

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND HERITAGE

Making a more accessible Cultural Heritage Library at the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association

THE NEED

APIA has a rich cultural heritage library containing 2,000 items

Easier Access

The collection is difficult to access for patrons, because it had not been inventoried or classified.

Quick Discovery

APIA needed a way to quickly look up items in their inventory and find those items on the shelves, as well as to allow patrons to browse materials topically.

THE APPROACH

Inventory

Library materials included language learning resources, documentation of historical events, anthropological papers produced over the past two centuries, and reports on resource development in the region.

Classify

DDC was used because it is familiar to both staff and patrons, but modifying it was necessary to ensure the divisions and classes accurately represented Unangax culture and the collection.

Shelve & Sign

Items were labeled and shelved accordingly. Clear signage for the shelves was created to facilitate easy browsing.

THE IMPACT

APIA has an exhaustive inventory of their collection, increasing the ease of access for patrons. This is important on two fronts:

Continuity

Ensures the continued sharing of cultural knowledge and history within the Unangax community and facilitates the application of information about Unangax culture by APIA staff in their work.

Visibility

Allows for increased visibility of Unangax culture and history on a wider stage in the state of Alaska by easing access for researchers.