Message from the CEO

Welcome to the spring edition of the Shortgrass Library System Clippings! Even though the weather may not be in agreement with the fact that it is indeed spring, there is a good deal to look forward to in this, our first issue for 2009.

We are very pleased to announce that the first phase of the Rural Information Services initiativE (RISE) has been completed ahead of schedule. With the hard work of RISE Project Manager, Wendy Merkley, the library system consultants, Heather Sentes, Art Knight and Jim Dunbar as well as Marigold's Technology Librarian, Steven Pattison and the system technology staff including our own Sean Seitz, the RISE network is taking shape. Equipment is now in place at each of the headquarters of the participating library systems as well as the eighteen pilot libraries. Libraries and the library systems are already making use of the network. Meetings are being held via video conference to talk about the project as well as conduct work on other projects. A province-wide meeting was recently held on resource sharing which involved eight sites, including Edmonton Public Library, Northern Lights Library System, Parkland Regional Library and Yellowhead Regional Library in addition to the RISE partners. Provision of training and programming is being discussed and will play an important role in phase two of the project.

On the weekend of March 6th through 8th, SLS, along with the Medicine Hat Public Library, Redcliff Public Library and Graham Community Library, participated in the Medicine Hat Home, Garden and Leisure Show. Attendance at the booth was brisk all weekend and gave us a chance to promote system and library services to members of the public. MHPL took the opportunity to gain valued insight into the community's needs with the distribution of a library needs assessment, 650 of which were filled out.   SLS will also be involved in the Bow Island Trade Show, taking place on April 17th and 18th.

Shortgrass also recently received a much anticipated grant from the Community Initiatives Program (CIP). The funds will be used to spearhead a wireless access project for our member public libraries; the purchase of a new training lab and webserver; workstation renovations in the bibliographic services area of SLS Headquarters; and the purchase of a replacement delivery van. We greatly appreciate these grant dollars and will be putting them to good use!

On a sad note, the Shortgrass Library System suffered a great loss in early December when retired CEO, Dr. Harold Storlien passed away. He was a leader and a mentor who not only made a significant contribution to the Shortgrass Library System, but also worked diligently on behalf of libraries throughout the province. He will be missed.

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

Tutorials, Help Sheets and Marketing Tools for EBSCO Databases

Shortgrass member libraries can access more than 17 different EBSCO Databases, including *Auto Repair Reference Center*, *Home Improvement Reference Center*, *NoveList*, and *Small Engine Repair Reference*. Often, you may want to know more about these databases and the place to start is the EBSCO Support website <http://support.ebsco.com>. Here you will find Tutorials, Help Sheets and Marketing Tools for many of the EBSCO Databases.

To find the Tutorials, click on the *Training* button on the EBSCO Support website to open the *Training* page, where a wide variety of training tools are arranged by categories. Click on the title *Online Tutorials* to open a page listing of all the tutorials available. Down toward the bottom third of the page are the *Product-Specific Tutorials* where you'll find a 2 minute and 25 second Flash tutorial on the *Auto Repair Reference Center* database, among the other tutorials listed. These tutorials are free of copyright, meaning that they can be shown in classes and even embedded in library web pages.

Also on the *Training* page there is a link to Help Sheets. Clicking on the *Help Sheets* link will provide a page listing the first 50 of the more than 400 Help Sheets available. Rather than scanning through all of these sheets individually, click on the *Advanced Search* link above the list of results. The *Advanced Search* link provides several ways to restrict the list of results. One way is to select *Help Sheet* from the *Document Type* drop down menu, then select the EBSCO Database by name using the *EBSCO Database* drop down menu before clicking on the *Submit Search* button. Help Sheets are free of copyright and may be customized for individual libraries or library systems, so library logos and other information maybe added.

The *Training* page also provides *International Resources*, which are Help Sheets, Tutorials, User Guides, and posters translated into various world languages including Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Farsi, French, Portuguese, Punjabi, and Spanish.

Marketing Tools can be found by clicking on the *Customer Success* button on the EBSCO Support website. This will open a new window where you'll click on the *Public Libraries* link to get the *Marketing Tools* link which will open up the *Promote Your Online Resources* page where there are links to Posters, Flyers and Bookmarks promoting various EBSCO Databases. These are free of copyright and may be customized to suit your needs. Call Jim at 403.529.0550 ext. 9 for more information.

Unicorn Workflow Tips - Advanced Search Enhancements

There are now more search options in the Advanced Search option within the Item Search and Display Wizard. This should provide you with much more effective searching and give you better search results, since you can now perform multi-term and multi-index searches.

To do an Advanced Search, click Item Search or F4 in the Common Tasks group, then Click on the binoculars icon with the plus sign located at the top of the search screen. At the Advanced Search screen there are eight different keyword search boxes with drop-down boxes for Boolean search operations. There is also a drop-down box to choose the library or library group that you wish to search and a Reset button to clear previously conducted searches.

Here is an example. Type *Christmas* in the first General box and *decorations* in the second General box, choose the library or library group you wish to search and then click the Search button or use the "alt + s" shortcut. The results will be all the items in the search library or group that have the two words anywhere in the author, title, subject, general, contents or series indexes. Also, you can restrict the search to only juvenile materials typing *juvenile* in one of the subject boxes and clicking the Search button. Happy searching!

