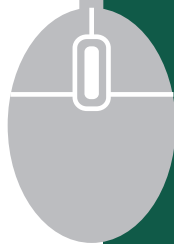


The
Alberta
Library



Annual Report
2003

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Now in its seventh year, The Alberta Library has matured into a strong, diverse organization, representing 278 multi-type libraries and affiliates across Alberta. Each member, each library contributes a vibrant perspective to the organization, a perspective that unleashes innovation.

Members recognize that membership in The Alberta Library has value: savings in database licensing, sharing of resources, cross-sector innovation and collaboration, the incubation of ideas into programs and services and advocacy that communicates the value of libraries to Albertans.

In 2003, five years of Knowledge Network concluded successfully. This legacy is an impressive record of highly innovative and successful projects such as TAL Online. The successor to Knowledge Network, the Academic Libraries Standing Committee, is using that legacy to continue multi-sectoral collaboration and innovation, beginning with the Linking Project.

Through participation in The Alberta Library, our province has become a model for others in using active participation to build capacity. The presentation of the Premier's Award of Excellence to APLEN and the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal to the "unsung heroes" who created the Lois Hole Library Legacy Program is recognition of our outstanding ability to increase the capacity of libraries to deliver excellence in programs and services.

We point with pride to the past seven years, where phenomenal growth has occurred through building a solid foundation for library collaboration and innovation. We continue to grow with a vibrancy that attracts recognition. The increased funding from Alberta Community Development is a vote of confidence in The Alberta Library's ability to deliver based on best practices. We are well positioned to meet the challenges of the future from a solid position of strength and the support of the library community.



Linda C. Cook
Chair, The Alberta Library

OUR VISION

Universal barrier-free access for all Albertans to information and ideas delivered in a dynamic model of cooperation extending beyond walls and beyond current levels of performance.

AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Alberta Library is funded through a combination of membership fees, cost-recovery services and grants from the Government of Alberta. Alberta Community Development provides funds to support the development of the Alberta Public Library Electronic Network (APLEN) and for collaboration, innovation and resource sharing among all types of libraries.

The Alberta Library extends sincere appreciation for the generous financial support and leadership provided by Alberta Community Development. The Alberta Library's relationship with the Strategic Information and Libraries Branch represents a unique partnership in which the library community delivers and implements initiatives embodied in the Ministry's Business Plan. This partnership is indicative of the support for innovation and excellence in providing library services to all Albertans.

The Alberta Library is especially appreciative of the support of the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Alberta Community Development, and his staff, whose efforts on behalf of libraries has been untiring.

The Alberta Library also gratefully acknowledges the generous financial support of:

- Industry Canada for its support for APLEN through the Community Access Program
- Alberta Learning for its support for the Online Reference Centre
- University of Alberta Libraries for facilities use by TAL Online
- University of Calgary Library for facilities use by The Alberta Library's Licensing staff

MEMBERSHIP

The Alberta Library has 44 members, representing 278 libraries and affiliates. Alberta Community Development, Strategic Information and Libraries, is a full member. The Alberta Public Library Administrators Council was welcomed as an affiliate member in 2003.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Alberta Library is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of its 44 members. The Executive Committee of the Board oversees the organization's finances and administration as well as establishes such committees as are needed to ensure member input and direction is provided to program development and delivery.

Revised membership criteria were approved. The Governance Committee completed a thorough review and revision of policies. The Finance Committee completed a revision of financial policies and the membership fee structure.

A new contribution agreement between Alberta Community Development and The Alberta Library recognized the continuing nature of APLEN and articulated the relationship with The Alberta Library.

RECOGNITION

The **Premier's Award of Excellence** was awarded to Alberta Community Development for achievements in "connecting Albertans to a world of information through public libraries". The Award recognizes superior client service and business excellence in the Alberta public service. All members of APLEN Committees from 1997 - 2001 were recognized in the Award.

The **Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal** was awarded to members of the Lois Hole Library Legacy Program Committee by the Honourable Lois Hole, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta. The medal commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II and is awarded to Canadians who have made a significant contribution to their fellow citizens, their community or to Canada.

