

20 ANNUAL 11 REPORT

CELEBRATING 23 YEARS OF MUNICIPAL LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS IN
SOUTHEASTERN ALBERTA

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

TO OUR MUNICIPAL & LIBRARY PARTNERS

2011 SAW MANY CHANGES FOR THE SHORTGRASS LIBRARY SYSTEM. Recognizing the importance of technology, software and hardware were upgraded across SLS ensuring seamless access to library resources and consistency across all member libraries. SLS libraries added new resources for self-directed learning. SLS HQ improved office procedures for more efficient workflows. These combined changes will save time, money and improve service. It was a pleasure to work with the talented and dedicated library staff across Southeast Alberta. We look forward to another year of providing excellent library support services to our member public libraries and school clients!

On January 1, 2011, Petra Mauerhoff took over the role of Shortgrass CEO and has brought a new perspective to Shortgrass. Another new addition to the SLS is the **VILLAGES OF DUCHESS!** Shortgrass is now partnered with 100% of the region's municipalities. We are pleased to have them both.

Self directed learning has always been synonymous with libraries. With the new Mango Languages database, all Southeast Albertans can teach themselves new languages. This online learning tool can be accessed from any computer, even from the comfort of your home. Learning another language makes you a valuable employee, is useful when traveling and is fun! Thanks to **Alberta Municipal Affairs** who generously supported this great new service.

Improving seamless access to library resources is an ongoing priority for Short-

grass. To this end, we made a number of improvements to our IT infrastructure. New catalog software, Bibliocommons, was introduced. Public and staff library computers across SLS were upgraded with new software. Software consistency allows SLS HQ to remotely install software and troubleshoot updates. A new server at HQ consolidates the majority of services in one place and a new reliable backup solution strengthens the integrity of our data. For school libraries, automation for uploading new student records was streamlined, which should help on that busy first day of school.

At SLS HQ we have focused on improving efficiency. Some of these improvements may not be noticed easily, but they strengthen our infrastructure. We want to provide the best service that we can!



KATHI HERMAN
Chair // SLS
Board of
Trustees



2011 SHORTGRASS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Back row from left, front row from left.

THROUGH committed governance, the Board of Trustees provides direction and goals for the Shortgrass Library System.

BRENT BURTON
Village of Foremost

TOM ROSE
Town of Bassano

MARJ JAMES
Medicine Hat Public Library

LES PEARSON
City of Medicine Hat

DWIGHT KILPATRICK
Town of Redcliff

MARTIN SHIELDS
City of Brooks

YOKO FUJIMOTO
Village of Rosemary

KATHI HERMAN,
CHAIRPERSON
Medicine Hat
*// Ministerial Ap-
pointment*

PETRA MAUERHOFF,
CEO // Shortgrass
Library System

JOHN BROCKLESBY
Town of Bow Island
*//Chair - Programs &
Services Committee*

Not Pictured.....
JENNIFER COOMBS
Village of Tilley

WAYNE DAHL
Village of Duchess

DOUG HENDERSON
Cypress County//
*Chair - Finance &
Personnel Com-
mittee*

ANNE MARIE
PHILIPSEN
County of Newell

CRAIG WIDMER
*County of Forty
Mile*

♦♦♦♦♦
*The Shortgrass Library
System is governed by a
Board of Trustees com-
posed of appointed rep-
resentatives from each
member municipality, a
Ministerial appointment,
and a representative for
the Medicine Hat Public
Library Resource Centre.*



THE WONDERFUL STAFF AT SHORTGRASS HQ!

Pictured back row — left to right, front row — left to right.

JIM DUNBAR

RISE Consultant

VAL OGDEN

School Cataloger

LEVI MILLINGTON

System Administrator

JACKIE HOPE-HAMMEL

Bibliographic Services Assistant

PEGGY CURTHOYS

Acquisitions Officer

LINDA KOZAKEWICH

Office Manager

(retired 2011)

ANTON CHUPPIN

*Library and Technology Services
// Manager*

BOB BATCHELDER

*Library and Technology Services
// Manager
(retired 2011)*

KALEIGH JENSEN

Summer Student

MEGAN GRIMM

Summer Student

DYAN BRYKSA

Executive Assistant

BLAINE HEGLUND

Cataloger

EILEEN DAVIS

*Bibliographic Services // Manager
(retired 2011)*

PHYLLIS WORRALL

Bibliographic Services // Manager

OUR MISSION

is to provide services and support to member municipalities in the provision of comprehensive and cost effective library service through their autonomous local libraries.

The provision of services will include resource sharing with other libraries of the province, the coun-

KEY HAPPENINGS ♦ 2011

HERE'S A QUICK OVERVIEW OF A FEW POSITIVE CHANGES FOR SLS LAST YEAR. THE BIGGEST NEWS IS THAT THE VILLAGE OF DUCHESS HAS JOINED SHORTGRASS! WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING THEM. ALL SOUTHEAST ALBERTA COMMUNITIES ARE NOW A PART OF SHORTGRASS.

