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## N • E • W • S R • E • L • E • A • S • E

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### **State Library Sets New Hours For the Public**

*Reference Library and Historical Library Open Noon to 4:30 pm. Beginning October 4*

The Alaska State Library will offer new hours for walk-in traffic beginning October 4, George Smith, Acting Director of the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums, said today. The new hours, for both the Reference Library and Historical Library -- both located on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the State Office Building in Juneau -- will be from noon to 4:30 p.m. daily.

The Reference Library has been open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The Historical Library has been open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

The State Library will continue to meet all of its statutory responsibilities, Smith said. "Most library patrons access services by telephone and the Internet," he said. Those services are available from 8 a.m. (or 9 a.m.?) to 4:30 p.m. "Walk-in traffic has dropped off considerably since we and many our customers have transitioned to the Internet and computers." In addition, he added, the City of Juneau operates two library branches that attract the vast majority of walk-in traffic in Juneau.

According to law, the State Library's functions include:

- Provide reference library service to state and other public officials.
- Provide library services and administering state and other grants-in-aid to public libraries to supplement and improve their services, the grants to be paid from funds appropriated for that purpose, or from other funds available for that purpose.
- Provide library service directly to areas in which there is not sufficient population or local revenue to support independent library units.
- Distribute financial aid to public libraries for extension of library service to surrounding areas and to improve inadequate local library service under regulations adopted by the department.
- Offer consultant service on library matters to state and municipal libraries, community libraries, school libraries, and libraries in unincorporated communities.
- Serve as a depository for state and federal publications concerning Alaska.

The State Library has seen a reduction of personnel from 35 to 29 over the past two years and is down by almost half since the mid-1980s

"Even with a leaner staff, we will still meet our obligations," Smith said.

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