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Language learning software a valuable library service

The Alberta government's recent investment in language learning software for libraries across the province translates into a valuable service for a broad range of people, says Clive Maishment, CEO of The Alberta Library.

"The library community identified language learning software as a need," says Maishment. "Libraries are often an early point of contact with newcomers who want to improve their English skills, so it's an important service."

Alberta Municipal Affairs Minister Hector Goudreau announced the [government's \\$790,000 investment](#) in language learning software and other electronic resources at the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper.

The new digital resource will be available through all members of The Alberta Library consortium, which includes public libraries, regional library systems, university, college and technical institute libraries and special libraries.

The initiative is a significant step forward in providing a digital language learning resource through libraries across the province.

In 2008, a Public Library Development Initiative Grant enabled the Alberta Public Library Electronic Network, an integral part of The Alberta Library, to introduce language learning software through public libraries.

The pilot project showed that there is a demand for a digital language learning tool, and enabled member libraries to make an informed decision when new funding for the initiative was approved.

With input from the library community, members of The Alberta Library's Licensing Service Committee chose Mango, a digital language learning company that currently serves one in five North American libraries.

Mango provides access to special courses for English language learners, plus courses in over 30 of the world's most popular languages - from Arabic to Vietnamese.

“Whether library patrons have just moved to Canada and want to learn English or are planning a business trip or vacation, Mango provides an intuitive, practical approach to learning,” says Maishment. “It’s also fun.”

And that’s a language anyone can understand.

For more information on Mango:

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