



SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS

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Message from the CEO

Life at the SLS Office changed for the short term with our hosting the MHPL staff during the part of their renovations that required them to be out of their building. We enjoyed being able to interact with MHPL staff on a daily basis and found it was good to be able to share information about what each of us do in our daily work.

Our Board of Trustees recently approved our next Plan of Service for 2008 to 2010. Thank you for the input that helped us shape the Plan to ensure that we are serving the libraries appropriately and working towards our 2015 Preferred Vision. Copies of the Plan will be sent to our member municipalities and libraries after fall elections.

Our key focus of attention is on the migration to our new ILS and the associated partnership with Chinook Arch Regional Library System. Just to remind everyone, this partnership is called SAILS - Southern Alberta Integrated Library System. After Horizon development was halted by SirsiDynix, we, along with our partner, worked to examine the features and options in the Unicorn software, and were able to negotiate an addendum to the contract in July. SAILS was able to retain all funding required for the migration from the original grant organizations as we worked through the delays. Once the addendum was added a new "Go Live" date was provided by SirsiDynix with input from both partners. While all of us are disappointed that the "GO LIVE" date was moved ahead by four months, a successful implementation is the prime goal and our ultimate need.

Canadian Library Month
October 2007

Libraries:
The World At Your
Fingertips



www.cla.ca/clm07/index.htm

OCTOBER 2007 is Canadian Library Month Libraries: The World at Your Fingertips

Get out and celebrate libraries Canada! And in order to help you better celebrate be sure to visit the Canadian Library Association website link www.cla.ca/clm07/. Here you will find various resources including a Toolkit which contains downloadables of promotional materials. There is an order form for t-shirts and collector bags. There are also ideas for the month, a downloadable bookmark, poster, and logo. As in previous years there is also the Declaration that can be signed by representatives of municipalities and library boards declaring October to be Canadian Library Month.

As a part of the Library Renewed campaign, THE ALBERTA LIBRARY has put together an insert celebrating Alberta's Public Libraries. **"Public Libraries... a place for everyone"** can be seen in newspapers around the province the first week of October. Both the Brooks Public Library and the Medicine Hat Public Library have been featured in this pullout.

New Database Offerings for 2008!

Member library patrons are going to see some new databases available to them at the end of 2007. Recently the Library Managers made the decision to expand what databases are currently being offered to include Home Improvement Reference Center and Small Engine Repair Reference Center, both of which are EBSCO products.

Home Improvement Reference Center contains information on various home improvement subjects including outdoor improvements, decorating, practical maintenance tips, remodeling, plumbing, electrical work, and wood projects. This resource is comprised of information from 24 full text essential reference works with several thousand images as well as articles from a number of full text magazines.

Small Engine Repair Reference Center is made up of resources that provide assistance to anyone who wants to tinker with small engines themselves and covers topics such as outdoor power equipment, snowmobiles, motorcycles, boats, farm tractors, generators, ATVs, commercial lawn mowers and snowblowers. This database brings together information from 400 full text reference books, many of which are very difficult to find on local library shelves.



More Databases Added to Core!

Several new databases will appear in the Universal Core starting January 1st, 2008. The new core will then be available to participating libraries and library systems until the end of 2010. The most recent additions for public libraries include:

World Book Online Reference Center - “Continually updated, World Book Online Reference Center is a student’s best source for accurate and accessible information. This comprehensive site includes all the articles from the 22-volume print set, plus thousands of additional articles by World Book’s renowned contributors.”

World Book Kids - “based on the award-winning World Book Student Discovery Encyclopedia, is the premier general reference Web site developed especially for younger users.”

Computers & Applied Sciences Complete - “subject areas include the many engineering disciplines, computer theory & systems, new technologies, and social & professional context.”

Education Research Complete - “topics covered include all levels of education from early childhood to higher education, and all educational specialties, such as multilingual education, health and education, and testing.”

Environment Complete - provides coverage in related areas of “agriculture, ecosystem ecology, energy, renewable energy sources, natural resources, marine & freshwater science, geography, pollution & waste management, environmental technology, environmental law, public policy, social impacts, urban planning, and more.”

Film & Television Literature Index with Full Text - subject areas covered include “film & television theory, preservation & restoration, writing, production, cinematography, technical aspects, and reviews.”

International Bibliography of Theatre & Dance with Full Text - is comprised of a “fully indexed, cross-referenced and annotated databank of over 60,000 journal articles, books, book articles and dissertation abstracts on all aspects of theatre and performance in 126 countries.”



News from Libraries Around the System

Bow Island Community Library

"Lost Worlds" was a wonderful success at the Bow Island Library this summer. Our Summer Program Coordinator, Marci Keeler, was a great Navigator of all the worlds the kids visited. The signs above the doorway sent warnings to all who dared enter the "Lost Worlds." The weekly adventure sessions were organized around "Lost Civilizations" and club members had opportunities to make Chinese dragon kites, cave paintings and fossils and even had their own "Olympics" including bowling in the library.

