



SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS

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Message from the CEO

Greetings everyone and welcome back to the Shortgrass Clippings. The past spring, summer and fall have certainly been filled with much activity at the Shortgrass Library System. In February and March, we, along with our SAILS partner, Chinook Arch Regional Library System, made the huge transition, moving from Dynix to the new Unicorn integrated library system. Many have felt the effects of this big change and we are still working at tweaking this new system to meet the needs of our member libraries and their users.

In May, we along with our RISE (**R**ural **I**nformation **S**ervices **i**nitiative**E**) partners, Chinook Arch Regional Library System and Marigold Library System, received word that the bulk of the funding was in place for this exciting project as RADF (**R**ural **A**lberta **D**evelopment **F**und) had accepted our proposal. The project, now well underway, will be bringing videoconferencing and many programming opportunities to over 80 libraries in southern Alberta.

At the end of July, our well-loved leader, Dr. Harold Storlien, retired as CEO. Harold, who made a significant contribution to the development and sustainability of SLS, will be missed but rest assured, he is continuing to keep busy with various personal projects.

Over the summer, we welcomed Dyan Bryksa, Library and Administrative Clerk, to our Shortgrass team. Pat Evans, former Head of Reference Services at Medicine Hat Public Library, also joined our team to work on various projects associated with the new ILS. In September, we hired Jim Dunbar as our RISE Consultant Librarian. Jim has had the opportunity to visit all of our RISE pilot libraries and, along with the RISE Project Manager and other RISE Consultants, is busy planning the launch for the project. We most recently hired Cataloguer, Norman Stewart, who joined our Bibliographic Services department. And last but not least, we would like to welcome Jennifer Antill, who took over for Janice Christensen, as Library Manager at the Alcoma Community Library.

Throughout the past several months, three of our member libraries underwent some major renovations to their facilities. Medicine Hat Public Library began with changes to their circulation areas last fall and completed the changes in the spring with a large renovation to their reference and non-fiction areas plus the addition of a new and versatile training lab. Bow Island Municipal Library also underwent a facelift with an expansion of the library into previously used town council chambers. The library now boasts a beautiful new children's programming room, an enlarged space for the library, new furniture, shelving and carpeting as well as access to a new public use room. And the third library to undergo some big renovations this year was the Redcliff Public Library. With a newly configured circulation area, all new shelving, drop lighting, and a fresh coat of paint, the changes have a very welcoming effect.

This fall SLS celebrated the commitment and dedication of three long term SLS staff members. Phyllis Worrall, Eileen Davis and Bob Batchelder were all honoured for their 20 years of service at a combined Board and Staff function in September. SLS would not be what it is today without the hard work of these three individuals.

Submitted by Julia Reinhart, CEO

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

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Canadian Library Month - October 2008 Your Library: Your World

The Canadian Library Association (CLA) has a webpage with background information and promotional ideas your library can use to celebrate Canadian Library Month. Visit www.cla.ca/clm08/tools.htm.

The *Your Library: Your World* theme is all about helping members of your community make the connection to the value of libraries in their world, as a gateway to information, for the liberties it preserves, and for the roles it plays in people's lives.

The promotional idea for the month ties into library roles through the collection and sharing of stories (online, in bookmarks, in newsletters, or even as a live event) from your patrons demonstrating the significance of libraries.

One way to communicate what libraries symbolize is to create tangible symbols of what your library stands for, such as freedom of information, education/learning, or democracy. You could develop displays in your library that use these symbols.

Your library as a gateway could be promoted by creating a list of topics and materials that your users may be interested in and could be promoted in your local newspaper, student newspaper, bookmarks, or online. Conclude the list with something like *We provide the information you need, Your Library: Your World.*

Remember, Canadian Library Month is an opportunity to connect and to share with our communities the value that libraries bring to them.

This article is condensed from *CLM Ideas* on the CLA website http://www.cla.ca/clm08/documents/lm08_ideas_final.pdf.

Wired Writers - Library Association of Alberta

Join two author talks coming up soon. These talks will be live at a public library, while simultaneously broadcast on the web. Join these authors:

Jacqueline Guest - *The Twitch Generation* - Thurs, Oct 30 at 1:00 PM (MST)
Myrna Kostash - *Life & Times of a Non-Fiction Writer* - Mon, Nov 24 at 1:00 PM (MST)

Register online at educationinstitute.ca. LAA Members \$75; Non-Member \$95



Unicorn Workflow Tips - Searching for Items in Discard or Missing

- ◆ Items in discard or missing do not show up in the public catalogue iBistro. These items are "shadowed" to the public.
- ◆ Items in discard or missing are not found using a **Browse** search using Item Search in Workflows if they are the only copy. However, staff can use the **Keyword** search using Item Search to find these items.
- ◆ Items in discard or missing can also be found using an exact call number search. Note that the cutter needs to be in capital letters.

