In a time of uncertainty, there has been some positive progress on both the state and national level. The state legislature has passed an operating budget, and no changes were made to the DEED budget. If you have been following the state legislative process, then you know that a solution to creating a long-term revenue source has not yet been found. It remains to be seen how this will impact us in the years to come.

Jim Neal, ALA President, reports that “the Appropriations Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed an FY 2018 spending bill without making any cuts in federal funding for libraries and, in fact, provides a $20 million dollar increase for the National Library of Medicine.” This news is uplifting, but we must remain vigilant, as things seem to change so quickly and the IMLS budget is still not secure.

Those interested in becoming more involved with the Executive Council should consider running for office. If you work in a library, you have a point of view and something to offer. Trust me; if I can do it, you can too! Please contact our Past President, Sara Saxton, to learn about upcoming positions or to throw your name in the ring.

If you’re wondering what the Executive Council has been up to lately, I encourage you to visit the E-Council wiki. You will find agendas, minutes from past meetings, and reports from the officers, roundtables, and committees. Please contact me any time with questions, concerns, or ideas for AkLA.
For nearly a decade the Ketchikan Public Library’s Teen Advisory Group (T.A.G.) has been creating, preparing, and hosting Teen Summer Pro-
grams for the youth of Ketchikan, Alaska. T.A.G. was formed in June of 2007; by May of 2008, the Group was prepared to take on the challenge of a summer-long event. Since then, with the help of generous sponsors, the Friends of the Library, and interested teens, T.A.G. has continued to do so every summer.

At times the Group followed the State theme for the summer program, or did so with a twist. For example the theme last year got switched from “popular sports” to “sports from books” such as Quiddich, Alice’s Croquet, and “The Ketchikan Games” which replaced sharp implements of death with super soakers. This year, however, T.A.G. went out on its own and instead of “Build a Better World, Read” went with something a bit more... T.A.G. It all started with a simple statement from a member back in December when the Group started working on the event: “We’ve been awfully nice lately.” And they were off!

The formal theme became “Will YOU Survive the Summer?” with the subtitle “2 Bingo Options, 7 Amazing Events, 100 Ways to Win, 1,000 Ways to DIE!” Which may seem a bit dark, but the hilarity that surrounded the creation of the events would counter that opinion. The events themselves are not cast in the negative of "die, die, die" but with survival actually the base of each program.

The Zombie Apocalypse (every event is an apocalypse; it was the first idea for the theme, but got displaced) that started the summer included a presentation on how to avoid spreading disease and protecting oneself from communicable disease. The event also included a zombie game, zombie food, and a zombie movie, of course.

That was just the start—they also had the Four Horsemen event for which the Search and Rescue K-9 folks graciously brought in their dogs, showed...

(Cont. on pg. 3)
the teens how rescues were performed and spoke about training the dogs as well as working with the dogs. The teens loved the chance to see the dogs in action as well as getting a few bonus survival tips for when they might be hiking about the island.

The Return of the Dinosaur program included information on inaccuracies in a few dinosaur movies—and how more folks would have been devoured or squashed. The most recent program concerned mutant Oreos. Well, food safety and mutant Oreos.

T.A.G. invited alumni member Jasmyne Johnson, who now teaches Jr. and Sr. High English and a Culinary class in St. Mary’s, Alaska, to teach food safety at the Mutant Oreo Apocalypse.

Once the information was given, teens were invited to safely create their own deliciously mutated Oreos in an Iron Chef-type competition. Miss Johnson, Pat Tully (the KPL Director), and T.A.G. Member Nathaniel judged the creations and awarded prizes to third, second, and first place winners.

All participants received a "thank you for creating" giftie: a flashlight Oreo—because I found them and thought they would be hilarious as a prize. It was great fun, and the teens really worked at making delightfully creative Oreos.

There is still so much more to come! Alien Invasions vs. Personal Safety with a presentation by a State Trooper, Surviving Natural Disasters through Wilderness Living, and a Tell-Your-Own Apocalypse Finale will be happening through the summer.

Will the teens survive? Probably. Will a great time be had by all? I am pretty sure it will. I know I always have a good time and feel so very lucky to be along for the fun.