In total, our participants read 79,700 pages and 316 kids took part in the activities. Treasure coins were collected all summer long and added to their overall teams total. The two teams were; "Sallywags" and "Buccaneers."

The library is currently waiting for tenders for the new expansion of the library area. We are excitedly looking at carpet samples, paint chips and new shelving for the Children's area.

The Library Board has also been blessed with 5 new board members. We will all be working together to realize our new area at the Bow Island Library.

Brooks Public Library

Brooks Reads (October 1st - October 29th): Five local celebrities will pick their favorite books and battle for votes in the local media. The book that receives the most votes will be picked as the "Brooks Reads" must-read book for 2008.

ESL Book Club (October 14th): Our new book club for English as a Second Language students will launch on October 14th and continue through the year. Book club members will read books that are appropriate to their reading level. They will meet other ESL students and practice their English by discussing the books in a mediated group setting. This club is meant to supplement, not replace, ESL classes and tutoring sessions.

Punk the Library Staff (October 16th): The Brooks Public Library Staff are fundraising for new computer equipment. If we reach our fundraising goals, the staff members will dress like punk rockers for a day on October 16th... permanent dye and head shaving will make an appearance if we surpass \$7,500!

Foremost Municipal Library

We had a great summer with 95 children registering for our summer program "Lost Worlds". Our Program Coordinator, Amanda Johnson, did a terrific job! She dressed in character for storytime (a cavewoman, Pocahontas, a castle princess etc.), and provided amazing crafts (T-Rex puppets, mummy cases, African masks and making crowns and shields to name a few). The children and parents enjoyed our visit from "Millie Second". We closed the program with a Wind- Up Party of hotdogs, games and prizes. About 50 children and parents attended. Thanks to Amanda, the children and the parents for helping make this summer such a success!!

The Foremost Library is undergoing an exciting change. We are in the process of setting up a "Youth Area". We are also adding new shelves which will give us some much needed extra space for our collection.

Friday, October 26th- 20th Annual Pumpkin Festival and Auction.
Foremost Community Hall. Everyone welcome!!





Don't forget the following dates!

- Oct 12 **Will James Society presentation of complete set of Will James books to Medicine Hat Public Library**
Esplanade 2-4pm
- Oct 15 **Alberta Municipal Elections**
- Oct 16 **Prairie Rose Regional Division No.8 Library Staff Meeting**
SLS HQ 10am—3pm
- Oct 17-19 **Netspeed 2007**
Carriage House Inn, Calgary
<http://www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/viewChannel.asp?channelID=171>
- Oct 24 **Medicine Hat School District No.76 Library Staff Meeting**
SLS HQ 1-3pm
- Oct 26 **Foremost Municipal Library Annual Pumpkin Festival**
Auction of Products and Promises Silent Auction
4-7:30pm, Regular Auction 6:30pm, Beef on a bun starting at 4pm at the New Community Hall
- Nov 19 **Shortgrass Library System Library Managers' Meeting**
SLS HQ 10am
- Nov 21 **Shortgrass Library System Board Meeting**
SLS HQ 1pm
- Dec 3 **"Growing Through Change" SLS System Wide Professional Development Day**
MHPL 9am-4pm
- Dec 12 **SLS Christmas Dinner and Social**
Medicine Hat Golf and Country Club 6pm
- Mar 13 **"GO LIVE" to Unicorn/Symphony Integrated Library System**
- April 24-27 **Reach Out, Step Away from the Desk, Alberta Library Conference**
2008 Jasper Park Lodge <http://albertalibraryconference.com/2008/>
- May 21-24 **Canadian Library Association National Conference and Trade Show**
2008 Vancouver, British Columbia <http://www.cla.ca/conference/2008/index.htm>

LIBRARY QUOTE FOR THIS ISSUE

*Prefer knowledge to wealth,
for the one is transitory,
the other perpetual.*
- Socrates

Community Access Program Funding Available for 2007-08

Libraries throughout the province are once again eligible for CAP funding from Industry Canada. The total amount of funding available has increased and all sites will be receiving \$1,490.75 each. Shortgrass will be responsible for collecting signed letters and invoices from libraries, collating the information and sending all of this to APLEN who is administering the funding on behalf of the federal government and all libraries in Alberta. Eligible expenses include:

- * Updated public access catalogue computers for use with the new ILS
- * Assistive and adaptive technology
- * Other computer and hardware software purchases for public use within CAP sites
- * Hardware for videoconferencing

CAP Youth Initiative Funding is also available for CAP sites that wish to hire young people (aged 15-30) for a minimum of 20 hours per week. Their duties need to include working with computer technology and the public.

If you have questions about either of these CAP programs, please contact Julia at 529-0550 ext. 9.

Serving Southeastern Alberta residents in partnership with member municipalities,
their public libraries, and school systems' libraries:
Bassano, Bow Island, Brooks, County of Forty Mile, County of Newell, Cypress County,
Foremost, Graham (Ralston), Medicine Hat, Redcliff, Rainier (Alcoma), Rolling Hills, Rosemary, Tilley
Medicine Hat School District No. 76, and Prairie Rose School Division No. 8