

# Special libraries . . .

# ARL

The Alaska Resources Library is a federal library run by the U.S. Department of the Interior. As a branch of Interior's main library in Washington, D.C., it shares many of that institution's policies and goals, but at the same time operates with some degree of autonomy. The library has come a long way in its short (10 year) career; from a 500 square foot space in the old Bureau of Land Management building to 5,000 square feet in Anchorage's new federal building.

The focus of the library is Alaska's natural resources, a rather broad category which includes not only such obvious items as timber, petroleum, minerals, etc., but biological and human resources as well. With a book collection now approaching 20,000 volumes and periodical and serial subscriptions of several hundred titles, the Alaska Resources Library has become a major institution of its kind in the Anchorage area.

The library serves many federal agencies, such as the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management's Outer Continental Shelf Office, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Because it has always been open to the general public as well, a wide variety of other users walk through the library's doors each day. Heaviest among these are employees of state agencies such as the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Natural Resources, as well as dozens of private consulting firms. For all of these people, the primary drawing

card is ARL's timely acquisition and cataloging of current natural resources materials.

"These items are our stock in trade," says Librarian Martha Shepard. "We feel it is part of our responsibility as a special library to make them available as soon as possible. For someone working on a research project, one week's time may be critical."

The library also provides a number of other services. It pioneered computer bibliographic searching in Anchorage and currently subscribes to four major services covering over two hundred databases. Through the untiring efforts of interlibrary loan librarian Cathy Vitale, approximately 175 ILL's are processed each month through such diverse channels as the Alaska State Library, PNBC (now the University of Washington Resources Sharing Program), and the OCLC online system.

What will the future hold for the Alaska Resources Library? Like many federal agencies, its funding has been drastically cut in the last two years, but it hopes to ride out the storm. Meanwhile, budgeting concerns have been the impetus for exploration into alternative means of acquisitions and funding, such as greater reliance on depository programs and gifts from consulting firms who use the library for their research projects, the possibility of charging non-federal patrons for some services, and the potential for contributions of staff positions or acquisitions

continued on page 17

## Bell & Howell fills comprehensive



We've got publications on microfilm or microfiche including local, regional, national and international newspapers and the most widely read periodicals.

You'll find printed indexes for newspapers, topical subjects and special collections for extended reference in a variety of interest areas.

Talk to us about "Phonofiche"—an economical way to keep telephone directories up to date.

And meet our newest addition—C.O.I.N.—An easy-to-use system offering the most current occupational/educational information available.

July 1, 1982, was the first day of operation for the Resource Sharing Program (RSP), a unit of the University of Washington Libraries. RSP offers to Pacific Northwest libraries most of the same services formerly available through the Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Center (PNBC). The new unit is led by Bill DeJohn, along with Janice Thomas, Ralph Teague, Ardis Hill, and Dorothy Hamblen transferred from PNBC to RSP. This continuity of staff no doubt explains the smooth transition Alaska libraries have experienced during the changeover.

When it became clear PNBC could no longer continue for financial reasons, the University of Washington Libraries agreed to provide services to libraries based on a per transaction fee structure. The fee structure is as follows:

## LEVEL I: Document delivery

RSP will search the University collections. If the item is available and loaned, the charge is \$5. This fee covers the loan of up to four volumes of a title, three reels of microfilm, or 120 pages of photocopy; additional photocopy pages are \$.15 per page. The minimum fee for microfiche is \$3 (1-5 fiche) and \$.25 per additional fiche.

## LEVEL II: Locations

If the University is unable to provide the item from its collections, the charge is \$3 for providing additional locations. For Alaska libraries, the requests are immediately forwarded to the first location with additional locations noted.

## LEVEL III: Bibliographic verification

Advanced verification and searching information is provided and includes loan of materials or locations, as appropriate. The charge is \$7.50.

RUSH service is available. Charges are in addition to the routine level of service charge. To receive a report on the same day is \$10 and within two days is \$5. Rush requests must include a deadline date.

