

shortgrass clippings

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message from the ceo

news in brief

summer at SLS

Though it was a bit late getting started, this summer's been a scorcher! Find out about what's been going on at our libraries over the summer on **page 2**.

new resources

We have two new resources for our libraries: Technology Classes and Teen Programming Kits. More on **page 3**.

"hello, my name is..."

There are two new faces at Shortgrass: Emma is our new Intern Librarian, and Chris is taking over as Manager of Library Technology Services. Learn more about them on **pages 4 and 5**.

facilitation training

In partnership with Alberta Culture Community Development Unit, Shortgrass will be hosting a 3-day facilitation training workshop in January. All the details are on **page 8**.

summer program wrap-up

Check out what kids across Shortgrass Library System were up to while school was out with our summer reading program wrap-up on **page 10**.

More changes!

Summer has flown by and we are heading straight into the very busy fall season. Meetings, tradeshow, continuing education opportunities, and back to school have us all very busy around the office. Not to mention the quickly approaching end of year deadline.

Over the summer, we welcomed our new Shared Intern Librarian, Emma Stewart. Emma will be spending her time almost equally divided between Shortgrass, MHPL and Medicine Hat College Library Services. Find out more about Emma on page 4.

Our previous Intern Librarian, Jordan DeSousa, has already left Medicine Hat to start his position as a Client Services Librarian at Yellowhead Regional Library. We wish him all the best.

In addition to Emma, we also welcomed a new Manager of Library Technology Services to our team. Chris Field has spent the past 3 years working with Medicine Hat College Library Services and before that, spent 3 years at MHPL. Everyone knows that Anton left pretty big shoes to fill, and Chris is doing a fantastic job. I am so happy to have him on board as part of our team. You can learn more about Chris on page 5.

Over the next few months there will be several opportunities for both library related professional development for library staff and board members, as well as opportunities for tuning into a variety of interesting programming ideas provided to you.

I look forward to working with our Board of Trustees to provide excellent library support services to you and I hope you join us for as many opportunities for learning and collaboration as possible.

Petra

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- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Bassano Memorial Library | • Foremost Municipal Library | • Redcliff Public Library |
| • Bow Island Municipal Library | • Medicine Hat Public Library | • Rolling Hills Public Library |
| • Brooks Public Library | • Alcoma Community Library | • Rosemary Community Library |
| • Duchess & District Public Library | • Tilley & District Public Library | |
| | • Graham Community Library | |

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Summer at SLS



Library Gardens

The **Brooks Public Library** vegetable garden had an impressive output this year. By the end of the summer, Cathryn Krochak says that they had “a few peas but no beans... The zucchini has a lot of little ones on it, the Swiss chard has already been picked several times, we have 6 or 7 bell peppers forming and, as you see, the tomatoes have gone crazy.” Library gardens are a big trend this year and provide a great green space for the community to enjoy, as well as fresh produce for everyone to share. Of course, library gardens can be useful, as well as pretty—just look at this beautiful red canna lily that came up in Brooks!

Farmers Market

This summer, visitors to the Farmers Market in Medicine Hat have been able to take advantage of a library booth run by **Medicine Hat Public Library**, where they can browse a small selection of books, check them out, return items, register for accounts, and ask reference questions, all at their convenience. Setting up booths at local events and fairs is a fantastic opportunity for community outreach, and it’s been a success for MHPL. Joleen Garvey, who has been working at the booth, says, “People from the local area often express that they think having us out in the community is a good idea. Some have pointed out that it makes it easier to use the library, if we meet them where they work and shop, and some have noted that our smaller display makes it easier to quickly select a book for pleasure reading. People from other cities also stop to talk with us about their home libraries (also those from other countries—last week a group of tourists from Denmark!). My hope is that through these continued conversations, we can find more ways to create a useful and enjoyable library, tailored to the needs of our diverse community.”