Kelly Johnson
T.A.G. Staff Liaison
Ketchikan Public Library
CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANTS ENHANCE CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

The Alaska State Library has instituted a new CE grant [http://library.alaska.gov/dev/grants. html#cgrant](http://library.alaska.gov/dev/grants.html#cgrant) requirement that we believe will help disperse the learning that occurs during conferences. Individuals who have been awarded a CE grant are now required to write a short (up to 250 words) Newspoke [http://akla.org/newspoke/wp-content/assets/files/newspoke/jan-mar-17. pdf](http://akla.org/newspoke/wp-content/assets/files/newspoke/jan-mar-17.pdf) article about their conference attendance to share what’s been learned with the larger library community. We hope this requirement will provide attendees with an opportunity to stop and reflect back on their conference experiences and personally apply what they’ve learned.

Julie Marie Niederhauser
Public Library Coordinator
Alaska State Library

Evergreen Conference: Integrated Library System

Thanks in part to an Alaska State Library Continuing Education grant, I attended the Evergreen International Conference in Kentucky in April. This conference is held annually for users and developers of the Evergreen Project, a free and open source ILS (Integrated Library System) to which Homer Public Library migrated in 2013.

Since Evergreen is open source and users aren’t vendor-locked, we’re able to improve the software by requesting any enhancements we can imagine, reporting issues directly to developers, and contributing code. The Evergreen community follows an aggressive upgrade release schedule, with dozens of new features being created, tested, and made available (for free!) every six months. Because users are located all over the world and communicate almost exclusively by email and chat, the annual conference is our main opportunity to meet face-to-face, share the unique ways we’re changing the software to fit our needs, and even host a hackfest so we can collaborate on larger features.

Living in rural Alaska isolates me from peers in my technology-focused field, so attending this conference assures that I’m continually pushed outside my comfort zone by my mentors. Homer Public Library’s move to an open source ILS literally changed my career, empowering me to be directly influential over the software we use all day, every day. I’ve just begun a three-year term on the Evergreen Oversight Board, a group of nine Evergreen members who work closely with the Software Freedom Conservancy. I’m looking forward to my newest role in the open source community and hopefully many more Evergreen conferences in the future.

Holly Brennan
Technology Specialist
Homer Public Library

(Cont. on pg. 5)
CE Course: M is for Marketing

This year I attended the AKLA 2017 Conference. It was an amazing experience! At the conference I revisited the importance of weeding, and since returning home I have begun a massive purging project at my library. It was sorely needed. My progress is slow, and it is going to take quite some time, but the shelves that I have weeded look more appealing and organized. Not to mention they no longer have information that is completely out of date! While at the conference I also got a refresher on EBSCO, NoveList, and learned more about project outcome.

Can I just say that I love NoveList? I learned about it while working on my MLIS, but I never really used it much as a professional librarian. However, having rediscovered it at AkLA, I want to incorporate it more at my library. I am tossing around the idea of doing a training for SLED not only for my volunteers, but also for the community. SLED is an amazing resource that is much underutilized (at least in my community). I would like to see it get some more use here.

M is for Marketing was a fantastic session. I loved the ideas that were presented. I especially liked the cars, paint strips, and measuring tapes that were used as advertisements for different databases in SLED. This session gave me some ideas for marketing such as chocolates with quotes and such. This is a great idea! It is cheap, which is great with our small budget, and it is easy.

Thanks for the opportunity to attend this conference! I learned a lot (though I only highlighted my favorite bits here)!

Lana Clark
UA Southeast

The Value of Conference Attendance for Small Library Employees

It’s a challenge to maintain a working relationship with library staff in remote communities. Though email and video conference meetings are useful tools, there are limitations. One-on-one visits to remote libraries are the most challenging due to the cost of air travel. Tuzzy Library has come to rely on the annual Alaska Library Conference to ensure that the staff in remote villages can meet each other and share in a common experience. Each time, the staff comes away with a little more insight about library services and, perhaps, inspiration to offer programs important to their community.

