NEWS&Notes

Summer Reading 2021!

Are you ready for this year's summer reading club program?

Many of our libraries are participating in the TD Summer Reading Club, Canada's biggest, bilingual summer reading program for kids of all ages, all interests, and all abilities. Their website has recommended reads, program and activity ideas, illustrations, templates and much more! You'll find the tools you need to help plan your program at https://www.tdsummerreadingclub.ca/staff/home.

Whether you're taking part in TDSRC or running an independent program, we can't wait to see what your library does this summer!

Developed by   In partnership with   Title sponsor

Peace Library System   TD Summer Reading Club   tpl: toronto public library   Library and Archives Canada   Bibliothèque et Archives Canada   TD READY COMMITMENT

>> From the CEO

As we move into our second COVID summer, I hope we all are able to enjoy some vacation time, even if it's just a stay-cation. The more normal things get, with vaccination rates going up and infection rates going down, the more I hope we are getting closer to being able to open libraries back up to our patrons.

Louisa Robison

But that doesn't mean that everything we've learned and implemented over the last fifteen months has to be shelved. What service modifications have you made, and which ones can continue beyond a return to 'normality'?

Curbside service is an excellent start. Access for those with disabilities is one thing, but the benefit of being able to stay in your car if you're just there for your holds goes beyond those with physical impairments. People who have difficulty with bright lights, noisy environments, interactions with strangers, and even parents with cranky toddlers in the car may all appreciate the ability to have someone deliver their items to the car. I know I appreciate so much being able to order my groceries and not having to go into the store; I hope retail stores continue that service.

Virtual programming is hard. In a time when everyone is on their screens – school, work, entertainment – trying to engage in yet another Zoom meeting is a chore. Virtual storytime just doesn't have the same feel. But for libraries with patrons in far-flung regions, getting to town for the programs doesn't always happen, and having a virtual option may be a way to increase user engagement. Of course, it does require a good, stable, and fast internet connection, but hopefully within a few years that will be the reality for rural as well as urban residents. (I'm rooting for Elon Musk's satellite network but I'll take whatever can get me a good enough speed for lag-free Marvel movies!) The up-front costs for the needed technology can also be prohibitive, it's true. But keeping virtual programming as an option may be something to keep in mind for the future.

eResources have been a huge hit while everyone is stuck at home, and the usage statistics prove that out. eBooks will never replace physical books, just like television didn't replace radio and radio didn't replace newspapers. New technologies are just folded into the system to complement the rest of the resources, and I love that as a library user myself I have so many options now for how I want to consume my content. Of course, eResources were popular before the pandemic as well, but the last year has shown us that as much as we can invest in subscribing to eResources for our libraries and their patrons, it will never be enough. The demand always increases. That is in fact one of the areas for which we need your input in our Plan of Service surveys, where you would like us to put money into eResources – books, magazines, audiobooks, streaming services, etc. As we move hopefully into an era where libraries can reopen and patrons don't have to rely on remote services, we will still be putting money into buying eResources. We expect users to integrate their usage of eResources into their library consumption alongside physical resources, not forsaking one for the other. The crash course in eResources may have been a little traumatic for users at the outset, but hopefully it will improve the users' experiences in the long run.

The upcoming closing of the Online Reference Centre is a blow not just to schools but to homeschoolers as well. As well, the loss of the large amount of audiobooks when RBDigital went to Overdrive, with no comparable replacements, was a bit of a shock for us all. And now we've heard that the Government of Alberta is no longer going to be supporting the platform fee for the eMagazines that were moved over to Overdrive. Hopefully that won't impact the cost for the eMagazines as they are already on a platform we pay for, but these decisions are being made without input from the library community and it makes our lives more difficult when we think we've got a stable price and then we find… we don't. We will keep plugging away to make sure we have the most and best content we can at a price we can continue to pay, as well as looking into sharing agreements with other systems in order to expand the available on-demand and "lucky-day" content.

In the mean time, the sun is out and the weather is warm. I wish you all a good summer!

