



2007 ANNUAL REPORT

To the Partners



Shortgrass Library System
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*Celebrating 19 years of Library and Information Partnership
in Southeastern Alberta*



Message
from the Chair
of the SLS Board of Trustees

I am pleased to present the Shortgrass Library System 2007 Annual Report to our partners. Our Board, which is composed of representatives from our member municipalities and a Ministerial Representative, has established a business plan (Plan of Service) to direct the collective work of the Board and staff in accomplishing what our member municipalities and member libraries want and need from SLS.

On behalf of the Board, I can confidently assure our partners that Shortgrass is successfully fulfilling the Mission Statement, Key Directions and Key Results, as detailed in the 2005 – 2007 Plan of Service. During 2007 we developed our Plan of Service for the next three (3) years 2008 to 2010.

Shortgrass continues to grow and improve its services. For example, during 2007 extensive work occurred on the implementation of a new automated library system to better serve the communities within SLS. This project will be completed in 2008.

With the strong support from our partners, Shortgrass is a healthy corporation that provides an outstanding library and information support service to the libraries and their patrons in Southeastern Alberta.

Dwight Nagel,
Chair, SLS Board of Trustees

Financial Summary

How Are We Funded?

	Year 2006	Year 2006	Year 2007	Year 2007
Provincial Grants	23.23%	\$337,608	21.75%	\$334,262
Municipalities/Member Libraries	49.26%	715,970	47.78%	734,186
Contract Revenue	12.57%	182,711	7.94%	121,968
ILS/Data Communications Reimbursement	2.45%	35,556	1.19%	18,268
Special Grants	5.53%	80,407	14.92%	229,163
Establishment Grants	0.83%	12,042	0.98%	15,065
APLEN Grants	3.15%	45,903	2.28%	35,103
Other Revenue	2.98%	43,402	3.16%	48,568
TOTAL	100.00%	1,453,599	100.00%	1,536,583

How Do We Direct Our Funds?

	Year 2006	Year 2006	Year 2007	Year 2007
Purchase of Library Materials	24.63%	\$ 358,071	23.95%	\$368,054
SLS Services to Member Libraries	45.80%	665,739	42.87%	658,700
Resource Sharing /Rural Services Payment	3.03%	44,000	2.86%	44,000
Advertising/Promotion	0.96%	13,908	1.03%	15,885
Board Services	1.04%	15,804	0.80%	12,240
Contract Expenses	12.57%	182,711	7.94%	121,968
Building Expenses	4.53%	65,916	4.36%	67,060
Capital Expenditures	2.87%	41,691	11.36%	174,568
Other	4.94%	71,850	5.00%	76,778
Excess/Deficit	<0.37%>	<5,371>	<0.17%>	<2,670>
TOTAL	100.00%	1,453,599	100.00%	1,536,583

Key Statistics for Public Libraries

Year 2007

Items purchased for libraries	18,016
Items catalogued and processed for libraries (includes donated items)	21,747
Total items in system catalogue	411,897
Annual per capita materials allotment	\$4.03
Total items circulated to patrons	698,351
Total items moved among all member libraries	136,598
Total virtual visits to SLS website and catalogue	851,257
Total holds placed on items (from home and library computers)	83,120
Electronic database resources	38



Gloria
Cataloguer



Phyllis
Cataloguer and
Acquisitions



Sean
Technology Support

Board of Trustees

The Shortgrass Library System is governed by a Board of Trustees composed of appointed representatives of each member municipality plus a Ministerial appointment.

During 2007 the Trustees were:

	Dwight Nagel	Chair	
	Martin Shields	Vice-Chair	
Dave Bahnmitter	Chair, Programs & Services Committee		
Rosalie Stromsmoe	Chair, Finance & Personnel Committee		
Joyce Baerg	Trustee	Doug Henderson	Trustee
Kathi Herman	Trustee	Larry Jaspersen	Trustee
Anne Kanig	Trustee	Anne Marie Philipsen	Trustee
Gordon Reynolds	Trustee	Harv Speers	Trustee
Sherry Steinbach	Trustee		

Leadership Team

The implementation of the Board of Trustees Plan of Service and the Board's policies, which establish the direction and goals for SLS, are the responsibility of the leadership team composed of:

Harold Storlien	CEO/Director
Bob Batchelder	Assistant Director – Technical Services
Julia Reinhart	Assistant Director – Public Library Services

This team was supported by a capable staff of 12.92 FTE members.



Presentation by Minister R. Danyluk
at the June Barbeque at which we celebrated 100 years of library service in Alberta.

Sharing as a Focus

"Libraries build communities"
"Sharing is our Game"

- The Shortgrass Library System works for its member municipalities to:
- 📖 Improve resources available to municipal residents through **sharing**
 - 📖 Make cost-effective use of community resources by **sharing**
 - 📖 Reduce duplication of services by **sharing**
 - 📖 Help rural municipalities have access to information services equal to their large urban counterparts by **sharing**
 - 📖 Support individuals, communities, economic growth and quality of life by **sharing**

Who Do We Serve?

Member Municipalities (11)

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| • Town of Bassano | • Town of Bow Island | • City of Brooks |
| • Village of Foremost | • City of Medicine Hat | • Town of Redcliff |
| • Village of Rosemary | • Village of Tilley | • Cypress County |
| • County of Forty Mile No.8 | • County of Newell No.4 | |

Other Contracted Partners

- Medicine Hat School District No. 76
- Prairie Rose School Division No. 8

Population Served

- 99% (97,529) of the population in the SLS region now served by Shortgrass Library System

Plan of Service

2005 - 2007

- The Plan of Service for 2005 - 2007 details the Key Directions for Shortgrass Library System. The key directions define the most important actions the System must accomplish in order to be successful in fulfilling its Mission. Key Directions focus the resources of the Shortgrass Library System on doing the right things at the right time, and doing them well.
- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Leadership and Governance | • Advocacy and Public Relations |
| • Member Services | • Staff Development and Training |
| • Service Expansion | |

Key Happenings in 2007

"Accomplishments"

1. Prepared for the new hardware/software program (Integrated Library System) in cooperation with our partner – Chinook Arch Library System. This has been a multi-year project with the good news being enhanced service to library users and the \$400,000 cost has been raised from other sources (CIP and an anonymous donor).
2. Developed, through consultative process, the next Plan of Service for SLS (2008 to 2010). This key document focuses the system personnel on what really needs to be done to accomplish the system mandate.
3. Utilized special Library Grant to increase services to our member libraries:
 - Staff and patron training for use of the 24/7 services we have available, such as the automated catalogue, electronic databases, other information
 - Technical support
 - Consultation and advisement regarding improving library services
4. Completed the membership for County of Newell by the remaining three (3) non-member divisions becoming members. Now all citizens of this County receive SLS services.
5. Worked in partnership with our two (2) neighbouring library systems, Chinook Arch and Marigold, to develop further the Rural Information Services initiative (RISE). The RISE organization is seeking serious funding from the Rural Alberta Development Fund to improve greatly the services in our rural libraries. \$750,000 has already been raised from other sources.
6. Increased the SLS intrasystem loans which resulted in the movement of 136,598 items between the public libraries, compared to 132,721 items in 2006.
7. Organized professional development activities for staff at SLS and member libraries which focus attention on improving services to patrons.
8. Emphasized our awareness, advocacy and public relations activities – trade shows, parades, special community events.
9. Fulfilled the key SLS role of providing effective day-to-day services to our member libraries, which are our prime customers. Our satisfaction surveys continued to indicate that SLS provides highly satisfactory services to the libraries.

"Libraries are the same size when connected"