ALBERTA PUBLIC LIBRARY ELECTRONIC NETWORK (APLEN)

APLEN develops library services that enhance Albertans' access to information, public access to the Internet, resource sharing and communication. APLEN serves the public library community in Alberta through node libraries. The APLEN Standing Committee is responsible for providing leadership and direction for program development. A new vision and purpose statement were developed in consultation with node libraries. The Standing Committee's Terms of Reference were revised to reflect the new contribution agreement.

Programs and projects include the SuperNet Readiness Project, Community Access Program, Web Awareness Program, Technology Training, the public awareness campaign and Visunet. APLEN also provides significant contributions to TAL Online, Subscriptions Alberta and Ask A Question. APLEN's achievements are integrated throughout this report.

KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

The Final Report for the Knowledge Network initiative was submitted to Alberta Learning. One of the recommendations of the report was that an ongoing standing committee of The Alberta Library be established to facilitate the continuation of collaboration and innovation that Knowledge Network embodied. Knowledge Network also developed and submitted a successful proposal to investigate a consortial model for link server solutions.

CORE BUSINESSES

1. RESOURCE SHARING

The **TAL Card** continues to assist library users in living the vision of barrier-free access to information. As a reciprocal borrowing program among member libraries, the TAL Card provides walk-in access to the collections of over 240 public, post secondary and special libraries across the province.

TAL Online provides online access to search over 25 million items in the catalogues of over 260 libraries across Alberta. TAL Online searches increased four percent in 2003 to 283,217, an average of 776 searches daily. Searches also increased in complexity as advanced searches rose by 41 percent to 31,213. A survey of all The Alberta Library member libraries identified the top three priorities for further development of TAL Online as integrated authentication, interlibrary loan functionality and maximizing search capability.

Ask A Question is an email virtual reference service available free to all Albertans. In 2003, Ask A Question evolved into a cross-sectoral service for post-secondary libraries and public libraries. Out of a total 5,729 question received by Ask A Question in 2003, 800 answers were the result of cross-sectoral staff collaboration. Most questions were answered the same day with less than 15 minutes of staff time required. The Knowledge Network Steering Committee developed a cost-sharing model for post-secondary participation in the Ask A Question service. As a result, Ask A Question is funded by APLEN and the participating post-secondary libraries.

Remote Patron Authentication (RPA) allows Albertans with a library card to access electronic databases remotely - online, anytime, anywhere. RPA usage increased 45 percent in 2003 for existing members. Eleven new libraries were added to the service last year.

2. CONTENT ENHANCEMENT

The Alberta Library coordinates the licensing of electronic information resources on behalf of its members. Negotiating licenses on a consortial scale has resulted in significant savings for member libraries, made products available to institutions that would be otherwise unable to license them and increased the number of electronic resources available overall.

Subscriptions Alberta is a “universal core” of licensed electronic information resources available to members. A member library survey of the Subscriptions Alberta program revealed that overall, members continue to support the concept of a ‘universal core’ of electronic subscriptions.

Licensing activity increased significantly in 2003. The number of consortial subscriptions available to member libraries increased by 40 percent to 70 products in 2003. The Alberta Library also negotiated database enhancement services including e-journal lists, MARC records and article linking. The Alberta Library continues to participate in fourteen database licenses through Consortia Canada.

The **Online Reference Centre**, an Alberta Learning initiative located on the LearnAlberta.ca website, provides a multimedia digital reference library for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 across the province. The Alberta Library receives a grant-in-aid from Alberta Learning to administer the licenses for the Online Reference Centre. Negotiations were completed for the addition of French language resources.

The **Alberta Virtual Library** is a proposed collection of electronic information resources available online to all Albertans. In pursuing the Alberta Virtual Library, a presentation was made to the Standing Policy Committee on Health and Community Living and a Virtual Library Demonstration project was delivered jointly with the Legislature Library and Micromedia ProQuest, whereby 18 electronic information resources were available to MLAs and their staff during the spring session of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

3. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

The **Netspeed 2003** Conference, held in Edmonton during Alberta Library Week, provided librarians, technical staff and trustees with the opportunity to explore new technologies in a highly connected world. Over 340 participants from public, post secondary, school and special libraries attended the conference.

