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Volume XXXIII, Issue I - March 2025

What's new at HQ?

Welcome to our Spring 2025 edition of Shortgrass Clippings! Read on to hear about what Shortgrass staff & libraries have been up to this quarter.



Upcoming Events

March 17: Library Manager Meeting

March 19: SLS Board Meeting

April 16: SLS Board Meeting

April 18: Good Friday - Shortgrass office closed. Missed deliveries will be made up on the following business day.

April 21: Easter Monday - Shortgrass office closed. Missed deliveries will be made up on the following business day.

April 30: End of Radon Screening Kit lending period

May 1: Recommended deadline to make your summer programming kit bookings!

May 19: Victoria Day - Shortgrass office closed. Missed deliveries will be made up the following business day.

May 21: SLS Board Meeting

May 26: Library Manager Meeting

Kanopy Online Video Streaming Service

kanopy

On February 1st, 2025, Shortgrass Library System launched Kanopy, a new online video streaming service for all libraries across the system.

The service offers ad-free streaming of critically-acclaimed movies, TV series, and other videos. Patrons can stream films anytime, anywhere on their preferred devices, with no fees and no commercials. Our system has access to three curated collections: *British Cinema*, *Favourites*, and *Kanopy Kids*.

During the month of February, 2,094 Shortgrass patrons visited the Kanopy webpage and 49 signed up. 184 videos were streamed, with total streaming time being 3,856 minutes.

Thank you to all library staff for helping promote this exciting new resource available to our patrons! Please make sure to continue to promote Kanopy and hopefully we will see increased usage as more patrons become aware of it being offered.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Shortgrass.

Welcome back Bernadette!

We are thrilled to have Bernadette Mouta, our Executive Assistant / Bookkeeper, back with us after her maternity leave to care for her adorable new addition to the family!

Please direct all inquiries related to accounts to Bernadette at bernadettem@shortgrass.ca.

For accounts payable or accounts receivable inquiries, be sure to copy billing@shortgrass.ca to ensure smooth processing.



Five Fun Facts about our CEO, Petra!



1. Jan 4th 2025 was my 14th anniversary at Shortgrass!
2. I spend a lot of my free time learning about canine behaviour and working with/training (force free) my dog Rainn. Rainn holds 8 trick dog titles and is an excellent scent detection dog.
3. Australian Cattle Dogs are my favourite dog breed and I have had them since I first came to Canada a million years ago.
4. I am an avid reader, mostly through audiobooks and I love a good mystery or thriller. Life is scary enough, so no horror, please!
5. I love swimming and have been working with a coach on perfecting my Butterfly stroke.

Petra Mauerhoff is the Chief Executive Officer at Shortgrass Library System. She manages administrative and board matters and oversees all Shortgrass services!

CEO Update



Petra Mauerhoff, CEO

Spring is in the air!

The Shortgrass Library Board approved a policy at its February 2025 board meeting that allows Shortgrass to accept charitable donations on behalf of member libraries. This will allow libraries who currently do not have charitable status to accept donations through Shortgrass. Please note that any funds accepted as donations on behalf of member libraries are not disbursed until December each year. We will be sharing more information about the policy with Shortgrass Library Managers shortly.

The most important news of this spring is that our Bookkeeper/Executive Assistant Bernadette is back! Over the past year, while she was on maternity leave, the majority of her duties were handled directly by me, so having her back is a huge relief and I could not be happier. You can once again direct all accounts/billing related inquiries to her at billing@shortgrass.ca.

Speaking of billing, this is your reminder that Shortgrass also accepts payments via e-transfer now. E-transfer can be sent to billing@shortgrass.ca with the invoice number noted, so we know what to apply the funds to.

I also want to remind library boards that I am always happy to join one of your meetings and provide information about your library's relationship with Shortgrass, answer specific questions and provide professional information as needed.

I hope you have been getting as much joy out of seeing the delivery van, decked out in the art created by your patrons, make deliveries to your libraries! Every time I see it, I am delighted by how colourful it is!

Happy spring everyone!

Petra

Client Services Update

Sadaf Hakimzadeh, Librarian, Library Development Services

Some Programming Kits Statistics

In 2024, Shortgrass programming kits circulated 354 times in total. That is an 81% increase since 2022!