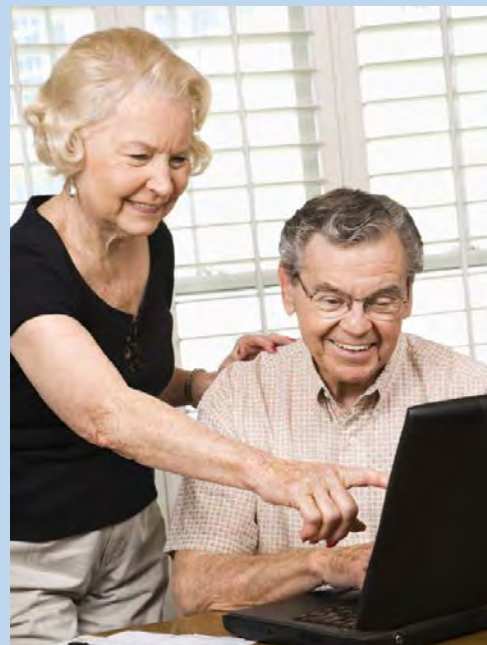
NEW AND HOT

Technology Classes

In order to meet patron demand across the system, Shortgrass will soon be offering a variety of ready-to-go technology classes. Each class will come with a slide presentation, short handout, and instructions for the presenter. Implementing this initiative at the system-level ensures consistency and means less work for member library staff.

Beginner computer classes, which will be geared towards those with limited or no previous experience, will teach the very basics, including keyboard and mouse skills, how to use the internet, how to set-up an email address, and much more.

In addition, tablet classes will introduce patrons to the basics of their Apple or Android device, ensuring they have all the necessary skills to start enjoying Shortgrass' electronic resources like Library-to-Go, Zinio, and hoopla. Look for more information on this exciting system-wide initiative in the near future.



Teen Programming Kits

Another on-the-go resource, now available for use by all our member libraries, is our new Teen Programming Kits initiative. There are 5 different kits and each kit contains all the items, supplies and instructions necessary for you to host programs geared toward a teen audience.

The kits ready for you to borrow are:

- ◆ Kit #1: **Duct Tape Crafts**
- ◆ Kit #2: **Origami Crafts**
- ◆ Kit #3: **Party Board Games**
- ◆ Kit #4: **Strategy Games**
- ◆ Kit #5: **Karaoke**

To request a kit or view kit contents, simply do a keyword search in the catalogue for "Teen Programming Kit." They are available for a two-week period. Don't forget to place your hold at least a week before your program is scheduled, so we have enough time to send it out with your regular delivery!



With the Shared Internship position now entering its third year, Shortgrass welcomes Emma Stewart as the new intern librarian, following in the footsteps of Jordan and Kris! She will be spending her time over the next year at Shortgrass, Medicine Hat Public Library and Medicine Hat College Library.

Tell us about yourself and your background!

I'm a Nova Scotia native, but I've lived all over the country, from St John's to Slave Lake—traveling is obviously something I enjoy a great deal! I attended Dalhousie University in Halifax for my B.A., where I studied English and history, as well as for my MLIS. I have a research background in the history and genealogy fields, but libraries are where my heart is, and I am really looking forward to getting my career in the library world underway.

What attracted you to the shared internship?

The broad range of opportunities offered by the shared internship was what most appealed to me. In university, I had some vague ideas about what I wanted to pursue as a librarian, but theory and practice are very different things. Working as an intern librarian for three different institutions at once—for Shortgrass Library System, Medicine Hat Public Library, and Medicine Hat College—meant that I would get to experience very different facets of the profession in a real-world context and figure out what I was best suited for. I was also attracted by the prospect of working in south-east Alberta, since it is very different from Nova Scotia and I hadn't spent much time in this part of the country before moving here. I was excited to get to know the area.

What are you most looking forward to about your role as intern librarian?

I don't know if I could pick any one thing! I'm definitely looking forward to getting out of town and visiting various Shortgrass libraries, helping with programs and classes, and generally learning more about libraries and their communities in south-east Alberta.

What are some of your interests outside of work?

I'm an avid reader and tend to consume books in very large quantities—in 2013 I made it my goal to read a book a day, and managed to finish 370 books that year, a feat I don't think I'll be able to duplicate again! I've always been a big history buff, and historical fiction and horror are probably my favourite genres. I also write in what spare time I have. I'm mostly an indoors kind of girl, but I have really been enjoying the gorgeous landscape around Medicine Hat, and am hoping to get out and explore a bit!