A pre-conference session on “Linking Solutions” was sponsored by the Knowledge Network Steering Committee. This pre-conference introduced approximately 75 library staff to the benefits and challenges related to a linking solution. Along with multiple training sessions held throughout the province throughout the year, training on databases was offered as a pre-Netspeed event.

The **Web Awareness Program** continued as APLEN provided funding, training, coordination and support to the Program in public libraries. The program teaches librarians and their users, especially parents and children, safe usage of the Internet. APLEN participated in nation-wide planning sessions for Web Awareness Day slated for February 19, 2004.

E-Resources Symposium

The E-Resources Symposium, sponsored by the Knowledge Network Steering Committee in May in Edmonton, was attended by 90 librarians and technical staff. It provided an opportunity to discuss emerging trends and issues related to e-resources in libraries.

Advocacy and promotion training was offered as part of the annual public awareness campaign. Over 70 public library staff and trustees attended sessions in Edmonton, Medicine Hat and Spruce Grove. Six more sessions are scheduled for 2004. APLEN also continued to provide regular training sessions in Web Awareness, Performance Measures, Technology, Ask A Question and much more.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE

The **APLEN SuperNet Readiness Project**, funded by Alberta Community Development, assessed the readiness of public libraries and examined various options to best utilize the connection to the Alberta SuperNet. Materials were developed and distributed to libraries to assist them in explaining the benefits of the connection to the SuperNet. Reports on the assessment of library networks and bandwidth requirements were released to the library community in October. Based on the reports’ recommendations, public library connections to the SuperNet were deemed critical and recognized as a priority for APLEN. The SuperNet Advisory Committee is being continued and staff are proceeding to implement the recommendations that arose out of the project. APLEN continues to work with Alberta Innovation and Science, Axia SuperNet Ltd. and Bell West.

Two **Community Access Program** grants from Industry Canada, totalling \$2.4 million were administered by APLEN, with the cooperation of the node libraries, to support public access to computers and facilitate computer literacy. Promotional materials were developed to increase public awareness of access to computers in libraries.

APLEN awarded twelve **grants** to assist libraries that recently partnered with a node, for a total of \$59,694.

5. ADVOCACY

The **Strategic Alliance for Library Advocacy**, composed of provincial library associations, was formed to advocate on issues of provincial and national scope. TAL will participate in, and provide staff support to, the Strategic Alliance for Library Advocacy.

The **public awareness campaign** theme of, “Libraries. All you need to know”, positioned libraries as leaders in supporting life-long learning, health, businesses, keeping pace with new technology and actively changing with the times. The campaign built on the successes of the previous campaigns and reinforced the concept of libraries as dynamic information providers to Albertans.

For the **Library Advocacy Project**, The Alberta Library received partial funding through the Canadian Library Association, under Heritage Canada’s Young Student Works in Heritage Organizations program to hire two students to work on a project on library advocacy in Alberta. The project resulted in an inventory of existing advocacy programs and five draft fact sheets on the value of libraries to health, education, economic development, literacy and rural development.

The **Lois Hole Library Legacy Program** facilitates donations and bequests directly to public, post-secondary and school libraries. The Alberta Library administers the program on a cost-recovery basis. Over 80 public and school libraries registered for this highly successful program in 2003.

The seventh annual **Library Week in Alberta** was launched by the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister, Alberta Community Development at the Edmonton Public Library in October. The Alberta Library coordinated Library Week activities in conjunction with Alberta Community Development. Library week activities around the province were posted on the visityourlibrary.net website.

ADMINISTRATION

In order to fulfill its mandate and carry out its core businesses, The Alberta Library endeavours to achieve efficient and effective governance, financial, human and technical infrastructure. Member involvement in program planning and direction is ensured through its nine committees.