Young Alberta Book Society (YABS) and the 27th Annual Taleblazers Festival - October 5th to 30th

Taleblazers is a literary arts festival for young people in Alberta that tours the province every fall. Bookings open May 1st and close September 25th, 2009.

During Taleblazers, YABS coordinates presentations and workshops by Alberta writers, illustrators, and storytellers in schools, public libraries and other venues province-wide.

YABS subsidizes these presentations by paying for all travel and accommodation, helping to make these important visits much more affordable for the hosting schools and libraries.

You could host a Taleblazers event for as little as $265.
A public library needs only to cover these costs:
Annual Young Alberta Book Society Membership ($50)
Presenter's Fee, determined by presenter ($200-500/half day)
One meal per half day for your presenter (up to $15 per meal).

The Young Alberta Book Society website <www.yabs.ab.ca> provides more information about Taleblazers and provides a list of participating presenters.

The YABS website also has information on the *Martyn Godfrey Young Writers Award,* a writing competition for students in grades 7 to 9. Entry deadline is May 22nd, 2009.

Read-alikes for fans of Janette Oke

Ruth Glover's inspirational *Saskatchewan Saga* series offers a natural choice for readers who enjoy Janette Oke's "prairie romances." A series of stories connected by place, these novels express the joys, rewards and harsh realities of the pioneer way of life.

Although *Eugenia Price* writes meatier novels than Oke, they have the same sweet, nostalgic tone. Price's novels are gentle, character-centered Historical sagas that focus on love, hope, faith, and family life.

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

RISE
Rural Information Services initiativE

Chinook Arch Regional Library System
Shortgrass Library System
Marigold Library System

On March 12 the TANDBERG Video Conferencing equipment was installed in the final pilot library (Graham Community Library in Ralston), completing Phase 1 of the RISE Project well ahead of the official completion date of April 30th. There are now 21 Video Conferencing suites through out the partner library systems (six libraries in each region along with the headquarters of each region).

In the following weeks the RISE Project Team will be developing processes and procedures to ensure that video conference activities can be managed in an efficient manner. We will also be working with the pilot libraries to develop programming and facilitate connections with other community organizations. Programming via video conference has already begun, with an author reading program at the Claresholm Library, a program run in conjunction with Lethbridge College at the Coaldale Library, and a province-wide interlibrary loan nodes meeting coordinated by interlibrary loan staff at the Chinook Arch Headquarters. These are the first of many interesting and innovative programs that will be offered through the RISE network.

It's easy and simple to keep up-to-date on the RISE Project when you register with the RISE Wiki <www.wikirise.pbwiki.com>. As a registered wiki user you will receive automatic alerts when new content is added to the Wiki, or existing content is updated. So, stay on top of the RISE Project and register with the RISE Wiki today!

RISE Consultant Librarian for the Chinook Arch Regional Library System, Heather Sentes, left her position on March 6th to accept a position with the Edmonton Public Library. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

Here is the new Kid Zone area at the Bow Island Municipal Library. Susan Andersen and the staff at Bow Island are justifiably proud of their recent renovations that doubled the size of their library and allowed them to add this special children's area. Susan invites you to come and see the renovations when you're next in Bow Island!

Free Comic Book Day
May 2, 2009

Free Comic Book Day is a single day where participating comic book shops and comic book publishers give away comic books to the public, absolutely free. For more information about this event, visit <www.freecomicbookday.com>.

Many Canadian libraries have teamed up with their local comic book stores to create exciting and popular events for children and families. This year the Edmonton Public Library is hosting a trivia game that tests the knowledge of comics and their characters.

There is still time for you to contact Brett Beattie of Comic Readers, a comic book store in Medicine Hat, to arrange for your Free Comic Book Day event. Call him at 403.528.9474, or email him at <readers1@telusplanet.net>.

Community Spirit Donation Grant Program

Under this program, the Alberta Government, provides funds to registered charities based on the value of eligible cash donations. (A minimum of $1,000 of cash donations is required prior to applying for a donation grant.)

The next deadline for this grant is December 31st, 2009.

Maximum donation grant is $25,000 per year, with total donation grants not to exceed $50,000 over three years.

Donation grants can be used to support operations, programs, and/or capital projects.

Watch for Information Sessions to be held in various locations around the province during September and October.

For more information visit <www.culture.alberta.ca/communityspirit>.

Don't forget the following dates!

Apr 17-18	**Bow Island Trade Show** Friday, April 17th - 4:00 to 9:00 PM Saturday, April 18th - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Apr 22	**SLS Board Meeting (Note: 4th Wednesday)** Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM
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
May 20	**Program & Services Committee Meeting** Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM
May 20	**Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting** Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 3:00 PM
May 25	**Library Managers' Meeting (Note: 4th Monday)** Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 10:00 AM
June 17	**Joint Meeting (Library Board Chairs, Library Managers and the SLS Board of Trustees)** Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 3:30 PM Barbeque and Presentations - 5:00 to 7:00 PM