Alaska’s Digital Archives: an introduction

https://vilda.Alaska.edu
Structure of this presentation

• What is the Alaska’s Digital Archives (and what it isn’t)
• Basic use & searching
• Partnership

Current project manager is Bob Forshaw at UAF: raforshaw@alaska.edu
Project manager as of 07/01/2019: Arlene: abschmuland@alaska.edu
Organizational history

- Start: 2002, funding from congressional appropriation
- Lots of meetings
- Website live: 2003
- 2003-now: Growth of site content/formalization of partnership aspects
- 2018: moved from local hosting to OCLC hosting (massive $ breaks with that move, surprisingly!)
Scope and content note

• All content has to have some sort of connect to AK
Scope and content note, pt. 1:

- Content with no relationship to AK
- No human remains
- No human nudity
- Other items with sensitive content

- Think of the audience! Under 18s, international,
Scope and content note, pt. 2:

• AK connect
• Archival materials (not really meant for published works other than state government publications)

What’s there for each item?
• Descriptive metadata
• The items themselves (photos, documents, objects, a/v, oral histories...)
Technical requirements note:

• Low res (save bandwidth, prevent piracy)
• jpg for image files, jpg2000 for oversize maps, mpg for audio, mp4 for video, pdf for docs (pdf or jpg for single page items), URLs for materials posted elsewhere (strongly encouraged for a/v)
• Think ease of use with typical in-browser apps, things that don’t require massive downloads of arcane web viewers
Rights and restrictions

• Not everything is copyright cleared!
• Not everything has to be copyright cleared!
• Still, don’t put up high risk items
Searching/using the Digital Archives

• Remember: it’s not in any way a comprehensive reflection of archival content in AK
• But it’s a great jumping off point to find materials: if you find an item that relates to your search, maybe the holding repository has more on that!
• New things are being added all the time
• As of 4/29/19: 98,633 items on the Digital Archives
Link to Main Page

Alaska’s Digital Archives

Link to main page from all pages

Keyword search box on all pages
Menu bar: these links are also available at the bottom of each page. Will be expanding to include FAQs.
Advance Search

Alaska’s Digital Archives presents a wealth of historical photographs, albums, oral histories, moving images, maps, documents, physical objects, and other materials from libraries, museums and archives throughout our state.

Alaska Native History & Cultures

The land now known as the state of Alaska has been continuously inhabited by Native peoples for thousands of years. We invite you to view images of the Indigenous people of our state. Go to...
Search by Institution

- Select institution(s)
- Search within specific metadata fields
- Do some date searching (it's quirky/unreliable, sorry)
Fields
Partner Institutions
Changes to VILDA

Pathways about to go away, ignore these

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we're working on making this a rotating photo
3 partnership levels (current)

Sustaining partner: annual cost (varies depending on how much stuff you have in)

Project partner: one time $3000 cost for up to 2000 items, repeatable

Micro partner: one time $150 cost for up to 200 items, not repeatable

Cost structure is subject to change!
Partnering: your capacity

• Reference response
• Digitizing and doing metadata (can be contracted out), also editing
• Person/position who will be the project liaison long-term
• A specific page on your own website that is a landing page for requestors (talk about how to order, rights issues)

  Alaska State Library: library.alaska.gov/vilda_rights.html
  UA Museum of the North: www.uaf.edu/museum/collections/vilda-rights/
It’s about outreach!

• Keep a user orientation
• Think about untapped audiences
• Think about what’s reasonable ($, time) for you to do
• Think about what support you might be able to enable