Hello *Newspoke* readers!

The AkLA Executive Council is currently working on updating the legislative priorities and the Strategic Plan so we will have a clear direction for the next year. We had a productive meeting on September 16 where some of us met in Anchorage and the rest joined virtually. It has been truly impressive to see the dedication of the council members and what they accomplish, all while still doing their day jobs.

Information will be forthcoming about an initiative to amend the AkLA bylaws to accommodate electronic meetings. This will be included on the ballot when you vote for new officers. You will receive this information before you receive the ballot so you are able to make an educated decision.

Lastly, I want to thank those of you who have already renewed your membership, and encourage others to renew or join AkLA today. The success of our association depends on its membership.

**Happy Holidays!**

Mollie Good
President, 2017-2018
Alaska Library Association
In last year's Membership Committee column I gave some reasons to join the Alaska Library Association (AkLA). I wrote that AkLA works to secure funding for libraries; that AkLA offers leadership opportunities; that AkLA brings together the state's librarians through events, mailing lists, local chapters, and roundtables; and so on. All true points, and they were expressed with more fervor than our website's bullet points, but still a little abstract.

Now I want to drive home the same message, but without totally repeating myself. Please bear with me, then, as I explain what AkLA membership has done for me, personally.

Thanks to AkLA's conferences, I have met many library workers from across the state and forged closer ties with librarians I already knew. Without AkLA, I would know only a few of the state's library workers—namely, my co-workers and some colleagues at other UAA campuses. I probably wouldn't know a single person working in a public, school, or special library.

Thanks to AkLA's conferences, I've learned much practical information from voices I might have never heard. To give just two examples: At the 2012 conference I learned about some neat websites from four school librarians (Ericka Drain, Ann Morgester, Nichole Roohi, and Robin Turk); while at the 2014 conference I learned a lot of "Quick Tips for Small Libraries" in a fabulous, volunteer-driven session organized by Joyce McCombs and Amy Marshall.

Thanks to AkLA's mailing list and a single message sent to it by one of AkLA's hardworking members, my campus managed to get astronomer Kevin Manning to stop by for a presentation during his tour of Alaska libraries. A week or two later, I used the same mailing list to get six kind librarians to answer a reference question that had stumped me.

Thanks to AkLA's successful defense of Live Homework Help, students who prefer to keep odd hours (i.e., all true students) can get help with math, writing, and other topics.

This is especially important on my campus where many tutors have been let go. Plus, as long as AkLA defends Live Homework Help, I will have one more justification for not proofreading student papers.

So these are just a few of the things I have gotten out of AkLA. What have you gotten out of AkLA? I'd be happy to hear from you, especially if you have any testimonials we could share during our next membership drive. Likewise, I’d be just as happy to hear from you if you think there is something AkLA can do better for its members.

See you at the Anchorage Conference in 2018!

Micah Muer, Chair
Alaska Library Association
Membership Committee
mwmuer@alaska.edu
AkLA Scholarship is an annual scholarship consisting of $4,000 to an Alaska resident who is pursuing an MLS in an ALA-accredited program.

For more than 25 years the Alaska Library Association has been offering scholarships to MLS students in order to provide financial assistance to worthy students pursuing graduate studies leading to a Master’s Degree in Library and Information Studies and to encourage graduates to return to Alaska and work in professional library positions. Scholarships may be awarded for both on-campus and/or distance education programs. Preference will be given to an individual meeting the federal definition of Alaska Native ethnicity.

An applicant must be an Alaskan resident who:

• is eligible for acceptance, is currently enrolled, or will be a student in a graduate school library media specialist certificate program during the academic year, semester, or academic quarter for which the scholarship is received.

• makes a commitment to work in an Alaska library for a minimum of one year after graduation as a paid employee or a volunteer’s financial assistance. A scholarship recipient who fails to fulfill this commitment will be expected to repay the money received. Candidates awarded the scholarship must supply proof of admission to an accredited program before the scholarship is disbursed.

The AkLA Scholarship Committee will select an individual based on the following criteria:

• Applicant’s response to an essay question regarding his/her professional goals and objectives in pursuing a library career

• Demonstrated scholastic ability and writing skills

• Strength of references. Three Applicant Reference Evaluation Forms are required, at least one of which must be from a librarian. References may include additional comments or letters.

• Financial need

Please note new application procedures! Fill out the online form (http://library-alaska.libsurveys.com/akla-scholarship) and then mail a current resume, official college transcripts, and three references using this printable Word form (http://library-alaska.libsurveys.com/akla-scholarship) to AkLA Scholarship Committee, Attn: Julie M. Niederhauser, Alaska State Library, 395 Whittier St., Juneau, AK 99801. A complete application packet must be received by January 15 of the award year. The recipient is announced at the annual spring AkLA conference.

