

SB

119

ALASKA STATE SENATE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON

ALASKA STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 514
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182



(907)465-3707
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SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB 119

"An Act establishing a grant program to support public school libraries."

SB 119 establishes a grant program for funding public school library acquisitions.

For many Alaskan students, who do not have access to a public library, the school library is their primary source for materials to accomplish school projects, do research, and develop reading proficiency as well as a love of reading.

Individual school library budgets are generally determined by principals and vary widely from district to district and even within each district. Alaskan educational budget shortfalls have impacted schools and school libraries throughout our state. Some school libraries in our state can only participate in reading incentive programs like "Battle of the Books" by using interlibrary loan to borrow the books for their students. It is sad to report that some libraries have no budget at all for new materials.

Many districts are currently rewriting curriculum and course work as a result of the statewide push for school curriculum to support the Alaska Standards. This grant program will be an excellent way for school libraries to help support the updates by purchasing materials supporting the classroom curriculum.

This grant program will provide a means to update materials such as atlases (to reflect current world geography), almanacs, encyclopedias, as well as provide accurate information on advances in science, changes in health issues, career opportunities and recent political issues.

The Alaska Association of School Librarians supports this legislation and proposes the Alaska State Legislature increase our students' access to up-to-date and varied library materials by funding a \$2,500 annual grant to larger active school libraries and a \$750 annual grant to smaller active school libraries (those with five or fewer teachers). This proposal parallels the existing state support of public library collections.

SB 119 will support Alaskan teachers' and librarians' efforts to produce more fluent and proficient readers at all grade levels. This long-term investment in school library infrastructure will benefit our Alaskan youth and future leaders. I urge you to give favorable consideration to this bill.

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SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

SB 119, "An Act establishing a grant program to support public school libraries"

Section 1 adds a new article to AS 14.56 to establish "Public School Library Collection Development Grants" consisting of the following sections:

- **14.56.360** gives the Department of Education authority to award and administer the grant program.
- **14.56.365** defines the eligibility requirements to receive a grant under this program.
- **14.56.370** defines the allowable uses of the funds provided by the grant program, and some specific items that cannot be purchased using grant funds.
- **14.56.375** requires a grantee to provide an annual report on the effectiveness of the grant and whether all grant conditions were met or exceeded.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SB 119
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development
 Title: "An act establishing a grant program to support RDU: Libraries, Archives & Museums
public school libraries." Component: Libraries
 Sponsor: Senator Olson
 Requester: Senate HESS Component No.: 208

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation establishes a public school library collection development grant program which would award grants to eligible public school libraries to expand and improve their library collections.

The legislation does not include any information about the size of the grants to be awarded. The department is, therefore, submitting a zero fiscal note.

Prepared by: Kay Shelton, Director Phone 465-8679
 Division: Libraries, Archives & Museums Date/Time: 4/20/07 1:37 PM
 Approved by: Barbara Thompson, Deputy Commissioner Date: 4/20/2007
 Agency: Education & Early Development



ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ♦ P. O. BOX 81084, FAIRBANKS, AK 99708 ♦ WWW.AKLA.ORG

Senator Bettye Davis
Health, Education and Social Services Committee
State Capitol, Rm 30
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

April 22, 2007

Dear Chairman Davis,

As a representative of the Alaska Library Association, I am writing in support of SB119, "An Act establishing a grant program to support public school libraries."

Part of the Alaska Library Association's mission is to support school libraries and librarians, because we recognize the role school libraries play in the success of Alaska's K-12 students. But school libraries are unable to properly fulfill this role if they are not stocked with adequate resources for educating all students.

Too often students are forced to use the local public library or other outside resources to complete school assignments. In rural areas where students do not have easy access to other libraries, students are much more dependent on their school libraries to provide them with up-to-date reference and research materials.

SB 119 would provide financial assistance to qualified school libraries seeking to correct deficiencies in their collections. Support would take the form of grants covering books, magazines, reference materials and electronic databases.

