SUE SHERIF WINS CLIA AWARD

On October 6, 2007, Sherri Douglas presented Sue Sherif (below, left) with the Alaska Center for the Book 2007 CLIA (Contributions to Literacy In Alaska) award for her outstanding and long-term work in promoting literacy. Sue has been an ardent supporter of literacy efforts in Fairbanks and in Anchorage. She has worked on literacy projects in both cities; has been an active member of Authors to Alaska, the Alaska Center for the Book, and First Book; has served on the Newbery Award Committee; has worked with the Alaska Ready to Read campaign; and has constantly promoted literacy and reading for children and adults through her active participation in the Alaska Library Association at both the local and state levels.

CONTENTS

- SHERIF—CLIA AWARD 1
- LETTER FROM PRESIDENT 2
- AKL CONFERENCE 2008 3
- BIZZBEE 4
- CATALOGERS’ CORNER 6
- AKL CHAPTER NEWS 8
- BOOK BUZZ 12
- AN ATM FOR BOOKS 14
- N.WEST DIGITAL ARCHIVES 15
- DIGITAL CONTENT TO OCLC 16
- AKL SCHOLARSHIP 17
- 2008 CONFERENCE GRANT 18
- DREXEL LIB. SCI. DEGREE 19
- AKL ASSOC. OFFICERS/CALENDAR 20

Originally posted:
Friday Bulletin 10-12-07
Kay Shelton, Ak.State Librarian

Cicero

He who has a garden and a library wants for nothing.
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

JANE FUERSTENAU

Dear AkLA Members:

This fall AkLA joined the ranks of more than 36 other state chapters to endorse ALA’s resolution concerning National Security Letters. The AkLA Executive Council voted to approve this provision at the September 23, 2007, face-to-face meeting in Anchorage. The actual resolution is titled, “Resolution on the Use and Abuse of National Security Letters” and may be found on the ALA website at: http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/ifresolutions/nationalsecurityletters.pdf

National Security Letters have been available to the FBI since 1978, but their use has changed and expanded in power over the years. Originally intended for use only in terrorism-related investigations of foreign agents, NSLs morphed to allow investigation of ordinary citizens not currently under criminal investigation. Non-disclosure has always been required of the recipients, though penalties for failure to comply were not added until recently. The greatest expansion of NSLs—in number and scope—came with the USA PATRIOT Act in 2001. ALA campaigned vigorously against provisions of the PATRIOT Act from its very inception, but gained little legal ground. The Freedom to Read Protection Act did not pass in 2003, and failed again in 2005. Attorney General John Ashcroft labeled librarians’ concerns as “baseless hysteria,” and Fox News reported that librarians were shredding library documents and records out of frustration. The reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act occurred in two acts in 2005 and 2006, yet did not significantly address privacy issues for library patrons.

Recently it has been disclosed, through a March 2007 report of the U.S. Inspector General, that the number of NSLs issued by the FBI increased significantly from 2003 to 2006, yet was suspiciously under-reported for the same time period. Many of these letters are suspected to violate the law and even FBI agency rules. Even the FBI admits that their record keeping concerning NSLs has been shabby—not knowing for certain how many NSLs have been issued or by whom, and how the information assembled was used or shared.

The bottom line is that reforms to current legislation are necessary to preserve the Constitutional rights of our patrons, and the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom is the place to go for updates and background information on this issue. Voting to endorse ALA’s resolution on NSLs is a step in the right direction, but does not guarantee success. I hope that our organization will continue to track changes in the use of NSLs, and continue to stand up for what we believe to be fair limits on federal seizure of library information.
AKLA CONFERENCE 2008

AkLA Conference 2008 begins with Pre-Conferences on Thursday, February 28 and wraps up with an Endnote Luncheon on Sunday, March 2. All Conference events will be at the Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge, which costs less than in 2004 and is now completely wireless accessible!

Highlights include:

- Pre-Conferences: Protecting Library Collections; Fundraising & Grant Writing; Alaska Ephemera Museum Field Trip; Cataloging Basics; Effective School Library Programs; Storytelling
- Trips & Tours: School Libraries; Libraries You (Probably) Didn’t Know About; Native Arts Festival; Ice Art Championships
- Special events: Keynote by NPR’s Kee Malesky; an Endnote Luncheon with ALA President Loriene Roy; dinner with fashionably dressed Victorian and Edwardian librarians; FREE Sunday Breakfast with “Doe vs. Gonzales” Librarian George Christian; Author Luncheon with Deborah Ellis followed by author signings and an extended, gala “break” on Saturday
- Many, many programs by library folk (both from Outside and in-State) who have wowed and charmed Alaskans with their knowledge and down-to-earth presentations
- Different HOT breakfasts Friday through Sunday – and Sunday’s breakfast is FREE to the first 120 people who register for it! All other meals are at cost (rounded up less than 50 cents)
- Hot topics: Web 2.0 and other nifty online tools; International Polar Year; Alaskana; cataloging & collection management; reader services (adults and youth); storytelling & programming how-to’s

Registration packets are due to go in the mail the first week of December. There WILL BE online registration this year. The early registration deadline is February 9, 2008.