Louisa Robison
CEO

What's trending in books

WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION

The UK's most prestigious annual book award celebrating & honouring fiction written by women nominates for its 2021 prize:

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett
Piranesi by Susanna Clarke
Unsettled Ground by Claire Fuller
Transcendent Kingdom by Yaa Gyasi
How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps Her House by Cherie Jones
No One Is Talking About This by Patricia Lockwood

AMAZON.ca FIRST NOVEL AWARD FINALISTS

The First Novel Award recognizes outstanding literary achievements by first-time Canadian authors:

Butter Honey Pig Bread by Francesca Ekwuyasi
Five Little Indians by Michelle Good
Happy Hour by Marlowe Granados
You are Eating an Orange. You are Naked. by Sheung-King
Gutter Child by Jael Richardson
Vanishing Monuments by John Elizabeth Stintzi

ARTHUR ELLIS AWARDS: BEST CRIME NOVEL FINALISTS

The Crime Writers of Canada present their annual Arthur Ellis Awards for excellence in Canadian crime writing. Their nominees for this year's best crime novel are:

How a Woman Becomes a Lake by Marjorie Celona
The Historians by Cecilia Ekbäck
The Finder: A Novel by Will Ferguson
Obsidian by Thomas King
Hurry Home by Roz Nay

News & Notes

News & Notes is your quarterly professional guide to news, services and connection with the staff at PLS.

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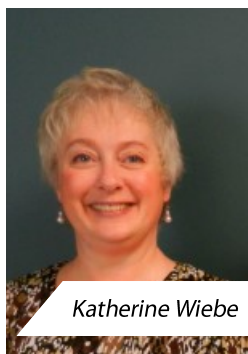
Katherine Wiebe

We have many things on the go at Peace Library System and we are all anticipating when libraries will be open in-person, again. We applaud all the library staff, as you creatively provide services at a distance, virtually, and through curbside.

PLS is diving into a planning year in preparation for creating our 2022-2024 Plan of Service. Covid-19 and distancing has presented some unique challenges and uncertainty, but we forge ahead. In April we held four virtual focus groups attended by about half of our libraries and a few board members. The conversations and information gleaned helped us to create a survey, which was recently sent out to all our libraries to help us reach everyone and get your input. The deadline to complete the survey is June 7 – a bit of a quick turnaround time. We request one survey from each library, so please gather your staff and board members and share your responses with us! We hope every library will participate!

The Radon Screening Kits program launched October 1, 2020 and had a good initial run through April 30 2021, as awareness and interest grew among Peace region residents who borrowed the kits through your libraries. Through the Alberta Lung Association, which obtained a grant from Health Canada, we were able to place 18 kits in libraries in our region, and they were available to be interlibrary loaned to all residents in the Peace. The radon screening kits can only circulate between October 1 – April 30, as this is when radon readings in people's homes are the most accurate. The kits have now been switched to Unavailable in Polaris, but they will be active again starting October 1. We hope interest in their use will continue to grow. Radon exposure is the second highest cause of lung cancer after smoking. Thank you for promoting the kits!

Summer programming is just around the corner and participating libraries were sent their TD-Summer Reading Club program materials in mid-May. We anticipate the prizes will arrive from Hannah Promotions in early June and we will get them sorted and sent out right away.

To help with everyone's summer reading, take a look at the helpful booklists organized by catchy topics and the Readers' Advisory graphics by genre that Emma and Samm have compiled on the PLS website. www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/Training-Toolkit/Technology-Training/Website-Management/Book-Lists and at www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/Training-Toolkit/Library-Basics/Reading-Recommendation-Ideas. There's something for everyone!

Interlibrary loaning through Relais is consistently busy, even though many academic libraries are still not lending, which is causing some frustration. Barb reports that we are averaging around 350 loan requests and 150 borrowing requests each month.

Behind the scenes we are also working on creating new rotating blocks of collections as well as more STEAM and videogame kits. Watch for these as they roll out later this year – learn more about them at www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/Our-Services/Blocks-and-Kits.

If we can help with anything at all please drop us an email or give us a call.

Happy spring from the Consulting Services Department.

Katherine Wiebe
Consulting Services Manager and Deputy CEO

Stronger Together Returns Fall 2021

Join us from September 22 - 24, 2021 as we become Stronger Together.

The Alberta Library, Parkland Regional Library System, Peace Library System, & Yellowhead Regional Library are pleased to announce the return of their joint conference Stronger Together for 2021.

Right now the conference committee is in the midst of building the conference program, and are very excited about the speakers we're currently lining up to present sessions. This will include a great preconference session on leadership, 2 Albertan keynote speakers, and a wealth of knowledgeable library professionals from around the province and beyond.

Some of the topics you can look forward to hearing about at the conference include library technology and makerspaces; library governance and leadership; post-pandemic reintegration; and diversity and inclusivity.

We can't wait to let you know all the details, and to share the sponsors and vendors who will be helping support the conference!

Registration will again be free to all to attend, and will open on July 30th.

Stay up to date with all our conference news by following us on Facebook and Twitter, or visit our website to learn more at strongertogether2021.heysummit.com.

On our website you can also sign up for the email notification list to be alerted when registration opens, so make sure to check that out!