DUCHESS // 5, 094 items from the Duchess & District Public Library were integrated into the Shortgrass Library System database. Thanks to Kaleigh and Megan, our two fantastic summer students, who catalogued many



of these items!

BIBLIOCOMMONS // Our new Bibliocommons online catalogue has a number of features that were lacking in the old catalogue. Among them are the ability for users to add comments, ratings, reviews, and summaries; much more intuitive access for



users' online accounts; better search results; and the ability for users to create personal lists of books, DVDs, and CDs.

RISENETWORK.CA // Southeast Alberta's videoconferencing network continues to connect communities. Visit their website for events!

NOVELIST SELECT // Another service that helps library users decide what to read next and find similar materials in our collections.

MANGO LANGUAGES // Through generous funding from the Department of Municipal Affairs, all our libraries were able to add this online language learning resource. Mango teaches using real life situations and conversations. Users can pick from 40 different languages. Mango also contains English as a Second Language courses for speakers of 15 different languages. We have already had 444 sessions thus far — a number that is sure to grow!

GOOGLE APPS // Workplace communications are now managed by Google. Under a free educational license, email, online chat and cal-

endar tools are provided to members. This change saves significant time and money for IT staff and provides a secure, advanced communications system for all library staff.

IT INFRASTRUCTURE // Upgrades throughout the system were made: new OS and software across SLS and a new HQ server integrates more of our services. A new backup procedure was implemented. These changes will make maintenance and timely updates easier to perform.

SYMPHONY ILS // Shortgrass was the first regional system to use 9XX ordering and EDI invoicing. These new procedures improve workflow efficiency significantly. In particular, 9XX helped MHPL to spend their full allotment without having to carry funds into the next fiscal year. That means more books and

SHORTGRASS BY THE NUMBERS

7

Windows 7, Office '10, and anti-virus software upgrades to all Shortgrass libraries, both public and staff computers. Up-to-date software means easy resource access, security, more efficient workplaces, and con-

12

The number of municipalities in SLS grew from 11 to include the Village of Duchess. Shortgrass is now part-

40

The online learning tool, Mango Languages, offers 40 languages. It is now available to all SLS member libraries and can be accessed remotely from any computer

325.05

\$325.05! That's how much SLS HQ saved per month over the first 6 months of its paperless initiative. Paper costs dropped from \$524.69 to \$199.64 per month

5,094

The size of the Duchess & District Public Library collection that was intergrated into our shared catalog.

23,376

The number of items purchased by Shortgrass libraries. 3,000 more items were added this year than in 2010, not including the Duchess holdings!

102,571

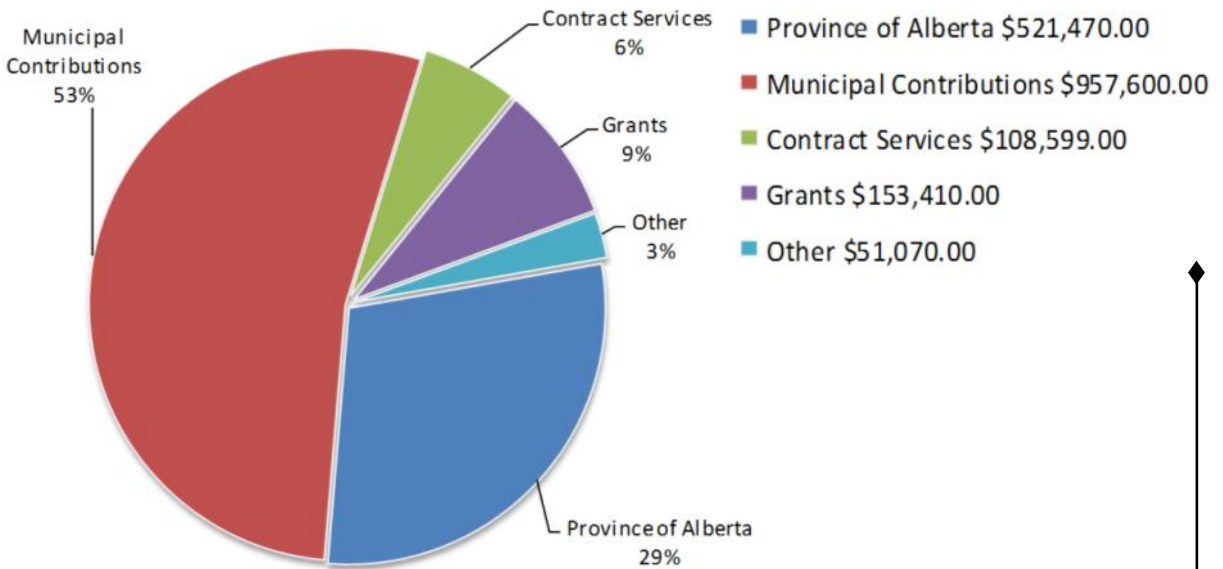
With the addition of Duchess, Shortgrass libraries now serve 100% of the population of Southeastern Alberta. We look forward to a great partnership with the Duch-