OCLC’s annual all-day meeting for member libraries will be in Fairbanks on Wednesday, February 27, the day before Conference activities begin. It will be held at Noel Wien Library from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. More details will follow from OCLC.

Conference Registration will be recycling old conference bags instead of adding another never-to-be-used-again bag to everyone’s stash. More details will follow.

Georgine Olson
Conference 2008 Program Coordinator
2007 BIZBEE

It was a night of raw courage, demanding strategy, and pure luck. Of ecstatic victory and devastating mistakes in the face of the ultimate enemy: the English language. It was, of course, the 17th Annual BizBee for the Alaska Literacy Program, held Friday, October 5, at the Egan Center. The BizBee, Alaska’s corporate spelling bee, is an adult version of the student spelling bee. The pluses: the adults are in teams, they get to confer over the spelling of a word, and they get to “buy” a new word if they don’t like the one they’re first given. The minuses: they still get those same old impossible-to-spell words.

Under the rules of the BizBee, if a team wins two years in a row, they must replace two members of their 3-person team, but UAA’s English Department had replaced only one member. Disqualification loomed until Prof. Charles Beimard volunteered to remove himself if a UAA-affiliated individual could be found in the audience. In an extraordinary demonstration of personal bravery (and because friends pointed him out), a UAA student known only as “Matt” joined the UAA team. UAA was to last four rounds, with the hero Matt never failing his turn at the words.

The Anchorage Daily News, generous underwriters of the event, was the first team to spell out—in the first round—by leaving out an “s” in “dissect.” This was an astounding repeat of their performance in the 2004 BizBee when columnist Beth Bragg did the same with the word “deployment.” (She left out the “y.”)

Also out in the first round was TelAlaska’s Telephonics, misspelling “diorama.” Surprise! As sellers of the most raffles for airline tickets donated by Alaska Airlines, TelAlaska was the secret recipient of a TeamSaver Award. Producing the award put them back in the game. As teams held on through tough words, the Killer Bee judges (Hon. Karen Hunt, Sen. Bill Wielechowski, and United Way’s Michele Brown) urged Pronouncer Barbara Brown to jump ahead in the word list. Round 5 would prove the undoing of five teams. UAA was stuck on “gummiferous” (producing a colloidal substance), and the rookie “She Bee Gee Beez” of PGS Onshore wilted on “calyx” (outer set of floral leaves). United Way’s “Good Spellas” waxed silent with “paraffinic” (characterized by hydrocarbons of a waxy crystalline methane series substance) while First National Bank Alaska’s “Elemenopees” zeroed out on “dyscalculia” (impairment of mathematical ability). KeyBank “Key Bees” passed “ultimogeniture” (a system of inheritance by which the youngest succeeds), but overreached and fell on their replacement word “ampliate” (enlarged). By the end of Round 5, only seven teams remained.

The Anchorage Chapter will need to find three new spellers in 2008, since Robin, Marie, and Jim have decided to leave the field of competition in this blaze of glory.

(Cont. on pg. 5)
Every BizBee has its share of killer words, and this one was no exception. The Alaska Humanities Forum suffered “duumvirate” (rule by two people) and the BP-sponsored team of the Sleeping Lady Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution faced “inoculum” (material introduced to establish immunity to a disease). Two “u’s” and one “n”.

In Round 7, Alaska Literacy Program’s “Spelloids” came within one second of disqualification, but official Timekeeper, Olympic Snowboader Rosey Fletcher, kept her cool. The drama was a fitting way to go out on “sybaritically” (in a luxurious manner).

ConocoPhillips’ “Drillers N Spellers” passed two words in Round 7, “inoculum” and “amanuensis” (one who writes from dictation or copies), finally successfully spelling “buffa” (a woman singer of comic opera roles). That left them to face off in the final rounds with the Alaska Library Association/Anchorage Chapter’s Dewey Decimators.