Requests to RSP are routed from regional libraries after staff have determined the item is not available in-state. The Alaska State Library funds the use of RSP by Alaska libraries, as they did the use of PNBC.

In addition to catalogs and reference tools available at the University of Washington Libraries, RSP searches both WLN and OCLC. One former PNBC service not yet available from RSP is reference inquiries. RSP is not staffed to provide this service; Bill DeJohn reported he hopes to add it soon and will advise us of the level and cost. Questions about RSP may be directed to regional libraries, regional coordinators, or Sherry Taber at the Alaska State Library.

Sherry Taber  
Alaska State Library

An Interlibrary Cooperation Grant from the State of Alaska made possible "Tale Spinners: a Tall Tale Reading Program." The program, using tall tales of all kinds as a theme, was available for the first time as a Summer Reading Program in May, 1982, throughout the Northern Region, Anchorage, Palmer, and other nearby areas. It was begun as a pilot project to see if eventually state-wide reading programs might become an effective way of sharing time, money, and resources while promoting reading to young people in an effective and appealing manner.

Anchorage Municipal Libraries, Palmer Library, Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Library, and interested individuals worked together to produce Tale Spinners. This tall tale project made available posters and bookmarks by Fairbanks artist Sue Leap, an Idea Book full of suggestions for activities and reading promotion from many sources, a bibliography of books and films, and certificates to celebrate completion of the program. Although preparation time was very short, the sharing of ideas and energy was considered a real success by those involved. The remoteness of people working with children inside the state and from other states made this an especially valuable time for sharing and stimulating renewed interest in needs of children and those working in libraries.

The program is deliberately set up without reference to a year or season making it usable year round. It has also proven very cost effective. With the continued cooperation of the Alaska State Library, a second program will be produced with little additional funding. The materials sell for a minimal fee, of \$.50 per poster and \$.50 per fifty bookmarks. This money helps defray expenses.

This is an idea with tremendous potential. It is a great way to share our resources state-wide. The teleconference network offers further opportunity for sharing and drawing those who work with children together. Anyone interested in this project is encouraged to write for more information, contribute ideas and support, and/or send for current materials.

Judy Redmond  
former Children's Librarian  
Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Library

---

## ARL CONTINUED

money from state or private concerns who are frequent library users. Shepard is proud of the quality of service the library has been able to provide and sees resource sharing as a key element to survival in the budget-conscious '80's, not just for ARL but for all libraries.

"We should all be working together," she says, "to provide materials and services which compliment one another and ensure that no patron is left high and dry. I think that the Alaska Resources Library has proven that size alone is not the issue. Response to user needs--whether it be from our own collection or the collections of other libraries--is the yardstick by which good library services should be measured."

Errol Locker  
Cataloger  
Alaska Resources Library



## Authors to Alaska

Danziger with students from Marie Drake Jr. High School, Juneau, Alaska.

Amorphous describes the Authors to Alaska Committee of the Alaska Library Association (AkLA) and the American Association of School Librarians/Alaska (AASL/Alaska). What is it? How did it begin? Where is it going? Who are members? Sometimes I am unsure of answers to those questions even though I was involved in the development of this committee and function as chair.

History: One afternoon a few years ago my son was watching afternoon TV--a program geared for young adults called "America goes bananas". Being interviewed in front of a live teenage audience was Paula Danziger, author of The cat ate my gymsuit, Can you sue your parents for malpractice?, etc. Her zany answers and quick rapport with children prompted me to write a letter which began, "Has your fondest desire always been to come to Alaska?"

Her reply: "No, it's Robert Redford, Woody Allen, me and a room full of whipped cream, but I'd love to come to Alaska."

After a year of letters, plans, and changes, Paula Danziger came to Juneau, Alaska. Sixty-five teachers and librarians from Southeast Alaska enjoyed the course she taught on the state of the art in Young Adult (YA) literature. Danziger went back to New York yearning to return and librarians around the state wished she had been able to visit their communities.