Comments from this year’s attendees were best summarized by Evan Hinton. He remarked: “. . . going to conference really solidified my idea of what a librarian could and should be, and was a major turning point in my decision to pursue it as a career. There is something about getting a bunch of people with similar (but not precisely the same) experiences together. You bounce ideas off each other, tell stories, and make connections. It energizes you, and you go back home feeling more confident about what you are doing in your own library, and maybe with some fresh new ideas. It sounds silly, but it made me excited about being a librarian. And when you're basically The Librarian

(Cont. on pg. 6)
A Wonderful Continuing Education Experience

I had the privilege of attending the 2017 AkLA conference in Ketchikan, Alaska, this year. What an awesome experience to see the Southeast part of the state since I live in the Southwest. I was always told that Dillingham was the “Salmon Capital of the World,” but when I walked off the plane into the terminal, a sign welcoming me to Ketchikan claimed the same fame. I was a bit confused, but in the end, willing to share the title with such a great community. I did have a wonderful continuing education experience while attending the conference as I was able to participate in a pre-conference workshop, the Art in Bookmaking, in the morning and then took some fascinating tours of the community in the afternoon. I learned how different the area is to ours, yet we have our similarities (from fishing to libraries). Populations of both our communities increase drastically in the summer months.

My focus at this conference was to gain more ideas for our Summer Reading program by attending sessions on early literacy and fun activities for the youth. But I also stretched myself in other ways by attending sessions in unfamiliar fields such as social media with Google forms, and undesirable tasks such as Weeding. With each meal at the conference, we gained insight from the speakers (food for our bodies and minds). I learned how to tell our library’s story in order to help our community and city.

Sonja Marx, Librarian
Dillingham Public Library

Children’s Programming: Explosives and Experiments

This 2017 AkLA was my first professional library conference, and I learned a lot. I focused primarily on sessions that covered children’s programming because this is an aspect of library work that is new to me, and we have a large number of children who use our library daily. I learned much and came back from the conference excited about utilizing it.

I learned about using music, art, and science to create interactive and engaging programs. We just completed our first “science” program based on the “Explosives and Experiments” session, and we made slime. We marketed the programming as being the most gross and disgusting thing ever to
happen in the library, and we had almost 30 kids attend—ranging from ages four through middle school. This is almost triple the number that we usually have for a typical Saturday story time. Everyone, including parents and staff, had a blast. We plan to do a series of programs similar to this over the coming months as part of our summer reading program.

The best part of the Conference was having the opportunity to meet and spend time with so many creative librarians from around the state and to hear what other libraries are doing. There are only a couple other librarians in Bethel, so it was great to spend some time with people in the field.

Theresa Quiner, Director
Kuskokwim Consortium Library
Bethel

Using Data to Tell Your Library’s Story

The RIPL workshop “Using Data to Tell Your Library’s Story” described for participants the processes behind gathering, analyzing, and using library data in order to keep libraries relevant and able to best serve their communities. As an incoming AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer for the Thorne Bay Public Library, the conference gave me a valuable understanding of what data are important to collect from the library and community, and how to use the data to best serve the Thorne Bay community. I was also able to network with librarians and other staff from around Alaska, and discuss with them the attitudes and needs of rural Alaskan communities.

In summary, the workshop presented the evaluation process: how to identify pertinent data; how to develop a plan using the data and evaluation methods for the plan; how to collect data using interviews and surveys; how to analyze community, trend, and peer benchmark data in order to make decisions; and how to finally arrange and chart data in a meaningful way in order to communicate your library’s needs with its audience or stakeholders.

Ashley Richardson
AmeriCorps VISTA
Outreach Coordinator
Thorne Bay Public Library

(Cont. on pg. 8)
Professional Networking

I was so happy to hear that because of a Continuing Education Grant the Tuzzy Library received from the Alaska State Library, I would be able to attend AkLA’s February conference in Ketchikan. Having the opportunity to interact with other professionals in the field never fails to energize me, especially as we discuss the many wonderful projects completed, or those currently in the works.

Highlights of my trip included the Legislative Advocacy Committee Meeting and the Finding and Enhancing Alaskana in the National Archives Catalog training session.