Shortgrass is very pleased to introduce Chris Field, our new Manager of Library Technology Services. We asked Chris a few questions so you can learn more about the newest member of the SLS team.

Tell us a little about yourself and where you're from!

I'm originally from British Columbia – I was born in Surrey and then moved to Chilliwack at the age of 9. After high school, I completed a B.A. in English Literature and a Diploma in Library and Information Technology at the University of the Fraser Valley. After I graduated, my wife Tanya and I got married and moved to Medicine Hat, where I had just landed my first library position at MHPL.

How long have you been working in the library world? Why did you choose this field of work?

I have been working in libraries for over six years. I spent the first three at MHPL and the second three at the Vera Bracken Library at Medicine Hat College. At the midway point, I started working on my Master of Library Science degree, which I completed online at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. I have fond memories of my local public and school libraries and spent a great deal of time studying at various libraries as an undergrad. I always thought it would be neat to work in a library, so here I am!

What attracted you to this particular position? What part of the job are you most looking forward to?

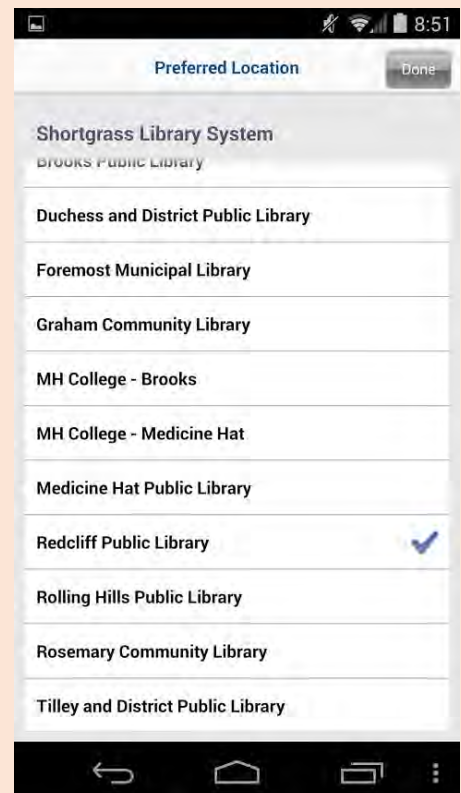
The fact that this position draws upon my existing skill set, while also providing many opportunities to learn and grow, was appealing. There are some really innovative things happening right now in terms of technology in public libraries and I look forward to introducing the best of these to our users in south-east Alberta.

What current trend or recent development do you find most exciting when it comes to library technology?

I think streaming services like hoopla are really cool, especially because users can view titles seamlessly on their mobile devices. Considering the ubiquity of smart phones and tablets, I think it's important for public libraries to offer electronic content that can be accessed in an uncomplicated way.

What are some of your interests outside of work?

I'm an avid cyclist – I like to hit the Redcliff trail system just about every day when the weather is nice. I also enjoy camping (in a tent!) and just started kayaking, as well.



ONLINE RESOURCES

Webinars

Keeping up with current trends and recent developments is hugely important for those of who work in the library field, which is a very dynamic, quickly-transforming profession. However, seeking out traditional professional development opportunities, like attending the bigger national conferences, can be very expensive and difficult to coordinate, especially when you factor in issues like childcare, work schedules, and transportation. Webinars are a great way for you to stay engaged with the library community, gain exposure to new ideas, and acquire new skills from experts who you might otherwise never have had an opportunity to learn from. Webinars are not limited by geography, because you can watch them from the comfort of your office or even your couch at home. You can also take advantage of webinar archives that can be watched on-demand at your convenience, rather than having to wait for the scheduled live debut.

Some upcoming webinars that might be of interest to the staff of Shortgrass member libraries include:

9 October at 2 PM

Bibliocommons: Twelve Tips for Using Your Catalog

www2.gotomeeting.com/register/334347130

16 October at 1 PM

iPads, Mobile Devices, and the Library

infopeople.org/civicism/event/info?reset=1&id=429

21 October 2014 at 12 noon

Serving the Underserved: Children with Disabilities at Your Library

oclc.webex.com/oclc/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=718097815

Or visit a webinar archive like **Booklist** at

www.booklistonline.com/GeneralInfo.aspx?id=73 or

TechSoup for Libraries at www.techsoupforlibraries.org/events/archive for on-demand webinars.