>> The Battle for Privacy

Ryan Goff

You've likely heard this before: if a business provides a service and it's free, it means you are the product. While we are lucky to live in an age of immensely powerful platforms and tools such as Facebook and Google, attention needs to be brought to the topic of data usage and privacy. At the end of the day, these "free" services are run by large corporations and will always lean towards pleasing their shareholders when faced with difficult decisions on user privacy vs the bottom line. This has a negative impact on the end user, typically in the form of inappropriate sharing and/or the mismanaging of data.

Since (almost) no one wants to live completely off the grid, we need to look in the mirror and realize that protecting our data and privacy is ultimately our responsibility. The first thing people must think about is how much information they are willing to share. Maybe you are ok sharing direct information or pictures of yourself, but want to keep your children and grandchildren out of the spotlight. Maybe it involves removing or limiting detailed personal information from public profiles, like your date of birth or marital status. It could also take the form of limiting what you post, like, or subscribe to. At the end of the day, there are numerous ways we can control what data we present to these services. While we cannot control everything these platforms do, limiting what these services have access to is critical for protecting our own privacy.

All the data you provide these services gets fed into algorithms that build profiles on everything from your shopping habits to political beliefs. While this can be helpful when it comes to grabbing something quickly off Amazon, it can lead to things like the Cambridge Analytica scandal. Next time you see an online targeted post or advertisement, think to yourself why you received that specific content. It may just be the nudge you need to take more control over your online profiles and safeguard the things that are important to you.

Ryan Goff
Desktop & Network Administrator

>> Tech Services Tidbits

Subject Headings

What are subject headings? Throughout history, once information is recorded in a document, people then need to be able to find and retrieve that information. A subject heading uses controlled vocabulary that provides a system to search for subjects or topics that describe what a document is about. This is in contrast to what may be called "natural language" terms or wording, since different people may use different words in an everyday conversation.

Since subject headings use a specific set of terms, they are developed and entered by specific organizations. In the library world the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. is one of the main organizations that develops subject headings. Then, in Alberta, regional library offices provide catalog records that use those subject headings.

Having set terms or controlled vocabulary was most useful when everything was on paper and documents were stored in physical locations. With computers any word can be searched anyplace in a document. So now we can do a "keyword" search (using "natural language" words) and find the word we enter not just in a title but in any part of a record or document in a computer.

When looking things up in a library it is best to search both ways. Start by doing a keyword search then look at some of the records that you find and see what subject headings are in those records. Then click on a subject heading to see the list of items linked to it. The keyword search will likely find items not under the subject heading and the subject heading will likely list items not found by the keyword search. Just as computer technology will continue to change since it will never be "complete", the ways we search for information within a computer will change since the information we enter will never be "complete".

An example is if a child is looking for a story involving pigs he or she will look for the word pigs. The actual Library of Congress Subject Heading is "Swine Juvenile fiction". So if a person does a keyword search for "pigs" you will find a list of titles. Then when you look at a specific record you will find one of the subject headings is "Swine Juvenile fiction" so you can look up all records that contain that subject heading. By doing both searches you will get the most complete list of items for that topic.

Dennis Sheppard
Cataloguer

>> From the IT Desk
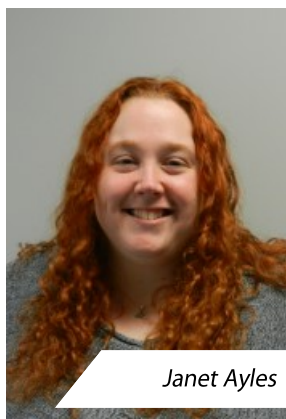
Janet Ayles

Planning for Technology

Does your library have a Technology Plan?

Yes? Great!

No? You really should have one.

Not quite sure what a Technology Plan is? I can help with that.

The short answer is that a Technology Plan is a wonderful tool to help you organize when technology should be replaced and when to budget for purchases.

The longer answer is that it is a comprehensive report listing what technology you have in your library (including info on when it was purchased, warranty, specs, etc), when it should be replaced, and estimation costs for your budget.

So now that I've sold you on the idea of a Technology Plan are you wondering about how to create one? Good news! I can help.

Once you've decided to create your Technology Plan, I will:

Come out to your library and complete a full inventory of your in-house technology. After all, in order to know what needs replacing, you need to know what you've got.

Create a replacement schedule for the technology in your library.

Create an estimated budget for your new technology.

Present you with a lovely and comprehensive plan (while still leaving some spaces for you to add information about your own local history, mission or vision statements, etc) that you can share with your board or local council.

If you would like to move ahead with creating a Technology Plan, please reach out to me and we can get it started.