The Alaska Library Association believes that the best place for students to access curriculum-appropriate materials supporting school coursework is in their own school libraries. Please support this bill to improve school library collections.

Sincerely,

Jane Fuerstenau
AkLA President



Quality School Libraries...

Because Student Achievement is the Bottom Line.

<http://www.akla.org/akasl/>

Alaska Association of School Librarians

The State Senate
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

To increase Alaskan students' access to new and varied library materials the Alaska Association of School Librarians (AKASL) proposes a \$2,500 annual grant to larger active school libraries, (schools with more than 5 teachers), and \$750 for schools with an active school library program with 5 or less teachers. This grant program would parallel the, already existing, state support of public libraries.

School library budgets vary widely from district to district. The crunch in educational funding has impacted school libraries throughout our state. Schools have seen budgets go lower and lower with some libraries having no budget at all for new materials. This annual grant would be an opportunity to level the playing field between rural and urban school libraries. In 2004 - 2006, the median budget for school libraries nationwide was \$9,368. The average budget in the Pacific Northwest was \$19,211. In Alaska, of the 165 public schools who responded to a survey put out by the State Library this past November 2006, the average total school library budget during the 2006 - 2007 school year was \$4,284.

There are many students who are not in easy reach of a public library so the school library is their source for research, curriculum related projects, and encouraging the love of reading. Some school libraries in our state are using interlibrary loan to borrow books for reading incentive programs like "Battle of the Books" as well as research for class projects. This annual grant will support our school's efforts to produce more proficient readers at all grade levels, foster the love of reading, and promote life long learning skills.

Because of the statewide push for school curriculum to support the Alaska Standards many districts are currently rewriting curriculum and course work. The educational needs from school district to school district vary widely. This annual grant would be an excellent way for individual school libraries to help support the unique curricular needs for their district by purchasing materials that will support the classroom curriculum. We envision this grant as a means to update materials such as atlases that reflect current world geography, almanacs, encyclopedias, advances in science, changes in health issues, career awareness and recent political issues. A variety of material formats including books, DVD's, audio books, periodicals and online databases would all be considered acceptable resources.

We believe Senate Bill 119 would be a long-term investment in the school infrastructure and would promote excellence in education for all districts for years to come.

Erika Drain (President)

Alaska Association of School Librarians
erikad@mehs.us



School Library Materials Budget Survey Results – January 2007

In school year 2004-05, the median budget for school libraries nationwide was \$9,368. The average budget in the Pacific Northwest was \$19,211. How does your school's library budget compare? This is the question that we asked Alaska school librarians and library aides in November, 2006. We received results from the end of November to late January 2007 from 151 respondents, representing about 165 public schools, or about one-third of Alaska's schools. The results showed that there is wide variation in budgets across the state and within single school districts. (Some schools did not fill out the complete form, and some answered for more than one school in a district, so the numbers do not total 165.)

ALL SCHOOLS:

138 schools	\$8.32 per student
Average total budget	\$4,284 per school
Range	\$0 - \$25,000 *

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

71 schools	\$7.59 per student
Average total budget	\$2,707.08
Range	\$0 - \$8,520

MIDDLE SCHOOLS:

18 schools	\$8.67
Average total budget	\$4,625.22
Range	\$1,500-\$10,000

HIGH SCHOOLS:

32 schools	\$9.20
Average total budget	\$8,151
Range	\$0 - \$25,000

K-12 SCHOOLS:

24 schools	\$7.03
Average total budget	\$3,397.61
Range	\$0-\$13,000**

*One small K-12 school received a federal grant for \$75,000 for its 124 students. Because this is a one-time, competitive grant open to only a few Alaska school districts, it is not included.

**The maximum K-12 amount represents the budget for 6 K-12 schools in one district.

Proposed Public School Library Collection Development Grant Program 2006
1/10/07

Purpose: To increase Alaskan students' access to new and varied library materials.

