Juneau's Display: Banned Books Week

The Juneau Public Libraries Outreach and Senior Services department teamed up with Youth Services to create multiple displays for Banned Books Week in September.

The Mendenhall Valley Library Teen Room held a display of banned books with information about when and why the books were challenged or banned. There was a similar display near the library entrance that also included postcards to mail to authors of banned books, thanking them for their stories.

The final display was an interactive photo booth that encouraged library patrons of all ages to take selfies with a banned book. This display included bookmarks, postcards, and coloring sheets.

Felicite Toney
Community Outreach Assistant
Juneau Public Libraries

Photos were taken by Sarah Mills with Youth Services and Felicite Toney with Outreach and Senior Services.

Felicite Toney is shown in the photo booth picture.

(Cont. on pg. 2)
(Banned Books -- Cont. from pg. 1)
(Banned Books -- Cont. from pg. 2)
Blazing Trails:
Improving Your Library’s Self-Guided Help

Members of the UAA/APU Consortium Library’s Research Tutorials Team (RTT) gave a presentation at the 47th Annual LOEX Conference in Minneapolis, MN, this past May. The 50-minute presentation, Blazing Trails through an Untamed Wilderness: Improving your Library’s Self-Guided Help, was one of 68 selected from over 200 proposal submissions. LOEX sessions on the theme “Up North: Reflect, Reconnect, Renew” were presented over two days to a capacity crowd of over 400 attendees from 40 states and three foreign countries.

Publication of the subsequent paper will appear in the peer-reviewed 2019 LOEX Proceedings by the end of this year.

Founded in 1971, LOEX is a self-supporting, non-profit educational clearinghouse for library instruction and information literacy information. In addition to hosting an annual conference with published proceedings, LOEX produces a quarterly publication featuring articles by teaching librarians, a monthly current-awareness e-letter, and its website that includes examples of work in the field of library instruction and information literacy. [https://loex.org/](https://loex.org/)

The five UAA librarians who make up RTT, led by co-chairs Ruth D. Terry and D’Arcy Hutchings, along with Jennifer McKay, Anna Bjartmarsdottir, and Daria O. Carle, all work in instruction and reference.

The group design includes an instructional librarian and four subject specialist librarians who teach the majority of instruction and are responsible for a significant number of library research guides and other tutorials at our institution.

Several years ago, RTT took on a project to revisit the Consortium Library’s self-guided help content. This project has developed into an ongoing and strategic process to improve access to information that is not only ADA-accessible, but also more approachable, accurate, and up-to-date.

[https://libguides.consortiumlibrary.org/gethelp](https://libguides.consortiumlibrary.org/gethelp)

Daria O. Carle
Professor / Science Librarian
UAA / APU Consortium Library
Grant Helps to Disperse the Learning that Occurs During Conferences

The Alaska State Library has instituted a CE grant 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/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

When quite a number of these CE write-ups are received, some will be included in future issues of Newspoke.

An Inspiring Opportunity to Learn

My attendance at the 2019 ARSL Conference (Association for Rural and Small Libraries) in Burlington, Vermont, was a great experience of networking and learning from librarians across the United States who are doing the same things, with the same rewards and struggles that I have.

The benefit of this particular conference is that its central focus is the small community library. This means that the breakout sessions were more relatable and geared toward the needs of my library. This conference was a fun and inspiring chance to learn from one another, and I am grateful for the opportunity.

Juli Buzby  
Sutton Public Library

(Cont. on pg. 6)
An Internship at the Petersburg Public Library

Before long I’ll be heading down South on “the milk run,” back home to Virginia where I am pursuing an online MLS through the University of North Texas. My task during an eight week summer internship—with the Petersburg Public Library, with the book *Useful, Usable, Desirable: Applying User Experience Design to your Library* by Aaron Schmidt and Amanda Etches as my guide—was to examine all aspects of the library user experience (UX).

This included the physical library space, service points and signage, policies and customer service, and the Library’s online presence. An important first step toward understanding the Library’s role in the community and how members use the Library was putting context behind the project.

New to the Southeast way of life, I immersed myself in the Petersburg community—attending local events like the Sons of Norway bingo, using the community center, and visiting local coffee shops where I met library supporters as well as library naysayers.

