

books statewide, back through 1890. Microfiche and aperture card media from the 1970 – 1975 time period remains to be digitized, and the final processes to enable all the remaining digitized documents to be made available online will be completed with this project funding. When done, Alaska will likely be the first state in the nation to have its entire recorded permanent public record available in digital format for easy access.

This project will be completed utilizing two existing long-term non-permanent staff dedicated to the project, as well as existing programming staff to work on enhancements for the search and retrieval system of the historic book records.

PROJECT BENEFITS:

Having all recorded and filed documents available in digital format makes use of the widely accepted and more efficient technology available, and allows the Recorder's Office to discontinue the use of older micrographic equipment (reader/printers) and terminate expensive maintenance contracts. Operating cost savings in these areas are utilized to update and maintain computers and printers for customer research. The ability to access document images by digital technology will result in more efficient and timely delivery of service by recording staff and easier access by the public.

Conversion of the entire public record to digital images provides the state with a small but additional revenue producing service (i.e. sale of bulk images). Title companies, service bureaus, and other businesses are extremely interested in purchasing bulk image downloads from our office to enhance their own databases, as evident in the numerous customers already purchasing available bulk images. Until the conversion process is complete and we begin receiving requests for more bulk image purchases, it is not possible to make a reasonable estimate of the potential increase.

Completion of this project ensures the preservation of the historic recording record of Alaska. Actual historic books, film records and aperture cards will no longer be used directly for research, thus reducing damage to the original media from repeated handling.

Why is this Project Needed Now?:

Since the inception of statewide imaging in July 2001 and the conversion of older document images now available, users have come to rely heavily on the imaging system for ease of use, accessibility, and functionality, as well as quality of product, and most notably, speed of delivery. Completing the conversion of the remaining record series to digital format will result in faster retrieval of document images statewide, improved workflow, reduction of physical storage space needs, termination of expensive maintenance contracts on ageing reader/printers, improved quality of records and improved productivity.