ConocoPhillips spelled “cuneiform” (characters composed of wedge strokes), and the librarians spelled “nascency” (coming into existence); but the Drillers went down on “cordate” (shaped like a heart), mistaking it for its homonym “chordate.” Would the librarians spell the championship word, or would the Drillers get to reenter the fray?

The Dewey Decimators gambled and won with “pachinko” (Japanese gambling device), taking their second victory in BizBee history. This year’s team, entirely different from the Library Association team that won in 2004, included Robin Hanson, UAA librarian; Marie Lundstrom, retired librarian; and Jim Curran, West High librarian. First National Bank Alaska’s cheerleaders and co-workers won the Team Spirit Award.

The BizBee, Alaska Literacy Program’s largest fund raiser, was especially successful because nine teams stepped up as Leaders in Literacy. Instead of paying the $400 entry fee, they paid $1,000: Alaska Communications Systems, Anchorage Daily News, BP, ConocoPhillips, First National Bank Alaska, KeyBank, Rasmuson Foundation, State Farm Insurance, and TelAleaska. Total for literacy: over $23,000.

The words that the AkLA-A team spelled correctly throughout the course of the BizBee were: idiom, gardenia, egregious, pangolin, endotracheal, cotyledon, vertiginous, amanuensis, nascency, and pachinko.

Stalwart spellers, the Dewey Decimators survived 17 teams and 9 rounds of spelling. Eleven supporters yelled themselves hoarse as the Decimators demonstrated their spelling mastery. Though the Anchorage team had two passes paid for with contributions from Chapter members, they did not have to use these passes. Instead, the Decimators took on four words that had been passed a total of seven times by other teams.
Question: You just graduated from library school. You are planning a career in cataloging or technical services. What to do?
Answer: Run straight up to Alaska and embark on the arduous task of cataloging thorny gray literature in the natural resources and environmental sciences.

From a pool of candidates made up entirely of recent library school graduates all wanting this very opportunity, Alaska Resources Library and Information Services (ARLIS) in Anchorage selected two: Kelly Wavrin, from the College of St. Catherine in Minnesota, and Emily Fidelman, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. They started as assistant project catalogers in mid-summer 2006, and as their supervisor I have had the pleasure of mentoring them since their arrival.

And they came at a good time. ARLIS aggressively acquires vast amounts of scientific material, chiefly in the gray literature—a reason for the library’s special attention to cataloging. In addition, the library is still finishing collection maintenance from merging the eight primary collections that formed ARLIS. On top of that, it is implementing new services, such as online series authority control, electronic document delivery, and MARC holding records. ARLIS has received several federal grants to make some much needed headway. One grant supported a team of six new catalogers during 2002-2004. For the 2006-2008 project, ARLIS hired four technical service staff including Emily and Kelly as the two new “cataloging trainees.”

Nationwide, the training of new professionals in cataloging is in a state of overall deterioration and has far less support nowadays. Then too, trying to land a job with minimal experience stresses out many graduates. Fortunately, the grants have given ARLIS the chance to respond to these dilemmas, and as a result a few recent graduates have had the opportunity to specialize in cataloging and the ability to list two years’ experience on a resume. ARLIS also sees the grant projects as a means of building up the cataloging knowledge-base in Alaska, if trainees can and wish to stay in the state.

Emily and Kelly exhibit good chemistry as professional teammates and take their jobs seriously. Both are undergraduate majors in English, but their positions require handling very technical material in the hard sciences all day long!—a duty most typical catalogers don’t have to endure. Nonetheless, it is their knowledge of information organization and delivery that permits them to succeed as librarians regardless of subject matter. They find the art of gray literature cataloging to be difficult and elusive, yet rewarding.

(Cont. on pg. 7)
Bibliographic records for such materials are very often in poor shape in OCLC, so Emily and Kelly are getting an early start in their careers in record upgrading. They are learning how to abstract a work to provide a concise, objective summary note, and how to construct a meaningful contents note—and when not to. To adequately provide subject analysis, ARLIS catalogers delve into the murky world of Alaska’s geographic names—a task incomparable to any other state by far! They assign unique headings for specific places to distinguish, for example, the three Clear Creeks in the Fairbanks quadrangle alone. And don’t get them started on the zillions of Bear Creeks and Fish Creeks in the state! To make matters worse, an author does not always bother to explain which of the many Cottonwood Creeks he/she is writing about or to provide a map. By making these determinations first, the cataloger serves the patron.

