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Volume XXXII, Issue II -June 2024

What's new at HQ?

Welcome to our June 2024 edition of Shortgrass Clippings! Read on to hear about what Shortgrass staff & libraries have been up to this quarter.



Upcoming Events

July 1: Canada Day - Shortgrass office closed. Missed deliveries will be made up on the following business day.

August 5: Heritage Day - Shortgrass office closed. Missed deliveries will be made up on the following business day.

August 6 - 16: Christopher Cool Magic Shows

August 21: SLS Board Meeting

September 2: Labour Day - Shortgrass office closed. Missed deliveries will be made up on the following business day.

September 16: Library Managers Meeting, at the Irvine Community Library's new building.

September 18: SLS Board Meeting

September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - Shortgrass office closed. Missed deliveries will be made up on the following business day.

October 14: Thanksgiving - Shortgrass office closed. Missed deliveries will be made up on the following business day.

PD Day 2024: Engage!

Thank you to the staff and trustees from across the system who joined us for our 2024 PD Day! We had a fantastic time learning and engaging with you all, in the beautiful Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre in downtown Medicine Hat.

A feedback form was sent out following the event. The Planning Committee was very grateful to hear your feedback, be it glowingly positive or more on the constructive side! All feedback will be taken on board when we plan our next event.

Shortgrass would like to thank our fantastic speakers:

- Our amazing keynote speakers, Kel Banks & Camelia Campbell, who shared their lived experiences with print disabilities;
- Hailey Halberg & Jessica Dinan from Parkland Regional Library System, who gave us some tips and tricks for social media marketing;
- PLSB staff Kim Johnson, Diana Davidson, Kel Banks & Camelia Campbell, who taught a workshop on document accessibility;
- Stephanie Kuhn & Blaine H., who shared their experience in making series easier to find;
- James Parsons from Partek, who led a crash course in cybersecurity;
- Kait McClary, who explained the secrets of readers' advisory;
- Miranda Leduc and Karla Gaetz, who shared their wisdom on how to handle difficult situations in the library.

We also want to thank the Shortgrass staff for helping out on the day- moving boxes, unpacking and packing up display tables, teaching attendees how to use programming kits, working the welcome desk, and more! Thank you all!

We cannot wait to see you next time!



Welcome & sign-in desk



Keynote presentation



Lunch break & networking

Congratulations to the Winners of the 2024 Shorty Awards!



A huge congratulations to the winners of the 2024 Shorty Awards!

We were thrilled to be able to honour six member libraries with awards for their outstanding work, innovation, and creativity.

Pictured left to right:

Library Staff Member of the Year - Jordan Chappell (Graham Community Library)

Community Partnerships - Bow Island (Susan Andersen) Municipal Library, accepted by Kathryn Van Dorp

Programming Excellence - Bassano Memorial Library, accepted by Rebecca Doyle

Library Manager of the Year - Mandy Galarneau (Bassano Memorial Library)

Innovative Library Spaces - Honeycomb House at Medicine Hat Public Library, accepted by Stephanie Kuhn

Library Future Proofing - Irvine Community Library, accepted by Joan Côté

Digital Resource Spotlight: NNELS



The National Network for Equitable Library Service is a digital public library of downloadable titles for people with perceptual disabilities. Eligible patrons can download material in a variety of file formats such as DAISY, PDF, and e-text.

Shortgrass patrons with 'talking book' status on their library account can register for NNELS service using their library card number and PIN.

Pro tip: promote this service to your community by coordinating with doctors and optometrist offices to leave brochures in their waiting rooms. The "Getting Started with CELA and NNELS" brochure is even available in Large Print!

[Learn more here!](#)

CEO Update



Petra Mauerhoff, CEO

Summer is here and staff at Shortgrass have been very busy since the last newsletter was published in March!

On April 15th we held the system-wide professional development day at the Esplanade in downtown Medicine Hat. Attendees had the opportunity to take in different sessions presented by a variety of professionals on a variety of topics. Many thanks again for the staff from Public Library Services Branch who traveled all the way from Edmonton to present a wildly engaging keynote session as well as a follow session on accessibility. The positive feedback continues to roll in.

Looking forward, Shortgrass will once again be part of the Board Leadership Southeast Alberta board governance training events. Our planning committee is offering evening events in the fall for boards on the topics of fundraising and the development of values statements as well as a full one day conference type event in the spring of 2025. Stay tuned for more information in the next few months.

Shortgrass hired a summer student for a shorter than usual duration this summer. We are excited to have Irelyn join us to help Kait with summer programming in your libraries.

At the May Board meeting, the Shortgrass Board of Trustees implemented a new policy on "Unsuitable Library Materials". You can read more about it in the "Systems and Technical Services Updates" section of this newsletter.

Some changes were recently passed to the Alberta Libraries Act and the Regulations. See the "In Library News" section of this newsletter for more details on information sessions where you can learn more.

In July we hope to purchase a new delivery vehicle, and are excited to ask for the community's help in decorating the sides of the new van. We will be launching an art contest across the region, inviting library users aged 0-18 to submit their designs for a chance at having their artwork featured on our vehicle!

