Happy Holidays from the Board of the Shortgrass Library System

Front Row (from left): Kathi Herman, Vivian Wiebe, and Rosalie Stromsmoe.
Back Row (from left): Doug Henderson, John Brocklesby, Dwight Nagel,
Brent Burton, Les Schmidt, Larry Jasperson, Ted Clugston,
and Martin Shields.
Absent: Wayne Daniels and Marj James.

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

Shortgrass Clippings is published four times annually

Tell Me More, produced by Auralog, is an online interactive language training tool which provides training in the languages of Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Latin American Spanish. The purchase of Tell Me More was an APLEN initiative, funded by the Alberta government through the Public Library Development Initiative Fund (PLDI).

This language training tool is available to all public library members of the Shortgrass Library System (SLS). To use this tool go to the SLS web page <www.shortgrass.ca> and select *Search Online Resources* from the *Shortgrass Links* on the left hand side of the page. This will present you with a page of databases. Tell Me More is listed under *Educational Databases.* Click on either the Home or Library link to open the login page for Tell Me More.

Tell Me More requires the use of Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher. It will not work with other types of browsers (like Firefox). Also, it is necessary to sign up for a no-cost account in order to access this software. This no-cost account is used by the software to track your progress and provide the appropriate level of training for your needs.

The web interface for this tool is available in several languages including Hungarian (Magyar), Turkish (Türkçe), Polish, Portuguese, Brazilian Portuguese, Korean, Chinese, Italian, Japanese, German, Dutch, Spanish, French, and English. So, individuals familiar with any of these languages can use the interface they are most comfortable with.

Tell Me More has advanced voice recognition and speech analysis tools to help you perfect your pronunciation. For example, by using 3D animations the Tell Me More phonetic exercises makes it easier for you to visualize the appropriate intonation. Plus, Tell Me More has 37 different types of activities to help you stay engaged and actively learning.

Training on Tell Me More is available for public library staff. For more information about training or this tool, call Jim Dunbar at 403.529.0550 ext. 9 or send an email to <jim@shortgrass.ca>.

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!

Unicorn Workflow Tips - Keyboard Shortcuts

There are many keyboard shortcuts that you can use in Workflows to quickly access certain functions.

For example in the Circulation module: Function key 4 (F4) will quickly access Item Search; Function key 5 (F5) will quickly access CheckOut; and, Function key 11(F11) plus Shift accesses the Modify User Wizard.

When you hold down the ALT key, you will see that various letters are underlined. Together, the underlined letter and the ALT key will let you quickly perform various tasks. For example, in Item Search enter your search terms and then hold down the ALT key and the letter "s" (at the same time) and the search will be performed. ALT plus the letter "c" will close the window. You can also hold down the ALT key and quickly choose the type of search you want to perform. ALT plus the letter "k" will choose the Keyword search. ALT plus the letter "b" will choose the Browse search.

For more information on Keyboard Shortcuts, look in the Help file. Use Function key 1 (F1) and then do a search for "Keyboard Shortcuts."

During the middle of October the RISE Team reviewed the proposals received in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP) and selected three offers to study in greater detail. On October 29 and 30 these three vendors were invited to make presentations to the RISE Team along with the information technology staff members of the Chinook Arch and Shortgrass Library Systems. Prior to these presentations, on October 28, there was a system meeting to discuss the technical requirements of the project.

Following these vendor presentations, the project entered the due diligence phase with the RISE Team evaluating the proposals and checking vendor references prior to making a recommendation to the directors of the Chinook Arch, Marigold and Shortgrass Library Systems. A vendor has now been selected and contract negotiations have commenced.

The RISE Consultant Librarians (Heather Sentes, Art Knight and Jim Dunbar) have also been working on the RISE Wiki, a 'one-stop-shop' video conferencing information site for the RISE libraries. This wiki is now available at <http://wikirise.pbwiki.com>. The wiki will be updated on an ongoing basis with programming ideas, professional articles, links to video conference web sites, the RISE Review, and other content related to video conferencing. The libraries participating in this project are encouraged to visit the wiki. They are also encouraged to add content to the wiki, as desired.

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.

Don't forget the following dates!

Date	Event
Dec 10	**SLS Christmas Dinner and Social** Medicine Hat Golf and Country Club - 6:00 PM
Jan 12-13	**The Best of the Banff Mountain Film Festival** (Tickets available at MHPL) Medicine Hat Public Library Theatre - 7:00 PM
Jan 19	**Library Managers' Meeting** Shortgrass Headquarters Boardroom - 10:00 AM
Jan 21	**Program & Services Committee Meeting** Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM
Jan 21	**Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting** Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 3:00 PM
Feb 25	**SLS Board Meeting** Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM
Mar 6-8	**Sunshine Home Expo and Leisure Show** Cypress Centre - Medicine Hat, AB
Mar 23	**Library Managers' Meeting** Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 10:00 AM
Apr 23-26	**Alberta Library Conference - 2009** Jasper Park Lodge - Jasper, AB
Apr 30-May 3	**AALT Conference (35th Annual)** Delta Edmonton South - Edmonton, AB

Read-alikes for fans of Michael Crichton

Philip Kerr has been called the British Michael Crichton, with good reason. He is an accomplished storyteller working in diverse genres ranging from historical mystery to noir. Kerr also creates thought-provoking scientific thrillers with a fast paced, cinematic feel.

John Darnton writes science thrillers merging lurid intrigue with big ideas, ranging from the ethics of human cloning to the physical dimensions of soul.

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

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year from the
Shortgrass Library System Staff

Back Row (from left): Lina Ribero, Bob Townsend, Val Ogden, Norman Stewart, Jackie Hope-Hammel, Chris Massini, Jim Dunbar, Bob Batchelder, Linda Kozakewich, Peggy Curthoys.

Front Row (from left): Eileen Davis, Mary Wirth, Pat Evans, Phyllis Worrall, Liz Alexander, Julia Reinhart.

Absent: John Barrie, Dyan Bryksa, Larry Dye, Sean Seitz, Jerry Smith.