Public school libraries which meet the specified criteria will be awarded a \$2,500 supplemental grant.

Need: Public school library budgets vary widely between and within school districts. Due to this disparity many students do not have access to relevant, current materials.

Individual schools may apply yearly for the School Library Collection Development Grants if the school:

- provides physical space that can be identified as a library and is reserved for that purpose;
- provides regularly scheduled library hours for all students; *
- provides designated library personnel to staff the library; *
- provides evidence that library/information literacy standards are being promoted;
- maintains an ongoing library budget to include library staffing and materials with exemptions for special one-time grants; *

* Documentation will be required to validate:

library class schedules; library employee job description and level of training;
evidence of ongoing district support of the library budget.

Public School Library Collection Development funds must be utilized to enhance the library collection rather than individual classrooms. Eligible purchases may include books, magazines, reference materials, and electronic subscriptions that support school curriculum or student reading activities.

Public School Library Collection Development funds may not be used to purchase: textbooks, testing software, library automation software, computer hardware, operating software or tech support.

Grants would not fund district-level collections except for district correspondence programs that employ a full-time librarian.

A \$750 annual grant will be awarded to schools with less than 5 teachers.

A brief annual report documenting that grant guidelines were met, will be filed by each school at the end of the school year.

Initial grant monies not awarded will be distributed as an incentive grant to fund innovative school library programs.

The grant will be administered by the Alaska State Library, Library Development section. The grant program would fund adequate additional State Library personnel to process proposals and to monitor expenditures.

Estimated cost: \$885,000/year

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral

DATE: 3/14/07

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: _____
 (in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
 IN TO OFFICE: _____

Health, Education and Social Services Committee considered

SENATE BILL NO. 119

SB 119 SCHOOL LIBRARY GRANTS

"An Act establishing a grant program to support public school libraries."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<hr/>	
HOUSE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal Note	Other

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal Note	Other

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURE	DATE	INITIALS	DATE	INITIALS
<i>[Signature]</i>				
<i>[Signature]</i>				
<i>[Signature]</i>				
<i>[Signature]</i>				
<i>[Signature]</i>				
CHAIR: <i>Betty Davis</i>				

By Mark Herring. From the April 2001 American Libraries, p. 76-78.

10 Reasons Why the Internet Is No Substitute for a Library

By Mark Y. Herring

Dean of library services
Dacus Library
Winthrop University
Rock Hill, South Carolina

Reading, said the great English essayist Matthew Arnold, "is culture." Given the condition of reading test scores among school children nationwide, it isn't surprising to find both our nation and our culture in trouble. Further, the rush to Internetize all schools, particularly K-12, adds to our downward spiral. If it were not for the Harry Potter books one might lose all hope who languishes here. Then, suddenly, you realize libraries really are in trouble, grave danger, when important higher-education officials opine, "Don't you know the Internet has made libraries obsolete?" Gadzooks! as Harry himself might say.

In an effort to save our culture, strike a blow for reading, and, above all, correct the well-intentioned but horribly misguided notions about what is fast becoming Intertopia among many nonlibrarian bean counters, here are 10 reasons why the Internet is no substitute for a library.



Not Everything Is on the Internet

With over one billion Web pages you couldn't tell it by looking. Nevertheless, very few *substantive* materials are on the Internet *for free*. For example, only about 8% of all journals are on the Web, and an even smaller fraction of books are there. Both are costly! If you want the *Journal of Biochemistry*, *Physics Today*, *Journal of American History*, you'll pay, and to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars.



The Needle (Your Search) in the Haystack (the Web)

The Internet is like a vast uncataloged library. Whether you're using Hotbot, Lycos, Dogpile, Infoseek, or any one of a dozen other search or metasearch engines, you're not searching the entire Web. Sites often promise to search everything but they can't deliver. Moreover, what they do search is not updated daily, weekly, or even monthly, regardless of what's advertised. If a librarian told you, "Here are 10 articles on Native Americans. We have 40 others but we're not going to let you see them, not now, not yet, not until you've tried another search in another library," you'd throw a fit. The Internet does this routinely and no one seems to mind.