Polaris

If you have noticed that Polaris seems a little sluggish when updating the item records in your collection, you are not alone.

Unfortunately, there is a small glitch with Polaris 6.7. When updating records (item, bibliographic, and to a lesser extent, patron), Polaris looks at the holds queue to reconfirm that the holds are still okay and can be filled. In theory, it's a pretty cool feature. In reality, it causes a whole lot of congestion and affects the performance of Polaris.

We have applied a patch to Polaris which seems to have helped. However, it's not a perfect solution and we're looking at upgrading to the next version of Polaris, where we have been assured this problem is fixed, some time this summer. Once we have a date and more information, we'll let you know.

Record Sets

Are you a user of record sets? Do you delete your record sets when done? Or are you like me, keeping them long past their usefulness?

Record sets are great tools, but like all things in Polaris, sometimes they require cleaning. When deleting record sets, it's important to remember that they are like item records and need to be double deleted in order to fully purge them from Polaris.

If you want to check on your record sets with a deleted status, open the find tool (Cataloguing -> Record Sets). Change the Limit by to Record Status and select Deleted. Under For, just put an asterisk. It will bring up all record sets you have access to that have a deleted status.
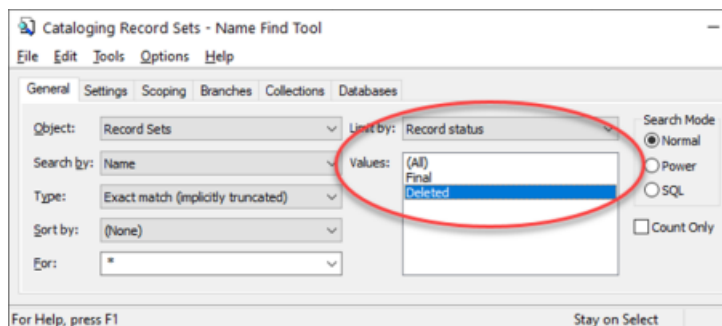
Once you have your list of deleted record sets, this is your opportunity to clean house.

Open up a record set you wish to delete. Look for the X in the toolbar at the top to delete (Not to be confused with the Undelete button which is the X on the right with the red).
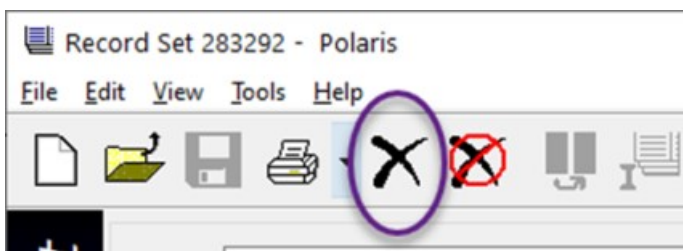
There are times where you may need a deleted record set, but overall, it's a good idea to keep that to a minimum. Don't be like me; clean your record sets!

Janet Ayles
IT and Technical Services Manager

by Clayton Tiro-Burns, Information Services Assistant, Grande Prairie Public Library

There and Back Again, or, Graduating and Finding Work During a Pandemic

In 2018, I left my secure office job in Grande Prairie, Alberta to pursue my dream of working in a library, enrolling in the Library and Information Technology (LIT) program at Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC). 2020 seemed like a great year to graduate, mostly because of the symmetry and the puns, and the year began with a lot of promise. But that quickly changed.

In my final year in the program, things felt like they were lining up perfectly. Graduation from the LIT program depended on successfully completing a five-week work placement, and I had been placed in a position that seemed perfect for me. They even suggested that it would likely become a contract position which could become permanent. Yes, things in February of 2020 were looking great in my limited worldview.

Everyone reading this knows the next part of the story: COVID-19 shut down everything, including the library I had arranged to do my placement at. That was no longer going to be a possibility.

With so much uncertainty at the time, NSCC decided work placements would be optional for 2020, but they'd try and find virtual placements for those still interested in gaining experience. I ended up working for a museum, cataloguing their genealogy library to the best of my abilities without physical access to the collection itself. It was unable to translate into a paid position, but it was great practical experience and a way to hone my skills in a non-traditional setting.

Once I graduated, it was time to start my unpaid full-time job: finding work. After a few weeks of fruitless searching in Nova Scotia, I decided to expand my search nationwide. I'd moved before, I could do it again. Surprisingly, one of the first postings I saw was at the Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL). I'd lived there for years, and I seemed to be qualified for it even as a new graduate. I felt like it was almost too good to be true.