Thank you,

Julie Marie Niederhauser
Public Library Coordinator
Alaska State Library
(907) 465-2916 or within Alaska, (888) 820-4525
Maybe you heard or read about Homer’s political turmoil this past year, a drawn-out affair involving petitions and lawsuits, tearful public testimony at city council meetings and tearful responses from city council members, dozens of letters to editors and Facebook posts, and unkind words.

The pain was palpable as neighbors and friends found themselves on opposite sides of a recall effort against three city council members, or at the very least, confused by conflicting information, opinions, and emotions.

Not long after the vote defeating the recall, when feelings were still raw, the radio show This American Life aired a program on Homer’s ordeal. Most of us expected a recap, perhaps with some kind of clarifying insight, of the personalities and events surrounding the affair. Instead, what the interviewer focused on was one local man’s efforts to ferret out the facts, to find information that was reliable and accurate amid a confusing onslaught of claims in multiple forms of media. In other words, information literacy!

We seized our chance to explore information literacy with the community. Mercedes Harness, the Friends of Homer Library coordinator, and I set out to organize a panel discussion titled “Media Literacy: How We Make Informed Opinions.” We were determined that this panel would be about how different people from various backgrounds and disciplines go about finding, evaluating, and acting upon information. It would NOT be about politics. Period.

We also wanted everyone to feel safe and welcome at this event. We did not want only the usual crowd that attends our library’s occasional civic programs; we wanted the people who don’t usually come, as well. So we set out to find a panel of citizens from a variety of backgrounds and political leanings who deal with information in their professional or community roles. This is who we came up with:

- Michael Armstrong, the editor of...
our local weekly newspaper
• Me, the public library director
• Suzanne Downing, writer of the conservative blog Must Read Alaska
• Shelly Erickson, current Homer City Council member
• Tom Kizzia, journalist and writer
• Chris Story, conservative host of Alaska Matters Radio
• Charles Wohlforth, columnist for the Anchorage Dispatch News
• Beth Graber, retired professor of Communications, to serve as moderator.

All but Ms. Downing and Mr. Wohlforth live in Homer. Of the Homerites, all except me have lived here for decades.

Mercedes, Beth, our Friends president, and I met ahead of time to craft and finesse questions for the panelists. We decided on a three-minute time limit for answers to keep discussion succinct and lively. We narrowed down the questions to:

1. Introduce yourself and your role in accessing, evaluating, and using information.
2. In the role you just described, how do you go about gathering and fact checking information?
3. Can you describe a piece of information that challenged you to think in a different way?
4. Several of you on the panel are content makers. Can you speak to your responsibilities as a content maker, and how your role or discipline impacts how you create information?
5. If you are in a position to set policy or make laws, please describe how information from the media plays a role in your decision making.

Panelists received the questions about a week in advance.

At the event, panelists sat in alphabetical order (by last name of course!) to avoid any perceptions of bias or us-vs.-them. In her introduction, Mercedes asked people to recognize that they might react strongly to something that was said but to be kind to each other and to the panelists.

A high school volunteer served as timer, holding up “1 minute” cards as reminders. Questions from the audience were written
I am assuming it’s a rarity to find librarians testifying before Congress in their official capacity, but this is exactly what has happened four times since May of this year. The Committee on House Administration (CHA) earnestly began reviewing processes and programs of the Government Publishing Office (GPO) early this year, culminating in a four-part hearing schedule that sets the stage for a bipartisan bill planned to be released this winter on Title 44 and Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) reforms.

Out with the Old
There’s much in Title 44 affecting GPO, but of greatest interest to public libraries is Chapter 19, covering FDLP. Unchanged except for a few library category additions since 1962, most agree it is due for a review. Judging by the current political climate, however, many fear drastic changes and would rather keep the status quo than make extreme cuts to the program. If the professionalism and sincere questioning by members of the CHA to the witnesses throughout the four-part hearings are any indication, the forthcoming bill has great potential for helpful amendments to the FDLP.

What’s the FDLP anyway?
As a reminder, the FDLP’s mission is to provide free, ready, and permanent public access to Federal Government information, now and for future generations. Today, there are 53 regional depositories which receive all publications distributed through the Program for permanent retention to ensure that archival resource collections of Government documents remain available throughout the United States. Within Alaska, there are seven non-federal agency selective libraries to include: the Alaska State library, the Alaska State law library, the University of Alaska libraries, and the Ilisaġvik College library.