Both assistant project catalogers share most tasks, but they are developing niches. After just one year, Kelly is grasping the art of original cataloging of not just gray literature, but electronic resources, maps, microforms, and videos. She has been working diligently on local series authority control (of particular importance to ARLIS) and has made several record contributions to NACO (the Name Authority Cooperative Program).

Emily has been helping ARLIS manage and archive its electronic resources by creating PURLS (Persistent Uniform Resource Locators) and web pages and by researching digital archiving methods. Also, this fall she is overseeing a library school intern, Kelly Page, who is volunteering for digital delivery projects.

Yet there is a personal side to their stays in Anchorage. For northern gals one might think they were at least mentally prepared for Alaska. Emily, a Pittsburgh native who lived in Boulder, CO, accepts having to jump-start a frozen car every now and then. But let it be known that Kelly, a true Minnesotan, remarks: “I was surprised at how long and cold the winter in Anchorage is. Coming from St. Paul, I expected (and was told) that the winter in Anchorage would be more mild. It’s not true!” There are also shared perceptions: the state of Alaska comes across as much more conservative than expected in environmental and political issues.

Whether or not Kelly and Emily become career catalogers, their two-year stints will give them a strong foundation in understanding bibliographic control. They will have gained in-depth experience in technical services that most libraries, working with more traditional resources, could not offer a beginning cataloger.

These cataloging grant projects are of particular importance to all Alaskans because ARLIS supports research on the use and management of the state’s land and natural resources. Making these materials accessible is one part in making a big impact on the state. That is a mighty contribution from Kelly and Emily early in their careers.

Ed Kazzimir
Alaska Resources Library and Information Services
Two authors presented their works to an appreciative crowd at the Delta Library’s Alaska Author Day “Coffee, Cake and Culture” event.

Acclaimed Alaskan poet laureate John Haines read several moving poems from his award-winning book “Winter News” and a selection of prose from “The Stars, The Snow, The Fire” which chronicles the years he lived at his homestead at mile 68 on the Richardson Highway. Mr. Haines also presented the library with a limited edition broadside printed by Railroad Press featuring his 2003 poem “Requiem for the Arctic Refuge.” This exquisite work is now on display in the Alaskana section of the library.

Delta’s own Brookelyn Bellinger read from her new book “The Frozen Toe Guide to Real Alaskan Livin’” and had the audience laughing in no time. Tales of dumpster diving, lessons in how to dress for success at fifty below, and life-size cutouts of a moose, a husky, and Brooke wearing bright red long johns topped off with a fur bikini added to the fun. Everyone is hoping her dream of winning the giant cabbage contest at the Alaska State Fair comes true soon.

The authors spoke with their fans as they autographed books, and everyone enjoyed carrot cake while they browsed the Banned Books display that will be up in the library until October 10. The Delta Library Board would like to thank everyone who attended this reading and reminds you that more cultural events are coming this winter - watch the Delta Wind for more information.

Joyce McCombs, Director
Delta Community Library

KETCHIKAN

The Ketchikan Public Library held an autumn Open House on October 30. Hosted by the Friends of the Library, the Open House was a chance for the public to tour the library (including the staff areas), find out more about proposed sites for a new library building, and enjoy desserts and coffee. There were library-themed games such as Library Lotto and a Scavenger Hunt through the collection, while the Children’s Library had a beanbag toss set up for the kids. We were very happy to have Mayor Bob Weinstein come to the party, as well as City Council Members Sam Bergeron, Jason Harris and Marty West.

The public had a chance to tell their representatives their opinions of the proposed sites, and the representatives had the chance to meet the staff members and see how the library operates. The

(Cont. on pg. 9)
(Chapter News - Cont. from pg. 8)

council will be discussing the new library site options at its November 1 meeting, so this Open House was a good opportunity to start the flow of ideas and incorporate public comment.

The Open House took place on the same evening as the Teen Advisory Group’s Halloween party. The T.A.G. members enjoyed cookies and cupcakes while they shared stories and planned their upcoming December event: a movie and games lock-in. The T.A.G. group has also recently completed its entry into the nationwide Unshelved ‘Pimp My Bookcart’ contest sponsored by Highsmith. The T.A.G members chose to go with a music theme, and their bookcart sported a working (and loud) stereo system. The group was able to use their bookcart for a practical purpose as well: recruiting new members and celebrating Teen Read Week at the high school.

Their musical tour of the Ketchikan High School was a big success, and students wanting to try their iPods out on the speaker system mobbed the bookcart in the hallway.