In the Legislative Advocacy Committee Meeting several ways in which legislative advocacy initiatives could be created, as well as pitfalls to avoid, were brought up. What I especially appreciated were the keen insights on how to effectively build a panel of knowledgeable individuals so as to have a meaningful public discussion on the current issues facing Alaskans. Getting this type of dialogue going in a panel setting either at, or through utilization of the Videoconference Network to, rural villages will help those residents have greater voice regarding the issues and unique needs of their communities.

Daniel Cornwall’s training on Finding and Enhancing Alaskana in the National Archives Catalog was quite timely. This training is especially needed with the closing of the National Archives Office in Anchorage. The interface was smooth and easy to learn, and I plan to use it in the future.

Of course, the importance of professional networking that goes on at these conferences cannot be understated. I look forward to next year’s AkLA—specifically in regard to so much meaningful conversation and the programmatic ideas that arise through interaction with other librarians around the state.

Jason Russell
Archivist/Technical Services Librarian
Tuzzy Consortium Library

The Importance of Weeding

One of the most important lessons I have learned from this and all the conferences I’ve attended is that of establishing a regular schedule of weeding. It has also been one of the most difficult things to achieve. With a limited budget to purchase new media, it has been hard to convince the volunteer staff that worn, outdated, or unread books take up much-needed space and do not make our library appealing. Many find the open shelf space frightening—“what will the patrons find to read?” “Will they look at the empty space and leave, thinking we have nothing for them?”

What we have learned is that this space allows us to display our media—new and not so new. This has eye appeal and gives each of us the opportunity to showcase books or movies that we feel will appeal to others. Adults and children alike are surprised to learn we have this title or that. It is gratifying to see materials that were previously buried on crammed shelves now being checked out and read.

Kay Thomas, Director
Cooper Landing Community Library

(Cont. on pg. 9)
Transforming Our Libraries, Ourselves

I attended the ALA Annual Conference, Transforming Our Libraries, Ourselves, in Chicago, June 21-27, 2017. The sessions I attended were focused on the topics of literacy, instruction, and technology trends. Here’s a synopsis of what I learned:

Going with (and Growing with) the Framework: Teaching Information Literacy with a Social Justice Lens: I signed up for this course because of the phrase information literacy, assuming that I would learn of other libraries' successes with social justice programs/services provided to their patrons. Instead, the session focused on the library skills courses taught on college campuses. Even so, there was good information about how to develop courses on social justice issues that are applicable for public libraries with outreach initiatives.

Digital Literacy Initiatives: Do you know about digitalearn.org? It’s an online hub for digital literacy support and training developed by the Public Library Association and public libraries. Representatives from Chicago Public Library, Baton Rouge Public Library, and Tucson Public Library talked about how they are using this service. Also of interest were their examples of marketing items they used to advertise this service. I got some great ideas here!

Helping Library Users Navigate Fake News: The best advice given at this session was for librarians to stop promoting the idea of fake news. Why? It’s a phrase developed by prominent people to censure news sources. What should we be using instead? Disinformation, misinformation or . . . lying. The focus of the session then turned to the psychology of information seeking and gathering. The second-best advice given: Humans believe what is most comfortable and don’t spend a lot of energy seeking out the truth. None of us is surprised. When asked what to do when a reputable source is called “fake news” or “too liberal,” the speaker shrugged and advised there’s not much we can do. By the way, this isn’t a new phenomenon. The speaker presented historical headlines and other forms of news sources that proved this point.

Natalie Forshaw
Library Technology Manager
Fairbanks North Star Borough Library

(Cont. on pg. 10)
Implementation of the Mukurtu Content Management System

One can certainly not understate the value that attending conferences such as ALA in Chicago afford attendees. At this particular event I was able to present on the hard work that Marilyn Decker, Collections Management Technician at the Iñupiat Heritage Center, and I have been putting in as regards the implementation of our Mukurtu content management system. I was able to not only talk about said work, but situate Iḷisaġvik College as an institution that supports implementation of forward-leaning programs, in particular Mukurtu.

Involvement in this endeavor has had numerous benefits. It has enabled the Tuzzy Consortium Library and IHLC (Iñupiat History, Language and Culture) to continue to form partnerships between each other, allowed our library to create a strong grant application for receipt of funds to pursue our joint processing and digitization efforts in order to better connect residents of the North Slope, and beyond, to large bodies of material within the digital space in culturally appropriate ways.