The Petersburg community enjoys a beautiful facility, constructed in 2013, and a solid website highlighting local as well as consortium resources. At the outset, I wondered how we could improve an already excellent user experience.

The project revealed that small changes, such as better design and visibility of the Library’s item request form, lowering the catalog station for easier access, identifying the book drop, and removing outdated policy signs (in favor of branded signs promoting e-books) would build on the Library’s user-centric approach to customer service.

Longer term initiatives included the rollout of easier-to-read stacks signs in a single font, fresh approaches to reader’s advisory and merchandising, website redesign to prominently feature buttons for core library tasks, and revisiting library policies for low-dollar value equipment. These changes would further enhance the user experience.

From a professional standpoint, I explored every facet of the public library operations in a small, rural community, within the constraints of limited staffing. I also observed the Library’s vital role in equalizing access to reliable internet and the impact of being one of Petersburg’s only warm, safe spaces outside of home to connect with others.

I’m grateful to the Petersburg Public Library staff, Alaska State Libraries, and the Alaska Library Network for this exceptional learning opportunity.

Amy Poe
Petersburg Public Library

https://www.petersburg.org/listings/petersburg-library/

(Cont. on pg. 7)
I am very grateful to have received a CE Grant to attend the Association of Rural and Small Libraries 2019 Conference in Burlington, Vermont, earlier this month. It was a wonderful opportunity to network with other library professionals and to learn from experts in our field.

A highlight of this conference was being able to attend a session by Ryan Dowd on homeless patrons. Dowd shared simple, practical methods for safely handling unpleasant situations in the library. The best part of his training was that his methods can really be applied to any patron, not just the homeless.

I also really enjoyed a two-part session on customer service presented by Patty Collins, a library consultant from Kansas. Collins shared many great tips for providing excellent customer service to library patrons—including tips for working with patrons who might be angry. Dowd and Collins both promoted responding to patrons with kindness, compassion, and empathy for the best results.

One of the main take-aways from these sessions, for me, was to remember to focus on what can be done rather than on what cannot be done. Meaning, say “yes” whenever possible, but when saying "no" is necessary, it should be delivered in a way that focuses on what can be done instead.

I think this is something we all try to do already, but it was a nice reminder for when working with the public. I would recommend trainings by Dowd or Collins to anyone given the opportunity to attend one.

Joy Bailey
Library Assistant
Palmer Public Library

https://pixabay.com/illustrations/snow-ball-fight-snowman-dog-winter-3974782/ 199 Free images of Scart
As a first-time attendee of the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums Conference that was held in Temecula, CA, October 8-10, 2019, I was struck by the vast array of sessions, cultural tours, and workshops available. 

One of the full-day workshops I was fortunate to attend was the **Indigenous Intellectual Property: Developing Tools and Strategies** workshop led by Jane Anderson, Associate Professor and co-Director of Local Contexts at the New York University and James Francis, Director of the Department of Cultural and Historic Preservation of the Penobscot Nation. The workshop provided an overview of the Penobscot Indian Nation’s experiences dealing with intellectual property, including internal governance issues and digital strategies and the Traditional Knowledge Labels initiative.

James Francis began the workshop with an overview of Penobscot Nation’s past negative experience with research and shared Linda Tuhiwai Smith’s quote, “The word itself, “research,” is probably one of the dirtiest words in the indigenous world’s vocabulary.” He shared the importance of protecting the Penobscot Nation’s intellectual property and provided examples of IP abuses by non-tribal members.

The Cultural Historic Preservation Committee was formed in 2002 to handle any tribal research review requests. Mr. Francis also described his role and responsibilities as the Tribal Historian for the Penobscot Nation and the formation of a Penobscot Tribal Rights and Resources Protection Board. The Board is responsible for review and oversight of research conducted by non-tribal members that involves Penobscot Nation cultural resources.

The second part of the workshop was led by Jane Anderson and included a broad overview of intellectual property, copyright, and indigenous collections. She described her involvement in the Traditional Knowledge Labels initiative and provided examples of how knowledge labels have been successfully implemented.