Lisa Pearson
Ketchikan Public Library

ANCHORAGE

The Hollywood Librarian Premieres in Anchorage

Nearly 70 librarians and library supporters attended the Alaskan premiere of: The Hollywood Librarian: A Look at Librarians Through Film on Saturday, October 6, at the Loussac Public Library. The film had been shown once at the 2007 conference of the American Library Association in Washington, D.C. Ann Seidl, the producer, decided to release this film during Banned Books Week at libraries across the United States and Canada. In August, the Anchorage Chapter voted to participate in this event.

Overdue Productions produced this film. The company sent out participation forms to libraries and organizations that wanted to show the film and provided copies of the film on DVD, enough pre-

(Cont. on pg. 10)
printed tickets for the theater in which the film was
to be shown, set up a Web page with different types
of publicity items ready for downloading, and hosted
a forum on which people who had agreed to spon-
ror the film could discuss plans and ideas for their
local premieres.

Sherri Douglas and Patience Frederiksen coordi-
nated local publicity for The Hollywood Librarian,
with announcements being placed in newspapers
and other media. Chapter members sold tickets and
posted flyers about the event in their libraries. The
film was shown in 87 libraries nationwide during
Banned Book Week September 29–October 6,
with the Anchorage event being one of the last to
take place during this release.

Preliminary figures indicate that the Anchorage
Chapter sold nearly 100 tickets to the movie and
gave away many free tickets to library employees
and library school students. Nearly 70 people
attended the film. This event was a fundraiser for the
Anchorage Chapter, which cleared $170 for our
treasury after we send the required tickets receipts
to the film company and pay for the rental of the
Marston Theater. Ann Seidl plans to release the film
generally over the next year. For more details, see:
http://www.hollywoodlibrarian.com/

Patience Frederiksen
Alaska State Library

(Cont. on pg. 11)
ANCHORAGE

Cheers for all the energetic youth services librarians who gathered in Anchorage September 11-12 for the first-ever Alaska Youth Services Workshop. Priscilla McAdara of the State Library Anchorage office commented, “I don’t think I’ve ever been around so many people who had so much passion for their jobs.” There were 32 librarians in attendance, but there was enough energy in the room to stoke a few small power plants.

Many thanks to Sue Sherif, Priscilla McAdara, and Patience Frederiksen for arranging this incredible two-day workshop which supports the role that libraries play in the lives and literacy of Alaska’s children. We had a great time sharing ideas, learning new information at the Imaginarium for our upcoming summer of Catch the Reading Bug,” and laughing at the amazing and funny stories of the Creek Sisters.

Carol Race
Douglas Public Library

DOCUMENTS ROUNDTABLE HAS NEW CHAIR!

Anastasia Tarmann Lynch, the Federal Documents Librarian for the Alaska State Library since January 2007, was appointed as the new chair for AkLA’s Government Documents Roundtable in October 2007. She replaces outgoing chair Daniel Cornwall, who recently resigned his chairmanship after being promoted to Head of Information Services at the Alaska State Library. Anastasia brings a lot of enthusiasm for Government Documents and plans to start a Roundtable blog in the near future.

Daniel Cornwall
Alaska State Library
The Uncommon Reader, by Alan Bennett, 2007, hot off the press, is a quick read at 120 pages. This small book tells the tale of what happens after the Queen of England wanders into a bookmobile, borrows a book, and becomes obsessed with, of all things, reading. With an excruciatingly correct tone and a wonderful peek at what really goes on behind palace doors, I loved every page of this delightful novella that made me laugh out loud in a very unqueenly manner. (Joyce McCombs, Delta Community Library)

Alone in the Kitchen with an Eggplant: Confessions of Cooking for One and Dining Alone, by Jenni Ferrari-Adler, 2007. We all have one—a favorite food we can’t wait to enjoy when we’re alone. Find yours and curl up with this charming collection of essays by famous foodies and just plain folks—and be prepared to marvel at what some people think is tasty. Complete with recipes (including Nora Ephron’s legendary directions for perfect mashed potatoes) and a lot of humor, it’s a treat from start to finish. Don’t miss the author profiles at the end—I almost did and would have missed some major smiles. (Joyce McCombs, Delta Community Library)

Carved In Sand: When Attention Fails and Memory Fades in Midlife, by Cathryn Jakobson Ramin, 2007. Feel like you’re losing your mind? You’re not alone and help (within reason) is available. That is the core message of Ms. Ramin’s book, one that should be shared with anyone you know over 40. Drawing on surveys and interviews from hundreds of successful yet memory-challenged midlifers and many memory researchers, Ms. Ramin documents the reality of midlife memory loss and discusses available interventions. Bottom line is: while one cannot recover the full cognitive abilities you had at 20, there are many things you can do to keep sharp. Top item on the list - GET SOME SLEEP! (Dan Cornwall, Alaska State Library)