4 new kits were added to the system in 2024.

The most popular programming kits were Oculus Quest VR, Giant Four Across, and Giant Inflatable Ring Toss. These three kits circulated 46 times in total in 2024!

The following kits are a bit lonely and could use some love! They have not been booked for any time in 2025 yet. Who wants to be the first library to offer a program using one of these?



Magic Tricks: Explore the secrets of magic with this fun kit, containing everything you need to perform hundreds of tricks! Pull a rabbit out of a hat, make a coin disappear, try out “was this your card”, and more!

Drive-In Radio Storytime: Recreate the drive-in movie experience with this kit, designed for storytimes! Including radio transmitting equipment, bells for kids, safety gear, and more, the kit could also be used for other programs, such as bingo nights or radio plays.

Indigenous Picture Books: Discover Indigenous languages with this collection of picture books for kids, offering a fun way to explore culture and traditions.

StoryWalk: How To Catch a Star: Experience the magic of storytelling with a Storywalk! This interactive activity combines reading and outdoor adventure, making it the perfect way to engage children and families in a fun, healthy way.



[View all programming kits here](#)

Summer Is Almost Here!



Summer is just around the corner—have you lined up your programs yet? To guarantee availability, we suggest reserving your programming kits as early as possible! This year, please submit your booking requests by May 1st. While we will still accept bookings after this date, there will be fewer kits available.

We're thrilled to announce the return of Christopher Cool the Magician, who will be performing a spectacular brand new magic show at all fourteen libraries. All the event dates have been set—feel free to reach out if you have any questions!

We're also finalizing summer prizes and materials.

Keep an eye on your inbox for more summer updates!

Systems and Technical Services Update

Lauralee Gilmour, Manager, Systems and Technical Services

Collection Development Support Available from Shortgrass

Don't have enough time to order new materials for your library this month? In addition to processing your orders, Shortgrass can select items to order on your behalf. You can decide on a set dollar amount for this, and can use your allotment for it or receive an invoice to pay by cheque—whichever method works best for you.



On January 27th, 1975, the Bow Island Town Council established the Bow Island Municipal library. The original space was a small building located on Main Street. In the early 80s, the library was moved into a brand new space, where it currently resides. 50 years of library service is a significant milestone, and the staff and library board plan to celebrate all year!

The Bow Island Library is one of the original members of Shortgrass library System, and their past Library manager, Susan Andersen, was involved in getting the system up and running in its early days. A reception is planned for March 28th that will kick off the 2025 celebrations. Library Manager, Kathryn Van Dorp, has been with the library for 25 years (10 years as Manager) and has witnessed its growth and changes over the years. 50 Golden Years of Library Service!

Irvine Community Library Kicked Off 2025 with a Bang!

Despite the chilly winter, the library has been bustling with exciting events and creative activities. Here's a peek at some of the fun moments they've shared with the community:



- Stained glass crafts program;
- tree decorated for the holidays by Fortis' Festive right outside the library, glowing all year round;
- balancing challenge: kids showing off their skills in this quirky activity, balancing books on their heads!



- DIY fishing lures craft activity for parents and kids;
- string art fun; and
- blind date with a book.



But that's not all! They also celebrated their first anniversary at the new location with prizes, games, activities, cake, and more.

In Library News...

News and Tips from Alberta Law Libraries



Are your patrons looking for someone to help them with legal issues? Alberta Law Libraries' [Finding Legal Help](#) page can direct them to help. The page offers suggestions for help in the following situations:

- They need to find a lawyer
- They need information or assistance to understand a legal matter
- They are going to court and don't have a lawyer
- They don't speak English.

Don't hesitate to contact [Alberta Law Libraries](#) with other legal questions or to access their [resources](#)!

PressReader Renewal & New Titles



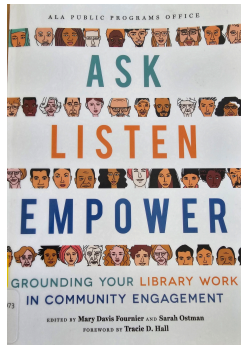
Provincial support for PressReader has been extended through to the end of 2027. Public libraries in Alberta will continue to offer access to thousands of newspapers and magazines, with new additions including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and continued access to *The Economist*. No action is required from library administrators, as all libraries in the Public Library Network should already be set up with access to the platform and new titles.