Alaska’s regional depository library is the Washington state library. These libraries are our public resources for accessing federal government information.

In with the New
Typically, every October the Federal Depository Library Conference is held in Washington, DC. This year’s meeting from October 16-18 was no exception and had the added excitement of being on the potential eve of pending legislation directly affecting much of the FDLP work. The depository library conference is remotely viewable after registering for free, which I highly recommend for the 2018 conference.

Much time was provided during the conference to discuss the nitty-gritty of possible improvements to Title 44; congressional staffers attended conference sessions, which again is a rarity. Discussions included:
• changes to the statutory

(Cont. on pg. 7)
definition of “government publication”

- improvements to flexibility in the depository’s choice of format (print or electronic) for received publications
- addressing the problem of fugitive federal agency documents by focusing on systematically adding agency-born digital materials to the program
- removal of the old 10,000 physical books requirement to maintain depository status
- more withdrawal flexibility for depositories
- sharing of regionals’ collections across state lines
- providing GPO with grant and gift-making authorities

What’s Next
With so much buzz surrounding the Title 44 reform, the major library associations have sent recommendations to the Committee on House Administration, so stay tuned to see what happens.

It has been said that the hearings schedule and the turnaround time for comments related to this piece of legislation have been on a hurried schedule. Unclear is what that portends for the outcome of the legislation. As always, if you know a librarian in a committee member’s district, found here, you would not be amiss to ask him or her to email that CHA member because a direct constituent’s support for the FDLP and GPO does influence member decision-making; not to mention, it can be fun.

Anna Russell
US Courts Librarian
Anchorage Branch Library

Anchorage Chapter – AkLA

Date: Dec. 8, 2017  5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Location: ASEA Headquarters
          2601 Denali St., Anchorage AK

(Politics - Cont. from pg. 5)
down and handed to Mercedes, who screened them for repetition or inflammatory verbiage before asking them at the end. We provided a handout with resources (print and online) for evaluating information and further reading.

The evening went splendidly well.

Were we nervous? You bet. Given the volatility of the political discussion in our town over the past six months, it was a bit of a gamble. But we figured it was a unique opportunity to share what we know about information literacy with the community, learn from others in the information business, remind people that the library is a neutral setting for the exchange of information and ideas, and maybe even contribute to community healing.

The result was about 75 attendees, including two council members who had never before come to a library program, the mayor, several candidates for upcoming council seats, our legislative representative, and a number of people whose faces I didn’t recognize—in addition to the usual civic-minded crowd. We’ve heard nothing but compliments about the event.

And me? I got to deliver a three-minute lesson on information literacy straight out of Librarianship 101 to a captive audience. As far as I could tell, people actually listened!

Ann Dixon, Director
Homer Public Library
adixon@ci.homer.ak.us
http://www.cityof homer-ak.gov/library
Special Libraries Roundtable

For those of you who are not familiar with this roundtable, special libraries are made up of institutions that generally deal with specific collections. In Alaska, I’ve seen numerous types of special libraries: patent, science, museum, law, medical, etc. Our roundtable is an informal group that meets annually at the AkLA Conference. We chat about what’s going on in our libraries, difficulties we’re having, ideas for conference sessions, etc. We also have a member of our group represent us on the Governor’s Advisory Council on Libraries. This council reviews and assists in creating the LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) Alaska State Plan. If you are interested in becoming part of this roundtable, go to http://akla.org/join/mailing-lists/ to sign up.

Teressa B. Williams
Manager and Librarian
Atwood Resource Center

AkLA’s Academic Roundtable

As current co-chair of AkLA’s Academic Roundtable, I recently had the honor of interviewing my co-chair and amazing colleague: Lorelei Sterling, Assistant Professor at UAA/APU Consortium Library.

Interviewed by Jennifer McKay, Assistant Professor, UAA/APU Consortium Library, Anchorage AK.

What is your official title? I have been the Distance Education Librarian at the UAA/APU Consortium Library for three years. I am also currently co-chairing AkLA’s Academic Roundtable.

What inspired you to become a librarian? My dad was a librarian, and he enrolled in Library School at San Jose State University. Unfortunately, he was drafted and could not complete his degree, but he performed library technician work while in the Army.

Where did you go to school? Coincidentally, I went to San Jose State University in San Jose, CA and earned my MLIS. I also earned a B.A. in History at University of California Santa Cruz, and a Master's in History at Washington State University. Go Cougs!

