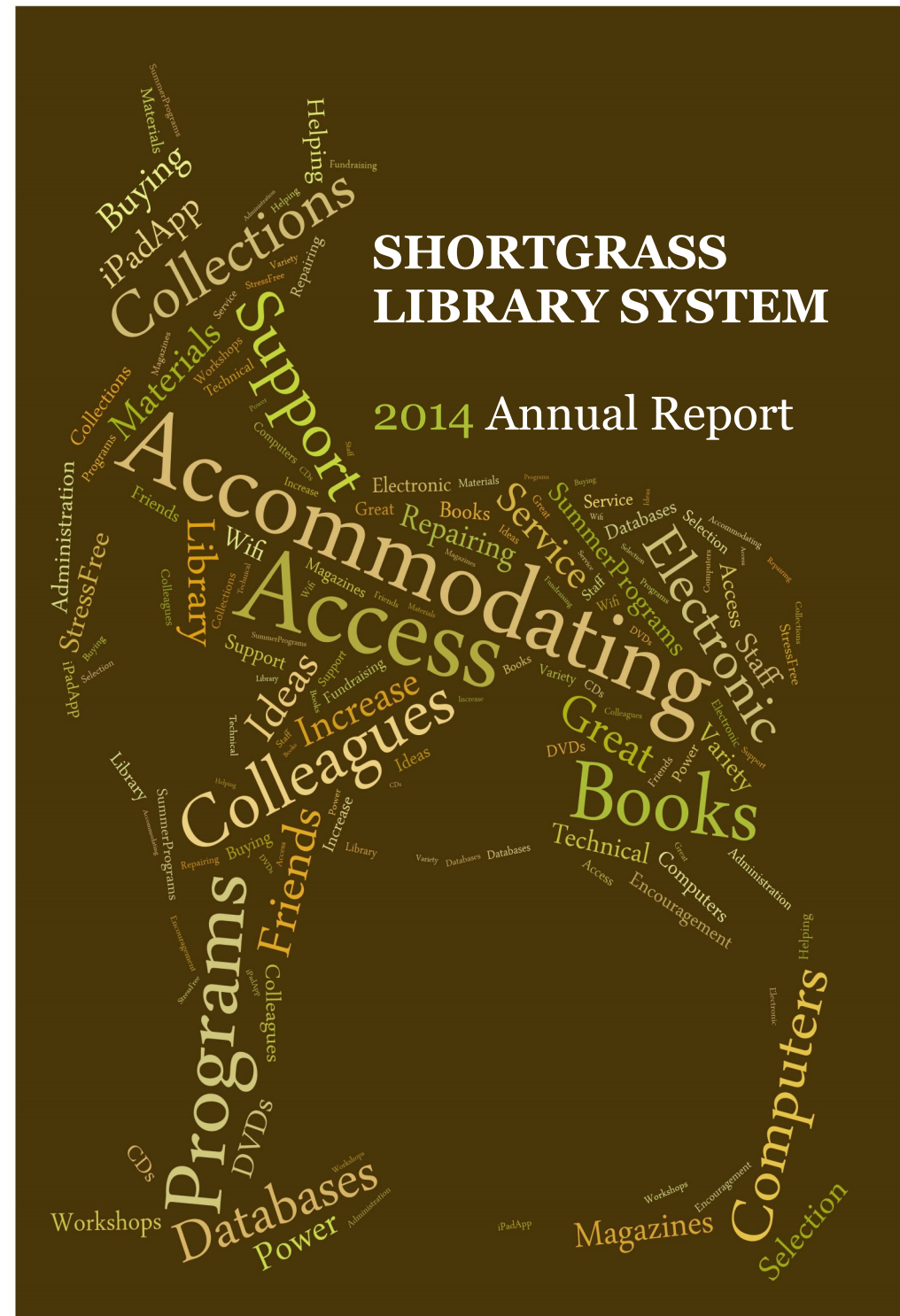
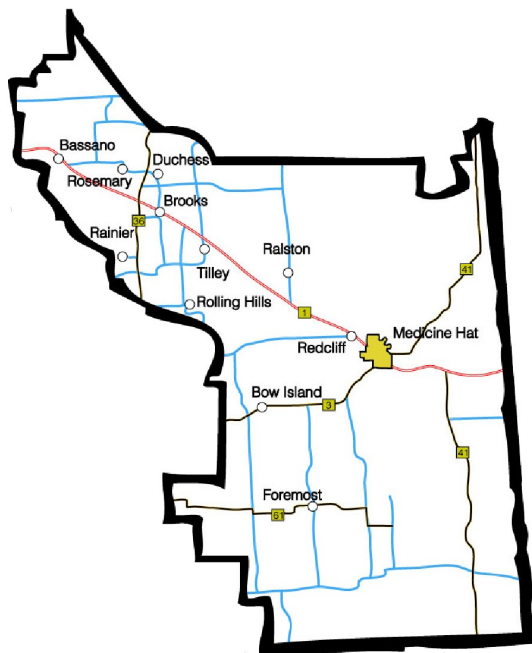