Unfortunately, I never heard back, and I had to move on to my next prospect. This was a trend that continued for a while, and one of the discouraging parts is just the uncertainty of why you don't hear back. Is it my cover letter or resume? Is it because I'm a new grad? Is it because I'd have to move across the country during a pandemic?

I had applied to numerous positions without word over the course of a few months of lockdown before needing to move to Calgary for family reasons. Even so, I was still looking nationwide at this point, primarily searching using Indeed and The Partnership Job Board. More positions were coming up, but so many of them were casual, or part-time with minimal hours. I needed experience, but I also needed something stable. It may have been asking a bit much to start, but with how the world was going that year, I needed the stability.

Fortunately, once I was back in Alberta, I started getting interviews. For each one, I wanted to be as prepared as possible. I had a list of common interview questions for library positions, and I'd written out examples for each one using the PAR (Problem, Action, Result) method and rehearsed them, focusing on what competency the question was asking about. I contacted student services at NSCC, as well as my work placement supervisor, and they helped with doing practice interviews online. They weren't panel interviews like each of the actual interviews would be, but the feedback was of tremendous value.

One interview seemed to have gone quite well, but another candidate had more experience. Another had technical issues right off the bat, which seemed to set the tone for the rest of the interview. Another they weren't deciding on the candidate until sometime later, but they'd let me know.

Many positions I'd applied to were still out of province, though there was one that had come up soon after I'd arrived that seemed promising. It was another position at GPPL. This time I got the interview and was offered the position soon after. It was happening, I'd made it!

When I left Grande Prairie, I wasn't sure if or when I'd ever be back. You never really know where your career path is going to take you, but I'm very happy to be back and working for GPPL. It's been an amazing opportunity to utilize the skills I learned in school, but also humbling as a learning experience. Being a part of this organization as we navigate this pandemic has shown me how dedicated and flexible everyone is – traits I'd already associated with library staff but that have been actively put on display during this time.

The past year has been difficult in so many ways for so many people, and considering all of the circumstances surrounding us, I know that I'm truly lucky to be here and to have been given this opportunity. I also know that I still have a lot to learn. But, honestly, what better place to learn than a library?

Around the System...

Grimshaw Municipal Library

20 days of cash and prizes, all leading up to the Thursday before the May long weekend, with 20 chances to win for only $20 a calendar – what a deal!

The Friends of the Grimshaw Municipal Library brought back the very successful Countdown to Camping Cash Calendar for May 2021 (after postponing it in spring 2020, when the world paused), and received amazing interest and support from the community. Library staff provided administrative support (displaying the prizes, posting photos on library social media, selling calendars at our curbside service, etc) while Friends of the Library sold the 500 calendars wherever and however they could. Having the option to e-transfer funds made a huge difference, as many sellers said they were happy not to have to deal with large amounts of cash.

This calendar had all the exciting features of a standard cash calendar (one ticket, many chances, winning names go back in the tub) plus the addition of camping related items as daily prizes. Local businesses and individuals donated games, tents, beer, dishes, toques, and many other camping necessities, and were recognized on our website, Facebook, Instagram, with signage in the library, on the calendar itself, and in the Facebook Live events for the daily draws. Winners' names were posted daily on Facebook after the live video, and displayed in the windows of the library, using the highly technical method of foam display boards, and bingo dabbers!

What worked well for this fundraiser was the repetition. 20 days, 20 prizes, for $20, was easy for sellers to remember and to promote. Pictures of the prizes were posted during the selling period every day at noon for 20 days (yay for scheduled posts!) and then the draws were made live at noon, too, so people got into the habit of "tuning in" at that time. What was learned from this fundraiser is the importance of having a backup video in case Facebook Live is uncooperative… Also, stirring paper numbers in a plastic tub in a room with almost zero humidity makes the numbers stick together, and to the sides of the tub, so the Friends are looking at other options for future draws. Finally, while the main purpose of the fundraiser was to raise funds, the daily draws ended up bringing our Friends of the Library out from their behind the scenes roles, and that raised interest in joining the Friends group, so they got volunteers out of the deal, too!

—**Submitted by Vivianne Gayton, Grimshaw Municipal Library**

More from around the *System…*

Rotary Club of Slave Lake Municipal Library

Currently at the Slave Lake Library we continue to offer our online videos and programs, as well as our take and make craft bags that we change out weekly.

We have also made some special take home kits like our Mother's Day Self Care Kit (included crayons, coloring sheets, chocolates, tea, hot chocolate, positive affirmations, candles, and a bath bomb), or our May the Fourth Activity Kit (included poster, bookmark, stickers, craft, coloring/ activity sheets, and an inflatable lightsaber).

