

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. Carefully preserved baseline data provide researchers a basis upon which to build their findings.

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. These include legal materials; federal and

state agency technical research reports and contracted documents; white papers, public review documents; maps and atlases; conference proceedings; theses and dissertations; educational science kits; environmental education materials; furs, skulls, fish and bird mounts; audio-visual collections, slides, and photos; as well as caches of permanently archived PDFs, raw data and gray literature, and rare microfiche. An exhaustive collection regarding the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill is the largest anywhere.

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 documents. As one example, ARLIS scanned the *Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program* (OCSEAP) reports, consisting of 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 Unique Collections

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

Selected Scanned Collections

- SuHydro (1980s) and Susitna-Watana (current) project reports (5,000+ documents)
- AK Department of Fish & Game hunting, sport fish, and commercial fish regulations (1930s–present)
- 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, patrons range from environmental consultants and interest groups to the development and non-profit communities, as well as students and other researchers.



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Specialized services, such as in-office database access and delivery, in-depth research, and interlibrary loan, are available for Founding and Contributing members. ARLIS also undertakes bibliographic, digital transfer, and other research projects. ARLIS:

- Consolidates, preserves, and provides access to valuable resource information not available anywhere else
- Possesses the most comprehensive collection of its kind
- Provides contract and other specialized research and bibliographic work, including database production with linked full text

ARLIS's partnerships are legally mandated between eight Federal and State agencies and UAA. Its structure has proven to be cost-effective, sound, and sustainable. Service effectiveness and a multitude of cost-saving efficiencies have resulted from the partnerships, and have been honed during ARLIS's 17 years of existence.

Founders & Consolidated Libraries

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

Contributors

- Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC), 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 • US Fish & Wildlife Service

Selected Accolades & 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

ARLIS is a national model of efficiency and user-centered service that is fast, technically savvy, and of high quality. One current user—Fran Ulmer, former Alaska Lieutenant Governor, former UAA Chancellor, current Chair of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, and Special Advisor on Arctic Science & Policy, State Department—has stated:

ARLIS is an excellent example of city, state, university, and federal government reaching across agency boundaries to make resources available to the widest constituency.¹

ARLIS continues to be known for meeting the highest professional standards, including wise use of resources and patron satisfaction, and remains committed to contributing to the public good.

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.

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Free Parking Available
for ARLIS Users