2375—10th Ave SW
 Medicine Hat, AB
 T1A 8G2
 P: 403.529.0550
 F: 403.528.2473
 E: info@shortgrass.ca
 W: www.shortgrass.ca

Our Member Libraries

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



A Message from the Chair

Greetings from the Shortgrass board and a thank you to all for making 2014 a successful and interesting year. The year started with the introduction of the ME card to allow library access across Alberta with your local membership. In June hoopla was introduced to allow patron streaming of books, videos and music. The board has approved funds to extend this program as well as Zinio which was introduced in 2013. A dark cloud in the year was the discontinuation of the RISE funding and now individual libraries must decide if they want to continue the program on their own. A one time IT capacity fund was created by the board and all member libraries took advantage of it to enhance or update their resources.

Shortgrass also had many new faces this year. Dörte Maasch was our German foreign exchange student, Aaron Dalla-Longa took over as system administrator, Chris Field is our new manager of technology services and Emma Stewart is our new shared intern. Thank you to Levi, Anton and Jordan for their contributions to Shortgrass.

A thank you also goes out to our retiring board member Kathy Herman, who left us in June after 9 years of dedicated service to library system. I'm sure she is still involved in keeping libraries a vital part of our communities.

Thanks again and let's look forward to a great 2015.

—Dwight Kilpatrick
Chair, Shortgrass Board of Trustees



Shortgrass by the Numbers

103,378

Population served in south-eastern Alberta

205,744

Total website hits (including all member libraries)

