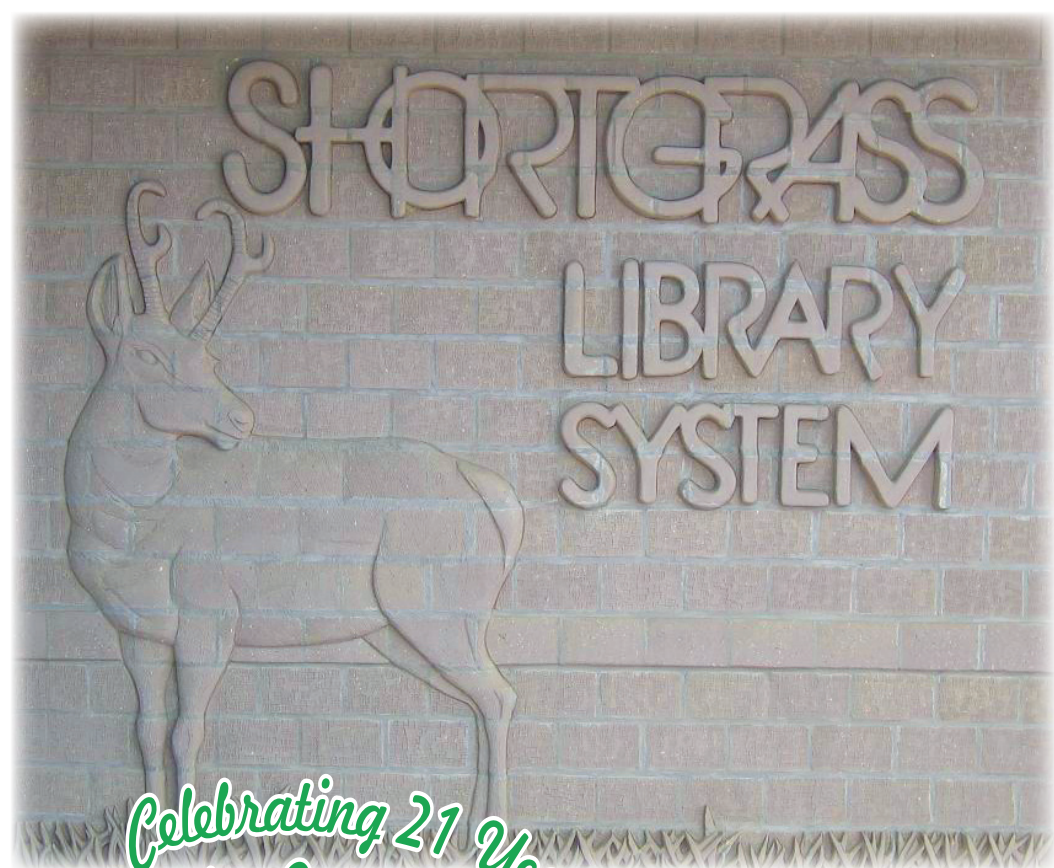




2009 ANNUAL REPORT

To The Partners



*Celebrating 21 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 2009 Annual Report to our partners. Our Board, which is composed of representatives from our member municipalities, the MHPL Resource Centre, as well as 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 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 2008-2010 Plan of Service.

One of the most significant events to take place in 2009 was the announcement of additional funding for public libraries and library systems made by Premier Stelmach in April. This came as a result of findings generated by the MLA task force established the previous year by then Alberta Municipal Affairs Minister, Ray Danyluk, to look at the development of a framework for the future of libraries in the province of Alberta. The Shortgrass Library System and our member libraries were grateful for these additional funds and appreciative of the added support.

Throughout the year, Julia and I had the opportunity to visit with a number of the councils whose municipalities are served by the Shortgrass Library System. This was an excellent chance to thank our member municipalities for their support of the System, and allowed us to discuss the services provided by SLS by generating feedback from councils on how well we provide those services.

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

Dwight Nagel,
Chair, SLS Board of Trustees





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 2009 the Trustees were:

Dwight Nagel - *Chair*

Martin Shields - *Vice-Chair*

Kathi Herman - *Chair, Programs & Services Committee*

Rosalie Stromsmoe - *Chair, Finance & Personnel Committee*

John Brocklesby

Wayne Daniels

Robert Dumanowski

Doug Henderson

Marj James

Larry Jasperson

Laura Kasdorf

Les Schmidt



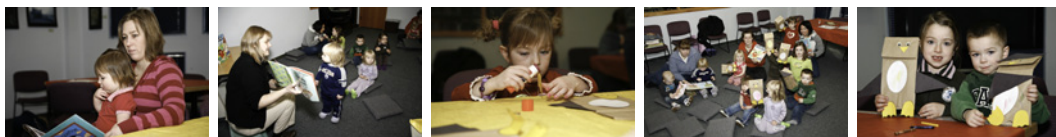
Leadership Team

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

Julia Reinhart - *CEO/Director*

Bob Batchelder - *Assistant Director, Technical Services*

This team was supported by a capable staff of 18.32 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) members.





“Sharing is our Game”

The Shortgrass Library System works for 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**
- **Provide the same access to information services in rural municipalities as 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
- County of Forty Mile No. 8
- Cypress County
- Village of Foremost
- City of Medicine Hat
- Town of Redcliff
- Village of Rosemary
- Village of Tilley
- County of Newell No. 4

Other Contracted Partners

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

Population Served:

The total population for the municipalities SLS served in 2009 was **101,593**. This represents 99.04% of the population of the geographic region SLS encompasses.