(Cont. on pg. 13)
Play Dead, by David Rosenfelt, 2007. I’m not normally a mystery fanatic, but the wonderful reviews for this one caught my eye. I figured out the mystery early, but didn’t care, as the characters were so interesting and well-written that I had a hard time putting this one down. We may be past summer, but this would be a great beach read for that PFD trip to Hawaii. Plus, any mystery that is solved for the love of a dog has got to be a good one for Alaskans! (Freya Anderson, Alaska State Library)

*****

The Seas, by Samantha Hunt, 2004. Magical realism of the variety you’d expect from an author from Latin America, Hunt’s nameless narrator exists in a world where the line between real and the imagined is blurred. Set in a remote coastal town, this love story will leave you just where you started, trying to flee the all powerful, all knowing, heartless sea which gives and takes life without a second thought. Lose yourself in a quick read by an up and coming master. (Jonas Lamb, Juneau Public Library)

*****

Bad Monkeys, by Matt Ruff, 2007. If you like Christopher Moore, add the inventive and darkly funny author Matt Ruff to your must-read list. Bad Monkeys addresses the paranoid in all of us. Are we watched and manipulated by powerful, unseen groups? Just how far will those groups go to win the battle between good and evil? With lots of twists and a killer ending, Bad Monkeys will have you wondering until the last page exactly which ones are the bad guys and which ones are the good. (Linda Klein, Muldoon Branch, Anchorage Public Library)

*****

The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir, by Bill Bryson, 2006. If you remember atomic toilet seats (the ones that retracted automatically into a recessed holder which housed a blue light that sanitized the seat between uses), then this book is for you. Every book I’ve ever read by Bill Bryson has made me howl with laughter and this one is no exception. Born in 1951 (the middle of the post-war baby boom years) in the middle of the country (Des Moines, Iowa), Bryson fondly remembers his youth…and if you are lucky, he helps you remember your youth, as well. The cover art alone on the recent paperback is worth the cost of this lovely memoir. (Patience Frederiksen, Alaska State Library)

River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt’s Darkest Journey, by Candice Millard, 2005. I never knew much about Teddy Roosevelt, but after reading this tale, I am going to be on the lookout for a good comprehensive biography of him. This book tells the story of the grueling 1912 expedition jointly led by Roosevelt and Brazil’s most famous explorer, Candido Mariano da Silva Rondon, down the River of Doubt, an unexplored 1,000 mile tributary of the Amazon. The author deftly weaves together the trials and tribulations of the expedition with descriptions of the river, the fish, the animals, the rain forest, and the natives. I enjoyed the fact that I was absorbing so many facts in a narrative that read like a novel. I also came to admire Teddy for his easy way with the Brazilian camarados, the workers who had to portage dugouts around what seemed like an endless series of rapids and gorges, and for his determination and drive during this truly incredible journey. (Patience Frederiksen, Alaska State Library)
On Demand Books LLC is planning to become the first company to globally deploy a low-cost, totally automatic book machine (The Espresso Book Machine), which can produce 15-20 library quality paperback books per hour, in any language, in quantities of one, without any human intervention. This technology and process will produce one each of ten different books at the same speed and cost as it can produce ten copies of the same book. ODB has two machines currently deployed (one at the World Bank InfoShop in Washington, D.C., and one at the Library of Alexandria in Egypt).

ODB is also finalizing technology to access a vast network of content that can be accessed and produced via The Espresso Book Machine Network. The content of this library will reside in numerous locations from a multitude of sources. The system will accept multiple formats and fully respect licenses and rights.

http://www.ondemandbooks.com/

As an idea, on demand book printing is nothing new, and we even spotted that Bookmachine monstrosity doing the whole ATM-for-books thing back in 2004, but it looks like the concept is about to take a big step with the new “Espresso” machine from On Demand Books.

The $50,000 vending machine is about to debut in somewhere between 10 and 25 libraries and bookstores in 2007, including the New York Public Library in February. The machine can produce two books simultaneously in seven minutes, a time which includes all the printing, binding and cutting involved. The machine even slaps a snazzy laminated full-color cover on its creations. Books top out at around 550 pages, and right-to-left texts are possible.

