The Alaska Library Network (ALN) recognized a stellar group of Digital Pipeline Champions during the second annual Electronic Risk Management for Alaska (ERMA) meeting in Anchorage on August 27-28, 2012. The last few months have been a significant period for the Digital Pipeline (sled.alaska.edu/databsees) with the addition of two new statewide databases, Teen Health and Wellness and BrainPOP, and with launch of the new EZProxy service. The credit for these recent developments goes to the School Library K12 Database Trials committee headed by Robin Turk, Steve Rollins and Daniel Cornwall.

The School Library K12 Database Trials committee members, Robin Turk (Mat-Su and Past AkASL President), Katie Sanders (Fairbanks), Ann Morgester (Anchorage) and Jacque Peterson (State Library), conducted a rigorous, systematic search in early 2012 for outstanding, statewide databases for the K12 community which led to the acquisition of BrainPOP and Teen Health and Wellness, two resources that will serve the learning and information needs of Alaska children in the years to come.

As a Digital Pipeline Champion of long standing, Steve Rollins (UAA and ALN Board Treasurer) has worked on the management, funding, coordination and promotion of the statewide database program for well over a decade for the collective good. Thanks to his vision, financial acumen and efforts, the Digital Pipeline has been yet further enhanced in 2012 by the addition of new databases and a proxy server for more seamless authentication.

Daniel Cornwall (State Library) has worked tirelessly over the years on many aspects of the Digital Pipeline. His role as the “fix-it-man,” often behind the scenes, for all manner of
(Pipeline - Cont. from pg. 1)

authentication and technical problems—especially as new databases and services such as Teen Health and Wellness and BrainPOP are launched—has helped innumerable library staff and patrons access, use and profit from all the statewide databases and resources.

The Alaska Library Network recognizes that the success of statewide programs such as the Digital Pipeline is the work of many hands. We particularly wish to acknowledge these champions, who have gone above and beyond to create benefits for Alaskan libraries and their users.

Nina Malyshev
Director, Alaska Library Network

DIPPING A TOE INTO AKLA WATERS

When I decided to run for President of the Anchorage Chapter of AkLA, I did it because I’m selfish and knew it would be good for me; rather than, say, the organization. In my defense, I was asked to run so it wasn’t 100% selfish. I figured if someone out there at least entertained the idea I could do it, I would jump in the deep end and tread some water.

Ten months, eight chapter meetings, five E-Council meetings, four chapter board meetings, two new chapter board members, and one new chapter committee chair later I feel quite humbled and sometimes look back at the shallow end of the pool, checking to see if my suit is still on.

Don’t let me scare you. I am grateful that I took on this opportunity to be more involved in AkLA – I’m even running for President of the Anchorage Chapter again in 2013. How else would I have met and worked with so many amazing, dedicated library professionals and paraprofessionals in Alaska? Where would my motivation have come to be knowledgeable of numerous local and statewide library issues and events? What way other than dog-paddling into a

(Cont. on pg. 11)
JOE D’ELIA’S FANTASTIC FILMS

“...Joe D’Elia and I’m a movie nut!” so begins Fantastic Films, a weekly movie review broadcast on KMXT, Kodiak’s public radio affiliate. Joe, the city library director at Kodiak’s A. Holmes Johnson Memorial Library, delivers this spot with enthusiasm and excitement. During the weekly show, Joe reviews old, off beat movies in great detail, including information about plots, special effects and the tie-ins with his boyhood. His research of interesting facts about Boris Karloff, for example, or spaghetti westerns can be inspirational, so that one wants to run into the library and check out that movie. He researches what he reviews from a variety of sources such as, VideoHound, Leonard Maltin, the IMDB (Internet Movie Data Base) and Wikipedia for background and details. One can learn a great deal about favorite actors or movies from this weekly show.

Joe gets his love of old movies from his dad who always alerted him to a good movie showing on TV in the ’50s. Joe told me, “As a kid, I also spent every Saturday at my local theater watching a double feature of sci-fi or horror films with a cartoon or Three Stooges short.” He attended the University of Michigan in the ’70s and ’80s and was a member of a student film exhibition society during that time. “Every movie that I discuss, I’ve watched repeatedly for at least the last 20 years, depending on the age of the film,” Joe told me. “My favorite genre hands down is science fiction, but I like everything except, for the most part, musicals.”

Everyone is welcomed to tune in to KMXT through its web-streaming service to listen to Joe’s weekly show. It airs on Sundays about 12:20 p.m. and Friday mornings around 9:30 a.m. [http://www.kmxt.org]. Give a listen; you’ll be surprised at the things you can learn about favorite old movies!

