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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Alaska Division of Libraries Archives and Museums Awarded Prestigious Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services

JUNEAU -- Thanks to a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), grant funds are being used to create the Archival Rescue Corps (ARC.) ARC's will main purpose is to collect information on archival collections throughout the state and to assess preservation needs within those collections. They will do this forming a network of volunteers to help identify and protect the state's treasured collections through training and education.

Alaska is one of 19 states to receive a Connecting to Collections Statewide Planning Grant aimed at creating conservation plans for collections held in libraries, museums, and archives. The grants are an important component of the IMLS initiative, Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action, a multi-year, multi-faceted national plan to raise public awareness and inspire action on collections care.

"These 19 projects represent movement toward collaborative thinking among collection-holding institutions that have a strong commitment to collections stewardship. IMLS funding will assist these relationships in blossoming into powerful alliances that will serve collections and the people who use them for years to come," said Dr. Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

"We are very grateful to IMLS for this reward. It supports the State Library, Archives and Museum's mission of finding, preserving, and making accessible the valuable, cultural, and historical resources," said Kay Shelton, State Librarian and Director of Alaska Libraries, Archives & Museums.

More information on ARC can be found at <http://archives.state.ak.us/arc/>

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. To learn more about the institute, please visit www.imls.gov.

For more information about the grant, contact Frances Field at frances.field@alaska.gov or 907-465-1310.



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