In June, we are planning to run a Plant Swap outside our curbside pickup doors. Patrons can leave a plant and take a plant. We will provide some tomato plants, and various seeds as well as a gardening themed craft bag for children to take home. This will run for National Gardening week, June 7-11.

In our downtime from planning our kits and events, we managed to find our way into our local community sign war as well.

—**Submitted by Kendra McRee, Rotary Club of Slave Lake Municipal Library**

Menno Simons Community Library

There is not much new in Menno Land here. We are open for curbside only and are happy about the orders for books that are dropped off by paper, phone, or texts, or in person at the door. We have our pick-up basket full with items that came in.

Students are coming back this week and that will keep our work going. Other than that I am busy with our main fundraiser, our Community Calendar, which requires extra work this year as we are switching printers and there is lots of prep work to do.

When I do have time I am working hard on our Summer Reading Club with adaptations for in person or take-home options since we don't know what is going to be allowed.

So we are hoping for a fun summer full of fun reads and great activities.

—**Submitted by Bettina Worrall, Menno Simons Community Library**

High Prairie Municipal Library

Here are some of our recent grab and go kits.

For Mother's Day, we had old teacups and saucers donated from the second hand stores in town. We bought dirt and pansy bedding plants for the kids to plant for mom.

We also did a fairy house kit last month, so this month we followed up with a fairy garden kit.

—**Submitted by Tracy Ireland, High Prairie Municipal Library**

McLennan Municipal Library

In March, Mayor Michele Fournier presented retiring Library Board Chair Philippa O'Mahony with a certificate and flowers to thank her for over 30 years of library service to our community.

Also, check out our Walk-a-block Tales project! We partnered with Ecole Providence School and put pages of a book in shop windows so that parents and children can walk from shop to shop to read the story. This promotes literacy, family bonding, fresh air, and exercise.

—**Maureen Fisher, McLennan Municipal Library**

Even more from around the *System*!

Smith Community Library

Smith Library has been making take home kids crafts. I post the craft online every second week with instructions on how to make them, then I make up take home supply kits for the young patrons to pick up curbside at our library. So far it has been going very well; they seem to be enjoying the activity.

In the first week of June the library is having a plant and seed swap. This will of course be done with social distancing and will be a visitor-staggered outdoor event.

With no patrons coming into our library I am having time to do an extensive weeding as well as re-organizing the books on the shelves.

—**Ruth Reay, Smith Community Municipal Library**

Bonanza & Savanna Municipal Library

Bonanza Municipal Library and Savanna Municipal Library held a Mothers Day Draw.

The lucky winners each won a gift certificate to a local nursery in our community.

Here is a happy mother who sent along a photo of thanks and appreciation!

—**Submitted by Michele Kettles, Bonanza Municipal Library**

Peace River Municipal Library

Our Grab & Go contact free pickup is bustling with pickups for books and programming kits. Our devoted library technician has been busy conducting a weed of our adult fiction, which has allowed us to set up Free Little Libraries at two local businesses.

Things are picking up in programs. This spring we offered Mothers' Day care packages, and premiered two new partnerships, celebrating World Bee Day with Fabulas & Honey Bunny in Falher, and World Migratory Bird Day with the support of Maureen at the McLennan Municipal Library!

Just as we wrap up Virtual Story Time our program coordinator & new summer reading club coordinator are hard at work planning virtual fun for summer. In addition to running a Virtual TD Summer Reading Club, we are preparing for some favourites, including Harry Potter's Birthday and Free Comic Book Day (rescheduled to August).

With June around the corner, we have plans A & B for our Annual Indigenous Art Show. We are currently accepting art and plan to display the pieces we receive, in hopes that (Plan A) we will be open by end of June. We are also prepared to offer a virtual art show through our social media as needed (Plan B). This year, we will also be offering a take home kit to mark National Indigenous Peoples Day, celebrated on Monday, June 21, 2021.

Finally, in April our board passed bylaw amendments to eliminate late fees. The bylaws were accepted by Peace River Town Council on April 26th. We believe this move will reduce barriers to access and improve our patrons' library experiences. We have been working diligently to let our patrons know about the changes, and are looking forward to the positive changes to come!

—**Submitted by Channing Stenhouse, Peace River Municipal Library**
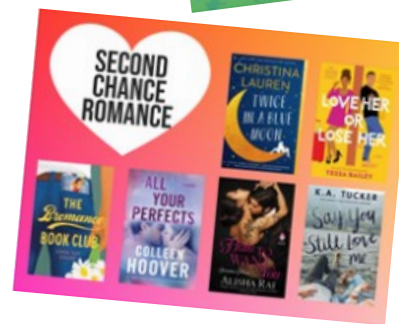
>> Creating RA Graphics

Samantha Mercer

Actively offering reading recommendations has never been more important, especially during the pandemic when libraries are physically closed But even when things go back to "normal," posting reading recommendations on your social media and website is a great way to continue serving patrons who do not or cannot come into the library to browse or who are just not comfortable asking staff face to face for suggestions!