Library Toolshed

The Library Toolshed is now online for use by all library professionals. A joint initiative from The Alberta Library and The Association of BC Public Library Directors, the Library Toolshed is a central resource collection for library staff that makes training and programming content, like videos,

presentations, and PDFs, available for open use. Topics include a video for a children's program called "Book Care - Don't let the Pigeon touch the books"; a Bibliocommons guide for "Managing Your Privacy, Recently Returned, and Shelves"; a "Books We Like" bookmark template; guides for "How to Set up and Link Together an eBay and PayPal Account" and "How to Create an Advertisement on Kijiji"; an outline on "Getting Started with Pinterest"; and much more. All of the content comes from library staff in Alberta and BC, and can be used and

altered for your needs, as long as credit is given to the original maker and the original resource. Those who are interested in uploading and sharing resources with other library professionals can sign up for accounts at the website.

To visit the Library Toolshed and explore their resources, go to <http://www.librarytoolshed.ca/>.



THE TOOLSHED

A Central Resource for Library Training and Programming Guides
A Place to Share Your Library's Resources
A Forum to Discuss Library Services

FACILITATION TRAINING

In January 2015, the **Basic Facilitation Skills For Not-For-Profit & Public Sector Organizations** training workshop is coming to Southeastern Alberta for the first time. Hosted by Shortgrass Library System, in partnership with Alberta Culture Community Development Unit, professional facilitators will provide hands-on 'learn while doing' training in the art of group facilitation. Group facilitation is a valuable skill to develop, especially as we all regularly plan, develop, organize, evaluate, and make decisions for our libraries as a team. This is a practical workshop that provides learning through instruction, discussion, small and large group work, practice, and feedback. The workshop will cover:

Core Concepts of Facilitation

- Role of Facilitator
- Competencies of a Successful Facilitator
- Process versus Content
- Outcomes
- Flip Charting and Other Recording Methods
- Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication

Understanding Groups

- Characteristics of Learners
- Facilitating Challenging Group Situations

Designing Facilitated Sessions

- Preparing for Facilitated Sessions
- Tools and Techniques
- Using Icebreakers and Energizers

Facilitation Practice and Feedback

- Giving and Receiving Feedback
- Small Group Facilitation Presentations



The workshop will be held over three days, on January 13, 14, and 15, 2015, from 8:30AM-4:00PM each day. It will be hosted at the Courtyard Room at Medicine Hat College and will cost \$145.00, which includes workshop materials, Facilitation at a Glance book, instruction, and a light breakfast, full lunch, and afternoon coffee break each day (please let us know when you register if you have any dietary restrictions).

To register, request a registration form from Petra at petra@shortgrass.ca or Dyan at dyan@shortgrass.ca. Complete the registration form and submit it to Dyan Bryksa by mail, with payment, at 2375 10th Ave SW, Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 8G2 or by email to dyan@shortgrass.ca.

The registration deadline is **Wednesday October 15, 2014**. Payment of \$145.00 by cash or cheque is due in full at time of registration, in order to secure a spot. Space is limited, so apply soon. We hope to see you there!

RiSE Network

The RiSE network has been an exciting and revolutionary way for us to provide diverse and original programming to Shortgrass patrons through videoconferencing, since it was first launched in Alberta libraries five years ago. However, because Alberta library systems have not been able to secure additional provincial support and funding to continue the initiative, our current access to the RiSE network and its videoconference programs will cease at the end of 2014. Each individual member library will still be able to participate in RiSE if they choose; however, the estimated annual fee per library to maintain membership will be \$980. An invoice with exact info will be provided early in 2015. Be sure to inform Petra (petra@shortgrass.ca) as soon as possible, if you wish to continue with the RiSE network in 2015.

Meanwhile, some sessions coming this autumn and winter 2014 with RiSE include:

Tuesday, October 21, 2014: The Adventures of Captain Healthy & Safety Dog: A Live Interactive Puppet Show!