Additionally, I made several professional contacts at this conference. These include, among others, a librarian at Columbia College in Chicago, and a Librarian and Library Assistant pair from the Ak-Chin Indian Community Library. Additionally, all of the various Conference Sessions I attended have provided me ideas and updates on topics ranging from the development of BIBFRAME (a potential replacement for MARC based records), to properly enabling library staff to be able to effectively report on sexual harassment within the workplace. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and productive conference, and I look forward to future opportunities to attend.

Jason Russell
Tuzzy Library
Barrow, Alaska

Iḷisaġvik College is a public community college located in Barrow, Alaska, on the shore of the Arctic Ocean.

Mukurtu (MOOK-oo-too) http://mukurtu.org/ is a grassroots project aiming to empower communities to manage, share, and exchange their digital heritage in culturally relevant and ethically-minded ways.
A "No Log:" What Service is Your Library Not Providing?

I attended the American Library Association’s Annual Conference in Chicago, Il. I attended many panels on several topics, including: training all library staff in customer service, how to create partnerships with other local organizations, how to navigate fake news, creating empowering programs for teen girls, how Flint, Michigan’s public library has stayed afloat, and more.

A very simple item I took away from one of the panels I attended, that would be very easy to implement at any library, is something called a “no log.” Any time you have to tell a patron “no” for whatever reason: “Do you have a fax?” “Can I bring my bike inside?” mark it down with what the question was. Then, at a regular meeting, staff can go over the log to see if there’s any way the library can turn those “nos” into “yeses.”

The log can show what patrons are asking for that the library isn’t providing at the moment. A No Log is an easy way to record feedback from patrons, and to start a discussion about services provided at your library.

Claire Agni, Manager
Scott and Wesley Gerrish Library

Anchorage Chapter – AkLA
Save the Dates for 2017 AkLA-A Events

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

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
rterry9@alaska.edu
I spent the months since November trying to understand the election. These two books helped me grapple somewhat with the fact of our populist president:


*Born Fighting* is a more scholarly approach, a history of the brawling Scots who fought the English so many times in Scotland and again in Ulster, and who migrated to the colonies to take lands that were a buffer zone between the English settlers on the tidelands and the Indians beyond the Appalachians.

The Scots-Irish were the backbone of the Confederate Army, though very few held slaves. As a group, the Scots-Irish are over-represented in America’s military history, in both World Wars and Vietnam.

This book, written in 2004 before meth, opiates, and heroin hit the rural areas of America, is more hopeful about the Scots-Irish, while Vance’s elegy is steeped in the challenges facing rural America in 2016.


I happened to be in London in April, which is their Cityread London month. This year’s book is by S. J. Parris. *Prophecy* is second in the series following the real-life excommunicated monk, Giordano Bruno. (The first is *Heresy*, which takes place in Oxford.)

The books are historical fiction + mystery, set during the time when Catholics were trying to regain the throne from Protestant Elizabeth I. Her “intelligence director,” Francis Walsingham, had agents—including Bruno—uncovering plots.

As the author pointed out in a library program, it’s mystery without the technology of CSI—just plain “figuring out.” The suspense is good, the characters multi-faceted, and the portrayal of 16th century London rich and compelling.
ALASKAN EXPERIENCE CORNER
School Kids’ Community Guides and Histories

Submitted by Larry Hibpshman, Book Buzz Manager

But you too can submit to the Alaskan Experience column:

HEY! If you’ve recently read something along these lines, please feel free to send it to me, and I’ll include it either along with, or in lieu of, my own book reports!

Under the Arctic Sun. The Life and Times of Frank and Ada Degnan.

This isn’t an easy book to read. The style is slow, a bit repetitive, and it’s difficult to keep all the family relationships straight.

On the other hand, genealogy is essential to this story (perhaps a genealogical table would help). Ms. Degnan’s biography of her grandmothers (Martha Annie Apok Degnan and Agnes Igailaq Anaktayuk Ryan) and her parents (Frank Auvnue and Ada Johnsson Degnan) and their children is a wonderful family account of survival and accomplishment, and a good exposition of subsistence lifestyle. Frank Degnan played a significant role in Alaska Native Rights development.

