



SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS

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Message from the CEO

Welcome back after a summer hopefully filled with outdoor activities and relaxing vacations.

The past few months at Shortgrass have brought more changes. We introduced our new search portal, Bibliocommons, in early summer and since then continue to improve its functionality for our users, based on the feedback we are receiving.

Our Bibliographic Services department is seeing a lot of changes, as we move towards more paperless and streamlined processes such as electronic invoicing, to speed up acquisitions and cataloguing. Staff are learning new procedures that will increase everyone's efficiency and we are proud of providing top of the line service to our member libraries and contract partners. Shortgrass is currently in the process of hiring a Cataloguer of A/V materials to enhance our Bibliographic Services Team.

We are preparing for a celebration to welcome our newest member municipality and its local library in the Village of Duchess. More details will be available shortly and I hope you will join us in officially welcoming the Duchess and District Public Library to our System.

In September, the Shortgrass Board held their meeting in Bow Island. Board members were provided with a tour of the Bow Island Municipal Library and met with library staff, as well as Town Office staff. The town generously provided their meeting room for the meeting and Shortgrass trustees appreciated the opportunity to meet outside of our regular Shortgrass location. Using one of the member libraries as a meeting location is an annual tradition for the Shortgrass board, ensuring trustees have an awareness of Shortgrass member libraries.

Shortgrass has been approved for an intern through the Serving Communities Internship Program, hosted by Volunteer Alberta. We are looking for someone to assist us in building our new website and in return the intern will receive a bursary from Volunteer Alberta. If you would like to know more about the program please visit <<http://joinscip.ca>>.

The Alberta Public Libraries Technology Report and Recommendations was released in July. The report has six streams of recommendations and more details can be found at: <www.albertalibraries.ca/uploads/1106/techplanfinal85008.pdf>

On September 13th, Public Library Services Branch sought input on the Integrated Library Policy by hosting a consultation meeting. This meeting brought together representatives from Aboriginal Relations, Advanced Education and Technology, Agriculture and Rural Development, Culture and Community Spirit, Education, Employment and Immigration, Executive Council, Service Alberta, and all library groups across the province as well.

These are exciting times in the Alberta library world, as we work on improving services and Access, not just on a regional level, but across the province.

Submitted by Petra Mauerhoff, 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, Duchess, 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

RISE Network and Reef HQ

The RISE Network participated in a special experience on August 23rd, when RISE went diving in the Reef HQ Aquarium. Located in Townsville, Australia, close to the Great Barrier Reef, Reef HQ is the largest coral reef aquarium in the world (2.5 million litres).

Their videoconference programs feature a diver and camera operator diving into the aquarium tanks to show participants the various animals and environments that make up the Great Barrier Reef.

Beyond its size, this aquarium is also unique "because it is open to the elements. This means the many thousand reef organisms that are housed there receive natural day and moonlight and experience rain and storm events like natural reefs do."



A resting Leopard Shark

The participants are able to interact with the diver and ask questions or comment on what the diver is doing. A "dry side presenter" is also part of the videoconference and their role is to elaborate on what participants are seeing.

It is difficult to fully capture this experience in print, so to get a better idea of this event, please watch highlights on the RISE Vimeo Channel at <www.vimeo.com/28410061>.

RISE has been underwater in Australia and on the International Space Station. Where would you like RISE to take you?



Claire (a Reef HQ diver) 'cuddling' a 3 meter long Tawny Nurse Shark

TANDBERG Connections Program Discontinued

The TANDBERG Connections Program allowed RISE Libraries to receive up to four professional videoconference sessions, at no charge, for each RISE location. TANDBERG covered the fee to make the sessions free to RISE Libraries. Unfortunately, with the Cisco purchase of TANDBERG, this program has been discontinued.

So now where can you turn to find free, high quality, professional videoconference content? RISE Team members recommend CILC (Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration). Their website is at <<http://www.cilc.org>>.