Quality Control Doesn't Exist

Yes, we need the Internet, but in addition to all the scientific, medical, and historical information (when accurate), there is also a cesspool of waste. When young people aren't getting their sex education off XXX-rated sites, they're learning politics from the Freeman Web page, or race relations from Klan sites. There is no quality control on the Web, and there isn't likely to be any. Unlike libraries where vanity press publications are rarely, if ever, collected, vanity is often what drives the Internet. Any fool can put up anything on the Web, and, to my accounting, all have.

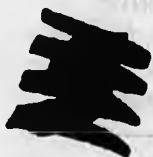


What You Don't Know Really Does Hurt You

The great boon to libraries has been the digitization of journals. But full-text sites, while grand, aren't always full. What you don't know can hurt you:

1. articles on these sites are often missing, among other things, footnotes;
2. tables, graphs, and formulae do not often show up in a readable fashion (especially when printed); and
3. journal titles in a digitized package change regularly, often without warning.

A library may begin with X number of journals in September and end with Y number in May. Trouble is, those titles aren't the same from September to May. Although the library may have paid \$100,000 for the access, it's rarely notified of any changes. I would not trade access to digitized journals for anything in the world, but their use must be a judicious, planned, and measured one, not full, total, and exclusive reliance.



States Can Now Buy One Book and Distribute to Every Library on the Web—NOT!

Yes, and we could have one national high school, a national university, and a small cadre of faculty teaching everybody over streaming video. Let's take this one step further and have only digitized sports

Looking into the abyss of the Internet is like vertigo over a void. But the void has to do not only with what's there, but also with what isn't. Not much on the Internet is more than 15 years old. Vendors offering magazine access routinely add a new year while dropping an earlier one. Access to older material is very expensive. It'll be useful, in coming years, for students to know (and have access to) more than just the scholarly materials written in the last 10 to 15 years.



The Internet Is Ubiquitous but Books Are Portable

In a recent survey of those who buy electronic books, more than 80% said they like buying paper books over the Internet, not reading them on the Web. We have nearly 1,000 years of reading print in our bloodstream and that's not likely to change in the next 75. Granted, there will be changes in the delivery of electronic materials now, and those changes, most of them anyway, will be hugely beneficial. But humankind, being what it is, will always want to curl up with a good book—not a laptop—at least for the foreseeable future.



The Web is great; but it's a woefully poor substitute for a full-service library. It is mad idolatry to make it more than a tool. Libraries are icons of our cultural intellect, totems to the totality of knowledge. If we make them obsolete, we've signed the death warrant to our collective national conscience, not to mention sentencing what's left of our culture to the waste bin of history. No one knows better than librarians just how much it costs to run a library. We're always looking for ways to trim expenses while not contracting service. The Internet is marvelous, but to claim, as some now do, that it's making libraries obsolete is as silly as saying shoes have made feet unnecessary.

This article originally appeared in American Libraries, April 2001, p. 76-78.

SB 119, School Library Grants – People who will testify

All will have to call in as librarians cannot take time off during the day, except for a few minutes at a time.

Helen Clark, Fairbanks North Star Borough Schools, 452-2000

Roz Goodman, 850-3011 (representing bush librarians)

OK **Tiki Levinson**, Delta Junction School Library, 895-4696

OK **Kari Sagel**, Sitka, Blatchley Middle School Library, 966-1411

OK **Lynn McNamara**, Anchorage Scenic Park Elementary School, 742-1650

OK **Cathy Boutin**, Juneau, Auke Bay School,

OK **Barb Ryeon**, Valdez

One or both of these people will be available to answer questions:

Linda Thibodeau, Juneau, Deputy Director, Alaska State Library, 465-2912

Sue Sherif, Anchorage, Alaska State Library, 269-6569