What type of library have you worked in? I have worked in every type except for medical and tribal. I have been an elementary school librarian, I worked for a stock photography company in Seattle, I worked for Broward Public Library in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and various other academic libraries.

What is your favorite part of your job? Managing student workers. I really enjoy

(Cont. on pg. 9)
mentoring students and teaching them the skills to help them get their first job out of college.

*What do you find challenging about librarian-ship?* I received my MLIS degree in 2001 from SJSU and didn’t get an academic library job until 2011. I think getting my second Master's degree in History at WSU made the difference to make me a more competitive job candidate.

*What do you do in your spare time?* I play roller derby for Rage City Roller Girls! My roller girl name is: Lorelei Killmore (Gilmore Girls reference). I am the archive representative for the group and ensure that organizational materials and bout tapes are being held in UAA’s Special Collections.

*What is your favorite book?* My favorite books are ones from my childhood. I like books that have strong, independent female characters such as: *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin and *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg.

*I know that you recently relocated from San Diego. Who came with you and how has the transition been going?* I used to think a scarf was just an extra clothing accessory, but now I understand its usefulness! Since moving here, I keep shoes underneath my desk to wear in the building during the winter. My husband, J.D., also moved with me, and he is a jazz musician. We have recently added a dog, Banjo, to our family. I also have a daughter and granddaughter who live in Spokane, WA.

*What are you doing to prepare for students coming back to campus?* As part of my work with the marketing committee, I am involved with creating brochures and bookmarks to hand out to students at our upcoming orientation events around campus. Additionally, all incoming residential students will receive a library brochure and bookmark highlighting all the resources available to them at the library. I also manage course reserves and am currently contacting faculty to encourage them to place copies of textbooks on reserve, especially chemistry and math textbooks, as they are extremely cost prohibitive and can be a barrier to student success.

Jennifer McKay  
Instruction and Research Department  
Liaison to Education  
UAA/APU Consortium Library

The Alaska Library Association Welcomes you to the 2018 Conference in Anchorage!

**When:** March 8-11, 2018

**Where:** Dena’ina Center in downtown Anchorage

**Theme:** Bridging the Gaps

[akla.org/anchorage2018/](akla.org/anchorage2018/)
CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANTS ENHANCE
CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

The Alaska State Library has instituted a new CE grant [http://library.alaska.gov/dev/grants.html#cegrant](http://library.alaska.gov/dev/grants.html#cegrant) 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

EXIF METADATA – WHAT’S THAT?

Have you ever received a question across the reference desk that went something like this: “Hey, um, I have this photo here of a beach in...I think, California? Not sure, but I am trying to figure out where specifically it was taken. Can you help me?”

So you take a look at the photo… and it has no recognizable landmarks, no signs, no cars with license plates, no visual cues that could get you started. The patron knows nothing. What do you do?

There’s this thing called Exchangeable Image File Format (EXIF) metadata and pretty much all digital cameras nowadays include EXIF metadata into any image files (JPGs, for instance) that they create. Viewing the EXIF metadata is simple – a search of “EXIF metadata viewer” will get you an easy-to-follow result, and the type of metadata we’re talking about here often includes GPS coordinates. For our photo question above, all we need to do is plug those coordinates into a Google Maps search, and **boom**: reference question answered and the patron looks at you as if you were holding Gandalf’s staff and wearing one of Dumbledore’s iconic robes.

Robert Barr
Library Director
Juneau Public Libraries

(Cont. on pg. 11)
CE Digital Directions: Creating and Managing Digital Collections

A Continuing Education Grant from the Alaska State Library allowed me to attend the 2017 Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) Digital Directions: Fundamentals of Creating and Managing Digital Collections conference. The conference was held in Seattle, WA, in August at the time of the solar eclipse event.

This conference addressed the full range of concerns and issues involved with digitization as an overview that will permit an examination of the current policies and processes of the Alaska State Archives specifically and the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (LAM) in general. Most presentations began at the introductory level but later expanded to more detailed aspects of digital collections. Topics included: preservation and curation of digital assets; imaging techniques and equipment; rights and responsibilities; project planning and funding; metadata, discovery, and interfacing with patrons to achieve an ever improving research experience.

It was encouraging to engage the community of librarians, archivists, and museum curators in discussions of these topics. Many organizations face the same challenges that LAM faces in providing better access to materials in the age of internet search engines. The presenters demonstrated numerous resources available to manage and address the concerns of digital collections.

Of particular interest to me was the topic of Digital Storage which touched on many ways to preserve, safeguard, and disseminate digitized materials.

