

Implementation

A three year implementation schedule is envisioned to coordinate the upgrading of regional and local library systems into a single statewide library network. Funding for the start up and implementation of the statewide library system is needed. The total start up costs for SLED2: Alaska's Statewide Library would be \$2,500,000 spent over three years.

Project implementation includes hiring a project team to help evaluate and select the software for the statewide library system. The team will install the new system, migrate existing systems, and upgrade the current SLED website.

Sustainability

The University of Alaska currently provides ongoing funding for licensing electronic resources as part of the Digital Pipeline program. The current level of ongoing funding is \$412,000. The Alaska State Library provides grant funding for statewide programs. All participants of the statewide system will pay for the ongoing maintenance and operational costs. Currently the libraries in Alaska are paying more than \$500,000 per year in maintenance and operational costs. The Rasmuson Library at UAF would be responsible for maintaining the SLED2 website and the statewide library system.

SLED2: Alaska's Information Dividend

Information is a vital component of any educational experience. SLED2 will confront the "digital divide" in Alaska by providing an "information dividend" to all Alaskans. SLED2 will support the research needs of the state of Alaska and promote the legacy of Alaska found in photographic, audio and archival materials. All SLED2 resources will be freely available to all state residents. Alaska's libraries, museums, and archives, the University of Alaska, K-12 schools and other educational and research institutions will have the opportunity to participate in the program by using the resources and by contributing content. SLED2 will provide access to research information needed by the state of Alaska and its industries to plan for the future.

Lifelong learning has changed from being an option to an absolute necessary. The pace of technological change is driving people to pursue new ways to learn and to communicate while information is gathered, organized and shared in different and innovative ways. SLED2 will help Alaskans as they cope with the rapidly changing learning environment.

For more information, contact

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SLED2

Alaska's Statewide Library

Time for a Statewide Library System

Libraries in Alaska have a tradition of sharing library resources and coordinating their efforts to deliver information services to all residents of the state. Currently there is the statewide SLED website and several cooperative library systems:

- two cooperative systems operating in Southeast;
- two cooperative systems in Fairbanks—one used by the North Star Borough Public Library and the Fairbanks School District, the other operated by UAF; and
- the cooperative system in Southcentral Alaska. Preliminary planning is underway to add the additional public libraries located in the Mat-Su area to the Southcentral system.

By using today's information technologies, it is possible to deliver more library services to more individuals by expanding access to library collections, electronic publications and to digital images of historical documents.

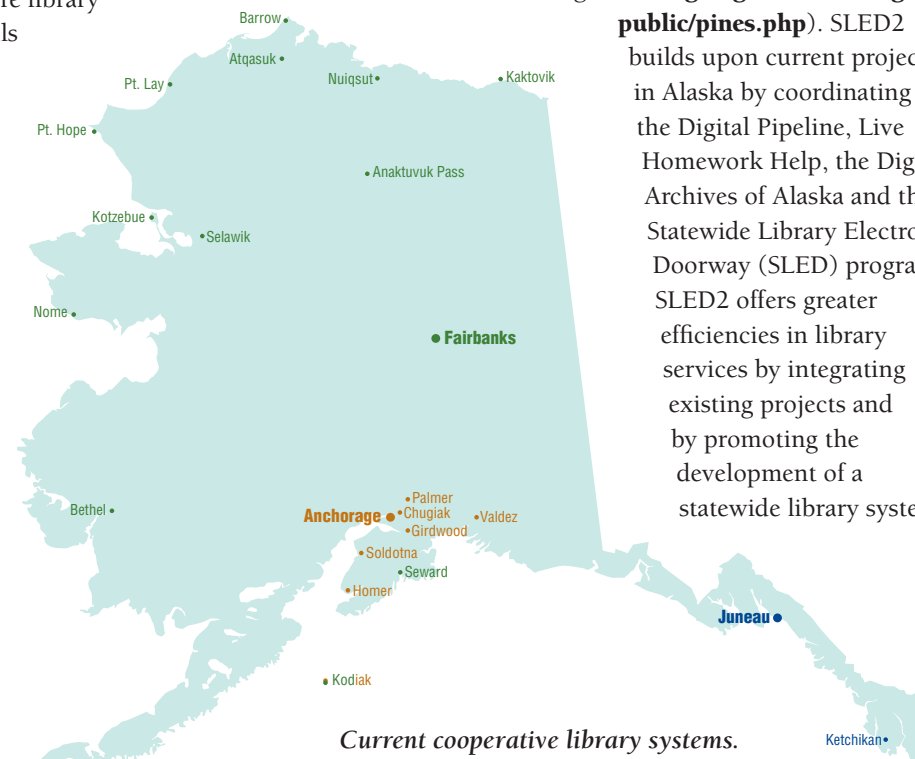
Because of limited budgets and vast geographical distances, Alaska's libraries must exploit information technologies to reach greater efficiencies in delivering their services and in promoting the use of their collections. Such efficiencies can be realized by consolidating the existing regional

systems into a single statewide library system. A statewide library system can hold down the annual costs for libraries since each participant would pay only a percentage of the total cost, based on their local usage of the system.

Now is an appropriate time to plan for a statewide system since the need to upgrade the existing regional systems is on the horizon. Even the most recent of the regional systems were purchased under a statewide contract in 2002. In the foreseeable future, all libraries will be faced with the reality of replacing their existing hardware and upgrading their system software.

SLED2: Alaska's Statewide Library

The proposed statewide library system, SLED2, is modeled after the successful statewide library program in Colorado (www.aclin.org) and in Georgia (www.georgialibraries.org/public/pines.php). SLED2 builds upon current projects in Alaska by coordinating the Digital Pipeline, Live Homework Help, the Digital Archives of Alaska and the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway (SLED) programs. SLED2 offers greater efficiencies in library services by integrating existing projects and by promoting the development of a statewide library system.



Current cooperative library systems.

SLED2 builds upon tradition by coordinating and integrating access to local library catalogs and by delivering an equitable core of information resources to every student and resident of Alaska. The statewide system will support the development of a statewide library card promoting reciprocal borrowing among Alaska's libraries.

As a program of the Alaska Library Network, group purchasing of library resources will be encouraged and will result in lowering the unit costs for each participating library. Smaller libraries in particular will benefit as a more equitable distribution of resources is realized across all rural and urban communities in Alaska. Library users will be able to place requests and have materials delivered to their local library. SLED2 would serve as a single doorway offering an easy to use interface highlighting available resources for K-12, higher education, adult learners and the business and research communities.

SLED2 is envisioned to be an integrated statewide library network offering access to selective internet resources, licensed databases, thousands of electronic books and journals, online library catalogs, consumer health information, online tutoring, and the descriptive finding aids or inventories of the archival collections held at the state's major repositories. The statewide library system will offer a single point of access for images and materials documenting Alaska's unique history. Historical documents, which are currently stored in archives, can be scanned and made available over the statewide system to students in their classrooms or their homes. SLED2 will be a valuable resource for any student studying Alaskan history.