



Title	LitSite Alaska: WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT TO CREATE STATEWIDE ACCESS TO INTER- ACTIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
Details	Awarded by the Rasmuson Foundation on June 28, 2005 Total award amount: \$250,000 over two years
Steering Committee	Ronald Spatz , Dean, Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship and Project Director, LitSite Alaska Steve Rollins , Dean, UAA/APU Consortium Library Renee Carter-Chapman , Vice Chancellor for Community Partnerships Mardell Keisel , Language Arts Curriculum Coordinator, Anchorage School Dis- trict
Prospectus	LitSite Alaska is partnering with the UAA/APU Consortium Library to develop elec- tronic content around Alaska's Digital Archives. The project will implement per- manent infrastructure and use emerging Internet capabilities to create statewide access to interactive learning opportunities in cultural context, historical narrative, creative writing, and other forms of expression. The project will build community by creating and enhancing content related to Alaska history and culture, and will provide a unique resource available world-wide. The result will be a versatile and adaptable cultural and historical resource featuring a searchable database, easy navi- gability, electronic interactivity, and text-to-speech technology in increase access for senior citizens and people experiencing disabilities.
Project Elements	The LitSite expansion includes four elements. I. Enhancement of Alaska's Digital Archives — Living History The Archives hold over 13,000 digital images that are fully cataloged but not placed within their historical context. The project will use LitSite Alaska as the key inter- face to create that context by creating narratives and linking the images to such items as oral histories, essays, historical documents, film clips, and/or computer visualizations. The interactive site will provide a place for people of all ages and backgrounds to develop the historical narratives and explore their larger cultural meanings. Expected content will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical narratives written by elders, villagers, historians, or citizens with knowledge of the people or activities in the photos • Interpretive essays from Alaskans, including high school and college students • Oral histories linked to the site as digital files for downloading • Community engagement in reading and writing about Alaskan history, including contests and interactive literacy-based games for children.



2. Enhancement of Statewide Literacy

By expanding cultural communication throughout the state, the project will foster not only textual but electronic and cultural literacy as well. An important goal is to develop curricula focusing on writing about history from young children. By developing the site architecture, LitSite Alaska can become an online statewide public square that allows far-flung villages to tap into each other's shared narratives.

3. Enhancement of LitSite Alaska as an Interactive Site

The project will develop the underlying architecture to transform LitSite Alaska from a static archive into a dynamic and interactive experience. The digital archives and historical narratives can be a springboard for other creative and cultural content, including poetry, oral history, and story-telling. Speech-to-text software will expand access, especially to the elderly and people experiencing disabilities.

4. Enhancement of LitSite Alaska's Education-Oriented Interactive Electronic Chat Capabilities

The expansion of education-oriented electronic chat capabilities will advance LitSite Alaska's goal of improving literacy and writing skills for children. The project will develop literacy-centered learning modules, interactive exercises, and related games for children.