There's no one right way to make reading recommendation graphics, but it could be an unfamiliar task for staff. With that in mind, here are some ideas to get you started.

If you're in need of inspiration for themes or books, consider:

- The time of year and upcoming holidays

- Input from patrons—what are people in your community reading?

- Upcoming book-to-film or book-to-TV adaptations

- Feelings or emotions—books that make you happy, or sad, or nostalgic

- Books in your library not circulating—beef up those stats!

- Books from your library with high holds

You can create your own graphics from scratch using LibraryAware with the help of NoveList to find books. You can also adapt an existing graphic already made in LibraryAware! They have a ton of premade templates you can use as is, or swap out a few books to highlight something else you have in the library.

If you're strapped for time, you can share lists made by book blogs, other libraries, publishers, magazines, and newspapers who regularly release suggestions based on what's going on in the world and pop culture. You can even share the graphics and lists from the Peace Library System socials and Reading Recommendation Ideas page.

Tips and tricks:

- Keep a sticky note or word doc of books or theme ideas that you can flesh out or create when you have the time.

- There's no harm in not finishing a graphic right away. Leave a graphic incomplete and come back to it later when you have the time or inspiration hits.

- Think ahead! Some things just explode unexpectedly in popularity and you can always adapt to trends that pop up, but you can also plan for people wanting summer reads in the warmer weather or for a desire of holiday fiction around December.

- There's no shame in repeating themes! Are your patrons big consumers of enemies to lovers fiction? Great! There are always new books coming out that feature this trope, so just update the graphic periodically to reflect new releases.

- Run the finished graphic by a co-worker or patron to make sure it's legible. I love fun fonts and colours but sometimes it can be distracting or too busy. Make sure the covers are big enough for patrons to see the title, etc.

- You are not expected to have read every single book or to be an expert in every genre you are recommending! Make use of tools like NoveList and GoodReads, and listen to opinions from co-workers and even patrons.

>> eResource Updates
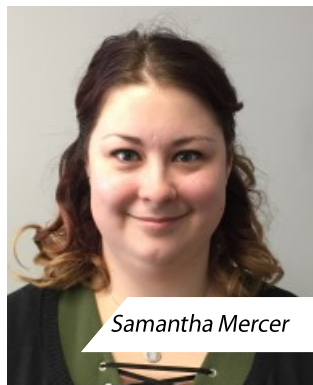
Samantha Mercer

We saw two major changes since the last eNewsletter: RBdigital's content was transferred to OverDrive, and Lynda.com rebranded as LinkedIn Learning!

Not much changed in terms of content in the transition from Lynda.com to LinkedIn Learning which is great news for you and patrons! The most notable changes to the site are the new different colour theme, and a larger multilingual catalogue which offers videos in English, French, German, Japanese, Spanish, Portuguese, and Simplified Chinese. Account history was transferred over to the new site so patrons don't have to start from scratch with their learning journey. More on page 16!
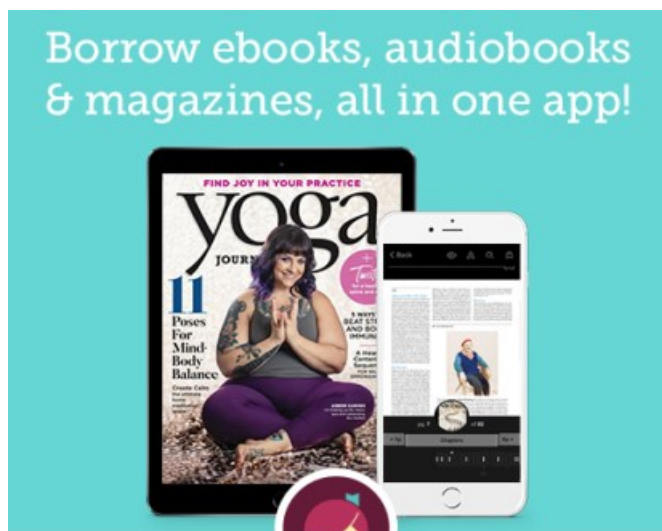

All of RBdigital's content has now been transferred onto OverDrive and the Libby app for OverDrive. It's great for patrons experiencing app fatigue, as they no longer need the RBdigital app—and the Libby app was already the app most used by our patrons. Patrons preferences such as auto-check outs of certain publications were unfortunately not transferred over to OverDrive, but OverDrive has introduced a way to set up notifications on publications. While new issues of your favourite magazines won't auto-check out, you will receive notifications that a new issue is available for you to borrow. Issues are available immediately just like before, but they are only borrowable for 3 weeks at a time. Patrons can keep checking out issues they like but they will not remain borrowed on your account the way they did on RBdigital. Checking out eMagazines on OverDrive also does not count towards your borrowing limit of 10 eBooks and eAudiobooks.

