



# MEMORANDUM

**To:** State Board of Education  
**Date:** December 16, 2020

**Thru:** Commissioner Michael Johnson  
**Telephone:** 907-465-2911

**From:** Patience Frederiksen  
Division of Libraries, Archives and  
Museums  
**Subject:** Report to the State Board of  
Education & Early Development  
Covering September through  
November 2020

## Staffing:

- The State Archives received approval to recruit two vacant Microfilm Imaging Operator II positions due to signed agreements in place for large scale digitization projects.

## Division News:

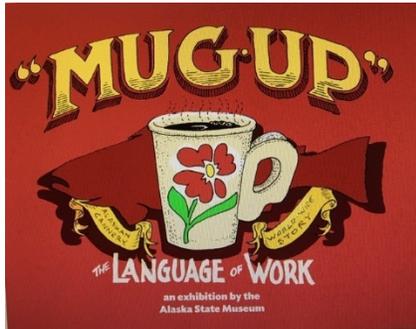
## Grants



August 10 – The National Endowment for the Humanities approved funding for Phase III of National Digital Newspaper Project for \$93,594, which, when added to funds from Phase I and II, is enough for Historical Collections to finish out this last phase of this six-year project. Once concluded, project staff will have digitized and added metadata for about 300,000 pages of historic newspapers to *Chronicling America* on the Library of Congress’ webpage.

Image of Nome Nugget front page with article: *European War Ends*.

September 1 – The Alaska Library Network, American Indian Library Association, and the Alaska State Library submitted a preliminary grant proposal to the Institute of Museum and Library Services. If funded at \$711K, a three-year project named *Bridging Knowledge: Supporting Indigenous Scholars into the Field of Librarianship* will provide funding for 15 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian graduate students to earn an MLIS degree in partnership with San Jose State University (SJSU).



September 9 - The Alaska State Museum submitted a \$98,000 grant application to the National Endowment for the Humanities for fabrication and installation of *Mug Up: The Language of Work*. If funded, this large exhibition on the [NN] cannery in Bristol Bay will be the State Museum's summer keystone exhibit in 2022.

Image of exhibit poster for *Mug Up: The Language of Work* showing paper coffee cup and salmon

## Events

August 26 – The State Library held a voter registration event at the Kashevaroff Building. Three division staff members, who are voter registrars, were present to answer questions about voter registration and take and deliver completed registration applications to the Division of Elections.



September 4 – The State Museum and Forest Service released an updated scavenger hunt phone app titled *Mission 49: Journey to Alaska's Past*. During the Covid closure, Museum staff revisited and revised this app, on which players hunt for codes on labels in the Museum galleries and scan them with the built-in scanner to open challenges. Successful players can send a screenshot of their completed mission to the Alaska State Museum for a free sticker or temporary tattoo.

Image of squirrel in Extratuffs rubber boots

September 4 – Since the pandemic began, libraries, archives and museums have been concerned about when it is safe to handle materials that the public has used and might still harbor virus fomites. The Institute of Museum and Library Services contracted with Battelle Labs to test common materials found in cultural institutions through the REALM (REopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums) Project. The Library Development unit of the State Library merged the individual results from the first five sets of test results and shared the checklist nationwide.

October 1 – State Archives staff answered questions from a writer for the **Alaska Magazine** about the Division's photo collections. He asked about the extent of our photo collections, which pictures are digitized, and how we exhibit the images. Expect publication of this brief article in February 2021.



October 1 - The third Artist in Residence at the Sheldon Jackson Museum began her Zoom presentations the first week of October. Tlingit artist Pamela Johnson was born in Sitka, but now lives in Anchorage. Pamela taught an eight-part regalia making class on Zoom and also gave a Zoom talk on *Cultural Identity through Traditional Tlingit Robes*.

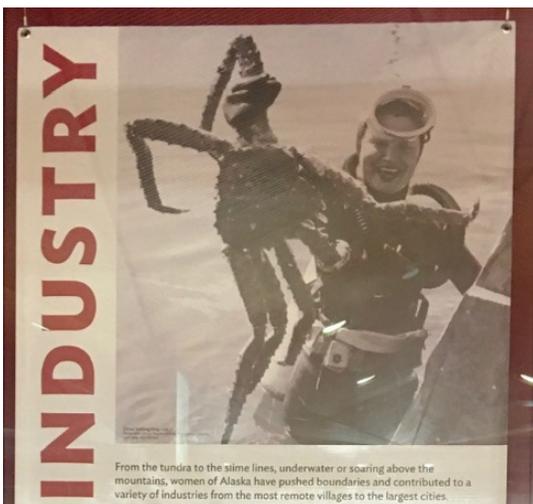
Image of Tlingit artist Pamela Johnson

October 2 – The State Museum held a virtual First Friday by launching *Simply Big: 1970 – 2020* as a virtual exhibit. This exhibit has been posted at the Kashevaroff Building all summer, but now it can be visited statewide on our webpage. *Simply Big* included large pieces from well-known artists and recent purchases from the Rasmuson Foundation’s acquisitions fund.



October 10 – Local artist Hollis Kitchin taught a virtual workshop on *Watercolor Postcards* for students aged 7 – 12. Attendees viewed historic postcards from the State Archives and Historic Collections, learned watercolor painting techniques, and created their own hand-painted postcards. Staff arranged to have workshop materials picked up at the Kashevaroff Building in order to ensure social distancing.

Image of artist Hollis Kitchin painting in watercolors



October 9 - Photographs from the State Archives and Historical Collections were featured on the cover of this year’s *Official Election Pamphlet*. Division and Election staff worked together to port our *Women of Alaska* exhibit to the pamphlet cover. The image of the scuba diver with the king crab caught the eye of a woman in Anchorage. The scuba diver is now in a Pioneer Home and she had no idea that she and the crab were going to appear on the *Pamphlet*. Based on the credit to the Historical Collections in the publication, she called and asked about the image. Division staff decided to surprise her with a better print of her image and mailed it to her. Smiling Alaskan woman scuba diver holding up a king crab



October 7 - *Ask an Archivist Day* was more relaxed than in previous years. State Archives was able to engage the Twitter community with the popular “Blue Chicken” posts, detailing different areas of work in the Archives such as reference, processing, and digital preservation. In response to #AskAnArchivist questions from institutions across the country, staff were able to share multiple photographs from the Division of Tourism (series 1231) and Department of Fish and Game (series 603) collections.

Image of Blue Chicken used in Twitter posts

October 13 - Deborah Rinio, president of the Alaska Library Association, and Janet Madsen, the State Library’s School Library Coordinator’s article “Alaska’s Journey to Adoption of the AASL Standards” has been accepted for publication in the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) journal, *Knowledge Quest*. The article describes the process of updating our standards, the realities of school library staffing and the challenges faced going forward.

October 14 - The State Library, Archives and Museum closed temporarily to the public on October 14 due to COVID-19 conditions in the City and Borough of Juneau. This one-week closure was extended for three more weeks due to continued high infection rates, as which point the Governor’s request that state employees work from home came into effect. We will remain closed through November 30.

October 23 – Library Development staff worked late on Friday evening to present a parent workshop to seven parents/caregivers from the Family Partnership Charter School. Parents learned how to use *Novelist* on SLED to keep their child excited about reading and to help them find the right books for their children. Parents learned how to search for materials on the 1964 Earthquake on all of SLED’s databases and received a demonstration of *Live Homework Help* with its tutors who are vetted subject experts.

News from earlier this year – The State Museum worked with Museums Alaska to design, gather, and publish the *2020 Alaska Museum Survey Report* <https://lam.alaska.gov/museums-surveys>. The authors made a concerted effort to reach out to new and first-time survey participants. The results provide new information that highlights how museums and cultural institutions in Alaska are changing, and the impact that museums contribute to the State, its communities, and annual visitors. Previous editions from 1984, 2000, and 2010 are linked on the webpage.