Appended Inupiat Paitot and Conference of Native Organizations meeting transcripts 1960-1964 are an excellent source for understanding the issues and strategy that created the Native Rights Movement and made it a success.


There is pain in this book. Neither Field’s young nor her adult life were easy, and most pages are filled with anguish, frustration, and sometimes stark peril.

Her life has been truly adventurous. The book is a work of art that not only details the intense world of remote setnetting, but also deals with the deeper, harder issues that go into deciding to do this.

I’d recommend it to anyone, for several reasons and on several different levels.
What do Harry Potter, George Washington, Charlotte Perkins-Gilman, Shakespeare, and Frankenstein all have in common? They all are subjects featured in the National Library of Medicine Traveling Exhibition Program. But, maybe you’ve never heard of the National Library of Medicine Traveling Exhibition Program!

These programs cover a variety of topics such as the history of forensic medicine; the instrumental work of nurses to push the wider medical community to recognize the violence against women as a health issue; how a young author based her classic novel on the scientific advances in her time to pose questions about scientific advancements, personal and societal responsibilities, and what it means to be human.

You may be familiar with the exhibit, Native Voices: Native Peoples’ Concepts of Health and Illness which is currently touring libraries and other institutions across the country through a partnership between the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and the American Library Association (ALA). It is a great exhibit that educates about how Native Americans address their health using both traditional and Western medicine as well as giving historical context to Native health. It will be in Homer in the spring of 2020. For a complete listing of scheduled visits on this tour visit https://apply.ala.org/nativevoices/exhibit-sites

The traveling exhibit consists of a set of banners that can easily be displayed and even moved to different locations in your library or institution. The banners include graphics and some information regarding the exhibit. The primary source of information of each exhibit is online. Each exhibit has its own online presence where supplemental materials may include historical information, digital content from the collections from NLM’s History of Medicine division, educational resources for K-12 and higher education, and more. The online content provides information in small chunks so it is more easily accessed and processed. Often viewers will learn something new and fascinating that they didn’t know previously. Bringing awareness of history, the connection to literature and society, illustrating the impact of science and medicine are just some of what these exhibits bring to visitors.

Have you hosted a National Library of Medicine traveling exhibit? Perhaps you have considered it but weren’t sure what all was involved? The National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM), a program of the National Library of Medicine, hosted a webinar on just what hosting a traveling exhibit entails. In case you missed the webinar or would like to review it, the recording is available at the NNLM Resource Picks webpage at https://nnlm.gov/class/how-make-most-your-national-library-medicine-traveling-banner-exhibition/277

It featured Patricia Tuohy, Head of the NLM Exhibition Program, who provided background information about the program along with ideas and suggestions by invited librarians on how to best use the exhibit. Ideas have included mask making (Frankenstein), turning the circulation desk into Platform 9 ¾ (Harry Potter’s World), special archival and art exhibits with partners (AIDS), and special lectures including one on medicinal plants (Native Voices). All of these are ways to allow those within your institutions and the wider community to come visit your location and bring awareness not just of the exhibit topic but to your institutions and libraries as well.

(Cont. on pg. 15)
Partnering with other organizations can be a way of dividing the work, providing some financial assistance, supplemental materials and programming. All of this can create a more dynamic program and bring more attendance to the exhibits. Partnerships can provide future relations, marketing, creative ideas, and support. The exhibits are free but the shipping fee can be expensive.

If you have questions beyond what the webinar and website provide, you may also contact the staff at NLM with your specific needs https://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/about/exhibition/contact-us.html We hope you consider hosting an exhibit and let us know if you do and we will be happy to let those in the region know.

Carolyn Martin, MLS, AHIP
Consumer Health Coordinator
NNLM Pacific Northwest Region
University of Washington Health Sciences Library

https://apply.ala.org/nativevoices/exhibit-site

Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness is a traveling exhibition that explores the interconnectedness of wellness, illness and cultural life for Native Americans, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.
BOOK SUGGESTIONS FOR STORYTIME

Not sure what to read next? Do you have preschoolers wanting more, more, MORE? Try some of these suggestions on for size to add some new variety to your storytimes!

