Haines Borough Public Library, the Klukwan Library and an Institute of Museum and Library Services Enhancement Grant. Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp #5 President and local archaeologist Anastasia Wiley stated, “These kinds of events are good for posterity, for the culture, and for traditional knowledge. The project that Delores undertook is helping to understand the culture and continuing it.”

We look forward to seeing the film again at the International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums in Washington, D.C., in September. We encourage other libraries and organizations to host a community screening of Tracing Roots. It is a film that invites discussion from many disciplines and all age levels.

Delores and Ellen were wonderful to work with in arranging the event. For further information please check the websites: www.tracingrootsfilm.com or www.artchangeinc.org or contact Ellen Frankenstein at artchangeinc@gmail.com.
Recently named a semi-finalist in the 2015 Kindle Book Awards and honored with eleven international book awards from bodies including The New York Book Festival and The London Book Festival, *The Lion Trees* by life-long Alaskan Owen Thomas is now available for review.

*The Lion Trees* is an epic work of literary fiction that tells the story of an Ohio family unraveling into chaos as each member wrestles with the pains of self-discovery. Review copies and interview opportunities with the author are now available.

Owen Thomas presents a work of intimate introspection, penetrating examination of self-identity within the dynamic of an American family and how it can tear itself—and each other—apart.

Woven in four distinct narrative voices, this ambitious novel masterfully blends comedic and tragic elements to tell the story of a household falling apart and the collective history at the root of their crisis.

Published in two separate but equally essential volumes, *The Lion Trees* has the all hallmarks of a modern classic.

Press Release
Josh Hamel, Marketing and Publicity Assistant at Authoright (646) 664-4272
josh@authoright.com
In Las Cruces, New Mexico is a library with no books, but a great story; a library with nothing to read, but that you have to check out; a library for people who just want to take a few minutes to sit down and get lost—in a good kitten.

Becky Garcia is the kitten librarian. Actually, she’s the receptionist at the Dona Ana County office building, where a couple years ago county officials installed a little kitty condo in the lobby. The cats are from a local shelter and they’re available to any employee looking for a moment of purr bliss. Officials knew if people just took a few minutes to hold these animals that a bond might form. And in fact—to date—100 kittens have been adopted from the library. And it’s that kind of outside-the-cage thinking that folks here would like to see spread to other communities across the country.

Imagine a nation of libraries catering to those who just want to curl up with a good person.

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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 Newspeak.)

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

If the Newspeak editor, or the individual submitting, has questions or concerns about any submission, the matter will be sent on to the Newspeak Committee.
ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
PO Box 81084
Fairbanks, AK  99708

ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

President    Patty Brown
director@haineslibrary.org
Past-President    Karen Jensen
kljensen@alaska.edu
President-Elect    Sara Saxton
ssaxton@ci.wasilla.ak.us
Secretary    Amy Carney
amy.carney@alaska.edu
Treasurer    Robert Barr
robert_barr@juneau.lib.ak.us
Conference Coordinator 2016
Rachel Seale
rmseale@alaska.edu
Daniel Cornwall
daniel.cornwall@alaska.gov
Mary Jo Joiner
mjoiner@kenai.com
* Alaska Library Directory
* Newspoke, Loretta Andress
afirma@gci.net
http://www.akla.org
aklalist@akla.org

CALENDAR

Intl Conf Indigenous Archives Libraries Museums, Washington, DC
Sep. 10-12, 2015
Ak Historical Society/Museums Alaska Annual Meeting, Cordova, AK
Sep. 30-Oct. 3, 2015
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Boston, MA
Jan. 8-12, 2016
AkLA Annual Conference, Westmark Hotel, Fairbanks, AK
Mar. 10-13, 2016
PLA 2016 Conference, Denver, CO
Apr. 5–9, 2016