CCLET: Introducing a Free New Video Resource

Do you work with newcomers? Are you looking for an engaging and accessible way to teach them about human rights in Canada? Introducing a free new video resource from the Canadian Civil Liberties Education Trust (CCLET), *The Charter is for Everybody: A Guide to Understanding Your Rights*. This video series introduces the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and explores concepts such as freedom of expression, equality, freedom of religion, privacy, legal rights, and more. Click [here](#) to see the videos (available with subtitles in English, French, Tagalog, Ukrainian, Spanish and Arabic), as well as supplemental educational materials for librarians/library staff and more.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS
THE FREE VIDEO RESOURCES!

Professional Development & Training

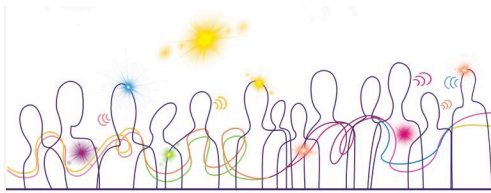


New Book Added to SHQ PD Collection

This book invites those new to community engagement to get actively involved by focusing on listening to, and collaborating with their communities. Even those with experience in the field will find fresh perspectives and inspiration for building trust, staying proactive, and enhancing their ideas and services. The book takes the practice of community engagement to a whole new level. Are you looking to update your knowledge or build new skills in library leadership? We encourage you to explore the resources in this collection, designed to help you grow and stay informed in the ever-evolving field of library work.

[Click here to see the full collection](#)

Southern Alberta Library Conference 2025



The 2025 Southern Alberta Library Conference is taking place on April 11th, 2025, in Lethbridge, Alberta. Follow the link below for more information!

Click [here](#) to register by March 28th!

Supporting Library Patrons with Print Disabilities

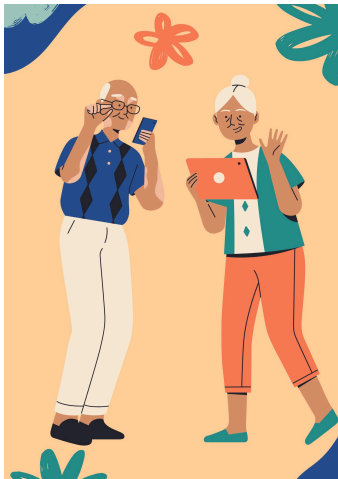


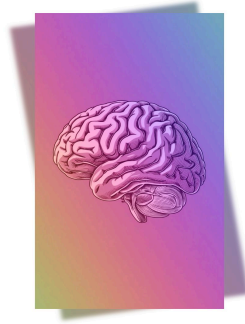
NNELS is hosting a webinar series focused on the resources libraries can provide to support people with print disabilities across various demographics. The first webinar in the series, titled *NNELS Demographic Webinar: Seniors with Print Disabilities*, is now available as a recording on the NNELS YouTube channel.

[Click here to watch the video](#)

PLSB Symposium - June 9th & 10th

PLSB has announced a two-day symposium on June 9th and 10th, in partnership with Strathcona County Library as the host. This year's topic will focus on public library services for older adults, with discussions on seniors' programming, supports, and innovative work by library boards across the province. An official title will be shared soon. Registration will open in April, and more details will be provided via email.





Brain Story Certification

The University of Oxford, in collaboration with the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative, is sharing knowledge on brain development and its impact on lifelong health. The Brain Story Certification course explores how early experiences shape mental and physical well-being, including addiction risk.

This free, self-paced course features insights from over 30 experts in neurobiology and mental health across 19 modules. It is open to anyone interested in understanding brain science, including professionals seeking certification.

[Learn more and access the course here](#)

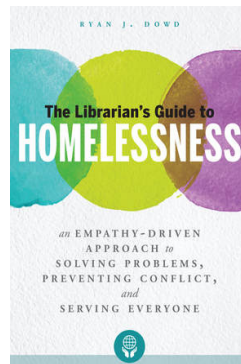
The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness

Until December 2025, Shortgrass Library System continues to provide 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 [Sadaf](#). This training is available until mid-December, 2025.





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

2375 10th Ave SW, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8G2

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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