Around the same time as the transition of the eMagazine issues onto OverDrive, we were informed that OverDrive was not offering the same eAudiobook catalogue for simultaneous use that RBdigital had. Unfortunately, this means we lost thousands of titles without notice. We hope to be able to repurchase those in-demand titles where possible.

If you were unable to attend my eResource webinars in April, you can access the webinar recordings on the staff Niche Academy or contact smercer@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca to set up a live webinar.

8301-110 Street
Grande Prairie, AB
T8W 6T2
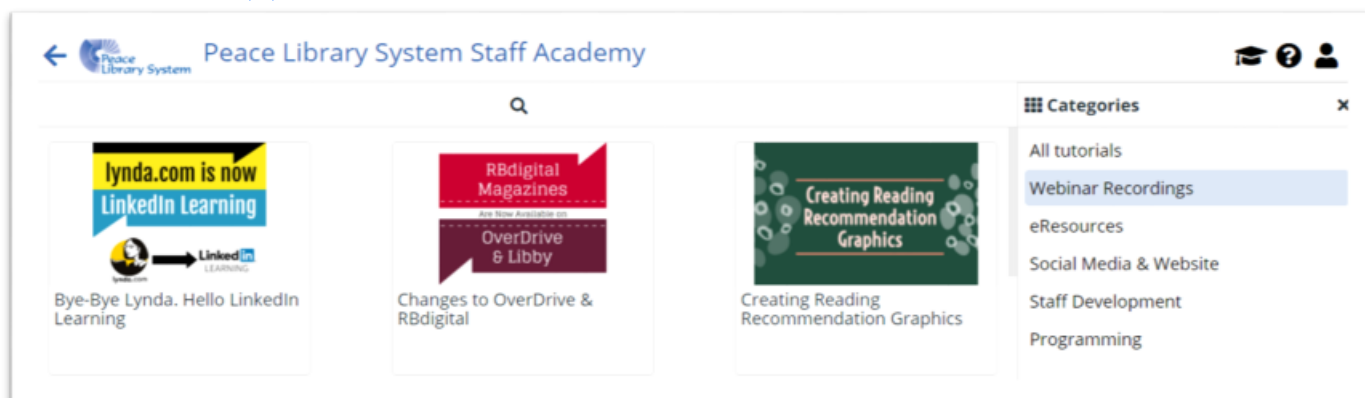
Peace Library System acknowledges Treaty 8 territory as well as the Métis Nation of Alberta. Peace Library System libraries are located on territory that provided a travelling route and home to many Indigenous peoples.

LinkedIn Learning

LinkedIn Learning isn't too different from its predecessor Lynda.com. But if you never used Lynda, this is a great opportunity for you to learn more about the platform and what it has to offer!

LinkedIn Learning has over 10,000 courses in its library taught by hundreds of professional instructors, and there are constantly new courses being added. It even has a course about itself!

To help you get the most from LinkedIn Learning, their instructors developed a short 43-minute course **How To Use LinkedIn Learning** to get you up and running. Learn how to find the best courses to take using their recommendations and search tools, explore learning paths, play and pause training videos, use transcripts and exercise files, and customize your learning experience.

Submit to News & Notes!

Submissions are welcome at any time and will be in the next newsletter. **Submissions from public and school libraries welcome!**

Please send photos and articles to Emma Stewart at estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

Please note: PLS email inboxes can only receive emails less than 10 MB in size. If you do not receive an email acknowledging that your submission was received, delivery may have been prevented due to file size. Please contact Emma Stewart.

Peace Library System's
events calendar

Peace Library System Board Meeting
Online
May 29, 2021, 10:30 am

MD of Smoky River/Village of Girouxville Advisory Committee Meeting
Online
June 1, 2021, 4:00 pm

MD of Spirit River Advisory Committee Meeting
Online
June 3, 2021, 10:00 am

Get Your Summer Read On Day
TD Summer Reading Club Launch Day
June 13-26, 2021

Peace Library System Executive Committee Meeting
TBA
July 24, 2021, 10:30 am

Stronger Together Virtual Conference
Registration Opens
July 31, 2021