

Dermott O'Tool Memorial Library Report

October 2026

Library Board Meeting

We've had a great month at the library with new book displays, science presentations, pivot into off-season volunteering, autumn crafts and decorations, new satellite dish installation, final set up of new IPADS for patron use, the start of shelf thinning discard donation to Friends of the Library in Juneau, Book Hook and Media Beacon Grant application submissions and more!

Special thanks to our September/October Volunteers Beth, Dave and Anke, Diane, Bella, Lisa, Anne, Mary Claire, Alice and more!

Volunteer Binder received a small facelift. Files were simplified and a front tab requested volunteers to read updates weekly was added. Also added in the "read weekly" section are multiple pages for note taking and communication. We ask volunteers to focus communication to these pages and email or text library director going forward.

OWL Grant We are waiting for confirmation on OWL grant. 250.00\$ expected

Surplusing We have started to surplus older electronics no longer being used by staff or patrons. We will keep the older AWE learning center in case it is needed by children in our community at the library or elsewhere.

NEW STARLINK and NEW IPADS satellite connected and installed 10/2. Use started. Our Starlink did disconnect shortly after the new dish was installed and JT spent an hour getting it reconnected for the library. JT also set up our new IPADS (finished setting them up) for patron use. The iPads are available for patron use at the front patron desk next to our older Microsoft Surface tablets. The code to access our IPADS is 123456 and the code to access the Microsoft Surface tablets is taped to their covers. The iPads have protective covers to extend their use. Patrons are welcome to use these four resources while library is open in the library.

Microscope Use New microscope arrived from Mary Claire, handheld and kid friendly. Thank you. Other smart screen microscope has been used for three events led by Nate Storey. We had 15 patrons attend the first event, 10 the

second and hope for more good attendance at the third event. Patrons have explored tidal pool water, leaves, succulents, human hair, wool fibers, insect wings, miniature crabs and more! Nate plans to introduce dyes to the presentation in his third presentation.

Community involvement. Community involvement is being encouraged through posted lists in the library where patrons can write down their desired new books and DVDs for our collection. Ebb Tides announcements have also been encouraging attendance at our monthly board meetings and for patrons to email ILL requests and any other questions/comments to our domltke@gmail.com library email.

Book Displays. A beautiful new book display was put up in early October. Patrons have been checking out our new additions to the library collection. We have Anne, Lisa and Pete to thank for hours put into cataloguing and readying these books. We are looking forward to making a large order to catch up for this fiscal year in the next couple weeks as we now have our PLA funding deposited to the library account and issues with our library debit card were sorted out by ordering a new debit card; the debit card arrived 10/22/2026. So, look forward to even more wonderful additions. Requests for DVDs to help patrons find interesting entertainment through our quieter cold months is also noted. There will be DVDs!

Shelf Thinning and Rearrangement of Books Shelf Thinning has begun with about 75 books sent to Juneau this week. We will continue thinning out damaged books, books that have not been checked out in about a decade and paperback books for donation to local organizations such as the Juneau prison, ferry and airport, hospital, Friends of the Library, Bus Stop and patrons. Some goals of thinning the shelves include creating space for addition with our funding in the coming year, space to rearrange our children's nonfiction section and make it more accessible to patrons. The Library Director also would like to create more visual draw to our book and DVD collection with permanent eye level display shelves to help draw patron's attention to gems in our collection or various themes.

Please reach out to join volunteers and library organizing at domltke@gmail.com or text Ruth at 309.310.8572. Also, you can reach out with ideas for additions to our library, book and DVD order requests. We also appreciate the notes of special thanks to helpful volunteers!

Snapshot Toward Next Month:

1. *Working to fill November Schedule.* We have two openings on Saturdays and Thursdays also need a volunteer right now.
3. *Ordering DVDs and Books* to begin spending our 25/26 PLA grant funds which were deposited to the library account in early October. Grant fiscal year runs July 1- June 31. So, we have some “catch up” to do. This is fun because it means shopping for great books and DVDs for our community! Recommendations are noted and collected. Again, please email domltke@gmail.com. Going forward the Library Director expects to order books and DVD every quarter or every three months to help streamline library tasks. This does not mean we will not order between quarters, but aiming for larger orders every quarter should help plan with more intention and hopefully not feel behind so often with our small team who does such great work!
4. *The library projector is being loaned out for community use* for friend gathering movie nights as requested. We are looking into interest around special documentary screenings as well. We respect copyright laws and recognize limitations of formal library viewings but hope these smaller friends gatherings will allow use of great resources for patrons! Tiffany and Nicole plan to host a movie night for adults this autumn. More casual children’s movie afternoons will be offered as well.
5. *The library computer desktop is being organized to allow easy access to Google Drive documents attached to our library email account*; ILL spreadsheet is already linked to our library desktop. Soon our financial records (bank statements, budget, librarian spending logs and reports) will be easily available on the library computer desktop as well. Work is being done to streamline access to documents, so it is available via our Gmail account google drive and the physical library computer in the physical library space. This will allow for secure remote and local work on documents, ILL processing, shopping and records etc.
6. *The WordPress platform will be presented at the next board meeting* after some adjustments made to our website to encourage patron involvement. At the November board meeting, we will also look at other platforms which may prove more user friendly. The board and librarian are interested in increasing website use to expand updates and offerings to patrons on a more regular basis. Extensive updates via Ebbtides is a strain on the volunteer services of the Ebbtides coordinator.
7. Developing Alaska Digital Library access and other online resources. Plan to promote Author Talks and OWL events again. This continues to be in progress
8. *ILL is running smoothly with new computer systems.* These include email requests by patrons, forwarded at “Tenakee Requests” emails to Anchorage and all steps in process now logged onto spreadsheet available in library

Gmail account Google Drive OR on the library computer desk top. Volunteers are being trained to use this computer spreadsheet. Full instructions and a paper spreadsheet are available in the physical volunteer binder still. A folder for library address slips is also in the volunteer folder.

9. Patrons are invited to assist with autumn and winter decoration of the library. Our first decoration event is Thursday October 23rd at 1:30pm.
10. Fundraising opportunities are being planned for the holiday season; invitations to send gifts to PO Box 35 in Ebb Tides, an Amazon Wish List in Ebb Tides and more.
11. We continue to use the *Volunteer Group Text* Chat to help answer immediate needs and fill staffing gaps. Emails are sent to volunteers with updates approximately monthly. Hopefully this will start to be sent out at the same time each month so volunteers can know when to look for more comprehensive updates. In the meantime, volunteers at the library have the binder with all pertinent updates and know to reach out to the Library Director if they need orientation or other updates.
12. Our daily log sheets will be transformed into a computer spread sheet in the next few months. Input is welcome as the Library Director develops this. The goal is to always keep our statistics in one location (Google Drive with link on Library Desktop Computer) as we have struggled with losing the sheets as they are passed around to different people for tallying. Orientation to use of spreadsheet will be available and for the next few months we will continue taper sheets.
13. 6. The store drop box is being used and a system has been set up with store clerk Tiffany to drop library books off at the library during open hours or at the library drop box if not open. Volunteers are also encouraged to stop by the store and collect books when they can as the store drop box is VERY small! ☺
14. We can expect 22 juvenile books from the Tenakee School which they are being awarded by the Book Hook Grant. These will be donated to the library after they have been used by the school.

Ruth Underhill, BSN, MFA

Library Director