797,281

Total catalogue hits

388,340

Number of items in catalogue

24,608

Number of items processed

29,637

Wireless internet sessions

3,737

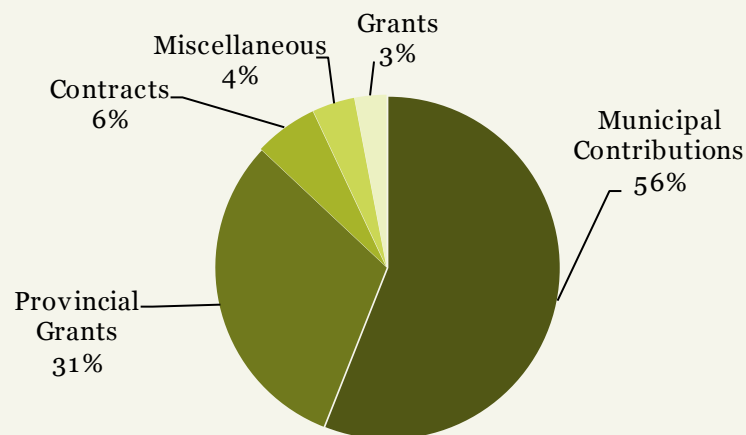
Number of delivery stops

760,003

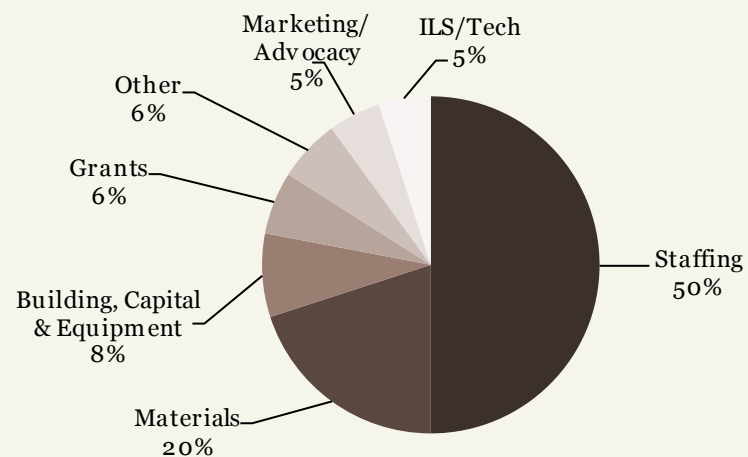
Total items circulated

Shortgrass by the Numbers—Financials

2014 Revenue (\$1,705,786)



2014 Expenses (\$1,607,844)



Shortgrass Board of Trustees 2014

Left to Right: Ernest Mudie, Craig Widmer, Dwight Kilpatrick, Kevin Jones, Norm Gerestein, Celina Symmonds, Don Borrowman, Shannyn Creary, Marjorie Moncrieff, Petra Mauerhoff

Not Pictured: Kathi Herman, Kelly Christman, Yoko Fujimoto, Brent Burton



Shortgrass Staff 2014

Left to Right: Chris Massini, Jordan DeSousa, Petra Mauerhoff, Dyan Bryska, Jackie Hope-Hammel, Phyllis Worrall, Norman Stewart, Keltie McGregor, Peter Albano, Val Ogden, Peggy Curthoys, Levi Millington

Not Pictured: Blaine Heglund, Chris Field, Aaron Dall-Longa, Dörte Maasch, Emma Stewart

Key Happenings

To assist with technology related purchases, the Shortgrass Library System Board of Trustees approved a \$1,400.00 IT Capacity Grant for each member library, in order to help offset costs that were formerly covered by the C@P (Community Access Program) Grant which was discontinued in 2012. This grant allowed member libraries to upgrade some of their technology hardware and libraries were able to replace everything from projectors to public computers, as well as purchase tablets for patron use.

2014 was the year of hoopla! Public Library Services Branch provided generous funding to make hoopla available in all public libraries in the province of Alberta and Shortgrass was able to begin enjoying this benefit in June. hoopla provides thousands of titles of streaming movies, television series, audiobooks, and music and has grown in popularity, becoming a great success in our region.

In the fall, Shortgrass started experimenting with paid/boosted Facebook posts and, as a result, we saw a significant overall increase in the activity and patron engagement on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/shortgrasslibsystem). This increased exposure helped us grow from having 125 page “likes” in the beginning of October 2014, to 415 “likes” by the end of 2014. Targeted Facebook advertising has been helping us spread the word on member library specific programs and services, as well as system-wide programs and services, across the south eastern Alberta region at a minimal cost.

Key Happenings

Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) also generously supported our online magazine subscription by paying the platform fee, which is almost equal to the subscription fee for our current 50+ titles. We appreciate the continued support that we receive from PLSB in all forms, and particularly in the form of providing assistance with online resources, which are much valued by many library patrons.

Early 2014 brought a lot of turn-over in our Technology Department, with both Anton Chuppin, Manager of Library Technology Services and Levi Millington, our Systems Administrator, moving on to new positions. Chris Field and Aaron Dalla-Longa came in to fill the positions respectively and both have stepped up to the plate and are doing great jobs in their positions.

From March to June 2014, Shortgrass Library System hosted our first-ever Exchange Student Librarian from Germany. Dörte Maasch came from Darmstadt, Germany and spent her three months at Shortgrass working with (and for) member libraries on advocacy efforts, including the poetry month initiative, creating a video for Bow Island Municipal Library and assisting with Zinio promotions. After the success of having Dörte with us, we hope to be able to host more Library Exchange Students in the future.