BELOW IS A SUMMARY OF THE KEY FINANCIAL INDICATORS FROM THE 2003 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. A FULL COPY OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FROM THE ALBERTA LIBRARY

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

	Operating Fund	APLEN Fund	APLEN CAP Fund	Knowledge Network Fund	Learning Project Fund	Capital Asset Fund	General Reserve Fund	Interest Fund	Special Projects Fund	Total
Revenue	\$ 2,325,945	\$ 1,508,801	\$ 1,452,610	\$ 39,872	\$ 1,075,511	\$ 973	\$ -	\$ 1,678	\$ 500	\$ 6,405,890
Expenses	2,509,325	696,305	1,641,446	242,284	1,102,580	66,486	-	-	-	6,258,426
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (183,380)	\$ 812,496	\$ (188,836)	\$ (202,412)	\$ (27,069)	\$ (65,513)	\$ -	\$ 1,678	\$ 500	\$ 147,464

STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

	Operating Fund	APLEN Fund	APLEN CAP Fund	Knowledge Network Fund	Learning Project Fund	Capital Asset Fund	General Reserve Fund	Interest Fund	Special Projects Fund	Total
Interfund Transfers	\$ 246,694	\$ (307,100)	\$ (20,910)	\$ (75,000)	\$ (17,490)	\$ 95,910	\$ 229,788	\$ (93,682)	\$ (58,210)	\$ -

BALANCE SHEET
DECEMBER 31, 2003

ASSETS

	Operating Fund	APLEN Fund	APLEN CAP Fund	Knowledge Network Fund	Learning Project Fund	Capital Asset Fund	General Reserve Fund	Interest Fund	Special Projects Fund	Total
Total current assets	\$ 718,983	\$ 1,143,631	\$ (253,675)	\$ 86,915	\$ 97,197	\$ 91,837	\$ 229,788	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,114,676
Capital Assets	-	-	-	-	-	83,130	-	-	-	83,130
	\$ 718,983	\$ 1,143,631	\$ (253,675)	\$ 86,915	\$ 97,197	\$ 174,967	\$ 229,788	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,197,806

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Total current liabilities	\$ 495,807	\$ 3,384	\$ 554	\$ 32,532	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 532,277
Fund Balances	223,176	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	223,176
Unrestricted	-	1,140,247	(254,229)	54,383	97,197	-	-	-	-	1,037,598
Externally restricted	-	-	-	-	-	91,837	229,788	-	-	321,625
Internally restricted	-	-	-	-	-	83,130	-	-	-	83,130
Investment in capital assets	223,176	1,140,247	(254,229)	54,383	97,197	174,967	229,788	-	-	1,665,529
	\$ 718,983	\$ 1,143,631	\$ (253,675)	\$ 86,915	\$ 97,197	\$ 174,967	\$ 229,788	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,197,806

2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Denotes Executive Committee Member

University and College Libraries

Christine Sammon – Alberta College of Art and Design Library
*Steve Schafer – Athabasca University Library
Anita Luck – Fairview College Library
Jennifer Thomas – Grande Prairie Regional College Learning Resources Centre
Joanne Kemp – Grant MacEwan College Learning Resources Centre
David Larsen – Keyano College Library
Nicolle Lemay – Lakeland College Library (to July)
Greg Michaud - Lakeland College Library (from July)
Fiona Dyer – Lethbridge Community College
*Keith Walker – Medicine Hat College Vera Bracken Library
Ross Thrasher – Mount Royal College Library
Bob Bruce – Northern Lakes College (to December)
Helen Prosser – Northern Lakes College (from December)
Carolyn Alho – Nazarene University College Library
Linda Scott - NorQuest College Library
Helga Kinnaird – Northern Alberta Institute of Technology Library
Barbara Smith – Olds College Library (to October)
Robin Minion – Olds College (from October)
James Carter – Portage College Library (to September)
Barbara Palmer – Portage College Library (from September)
Alice McNair – Red Deer College Library
Janet Monteith – St. Mary's College Library
Susan Brayford – Southern Alberta Institute of Technology Library
Karen Adams – University of Alberta Libraries
Frits Pannekoek – University of Calgary Library
Barbara Marshalsay – University of Lethbridge Library (to July)
Marinus Swanepoel – University of Lethbridge (from July)