Have a great summer!

Petra

Client Services Update

Kait McClary, Client Services Librarian



Programming Kit Spotlight

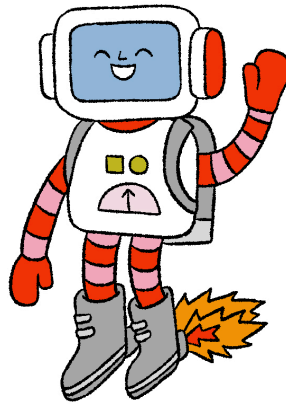
This month, we are giving some of our older kits some love! These kits all still have availability for this summer- if you want to book one, send a message to programmingkits@shortgrass.ca!

Ozobots: These tiny robots read colour code and travel on paths created by you -- all you need to make them go is some paper and markers. Make them race, solve a maze, spell your name, dance -- if you can draw it, these little bots will go there.

Karaoke: Party like it's 1999 with our karaoke kit! With hundreds of songs to choose from and enough microphones for duets, you can sing the night away.

StoryWalks®: Borrow one of our nine StoryWalk® kits, and invite families to read a book as they take a stroll outside! Stakes and/or sandwich boards are included.

[View all programming kits here](#)



Get Your Summer Read On: Make Your Programs More Accessible!

TDSRC has shared a list of ways that you can make your summer reading program more accessible, welcoming, and inclusive to all readers!

A few top tips:

- Prioritize accessibility in all promotional material- use large text, high-contrast colours, and a sans serif font.
- Include decodable books, audiobooks, large-print books and other accessible formats in your displays, as well as graphic novels, comics, and children's magazines.
- Make sure seating is available for any program attendees who may need it.
- Describe all actions and avoid visual cues (for example, say "at the back of the room" rather than "over there").

Check out the full article for more than a dozen tips!

Tips for an Accessible Summer Program

Systems and Technical Services Update

Lauralee Gilmour, Manager, Systems and Technical Services

New Policy: Pirated Library Materials

The Shortgrass Library System Board has introduced a new policy on pirated library materials.

Occasionally, member libraries may inadvertently acquire library materials for their collections that have been illegally copied or are otherwise in violation of copyright law. This includes pirated materials, and Advance Reader Copies of books.



Shortgrass will take the utmost care to avoid adding these titles to the library catalogue. If this type of item ends up at Shortgrass for processing, staff will inform the owning library, and will proceed according to the situation and relevant copyright law. For example, if the item is an Advance Reader Copy, it will be returned to the owning library, as these can legitimately be used as giveaways.

Please take a look at the policy to familiarize yourself with the steps that Shortgrass staff will take if an item appears to be in violation of copyright legislation.

[View the policy here](#)

Why can these materials not be added to the collection?

Copyright legislation exists to protect the intellectual property of creators. That is, to ensure that authors, directors, illustrators, and publishers benefit from their creative works. Reproducing copyrighted materials is illegal, as it often means that authors are not being fairly compensated for their work. Pirated books and DVDs are not produced by the author/publisher, and therefore cannot be added to library collections.

Advance Reader Copies (ARCs) are unique. These books are distributed by authors and publishers with the intention of generating interest in a title, prior to its release date. They are perfectly legal to own, or to give away for free, and libraries may occasionally receive them as donations. However, they cannot be sold, or added to library collections, as this takes away from the authors' potential earnings.

How can you avoid buying pirated materials?

Here are a few tips to help you avoid buying pirated materials:

- Buy from approved vendors (e.g. ULS) whenever possible.
- When shopping on Amazon, make sure your item is sold directly by Amazon, or is "Fulfilled by Amazon". Avoid marketplace sellers!
- If an item seems too cheap to be true- it probably is!

[Learn more about copyright here](#)

What's New at Shortgrass Member Libraries?

Five Fun Facts about Tilley & District Public Library's new manager, Joan



1. I love to play video games
2. Black panther is my favourite animal
3. I am super friendly and kind and love helping people
4. I am from Newfoundland
5. I have loved reading ever since I was a little girl

Joan Baker is the manager of the Tilley & District Public Library.

CBC was Out Your Way at Irvine Community Library!

On March 23rd 2024, CBC brought their "Out Your Way" project to Irvine! The project aims to reconnect with small communities across Alberta, by visiting the local library for a day of community fun and connection.

CBC hosted a fantastic Family Fun Day for the community, hosting approximately 85 guests in the library over the course of the day. Community members had a chance to chat with CBC staff, enjoy barbeque and sweet treats, hear some live music (including from Irvine Library Manager Joan's band!), and participate in activities and crafts. Everyone who came had a lot of fun, and went away with a smile!



Medicine Hat Public Library has gone to the dogs in 2024!

Darby the Therapy dog and her human Melissa, a certified Pet Partners Therapy Team, have visited the library a few times since March so Darby can listen to Medicine Hat kids read their favourite stories to her.

Service dogs in training from Summit Service Dogs have also been visiting lately, stopping in on a Community Coffee, a Puppy Tales storytime and a de-stressing evening for teens.