Baby Storytime Suggestions

*My Heart Fills with Happiness* by Monique Gray Smith
This beautiful book featuring a Canadian First Nations family encourages everyone to celebrate the simple joys in life like the sun on your face or holding the hand of someone you love. It could work well at both baby and toddler storytimes.

*Old Mikamba Had a Farm* by Rachel Isadora
A take on the classic children’s song “Old MacDonald,” this book can be an introduction to African animals found on game farms and park preserves and the sounds that they make. Caregivers can easily follow and sing along with you because of the familiar melody. The book also includes background information on the featured animals, such as their habitat and endangered status.

*Everywhere Babies* by Susan Meyers
This rhyming book with adorable illustrations depicts all of the things babies can and love to do. The pictures show many different kinds of families including interracial and same-sex couples. It works well for smaller groups, as you can point out many of the objects in the background of pictures.

Toddler Storytime Suggestions

*Hand in Hand* by Rosemary Wells
A newer book from prolific author and illustrator Rosemary Wells. It has large, colorful pictures and a short rhyming text that’s easy for toddlers to follow. It models healthy caregiver-child relationships and encourages caregivers to interact and play with their children.

*Owl Sees Owl* by Laura Godwin
This soothing book can be great for settling down a rambunctious crowd. Each page has beautiful illustrations and just a handful of words to describe a baby owl’s adventure one night after leaving the nest. The poetic text is mirrored as the baby owl returns safely to the nest following his late-night flight.

*Go! Go! Go! Stop!* By Charise Mericle Harper
Scratching the permanent itch that some kids have for trucks and construction equipment, this book encourages children to work together for the benefit of the community. The Littles Green, Red, and Yellow cooperate to help finish and operate a busy bridge for their town.

(Cont. on pg. 17)
Preschool Storytime Suggestions

*Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn* by Kenard Pak
This book is great for those last few storytimes leading into the fall, showing children the changing seasons and the natural rhythms of the world. The library recommends using different voices to model the conversations the child has with the natural world and to encourage caregivers to continue this story when they go outside.

*The Watermelon Seed* by Greg Pizzoli
This clever book with simple, appealing pictures, is about a common childhood fear. What will happen to me if I eat a watermelon seed? Will I explode? It’s a book that will appeal to many folks and children will enjoy the humor.

*Have you Seen Elephant?* By David Barrow
With friendly animals and delightful illustrations, this book depicts a game of hide-and-seek between a young boy and an elephant. You can encourage the children to look for the elephant on every page (be warned: he is “very good”).

Family Storytime Suggestions

*Is That Wise, Pig?* by Jan Thomas
A fun and colorful take on the classic “Stone Soup” story that helps foster critical thinking and counting skills in young children. This book can easily be extended with an activity for children to make their own contributions to a communal pot of soup for the whole group (real or pretend).

*Some Pets* by Angela DiTerlizzi
A great picture book featuring repetition, new vocabulary, cute illustrations, and a diverse group of characters. It introduces children to a variety of animals: how they move, what sounds they make. It also allows children to share information about their own pets at home with the whole group.

*The Invisible Boy* by Trudy Ludwig
Have you ever felt invisible? Brian does. Nobody in his class seems to notice him at all until a new boy, Justin, arrives. This story will help children understand concepts of inclusivity, friendship, and being kind to other people you meet, even the quiet ones.

(Book Suggestions - Cont. from pg. 16)
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 News-poke.)

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 Newspoke Committee.
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President-Elect    Erin Hollingsworth erin.hollingsworth@tuzzy.org
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ALA Representative  Steven Hunt      sdhunt3@alaska.edu
PNLA Representative  Mary Jo Joiner  mjoiner@kenai.com
                                    beth.weigel@juneau.org
                                    ecarls20@uaa.alaska.edu
                                    McGourtySA@ci.anchorage.ak.us
                                    affima@gci.net
                                    http://www.akla.org
                                    aklalist@akla.org

2018 Conference Coordinators

Erik Carlson
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CALENDAR

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