Production cost is about five cents per page, which should be quite a bargain for the roughly one million public domain English works currently floating around the Internet, but we’re not sure what exact costs will be levied by bookstores and copyright holders for the other titles — there are currently 2.5 million books available for printing by the Espresso.

http://www.engadget.com/2006/12/21/the-espresso-from-on-demand-books-brews-you-up-a-copy-right-fres/

Posted Dec 21st 2006 10:25AM by Paul Miller     Filed under: Misc. Gadgets
The Northwest Digital Archives (NWDA), a program that provides enhanced access to archival collections and facilitates collaboration among archives, libraries, and museums in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska, has reached a major milestone in its quest for stability beyond its funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), which ended last month. The NWDA, which began in 2002 with support from the NEH and NHPRC, is now a program of the Orbis Cascade Alliance, an academic library consortium with 34 member institutions in Washington and Oregon.

As an Alliance program, NWDA will continue to pursue its goals of creating great information services through collaboration. The merger allows NWDA to create a robust future that will include sustaining its current database of more than 4500 finding aids for archival collections, building a regional digital content program, and continuing active involvement with national-level conversations on the present and future of access to archival materials across diverse institutions.

The NWDA website is located at [http://nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu/](http://nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu/). There, researchers can find information about archival collections through keyword, subject, repository, and genre searches. The database offers researchers the ability to find information about collections across institutions, at a greater level of detail than is available through any other tool. The collection information is also exposed to search engines.

Participating institutions have agreed to pay member fees to sustain the program beyond grant funding and continue open and free access for researchers. Member institutions are the Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Gonzaga University, Idaho State Historical Society, Seattle Museum of History & Industry, Whitman College, Montana Historical Society, University of Montana, Oregon Historical Society, Oregon State University, University of Oregon, the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies at Western Washington University, Pacific Lutheran University, University of Washington, Washington State University, Lane Community College, [University of Alaska](http://nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu/).

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Jodi Allison-Bunnell
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More than 2,000 eBook titles will be made available online

DUBLIN, Ohio, October 11, 2007—Yale University Press, one of the leading university presses in the United States, is adding digital content to NetLibrary, OCLC’s leading platform for eContent to libraries worldwide.


“It’s fitting that as we enter into our second century, we begin to establish partnerships that will help us fulfill our founding mission—to aid in the discovery and dissemination of knowledge—well into the future,” said John Donatich, Director, Yale University Press. “With this in mind, we are very pleased to be working with NetLibrary and excited by the new opportunities that this relationship will afford.”

Founded in 1908 by George Parmly Day and his wife Wilhelmina, Yale University Press is one of the oldest and largest American university presses. The publications of the Press include books and other materials that further scholarly investigation, advance interdisciplinary inquiry, stimulate public debate, educate both within and outside the classroom, and enhance cultural life. In its commitment to increasing the range and vigor of intellectual pursuits within the university and elsewhere, Yale University Press continually extends its horizons to embody university publishing at its best.

“OCLC NetLibrary is pleased to be able to offer titles from Yale University Press, one of the most distinguished American university presses,” said Chip Nilges, Vice President, OCLC Business Development. “These titles represent works that promote a greater understanding of our world, and will be of great benefit to users of all libraries, and particularly academic institutions.”

There are more than 400 Yale University Press titles currently available through NetLibrary, and a total of more than 2,000 titles will be added once the backlist is digitized.

OCLC NetLibrary now offers more than 150,000 titles through its eContent platform.

OCLC NetLibrary provides content and technical delivery solutions to institutional libraries, corporations and government agencies that facilitate the purchase, management and distribution of research, reference, digital learning and general interest content via Web-based technologies. NetLibrary’s eContent solution is the most broadly adopted in the market, making the content of more than 400 publishers and eContent providers available through more than 15,000 libraries worldwide. For more information, visit www.netlibrary.org.

Founded in 1967 and headquartered in Dublin, Ohio, OCLC Online Computer Library Center is a nonprofit library membership and research organization that has provided computer-based cataloging, reference, resource sharing, eContent and preservation services to 60,000 libraries in 112 countries and territories. OCLC and its member libraries worldwide have created and maintain WorldCat, the world’s richest online resource for finding library materials. For more information, visit www.oclc.org.

Bob Murphy
murphyb@oclc.org
AkLA has established a scholarship program to support the education of librarians for Alaska’s libraries, including school libraries. The stated purpose is to provide financial assistance to worthy students pursuing graduate studies in Library Science and to encourage graduates to return to Alaska to work in professional library positions. Preference is given to qualified applicants meeting the federal requirements of Alaska Native ethnicity.