Bassano Memorial Library celebrates their 40th Annibirthday!

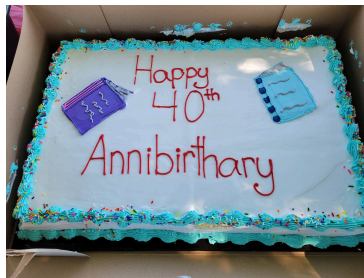
On Saturday June 22nd, 2024, Bassano Memorial Library celebrated their 40th Annibirthday!

Festivities kicked off with a Dr. Seuss-themed float for the Bassano Rodeo Parade, with a few Bluey characters hitching a ride!

After the parade, the library hosted an open house event, with free barbeque (serving nearly 300 hot dogs), three giant cake, crafts, games, and a StoryWalk.

More than 150 people stopped by the library to celebrate, with a lot of laughter and conversation! The event was so popular that the library is now considering whether this should be an annual post-parade fundraiser event.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped celebrate!



Changes to the Alberta Libraries Act & Libraries Regulation

Effective May 16th, 2024, the *Libraries Act* and Libraries Regulation have been updated to reflect the *Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act 2024*.

Key changes include:

- Major changes to the creation of intermunicipal Boards, which can now be created by an agreement between up to 4 municipalities;
- The removal of provisions for community boards and federation boards;
- Consolidation of provisions for municipal and intermunicipal library boards.

To learn more about these and other changes, please join one of PLSB's two webinars:

- Wednesday, July 3, 7:00 – 8:00 pm: [click to register](#)
- Thursday, July 4, 2:00 – 3:00 pm: [click to register](#)

Professional Development & Training



Panel Perspectives: Learn How Librarians Engage Readers with Digital Magazines, Comics, & Graphic Novels

Is your library looking to engage new users, enhance your digital collection, and increase circulation? Join OverDrive and library experts for a panel discussion about comics and magazines in your digital library.

Available any time on-demand.

Follow this link to watch



Crafting Meaningful Land Acknowledgements

Jessica Vandenberghe from Guiding Star Consulting will lead this two hour workshop on how to develop and deliver meaningful land acknowledgments.

Learn how to create land acknowledgements focused on Indigenous teachings and truth, and spend time crafting your own authentic acknowledgement.

Attend live on June 27th 2024, 11am - 1pm.

Follow this link to register

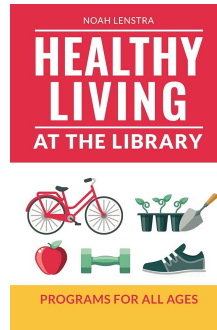


Conflict Management and De-escalation

When given the appropriate knowledge and skills, we are all capable of making informed, effective, and safe choices when facing customer conflict and violence. As part of that approach, join Suzanne Powell to discuss how we can create a shift in how we view and respond to these situations to enhance our safety and reduce employee stress.

Available any time on-demand.

Follow this link to watch



Shortgrass Professional Development Collection

Did you know that Shortgrass has a Professional Development collection, which staff from our 14 member libraries can borrow from?

Brush up your skills on everything from programming to strategic planning! For instance- why not check out **Healthy Living at the Library** by Noah Lenstra, for programming ideas focused on health and wellness!

These books can be reserved through WorkFlows, but won't show up in Bibliocommons, as they are only available to staff. [Visit our website](#) to browse the full list, and head to WorkFlows to place a hold!

Browse the full list of books here!

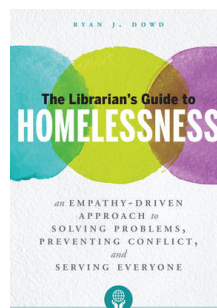
The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness

Until December 2024, Shortgrass Library System is providing member libraries with The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness. This is an empathy-based training program aimed at providing frontline library staff with the tools to help them manage problem situations.

Consisting of a three-hour Core Training session and 30+ additional one-hour modules, this training is available to all member library staff/volunteers.

Register to dive into issues such as dealing with unsupervised children and teenagers; handling sensitive subjects such as body odour; de-escalating fights before they happen; and more.

To access the training, please get in touch with [Kait](#). This training is available until mid-December, 2024.





Don't forget that our virtual meeting software, Zoom, is available to all Shortgrass member libraries.

Please contact Lauralee if you would like to book Zoom to host your next virtual program or Library Board Meeting.

Share Your Stories!

Anything new to share? Send us your photos, stories, and updates!

- Screenshots of a popular online event
- Photos of what's going on at your library- displays, programs, renovations, weeding projects
- News about your library

Submit updates to newsletter@shortgrass.ca

Shortgrass Library System
Resourceful by Nature

shortgrass.ca

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Tel. (403) 529-0550 – Toll Free Number 1-866-529-0550

Shortgrass Library System honours and acknowledges that we are situated on Treaty 7 and Treaty 4 territory, traditional lands of the Siksika, Kainai, Piikani, Stoney-Nakoda, and Tsuut'ina as well as the Cree, Sioux, and the Saulteaux bands of the Ojibwa peoples. We also acknowledge and honour that we are on the homelands of the Metis people.

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