Laurie Madsen, Kodiak

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

AkASL is gearing up to get funding introduced and passed by the legislature for the Public School Library Collection Development Grant law that was passed in 2008 (Sec. 3 Chapter 55 SLA 2008: AS 14.56.360-375) in the upcoming legislative session.

If the law is funded, it would give up to $3000 to every public school library in the state that has a dedicated space and designated adult staffing of the library. The grant would be operated through the state library and would be reapplied for annually. This funding is important for so many of the school libraries around the state that have little or no budget, as it would give them a consistent revenue stream. In addition it would benefit many of the smaller communities where the school library is also used by the general public. To find out more check out the Alaska Empty Shelves website.

In order for this funding measure to pass, we need the legislators to hear from many people throughout the state, not just school librarians! Currently, school librarians are working with teachers’ unions, school board

(Cont. on pg. 7)
CORDOVA

The Cordova Public Library hosted a very successful family event called “Zombie Night.” Fifty-five patrons attended, and all seemed to be having a great time. The biggest hits were Zombie bowling, face painting and making wearable buttons with zombie themes.

The bowling was done on a large folding table, with cardboard duct taped around three sides to prevent the ball and pins from flying off the table. A pre-teen volunteer manned the game, putting the pins back in place for each bowler. The “Bowling Zombies” set is available at AreYouGame.com.

Two wonderful young women volunteers did the face painting. We provided sets of face paint, many small paint brushes, cotton balls and bowls of water for washing brushes. We also gave them some ideas for face paint, but both women came up with beautiful creations on their own.

One of our seasoned employees manned the button maker. We provided five choices to color: three scary and two cute designs. The children assembled all the parts of the button, and then got assistance in pressing them all together. We had plenty of supplies so children could make more than one button.

Our cupcakes were dressed up with plastic zombie toppers, which made another trinket to take home. We had prize drawings for zombie finger puppets and zombie mints. All the children enjoyed the variety of activities available, and their parents were tickled to see them turn into little zombies for the night.

Miriam Dunbar
Library Director
Cordova Public Library

(Cont. on pg. 5)
TOK

Tok Community Library: We installed a Harmon wood pellet stove and bulk hopper last fall using Community Revenue Sharing money from the Tok Community Umbrella Corporation. The stove and hopper have been a hit with everyone who enters. People just love the stove! It looks great, it’s warm and inviting, and during the heating season everyone who comes in comments on it and asks for more information.

Our goal was to use wood pellets to heat the library in hopes of reducing heating costs and encouraging Alaskan pellet mills. Pellets are a carbon-neutral fuel, and using them can mean additional jobs in the state, plus the pellets are made using waste lumber and scrub trees that otherwise are not commercially viable. Making pellets turns hazardous wildfire fuel into useful heating fuel.

The bulk hopper means the stove can operate for days with no one feeding it, but it was astonishingly ugly—a great utilitarian aluminum bin that looked dreadful next to the beautiful pellet stove. We’ve disguised it by painting it flat black (to match the stove) and covering it with quilted wall hangings that simulate shelves of books. The total effect is awesome and everyone loves it.

This picture was taken by Bruce Grossmann of Delta Junction when he visited the library in October.

Kathy Morgan, Librarian
Tok Community Library

(Cont. on pg. 6)
DELTA

Riders in the Sky is an American Western music and comedy group whose style also appeals to children. They perform authentic renditions of old classic cowboy and Western songs, as well as original works and various comedic skits and songs. On October 2, they performed at the Delta Community Library.

They first came to Delta 27 years ago and a lot of folks in the audience saw them way back then. So the big joke the Riders made was “once every 27 years, we come to Delta Junction.” And this time, when they gave their last encore, they all said in unison “see you in 27 years!”

We hired the Business Professionals of America kids at the high school to make dinner for the group, and the cowboys were just blown away at how professional the kids were and how delicious the food was... They couldn’t stop talking about it, even when they went on stage. We partner with Fairbanks Concert Association to bring two acts a year to Delta, and we’ve been doing it for four years now—everything from flamenco dancers to Celtic music to classical to cowboys... Just fantastic!

Here’s proof that librarians’ dreams DO come true. I just love my cowboy pals: Woody Paul, Joey the Cow Polka King, Too Slim (notice his “cac-tie”) and Ranger Doug. Safe travels home, boys, and y’all come back soon!