400,151

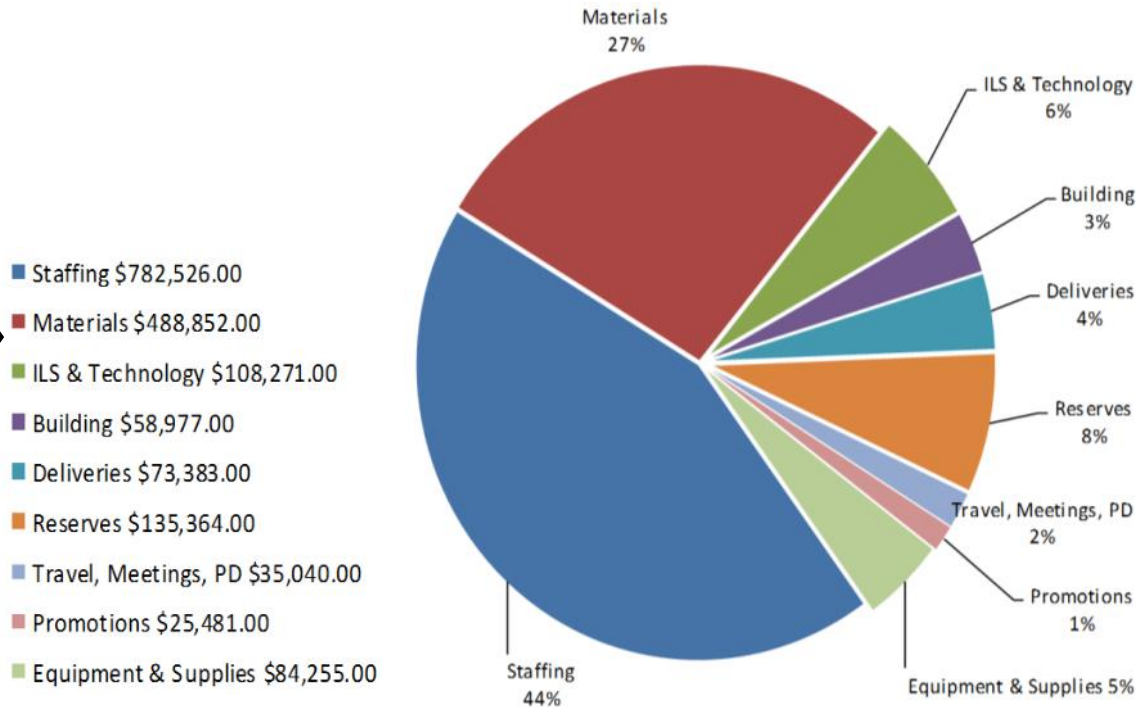
The size of the collections of our member libraries is smaller than 2010 because libraries have weeded their collections for worn out, outdated & inaccurate mate-

813,244

The total number of library items that were checked out by Southeast Albertans in 2011!



EXPENSES = \$1,792,149 = REVENUE





Just a few of the dedicated library staff of Southeast Alberta. Thanks to all these talented, hardworking people!

BACK ROW FROM LEFT: Stephanie Schranz *Graham Community (Ralston)*, Anita Chappell *Tilley Public*, Bonnie Bennett *Bassano Memorial*, Tracy Weinrauch *Redcliff Public*, Carol Ann Cross-Roen *Medicine Hat Public*, Joan Beutler *Foremost Municipal*. FRONT ROW FROM LEFT: Vanessa Plett *Rosemary Community*, Shannon Vanderloh *Duchess & District Public*, Shannon Vossepoel *Brooks Public*, Shelagh Bailey

SHORTGRASS MEMBER LIBRARIES

SHORTGRASS.CA

2375—10TH AVENUE S.W.
 MEDICINE HAT, AB
 T1A 8G2
 P: 403.529.0550
 F: 403.528.2473
 E: info@shortgrass.ca
 W: www.shortgrass.ca



- Bassano Memorial Library
- Bow Island Municipal Library
- Brooks Public Library
- Duchess & District Public Library
- Foremost Municipal Library
- Medicine Hat Public Library
- Alcoma Community Library (Rainier)
- Graham Community Library (Ralston)
- Redcliff Public Library
- Rolling Hills Public Library
- Rosemary Community Library
- Tilley Public Library

RESOURCEFUL BY NATURE