I feel confident that the knowledge gained from this conference will help with future planning and guide us to coordinate our efforts across the Division. This will enhance patrons’ experience and encourage deeper research.

Wayne Norlund
Administrative Assistant III
Alaska State Archives
2017 Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums Conference

As a recipient of the Continuing Education Grant, I've written an article about a library conference I recently attended.

The annual Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) Conference always has a positive impact on my personal skills as well as my skills as a librarian; this has been my fifth conference. Since being hired as the library co-director for the Klukwan Community and School library, our library has received four Enhancement Grants from the Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS), and the ATALM conference provides invaluable information and resources so that we can continue to apply for and successfully manage grants that are awarded to our organization. In efforts to provide more relevant programming to our patrons, I attended sessions on public programming ideas, community assessment and strategic planning, and past grant projects and outcomes. For our most recent Enhancement Grant project which involves audio storytelling, I attended sessions on the Veterans History Project and StoryCorps to learn tips for conducting interviews and collecting stories. To better my understanding of grant management, I attended a session which explained the importance of reporting, and offered important tips for keeping track of budgets and tasks to be completed.

I would like to share that our library received ATALM’s 2017 Guardians of Culture and Lifeways, Outstanding Project Award, for our film project on traditional subsistence food sources of the Chilkat Tlingit people. We are honored to receive this award and look forward to continuing our work to help preserve our ancestors’ invaluable knowledge.

Jamie A Katzeek
Klukwan Community and School Library
BOOK BUZZ

Compiled by Larry Hibpshman

ALASKAN EXPERIENCE CORNER

Submitted by Larry Hibpshman, Book Buzz Manager (Kenai)

But you too can submit to the Alaskan Experience column:
ILbombastico@yahoo.com

I took a trip to Homer in May. In the Homer Bookstore I discovered that Mary Haakenson Perry has written an Alaskan children’s book that really deserves notice. So this time I am highlighting Mary Perry’s three Alaskan books.


Mrs. Perry’s first fictional work for children should be read along with her two biographical works. It draws on her life experience as Anchor Point homesteader-resident. It also draws on her brother’s experience affected by Down Syndrome, and on her subsequent career as a special needs teacher.

The heroine is Sunny, an 11-year-old girl with Down Syndrome. Sunny, supported by her brother Gray and friend Gator, manage a drift net site, find a treasure horde, and solve a murder mystery. The book’s a charmer, realistic where it should be, and adventurous for young readers.


This is Mrs. Perry’s delightful biography of her brother Jim, born with Down Syndrome and undiagnosed until he was nearly four. (Mrs. Perry’s books don’t paint a very positive picture of Territorial Alaskan doctors, generally.) Jim was an important Anchor Point resident. He held a full-time job, was a role model where he worked for middle school students, liked to bowl and ride all-terrain vehicles, and was baptized into his church at his own request.

He showed constant integrity and love for his parents,

(Cont. on pg. 14)
brothers and sister, as well as many others in the area. Jim died at 55, of Alzheimer’s Disease. His was certainly a life well lived, and inspired his sister to become a teacher of handicapped children and adults.

**A Lot to Be Thankful For.**

This is an excellent family biography, beginning with the author’s grandmother Laura and grandfather Fred Larson, continuing through her parents Esther and Lionel Haakenson, and concluding with Mary, her bothers, and their progeny. It seems women are more likely to produce memoirs than men – men take notice!

The Larsons and their children were Matanuska Colonists. The Haakensons homesteaded at Anchor Point and sojourned at Nushagak. The book is filled with amusement and pathos. Family members’ joys and sorrows, virtues and faults are honestly portrayed.

*When the Wind Was a River: Aleut Evacuation in World War II* by Dean Kohlkoff, copyright 1995 University of Washington Press in association with Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association.

This is the most comprehensive book about the Aleut evacuation I have found. Kohlkoff provides plenty of primary sources to show the entire process, from the beginning of the war to discussions by authorities to first-person accounts of the internment camps and the return to the Aleutians.

It also has information about reparations made in the 1980s. This is a must-read for anyone interested in World War II in Alaska or recent Alaska Native history.

Lynn Lovegreen
**Anchorage**

https://www.thealaskalife.com/journals-stories/esther-haakenson-thankful-pioneer/
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 News poke editor, or the individual submitting, has questions or concerns about any submission, the matter will be sent on to the News poke Committee.
ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Past President            * Newspoke, Loretta Andress

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CALENDAR

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
PNLA Conference, Kalispell, MT             Aug. 1-3, 2018
Alaska Historical Society Annual Conf., Nome, AK Sep. 2018