Regional Libraries

Maggie Macdonald – Chinook Arch Regional Library System
*Rowena Lunn – Marigold Library System
Kerry Anderson – Northern Lights Library System (to January)
Mircea Panciuk – Northern Lights Library System (from January)
Patricia Silver – Parkland Regional Library
Brock Smith – Peace Library System (to June)
Linda Duplessis – Peace Library System (from June)
Bob Batchelder – Shortgrass Library System
*Clive Maishment – Yellowhead Regional Library

Public Libraries

Mary Westcott – Airdrie Public Library
Gerry Meek – Calgary Public Library
*Linda Cook – Edmonton Public Library
Carol Cooley – Fort McMurray Public Library
Tim Janewski – Fort Saskatchewan Public Library
Doreen Lewis – Grande Prairie Public Library (to March)
Laureen Lushman – Grande Prairie Public Library (from March)
*Elizabeth Rossnagel - Lethbridge Public Library
Rachel Sarjeant-Jenkins – Medicine Hat Public Library
Dean Frey – Red Deer Public Library
Margreet Potter – St. Albert Public Library (to January)
Pamela Forsyth – St. Albert Public Library (From January)
Sharon Siga – Strathcona County Library

Special Libraries

Sandra Perry – Legislature Library
Patrick Lawless – The Banff Centre: Paul D. Fleck Library and Archives

Province of Alberta

*Punch Jackson – Alberta Community Development, Strategic Information and Libraries

Library Organizations

Pauline Rennick – NEOS Library Consortium (to May)
*Anne Carr-Wiggin – NEOS Library Consortium (from May)

Affiliate Members

Alberta Association of College Librarians
Alberta Association of Library Technicians
Alberta Library Trustees Association
Alberta Public Library Administrators Council (from November)
Library Association of Alberta
Canadian National Institute for the Blind

Honorary Life Associate Members

Pat Jobb, Edmonton Public Library
Hazel Fry
Ernie Ingles, University of Alberta Libraries

THE ALBERTA LIBRARY STAFF 2003

Administration

Lucy Pana, Executive Director
Lori Melanson, Financial Administrator
Janet Folkerts, Administrative Assistant
Sharon Ketzka, Executive Assistant (to April)
Jenna Barker, STEP Summer Student Employee (April to August)

Communications

Sharon Hawrelak, Communications Director
Myra Nicks, Communications Coordinator (to February)
Kari Lane, Practicum Student (March to December)
Lyndon Heidinger, Researcher (May to August)

APLEN

Karla Palichuk, APLEN Program Manager
Isobel Rancier, Technology Training Coordinator
Martina King, APLEN Community Access Program Coordinator (from October)
Scott Stanley, SuperNet Readiness Project Co-ordinator (to July)
Maureen Woods, APLEN Program Manager (to August)
Joanne Morgan, SuperNet Readiness Project Field Worker (January to May)
Randy Patton, SuperNet Readiness Project Field Worker (January to May)
Pat Dyson, SuperNet Readiness Project Field Worker (January to May)

Knowledge Network

Margaret Law, Post-Secondary Coordinator

TAL Online

Brian Jorgensen, TAL Online Developer
Piyapong Charoenwattana, TAL Online Programmer
Michael McDonnell, TAL Online Systems Administrator (from July)
Daryl Stafund, TAL Online Programmer (to July)

Licensing

Jerremie Clyde, Licensing Coordinator

Online Reference Centre

Diane GallowaySolowan, Program Coordinator (from June)
Anne Carr-Wiggin, Program Coordinator (to May)

Ask A Question

Marcus Roesner, Ask A Question Administrator (from June)

For more information on the The Alberta Library, please visit:

www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/memberinfo/adminstration/annualreports.cfm

Or from the offices of:

The Alberta Library
6-14, 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2V5
Phone: (780) 414-0805
Email: admin@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca