

Alaska Resources Library & Information Services

August 2015

ARLIS—Alaska’s Library of the Arctic

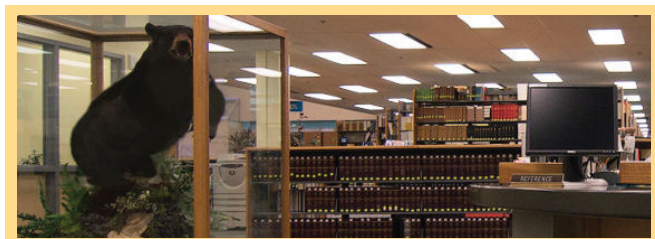
Central to Arctic Research

ARLIS welcomes this opportunity to describe its collections and expertise in assistance to the United States and other Arctic Nations participating in the [2015 GLACIER Conference](#). Open to the public and the international research community, ARLIS supports research, management, and decision-making leading to wise development and stewardship of Alaska and Arctic regions. The library has been characterized as a “national treasure” by Peter Wilkness, former Director, Polar Programs, National Science Foundation.¹ It has also been assessed as the premier natural resource collection in Alaska, bar none, whose most valuable asset is its knowledgeable staff...assisting users with sophisticated research needs...and providing unbiased access to information to patrons on all sides of the issues, worldwide (BLM and AK State Library).²

Collections

ARLIS focuses exclusively on Alaska, the Arctic, and polar and northern regions in the areas of research, data, and applied natural sciences and cultural resources. Topical strengths include climate, cold regions, cold weather engineering, oil and gas, geology, mining, biology, coastal resources, land use, ecology, fish and wildlife, forestry, hydropower and water resources, environmental impacts, pollution, and subsistence—all subjects that help define the life, history, and environment of Alaska and the Arctic.

Recognized as the most extensive such collection in the world, ARLIS offers more than 300,000 report titles, as well as a large number of one-of-a-kind materials not available anywhere else. Unique industry materials sit alongside state and federal government documents, gray literature, and many Alaska pre-statehood publications. An exhaustive collection regarding the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill is the largest anywhere. Carefully preserved baseline data provide researchers a foundation upon which to build their findings.



Selected Unique Collections

- AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation Library
- AK Oil & Gas Conservation Commission Library
- Anaconda Minerals Exploration Collection
- BP & ARCO Collections
- Furs, Skulls, Fish & Bird Mounts Collection
- Juneau Minerals Information Center Library
- Point Thomson EIS Collection
- Sea Ice Records & Climate Data Microfiche Collection
- Trans-Alaska Pipeline System 2001 ROW Renewal
- Wild & Scenic Rivers

ARLIS provides electronic access to targeted databases and full-text online documents, including 2,000+ e-journals and 40+ topical online databases, as well as physical resources and collections, from raw data and conference proceedings to contractors reports, photographs, and PDFs. ARLIS is committed to digitizing important documents and literature of limited availability and providing permanent access for the broader community via its web-based document server, which now hosts more than 20,000 digital documents—a mother lode of natural resource information.

As one example, ARLIS scanned the *Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program (OCSEAP)* reports—more than 200 volumes of important Alaska research and baseline information. Nearly inaccessible due to poor indexing, they can now be digitally retrieved and searched in ARLIS’s free-access database.

Selected Scanned Collections

- AK Dept. of Fish & Game Hunting, Sport Fish, & Commercial Fish Regulations (1930s–present)
- SuHydro (1980s) and Susitna-Watana (current) project reports (5,000+ documents)
- FWS Refuge Annual Narratives (1950–present)

Services

As a partnership library and research hub, ARLIS combines the collections of, serves as the archives for, and supports the management, research, and decision-making missions of its Founding entities (see p.2). Open to the public on the University of Alaska Anchorage campus, library users range from environmental

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consultants and interest groups to the development and non-profit communities, as well as students and other researchers.

Specialized services, such as in-office database access, document delivery, in-depth research, and interlibrary loan, are available for Founding and Contributing members. ARLIS also undertakes contract and other specialized research and bibliographic work, including digital transfer and database production with linked full text.

The ARLIS partnership is legally authorized among eight federal and state agencies and UAA. Its structure has proven to be cost-effective, sound, and sustainable.

Founders & Consolidated Libraries

- [AK Department of Fish & Game](#) (Library)
- [Bureau of Land Management](#) (AK Resources Library)
- [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#), formerly U.S. Minerals Management Service (Library)
- [Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council](#) (Oil Spill Public Information Center Library)
- [National Park Service](#) (Library)
- [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) (Library)
- [U.S. Geological Survey](#) (Library)
- [UAA \(Environment & Natural Resources Institute](#) [formerly Arctic Environmental Information & Data Center], [AK State Climate Center](#), [Alaska Natural Heritage Program & Center for Conservation Science](#))

Contributors

- Arctic Slope Regional Corporation – Energy Services
- International Pacific Halibut Commission
- Prince William Sound Science Center/Oil Spill Recovery Institute

Management Team Librarians

- AK Department of Fish & Game
- Bureau of Land Management
- Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
- University of AK Anchorage
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Selected Honors

- **2012 Regional Director’s Excellence Award** for External Customer Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- **2002 State of Alaska Legislative Citation** in recognition of contributions to Alaska
- **2001 Institute of Museum & Library Services National Award** in National Recognition for Outstanding Community Service, presented at the White House
- **1997 National Performance Review Hammer Award**, Vice President Al Gore

One current user—Fran Ulmer, Chair of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission and Special Advisor on Arctic Science & Policy, State Department, and former Alaska Lieutenant Governor and UAA Chancellor—has summarized ARLIS as an excellent example of city, state, university, and federal government reaching across agency boundaries to make resources available to the widest constituency.¹

ARLIS is committed to user-centered, high-quality service in providing access to invaluable Alaska and Arctic-related resources, today more than ever.

Contact

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Public Hours: Monday–Friday 8–5
Free Parking for ARLIS Users

References

¹ Friends of ARLIS. 2002. *Fact Sheet*. Anchorage, AK.

² Dunn & Malyshev. 2002. *ARLIS Organizational Assessment*. Anchorage, AK: Bureau of Land Management & Alaska State Library.