Plan of Service

The Plan of Service for 2008-2010 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
- Innovative Practices





Key Happenings in 2009

1. Celebrated having the spotlight being put on public libraries and library systems in the province with the publication of Framework for the Future: Positioning Alberta Libraries for the 21st Century, as well as the announcement of additional funds from the province. These funds were used to complete projects that would not have taken place otherwise.
2. Experienced a number of changes to the SLS staff including the addition of Library Assistant, Liz Alexander; Cataloguer, Blaine Heglund; and Technology Services Librarian, Cecilia Hui. We also bid farewell to one of our long time employees, Cataloguer, Mary Wirth, who retired at the end of 2009.
3. Commemorated the completion of the Rural Information Services initiative (RISE) network at the RISE launch in October with Minister Ray Danyluk, Minister Heather Klimchuk, several local dignitaries and our partners, Chinook Arch Regional Library System and Marigold Library System. The RISE network now links 89 rural communities through a network of videoconference sites at 78 public libraries throughout southern Alberta.
4. Organized professional development activities for member public libraries' staff, SLS staff, as well as contracted members. SLS hosted a mini-conference which focused on improved services to library users, with sessions emphasizing video conferencing, book repair and collection development.
5. Emphasized awareness of system services several ways including: visits with MLAs and member municipal councils: participation in the Medicine Hat Home Expo and Leisure Show; and entrance into several local parades with a float highlighting the Summer Reading Club theme.
6. Cheered on Assistant Director of Technical Services, Bob Batchelder when he was presented with the Library Association of Alberta's President's Award during the Alberta Library Conference.
7. Planned and helped host a full-day trustees' workshop at the Medicine Hat Public Library. The workshop, presented by Pat McNamee of the Public Libraries Branch, was attended by 24 trustees from our region and was subsidized by the Alberta Library Trustee Association.
8. Received and utilized a grant from the Community Initiatives Program (CIP) for several projects including: the establishment of wireless hotspots in our member public libraries accessible to library users; a new training lab consisting of ten laptops and a wireless hub for use by member libraries who wish to train staff or library users; and a new server for the provision of SLS web services.
9. Established two new advisory committees along with our contracted school partners, Medicine Hat School District #76 and Prairie Rose School Division No. 8. These special committees consist of school library staff, school district administration staff and SLS staff members.
10. Participated as a member in numerous regional and provincial events and meetings with various groups including: The Alberta Library (TAL); Alberta Public Library Electronic Network (APLEN); the Southern Alberta Information Network (SAIN); the Southern Alberta Integrated Library System (SAILS); Alberta Multilingual Book Collection (AMBC); Alberta System Directors and Chairs; and RISE.



SLS 2009 Parade Float



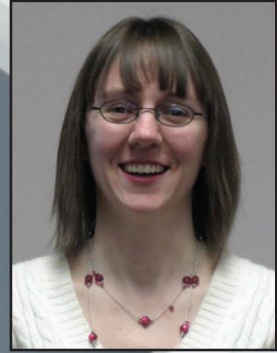
Thanks to our Administrative and Technical Staff



**Linda Kozakewich,
Office Manager**



**Julia Reinhart,
C.E.O. / Director**



**Dyan Bryksa,
Administrative
Assistant**



**Sean Seitz,
Technical Services
Assistant**



**Bob Batchelder,
Assistant Director
Technical Services**



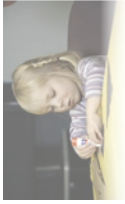
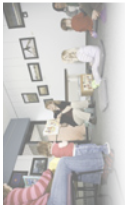
**Cecilia Hui,
Technology Services
Librarian**

“Libraries are the same size when connected.”

Key Statistics for Public Libraries

- *Items purchased for libraries: 22,369*
- *Items catalogued and processed for libraries (inc. donated items): 21,665*
- *Total items in system catalogue: 429,057*
- *Annual per capita materials allotment: \$4.13*
- *Total items circulated: 787,225*
- *Total items moved among libraries: 95,906**
- *Total virtual visits to SLS and member library websites: 343,798**
- *Total holds placed: 67,132**
- *Electronic database resources: 40*

** The 2009 figure is not comparable to the 2008 value due to the migration to new software.*



Financial Summary

HOW ARE WE FUNDED?

	Year 2008	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2009
Provincial Grants	\$366,884	26.56%	\$512,880	29.65%
Municipalities/ Member Libraries	684,921	49.59%	870,154	50.30%
Contract Revenue	118,569	8.59%	142,348	8.23%
ILS/Data Communications Reimbursement	18,305	1.33%	16,690	0.96%
Special Grants	129,217	9.36%	115,452	6.67%
Establishment Grants	280	0.01%	0.00	0.00%
APLEN Grants	31,847	2.31%	55,828	3.23%
Other Revenue	31,089	2.25%	16,494	0.96%
TOTAL	1,381,112	100%	1,729,846	100%

HOW DO WE DIRECT OUR FUNDS?

	Year 2008	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2009
Purchase of Library Materials	\$280,750	20.32%	\$344,234	19.90%
SLS Services to Member Libraries	676,693	49.00%	826,595	47.78%
Resource Sharing / Rural Services Payment	46,402	3.36%	62,200	3.60%
Advertising / Promotion	10,868	0.79%	18,441	1.07%
Board Services	16,689	1.21%	16,959	0.98%
Contract Expenses	118,569	8.59%	142,348	8.23%
Building Expenses	60,866	4.40%	98,966	5.72%
Capital Expenditures	88,856	6.43%	96,229	5.56%
Other	81,348	5.89%	64,184	3.71%
Excess	71	0.01%	59,690	3.45%
TOTAL	1,381,112	100%	1,729,846	100%

“Libraries build communities”



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