

TO: Dr. Amy Phillips-Chan

CC: 800# ILL User Libraries  
Alaska Library Association

FROM: Marjorie Harrison, Anchorage Public Library

DATE: 1/20/2026

SUBJECT: 800# Interlibrary Loan and Reference Back-up Service

This letter is to inform you that Anchorage Public Library (APL) does not intend to apply for the Regional Library Services grant to operate the 800# Interlibrary Loan and Reference Back-up Service, after the end of this current fiscal funding cycle.

For over two decades, APL has received pass through funding, from the Institute for Museum and Library Services through the State of Alaska, to employ a part time staff member who fulfills requests for small Alaskan libraries on behalf of the Alaska State Library. This is done through materials available in the Joint Library Catalog or through the World Catalog from OCLC. The full cost of Anchorage running this program is no longer covered by the available funds, nor are all associated costs considered allowable charges under the grant regulations. Additional or increased costs include: supervisor, budgetary, and administrative staff time, office space and technology needs, increased labor contract obligations, and growing usage of APL collections.

In an uncertain time of limited budgets, including reduced support from state and federal funding sources, Anchorage Public Library must prioritize services to our taxpayer and constituent base, in order to be good stewards of municipal resources.

We understand that this is a very valuable State Library service for many of our library colleagues around Alaska, and hope that another home for the program can be found. We will continue to operate this service until the end of the current grant period (August 30, 2026) or until allocated funds are expended.