Learn basic health and safety tips from two intergalactic characters from the planet Relatively Fit — Captain Healthy & Safety Dog! Through this live, interactive performance, students will engage with puppeteers, as they learn about hygiene, sun protection, nutrition, and healthy eating habits (MyFoodPlate), active play & safety outdoors, and general household safety tips! Sound effects and original music get students up on their feet and moving during the program. Don't miss this out-of-world experience!

Thursday, October 23, 2014: Spiders and Bats and Rats, OH MY!

Join The Toledo Zoo live, to learn about the stereotypes and myths about "unloved" animals, like bats and rats. Explore why people have negative feelings towards these animals and learn some true facts about the species. Learn about "Old Wives Tales," superstition, and develop an appreciation for three species of animals that are traditionally "unloved!"

Wednesday, December 10, 2014 : Pioneer Christmas with Charles Ingalls

Charles will discuss Christmas in pioneer times in comparison with modern times and will tell an exciting story from his own life. He will also use his fiddle to lead the students in singing Christmas songs and will teach them pioneer dancing with live music. Patrons will meet a character from the past, hear an exciting story, participate in a traditional dance, sing Christmas songs, and develop a deeper understanding of Christmas traditions.



RiSE Programs in action: The kids at the **Brooks Public Library's** Summer Reading Program [left] had a blast learning about sharks with Officer Opaleye from the Aquarium of the Pacific, while at **Redcliff Public Library** [right] kids got to Dive In With Dolphins by exploring the Texas State Aquariums dolphin exhibit—they learned a lot and loved seeing the dolphins mimic the trainers!

Eureka! ⚡

TD Summer Reading Club 2014

Another summer has come and gone, and summer reading club is over for another year. Final statistics are not in yet, but it looks like it has been a successful year for Shortgrass libraries. Take a look at what went on this summer!



Below [left and right], the kids at **Redcliff** got to meet their local baseball heroes, the Mavericks, who dropped by the library for a visit!



Sandy and Lee perform at **Bassano** [left], **Bow Island** [above], and **Foremost** [below]. The kids had lots of fun and the adults got into the spirit of things, too! Sandy and Lee were big hits at all of their Shortgrass performances.





In **Bow Island** [left], the library was lucky to have summer student Benoit Marcotte to oversee things. This year's reading program had the kids playing the giant board game, finding the hidden symbols around town, and acquiring reading points for their team!

In **Foremost** [below], Jayme Wong reports that they focused on activities centred around the "Eureka" theme of innovation, saying "we wanted the crafters to feel proud of what they could accomplish on their own." They ended the year with some fun in the sun and a slip'n'slide!



TWEENS DETECTIVE NIGHT

Wedged between children and teens, it can sometimes be difficult to find enough time and space for tweens in library programming. **Medicine Hat Public Library** seems to have cracked the code, however, as they have been running a successful regular tween program that includes fun activities, such as Detective Night, where participants had to work together to figure out clues and solve a riddle. Hint: it was a big success!



Cat Corner

"Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. Cats have never forgotten this."

—Terry Pratchett



Meet **Frodo**, one of Anita Chappell's kittens! Well, she's pretty sure this is Frodo—there are nine of them, so some confusion is understandable!



From Sheila Drummond, we have a shot of eighteen-year-old **Beezus** in her younger days. Sheila says, "We're pretty sure she's half human!"

September

September 18th: **Common Grant-writing**

Mistakes Video Conference at

Shortgrass Boardroom, Brooks Public Library

September 30th: **Dewey Divas – Reader's**

Advisory Video Conference

October

October 21st: **The Adventures of Captain**

Healthy & Safety Dog: A Live Interactive

Puppet Show! Video Conference

October 23rd: **Spiders and Bats and Rats, OH**

MY! Video Conference

October 23rd and 24th: **Netspeed**

Conference, Edmonton

November

November 17th: **Library Managers meeting**

November 26th: **Shortgrass Library System**

Board of Trustees meeting

November 28th: **Order Cut-Off date!**

December

December 10th: **Shortgrass Christmas**

Dinner & Social at Medicine Hat Golf &

Country Club

January

January 13th, 14th, 15th [2015]: **3 Day Basic**

Facilitation Training

SHORTGRASS AUTUMN CALENDAR