A brief video has been created to demonstrate how to use the CILC site. This video is posted on the RISE Vimeo Channel at <<http://vimeo.com/29054551>>.



If you have questions, concerns or comments about this video, the TANDBERG Connections program, or CILC please contact Jim Dunbar, the Shortgrass RISE Consultant, at 403.529.0550 ext 9 or by email at <jim@shortgrass.ca>.

Read-alikes for fans of Jodi Picoult

Concentrating less on controversial topics and more on family and personal relationships, Luanne Rice's novels, particularly the earlier titles, are a good match for Picoult. *Home Fires* is a good title to start with.

For a quieter, more lyrical tone, readers should consider Ann Hood. Like Picoult, Hood's small town female characters are well developed but their problems are closer to home — infidelity, sisterly rivalry and cold feet for an impending marriage. Readers should take a look at one of Hood's later efforts, *Properties of Water*.

The author who most closely matches Picoult in writing style, characters and subject matter is Christopher A. Bohjalian. Bohjalian favors close examination of hot button issues in small town settings. Readers should look first to *Past the Bleachers*.

Jacquelyn Mitchard is another author fans of Jodi Picoult should not miss. Mitchard is best known as the debut novelist Oprah Winfrey plucked from obscurity with her first book club selection, *The Deep End of the Ocean*. Sophomore effort, *A Theory of Relativity*, is equally satisfying.

Want more? NoveList has read-alikes for hundreds of well-known authors.

Canadian Library Month

October is Library Month in Canada and, for 2011, the theme is *Your Library: A Place Unbound*.

The Canadian Library Association has produced posters (shown below) and bookmarks marking the month. These have already been sent to Shortgrass member libraries.

The idea for a month dedicated to library and information services in Canada was developed by library partners from across the country to help raise public awareness of the valuable role that libraries play in the lives of Canadians.

On the Canadian Library Month website <www.cla.ca/CLM2011>, you will find a section labeled tools. In this section, there is a backgrounder about the month, a news release template, a declaration template, and a list of ideas for celebrating Canadian Library Month.

Library Snapshot Day

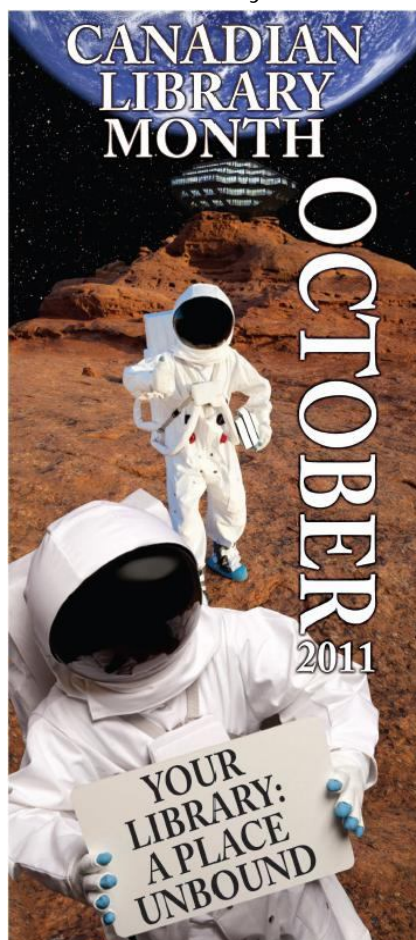
Between October 3rd and 9th, 2011, libraries across Alberta will be participating in *Snapshot Day*. For one day, libraries will collect comments, information, photographs, and stories to get a "snapshot" of a typical library day.



The concept for *Snapshot Day* originated in New Jersey in 2009. In 2010, Terra Plato and Lauren Jessop brought the idea to Chinook Arch Regional Library System.

For 2011, five Shortgrass member libraries are taking part: Bow Island, Brooks, Foremost, Medicine Hat, and Redcliff

A Wiki has been set up to provide more details about this event <<http://bit.ly/o2z0KE>>. The Wiki has tips, ideas and suggestions on how *Snapshot Day* can help you document the positive impact your library has on your community.