Three scholarships of $3,000 each may be awarded: one for a Master’s Degree candidate, one for School Library Media Certification (the B.Jo Morse Scholarship), and a third from either category.

To be eligible for the scholarship, an applicant must be an Alaskan resident who:

· possesses a Bachelor’s Degree or higher from an accredited college or university;
· is eligible for acceptance, or is currently enrolled, in a graduate program in Library and Information Science leading to a Master’s Degree or School Library Media Certification, from a university program accredited by the American Library Association;
· is or will be a student during the academic year, semester, or academic quarter for which the scholarship is received; and
· makes a commitment to work in an Alaskan library for a minimum of one year after graduation as a paid employee or volunteer, or for two semesters for one semester’s financial assistance.

Completed applications must be received by January 15 of the award year. If you are interested in applying, copies of the guidelines and application forms are available online at http://www.akla.org/scholarships/index.html. If you have questions about graduate library studies or would like paper copies of the scholarship application, contact:

AkLA Scholarship Committee
Attn.: Aja Markel Razumny
Alaska State Library
P.O. Box 110571
Juneau, AK 99811-0571

ph: (907) 465-2458 or 1-888-820-4525
email: aja.razumny@alaska.gov
2008 AKLA REGIONAL CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE GRANT
FOR AN EMPLOYEE, VOLUNTEER OR BOARD MEMBER OF A LIBRARY IN INTERIOR AND NORTHERN ALASKA

Do you live in the Interior or Northern Region of Alaska and are you interested in attending the Alaska Library Association 2008 Conference in Fairbanks? Grant assistance is available. The Alaska Library Association is offering $500 to one library employee, volunteer and/or board member from a library in the Interior or Northern Regions* to assist with travel and lodging expenses incurred while attending the 2008 AkLA Conference. The conference registration fee will also be waived for the award recipient.

Eligibility:
• You must be working in or with a public, school, academic or special library within the Interior or Northern region boundaries, as designated by the Alaska Library Network*.
• You must be a library staff member, board member or volunteer.
• You must either currently be a member of the Alaska Library Association, or join before the grant is awarded.
• Submit your application by January 15, 2008

• The recipient will sign an acceptance statement agreeing to the following conditions:
  • The recipient will attend three days of the conference.
  • The recipient will receive his or her grant check at an awards function, to take place during the conference.
  • The recipient will keep an informal log or diary about the sessions attended. The log or diary is to be submitted to the Continuing Education Committee as a basis for project evaluation. This will be used by the committee to improve this grant award and its requirements. Both positive and negative comments are helpful.

Conference Attendance Award applications may be sent by email, fax or letter by January 15, 2008 to:

AkLA Conference Attendance Grant
c/o Alaska State Library
P.O. Box 110571
Juneau, AK 99811-0571

1-888-820-4525 fax 907-465-2458
aja.razumny@alaska.gov

* http://www.dced.state.ak.us/oed/student_info/learn/region.htm
ALA ACCREDITED LIBRARY SCIENCE DEGREE

APPLY NOW! Drexel University Online offers ALA accredited Library Science degree and certificate options available to AKLA members at 20% off.

If you would like to earn a degree or certificate in the field of Library Science but do not want to put your career on hold to pursue it, then a Drexel University Online degree program is perfect for you! Drexel University Online offers the same quality education you would receive on campus, but in a convenient, online format ideal for working librarians and library professionals.

Through a partnership with Drexel, Alaska Library Association members will receive 20% OFF the on-campus tuition rate when enrolling in either the ALA accredited Certificate of Advanced Study in Information Science and Technology or the MS in Library & Information Science program offered through Drexel’s College of Information Science and Technology (iSchool)!

COMPLETE YOUR FREE ONLINE APPLICATION TODAY!
Deadlines for the Spring term 2008 are quickly approaching. Drexel is now accepting applications for the spring term beginning on March 31, 2008. Applications and all supplemental materials are due by the March 1, 2008. To receive 20% off, you MUST use “AKLA” as your affiliation code when applying.

Visit www.drexel.com/akla to complete the FREE application process and learn more about the fully accredited library science program options. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis; apply as soon as possible to ensure you meet the deadline.

If you would like to speak personally with the partnership liaison about all that Drexel University Online and the iSchool has to offer, please contact Valerie Malinowski at 215-895-0915 or vm97@drexel.edu
ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
PO Box 81084
Fairbanks, AK  99708

CALENDAR
National Conference of the Public Library Association, Minneapolis, MN  Mar. 25-29, 2008
Pacific Northwest Library Association Conf., Post Falls, ID  Aug. 6-9, 2008