One of the best parts of the concert happened when kids were invited to come up front and sing along with Woody—including a segment on “playing your face,” which brought down the house!
(Chapters - Cont. from pg. 6)

About 550-600 people attended. We are very grateful for all the support for these events—from the public, the City, Fort Greely, the school district, just everyone…

That’s what makes it all work and keeps us motivated toward the next one! And thanks, of course, to the Delta News Web for the tremendous coverage and helping to get the word out. ❖

Joyce McCombs, Director
Delta Community Library

GOVERNOR’S SLIDES TO ALASKA’S DIGITAL ARCHIVES

JUNEAU – The Alaska State Archives has added 500 Governor’s slides to Alaska’s Digital Archives http://vilda.alaska.edu/. The Governor’s official photographer took 2,000 photographs in the early days of the spill. Content varied from tanker and Valdez Port aerials, to spill response in progress, to affected animals, birds, and human communities and individuals. A narrated PowerPoint by Project Archivist Sara Bornstein is also available, telling what her work on the Exxon Valdez Records Project was like. An index to all slides is available on the State Archives webpage http://archives.alaska.gov/for_researchers/for_researchers.html/#exxon and the remaining 1,500 slides are available at the State Archives. ❖

Source: RG Office of the Governor, series Exxon Valdez Slides
For information, Project Director Larry Hibpsman larry.hibpsman@alaska.gov; 907-465-2241(v); 465-2465(f).

(AkASL - Cont. from pg. 3)

sand superintendents throughout the state to get their backing. We also hope to enlist the help of principals, students, parents, authors, mayors, city council members and the press. To do this, we need your help! Starting in January we will ask people to write, call and email their legislators in Juneau.

In the meantime, please contact influential people in your community to tell them of this great opportunity to put books into the hands of all the children throughout the state!

We’ll need vocal support from all types of people come January! For more information (and to volunteer your help!) feel free to contact Nicole Roohi via the AkASL website. There will be another update in the next New-spoke, or feel free to join the Alaska School Librarians Face-book group or read the Puffin for more real-time updates. ❖

Nicole Roohi, President
AkASL
The Alaska and Polar Regions Collections and Archives at Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska is pleased to announce completion of our latest multi-media oral history website: Judges of Alaska Project Jukebox (www.jukebox.uaf.edu/judges). This website tells the story of the formation of the Alaska Court System through first-hand accounts of what it means to be a judge or magistrate in Alaska. The project was supported in whole or in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Alaska State Library, and was done in collaboration with the Alaska Court System and the Alaska Bar Association Historians Committee.

Karen Brewster
Research Associate,
UAF Oral History Program
Fairbanks

This Project Jukebox highlights stories related to the history of judges in Alaska. Prior to statehood, courts in Alaska were part of the Territorial justice system run by the federal government, and cases were decided by Municipal and Village Magistrates and U.S. Commissioners, many of whom did not have a legal background. Court was held in roadhouses, in kitchens or living rooms of village households, or aboard Revenue Cutter ships patrolling the coastline. With statehood in 1959, a new state justice system was created under the terms of the Judiciary Article of Alaska’s new constitution which formalized, unified and professionalized the judiciary. Three Supreme Court justices and eight Superior Court judges were initially appointed. The District Court was established in 1968, and the Court of Appeals in 1980. Magistrates continue to serve as judicial officers in the District Courts, but they do not need to be lawyers and have more limited jurisdiction than a judge. Magistrates hear small claims or misdemeanor cases. For many residents of rural Alaska, magistrates may still be their first point of contact with the state’s judicial system.

The experiences of our state’s early judges shed light on the social, political and cultural fabric of life in Alaska in a new way. The recordings represent various aspects of judgeship, including: establishment and early days of the various aspects of the court system, the judiciary article, judicial selection and retention, the day-to-day life of being a judge, joys and challenges of being a judge, relationships with the community, and rural justice.

www.jukebox.uaf.edu/judges
AkLA has established a scholarship program to support the education of librarians for Alaska’s libraries. The stated purpose is to provide financial assistance to worthy students pursuing a Graduate Degree in Library Science and to encourage graduates to return to Alaska to work in professional library positions. Preference will be given to an individual meeting the federal definition of Alaska Native ethnicity. The amount available this year is $4,000. The recipient will be announced at the AkLA Conference, March 21-24 in Valdez. 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 Degree program in Library and Information Science in 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.

Completed applications must be received by January 15 of the award year. The application is online at http://akla.org/scholarships/application-and-reference-forms/

If you have questions or need copies of the guidelines and application forms, contact:

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

email: aja.razumny@alaska.gov
ph: (907) 465-2458 or within Alaska, 1-888-820-4525. fax: (907) 465-2665
**BOOK BUZZ**

Compiled by Patience Frederiksen

_**Woman at the Light**, by Joanna Brady, 2012._ What is sitting on the beach, time on your hands, reading glasses in place, lathered up with sunscreen and a good book to read? Ah summer! It is the best of times when all of these things, especially the good book, come together at once... a perfect storm scenario without the storm. _Woman at the Light_ is an integral part of this summers’ perfect storm. Joanna Brady has written an evenly paced, historical fiction romance that could result in sunburn if you don’t have that sunscreen. You won't want to put it down until you have read the last page. In 1829, Emily, a young Southern belle from New Orleans becomes infatuated with a handsome “wrecker,” men who salvage cargo from shipwrecks along the coast of the Florida Keys. Based loosely on the lives of women who assumed the duties of lighthouse keeping after their husbands died or disappeared, Emily endures everything the natural world can throw at her, along with having to navigate the social mores of the pre-Civil War era in the deep South. Brady has just the right blend of history, romance and reality to make a weekend at the beach fulfilling as well as frivolous. Perfect... (Patricia Linville, Seward Community Library Museum)