At the conclusion of the workshop, I was more informed about these important and complex concepts and felt a profound sense of gratitude to James Francis and Jane Anderson for their years of dedicated effort to recognize and protect indigenous intellectual property.

*Julie M. Niederhauser
Public Library Coordinator
Alaska State Libraries*

I love Murderbot! It's a shy, introverted half-robot/part-human security 'unit' who would much rather binge on streaming serials but is charged with saving humans. As a character, Murderbot is completely engaging with a wonderful voice and humor. All four books in the series are short and sweet, but you must read them in order, starting with All Systems Red. Treat yourself to some fun, some delight, and some oh-so-human connection to a … robot.

Barbara Brown, Blogging at 3rdthirds.blogspot.com
Anchorage

The Biggest Little Farm – DVD. Release date: May 10, 2019 (USA). Director: John Chester.

A beautifully filmed, enchanting documentary which tells the story of one young couple and their dream to create a diverse, healthy farm in southern California. The film follows them on their journey from an apartment to a 200 acre working farm with sheep, chickens, cows, orchards and more. It can elicit cheers, tears, and laughter and if not that, at least you will find it a tale well told.

Tiki Levinson
Library Director
Delta Community Library

They Both Die At The End by Adam Silvera
Harper Teen, 2017. 373 pages.

This was a fun escape into fiction, but it ultimately held up a mirror for introspection and contemplation. In our busy lives, it can be difficult to find time to be mindful of the present. What if there were a service that notified you of the time of your death? In this wonderful novel, our main characters receive the notification, "Hello, I'm calling from Death-Cast. I regret to inform you that sometime in the next twenty-four hours you'll be meeting an untimely death. On behalf of everyone here at Death-Cast, we are so sorry to lose you. Live this day to the fullest, okay?" This is a book of ups and downs, love and loss, that prods the reader to reflect on life. Enjoyable for teens and adults.

Martha Tomeo
Tri-Valley School Librarian
Healy

(Cont. on pg. 10)
Alaska Experience Corner

Submitted by Larry Hibpshman, Book Buzz Manager (Kenai)

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


Alaska Raw cuts to the bone. Suck the marrow from these exceptional hunting adventure stories.

Alaska Raw doesn’t need the heavy shadows of a midnight campfire to add drama to its storytelling, for author Bob Lacher is a keenly intelligent man who becomes self-aware through his hunting experiences.

Best read at night, with a full belly, and a tired and relaxed body that is poised to dream—for this is the stuff that great Alaska adventures are made of. The dancing sparks of meaningful moments take you to far away beautiful places filled with mystery and awe.

In Soiled Dreams, Lacher crafts a smile that creases around eyes so strongly that a year later the mere mention of the word “hipwaders” subconsciously pulls lips tight against your teeth. A few wing-and-a-prayer landings later, on The Wrong Side of the Edge, your heart stops as cold as the unsettling silence an avalanche brings after rolling over a space preciously filled with friends.

Not fit for the shelf, this book is destined to have its cover ripped off, binding cracked, and pages taped together from heavy use.

Dorene M. Lorenz is a fourth-generation Alaskan from Seward. She hosts ABCs Good Morning Alaska and is a founding member of the Ugly Girls Book Club.

Dorene M. Lorenz


(Cont. on pg. 11)

Rev. Bills’ tale is blessedly spare on miraculous stories; he makes difficulties and conflicts apparent. Bills served his denomination, the Assemblies of God, in several Arctic Coast, Bering Sea, and Interior communities. His book covers only three assignments —Beaver, Fairbanks, and Stevens Village, because he died before he completed the manuscript. I was especially glad to read more about, and see photos of, prominent Inupiat Elder Ned Nusunginya, Rev. Bill’s close friend and the first ordained Alaska Native Assemblies Minister.

Dorene Lorenz, Good Morning Alaska

Bibliographic Note: This book is no longer in print and as with most religious publishing houses the publisher does not expect to reissue it. Perhaps it is available on one of the electronic book services.
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 Newsroke.)

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

If the Newsroke editor, or the individual submitting, has questions or concerns about any submission, the matter will be sent on to the Newsroke Committee.
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