SLS ILS Upgrade is coming soon!

The SLS ILS is being upgraded from **Unicorn** to **Symphony**.

Even with the name change, this is only an upgrade.

[Watch for more announcements!](#)



The Rural Information Services initiative (RISE) Project is moving forward. This partnership of the Chinook Arch Regional Library System, Marigold Library System and Shortgrass Library System is an initiative for developing a videoconferencing network in public libraries which will link the smallest village facilities through mid-size small towns and mid-size cities, while ensuring accessibility for the whole community.

The funding agreement with Rural Alberta's Development Fund (RADF), which will provide \$3.6 million toward this \$5 million project over the next three years, has been signed. The balance of the funding is coming from Public Library Development Initiative (PLDI) from Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Public Library Electronic Network (APLEN), and fund raising activities of the three partnership library systems.

The RISE Project will be developed in six phases. Along with the three headquarter offices, six libraries from each system will participate in the initial pilot phase. These libraries are:

Chinook Arch Libraries

Claresholm Public Library
Coaldale Public Library
Lethbridge Public Library
Milo Public Library
Picture Butte Public Library
Stirling Public Library

Shortgrass Libraries

Bow Island Municipal Library
Brooks Public Library
Foremost Municipal Library
Graham Community Library (Ralston)
Medicine Hat Public Library
Redcliff Public Library

Marigold Libraries

Airdrie Public Library
Drumheller Public Library
Hanna Public Library
Okotoks Public Library
Rockyford Public Library
Trochu Public Library

The project manager is Wendy Merkley, and she is working out of the Chinook Arch headquarters in Lethbridge. Three RISE Consultant Librarians have also been hired, one for each region. These Consultant Librarians are: Heather Sentes (Chinook Arch); Art Knight (Marigold); and, Jim Dunbar (Shortgrass).

The Request for Proposal (RFP) document has been created and is now in the hands of vendors. The objective of the RFP is to identify an Information Technology company (vendor) capable of providing a video conferencing solution that will enable public libraries and system headquarters buildings in the Chinook Arch, Marigold and Shortgrass Library systems to employ video conferencing technology for a wide range of program and service offerings. The closing date for vendors to submit their proposals is Thursday, October 2nd, 2008. It is expected a short list of vendors will be ready by mid-October with the selection of the winning proposal by October 31st.



LIBRARY QUOTE FOR THIS ISSUE

Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest.

- Lady Bird Johnson

Additional information about RISE will be appearing regularly in the **Shortgrass Clippings** over the coming issues so, please watch for updates about this exciting project.

The Alberta Library - A New Visual Identity and Website

The Alberta Library (TAL) has entered its second decade and to celebrate TAL is adopting an new visual identity. For more information (including guidelines for using the TAL logo) visit <www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/about/visualIdentity.html>.

TAL has also revamped their website making it easier and faster to find information. The site is now managed through tabs, which are arranged along a banner.



The *About The Alberta Library* tab provides a general overview along with TAL's vision statement, mission statement, and values. There are also links to important documents like the Annual Report, Strategic Plan, a listing of Member Libraries, and the TAL brochure.

The *Services* tab provides a full listing of all the services available through TAL complete with brief descriptions and links to additional information or to contacts for each service.

The *Boards and Committees* tab has a full listing of all the TAL boards complete with listings of board or committee members, terms of reference, and minutes and documents.

The *News, Events and Conferences* tab provides a link to the current issue of TAL Tales, brief descriptions of positions open at TAL, and links to conferences like Netspeed 2008.

The other tabs are: *Archives* (with annual reports back to 2001 and TAL Tales back to 2004); *Alberta Public Library Electronic Network*; and *Lois Hole Campus Digital Library*.



Don't forget the following dates!

- Oct 18 **Redcliff Public Library Open House**
1:00 PM
- Oct 22-24 **Netspeed 2008**
Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe Hotel, Edmonton
<www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/netspeed>
- Oct 24 **Annual Pumpkin Festival**
Foremost Municipal Library
- Nov 3 **Prairie Rose SD 8 Library Staff Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 9:30 AM
- Nov 17 **Library Managers' Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 10:00 AM
- Nov 19 **SLS Board Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM
- Dec 10 **SLS Christmas Dinner and Social**
Medicine Hat Golf and Country Club - 6:00 PM

Read-alikes for fans of Nora Roberts or J. D. Robb

Suzanne Brockmann is a good suggestion for fans of the Robb series as well as readers of Roberts's romantic suspense. Fans of both types will appreciate Brockmann's bad boy heroes.

JoAnn Ross shares Roberts's interest in relationships (friends, family, and lovers) in her contemporary love stories.

Want more? The NovelList database provides author read-alikes for more than 280 well known authors.