_**How I Killed Pluto & Why It Had It Coming**, by Mike Brown, 2012._ Brown, a Caltech astronomer, discovered several large bodies in the Kuiper Belt beyond Saturn, and the International Astronomical Union reclassified Pluto as a non-planet in response. Brown intersperses his astronomical discovery stories with his personal life experiences—he met and married Diane and became the father of Lilah, whom he adores. It’s a fun and witty book. My favorite statement is: “Diane and I joke about parents who think everything their children do is exceptional. But watching Lilah, I finally understood. Early childhood development is about the most exceptional thing in the universe. Stars, planets, galaxies, quasars are incredible and fascinating, but not as thoroughly astounding as development of thought and language. Who would not believe his child is exceptional? All children are, compared to the remainder of the silent universe around them.” I agree. And Pluto will always remain a planet in my heart. (Larry Hibshman, Alaska State Archives)

(Book Buzz - Cont. from pg. 10)

Williams is a master counterfeiter. He created the best hundred dollar bill that mimics the Treasury’s difficult to duplicate ‘New Money,’ with its anti-forgery features. Kersten provides details about how forgery has developed in the electronic age and how this criminal business operates. And there is an Alaskan connection, but he concentrates on Williams’ personality and those of his family and associates. Ultimately, this story highlights one obvious fact: You can’t depend on criminals. They’re completely untrustworthy. (Larry Hibpshman, Alaska State Archives)

The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg, by Rodman Philbrick, 2009. Nearly anyone who reads this will quickly think of Huckleberry Finn. I did and I saw at least one reviewer’s statement to that effect. Figg certainly isn’t the great American novel, but it is very entertaining for children or adults. The story is told by Homer, a sly 12-year old, searching for his older brother Harold, illegally sold underage for his Union Army enlistment bounty, and of course, the villain keeps the bounty. There are a whole lot of interesting characters, some historical, some fictional, both good and evil, before Homer finds Harold on Little Round Top. Neither the boy nor the author shows much deep hostility to any-one and there’s just enough realism to prevent children from glorifying war. (Larry Hibpshman, Alaska State Archives)

(AkLA - Cont. from pg. 2)

A leadership position would have introduced me to the many different library systems in the state as quickly?

I heard the chants in library school: Attend a library conference. Volunteer for an ALA leadership position. Get involved in your local organizations. The chants worked, and I have always believed in service.

I’m writing this to convince you to do what I did when someone asks you to take on a role in AkLA: Jump in.

Sure, you may wonder if you’re in over your head – at first. Then you realize that 1) AkLA is full of fantastic leaders who are willing to help you figure things out. You are supported. (Thank you, Mike! Sue! Patience! Coral! Nina! Doug! Sigrid! And many others!) And, 2) AkLA becomes so much stronger when members participate and bring their ideas to the table. Several things the Anchorage Chapter plans on doing in 2013 are due to one member showing up one time to one meeting in 2012 and adding to the conversation.

So please, jump in. Your impact will be measurable, and AkLA will be delighted you joined in for a swim.

Jodi Jacques, President
2012 AkLA-A
jodi.jacques@gmail.com
ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
PO Box 81084
Fairbanks, AK 99708

President Linda Wynne
linda.wynne@sealaska.com
President-Elect Stacey Glaser
slglaser@alaska.edu
Past-President Michael Robinson
afmcr@uaa.alaska.edu
Secretary Julie Niederhauser
jniederhauser@ci.kenai.ak.us
Treasurer Patricia Linville
plinville@ci.yofseward.net
Conference Coordinator M. J. Grande
mjgrande@juneau.lib.ak.us
ALA Representative Sue Sherif
sue.sherif@alaska.gov
PNLA Representative Sara Saxton
sara.saxton@tuzzy.org
Publications
* Alaska Library Directory
dflma@gci.net
* Newspoke, Loretta Andress
maryj@gci.net
Executive Officer Mary Jennings
aklalist@akla.org
Website
http://www.akla.org/

CALENDAR
Public Library Association at ALA Midwinter, Seattle, WA Jan. 25-29, 2013
AkLA Conference, Valdez, AK Mar. 21-24, 2013
American Assn. of Museums Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD May 19-22, 2013
ALA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL Jun. 27-Jul. 2, 2013