WWW.CLA.CA/CLM11
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Don't forget the following dates!

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| Oct 3 | Shortgrass Professional Development Day
Medicine Hat Public Library - 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM |
| Oct 19 | Program & Services Committee Meeting
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM
Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 3:00 PM |
| Oct 19-21 | Netspeed 2011: The Human Side of Technology
Carriage House Inn, Calgary, Alberta |
| Oct 28 | Foremost Municipal Library's Annual Pumpkin Festival & Auction of Products and Promises
Foremost Community Hall - 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM |
| Nov 16 | SLS Board Meeting (Elections)
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM |
| Nov 21 | Library Managers' Meeting
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 10:00 AM |
| Dec 8 | SLS Christmas Dinner and Social
Medicine Hat Golf and Country Club - 6:00 PM |
| Jan 18 | Program & Services Committee Meeting
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM
Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 3:00 PM |

TechSoup Canada

As a partner of TechSoup Global, TechSoup Canada works with non-profit organizations, including Canadian public libraries, to provide software and hardware at a low cost. The TechSoup Canada website is <www.techsoupcanada.ca>.

Software companies such as Adobe, Microsoft, Intuit (Quick Books), Sage Software (Simply Accounting), and Symantec (Norton Antivirus) donate software to TechSoup which is then made available to non-profit organizations. Hardware firms such as Cisco and Flip also do the same.

In order to receive products from this organization, your group must meet eligibility requirements <www.techsoupcanada.ca/eligibility>. Canadian public libraries, as long as your library is listed in the Library and Archives Canada Canadian Public Libraries database, are eligible (and TechSoup provides a link on their Eligibility page).

Even though your library is eligible to join TechSoup, you will still need to register with them. Once you do, you will be able to get software like Microsoft's *Office Professional Plus 2007* for



an administration fee of \$31.00. *Office Professional Plus 2010* is also available for an administration fee of \$31.00. For either *Office 2007 Standard* or *Office*

2010 Standard, the administration fee is \$24.00. *Simply Accounting Pro 2011*, from Sage, has a \$27.00 administration fee and *QuickBooks Premier 2011* (Single User Canadian Version), from Intuit, has an administration fee of \$27.00.

You might be wondering why there is an administration fee, when companies are donating the software and hardware. "The fee is to cover the cost of administering the donations program."

TechSoup Canada offers a Learning Center that has a wide variety of articles about technology use within non-profit organizations <www.techsoupcanada.ca/learning_centre/articles>. This link will also take you to a listing of recorded and upcoming webinars on a variety of technology topics.

TechSoup Global has a Learning Center as well, and it features articles and webinars (both upcoming and recorded) on working with volunteers, fund raising and digital literacy among other topics. It's really worth exploring and here is the link: <www.techsoup.org/learningcenter/index.cfm>.

Pumpkin Festival and Auction in Foremost

The Foremost Municipal Library's annual Pumpkin Festival and Auction of Products and Promises is on Friday, October 28th.

Join the library for this great fundraiser. The live and silent auction features something for everyone: books, travel, toys, luggage, sports equipment, arts and crafts, clothing, food, entertainment, and much more.



Contest winners for the heaviest pumpkin (seeds were provided by the library in April), along with winners of the best carved and best decorated pumpkins will be announced.

For children, there will be face-painting. Don't miss out on the famous supper including home-made pies!



The silent auction begins at 4:00 PM at the Foremost Community Hall. All other activities follow. The live auction starts at 6:30 PM and the silent auction concludes at 7:30 PM.

The Pumpkin Festival at Foremost is great fun and raises a lot of money for the Foremost Community Library. Stop by and be a part of it!

Library quote for this issue

I spent three days a week for 10 years educating myself in the public library, and it's better than college. People should educate themselves - you can get a complete education for no money. At the end of 10 years, I had read every book in the library and I'd written a thousand stories.

- Ray Bradbury