

TAL TALES



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APLEN – Its Beginnings and Its Future



The Alberta Public Library Electronic Network (APLEN) has come a long way since it was established in 1997 through funding from Alberta Community Development. Before the APLEN program became a reality, many rural libraries were not online and the lack of connectivity made it impossible to search other library catalogues, therefore affecting resource capacity across the province. Now, libraries are connected, regardless of their size and geographic location.

APLEN reformed into its existing program in 2003 under The Alberta Library who directs the administrative functions, while the operational funding comes from Alberta Community Development. To ensure that the needs of the public libraries and its communities are heard and met, APLEN works actively with 16 Node libraries – representing seven regional library systems and the nine largest libraries in Alberta. The APLEN Standing Committee oversees the programs’ activities and meets approximately eight to ten times annually, as well as calling regular Nodes meetings. APLEN provides a forum for all Alberta public libraries, regardless of whether they are members or non-members of The Alberta Library, to communicate and discuss ideas and activities. Through support, collaboration and cooperation with these libraries, other organizations and agencies, APLEN has narrowed the “digital divide” by establishing accessible electronic technology and resources. By working together, APLEN is also engaged with The Alberta Library member libraries on projects that are of provincial interest or benefit.

In moving APLEN into the future, a sub-committee was struck to re-develop the Vision and Purpose statements to assist APLEN in focusing on its future activities and direction. In May 2003 these statements were adopted:

Vision: Albertans connected to a world of information through public libraries.
Purpose: APLEN supports Alberta Public Libraries in their provision of library services to the public through electronic means by:

- Providing opportunities for collaboration, cooperation and innovation between public libraries and with libraries of other sectors
- Coordinating the development and growth of an electronic library network and a single point of entry to information and resources for Albertans
- Facilitating opportunities for the development of content on the network
- Facilitating opportunities for libraries to increase their capacity for electronic services to the public through, but not limited to, funding, training, human resources, infrastructure and equipment
- Promoting the electronic library services to Albertans

To view the outline of the 2004 APLEN strategic plan, go to:
http://www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/aplen/2004_APLEN_Strategic_Plan.pdf.

(APLEN continued on page 5)

In this Issue

Feature Article:

APLEN—Its Beginnings and Its Future	1
Netspeed 2004 News: Keynote Speakers and Conference Program/EBSCO Database Training/Acknowledgements/wireless Internet	2
10,000 Questions and Counting!	3
Executive Committee Member Profile	3
SuperNet Showcase a Hit at the Calgary Stampede!	4
Lois Hole Library Legacy Program	4
The Alberta Library Linking Project	4
Award Winners!	5
Celebrate Library Week in Alberta	5
Promoting the Online Reference Centre for the 2004-2005 School Year	5
Web Awareness	6
SuperNet Update	6

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Netspeed 2004 News: Keynote Speakers and Conference Program Announced

The keynote speakers have been announced for Netspeed 2004. We are very excited to feature the following presenters:



Catherine K. De Rosa

The 2003 OCLC Environmental Scan: Pattern Recognition

OCLC recently prepared a report of external factors influencing libraries, OCLC and allied organizations. That research has now been used to create the report for OCLC member libraries, which details trends within a social, economic, technological, research and development, and library context.

Ian H. Witten

What's It Like at Google?

Find out what has made Google so revolutionary—from their work culture, services and techniques to what Googlers are doing and thinking.

Frits Pannekoek and Marco Adria

The Alberta SuperNet Research Alliance and the Libraries Subproject

Learn about this three-year project which focuses on the impact of the Alberta SuperNet in the areas of health, the economy, disaster preparedness and government.

Early Bird Registration to September 17, 2004:

TAL member registration fee: \$150.00 + GST

Non-member registration fee: \$250.00 + GST

Student registration fee: \$150.00 + GST

(no early bird registration fee)

After September 17, 2004:

TAL member registration fee: \$200.00 + GST

Non-member registration fee: \$300.00 + GST

The Netspeed 2004 Conference Program is now available. For complete information and registration details, visit:

http://www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/netspeed/netspeed2004/Netspeed_program2004.pdf.

For questions regarding Netspeed 2004, contact Isobel Rancier, APLEN Technology Training Coordinator, The Alberta Library, Ph. (780) 414-0805, E-mail: irancier@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca.

Netspeed

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to those who volunteered as members of the Netspeed Program Advisory Committee. They committed their time and enthusiasm in putting together this year's conference:

Michelle Rempel

Grande Prairie Public Library

Sona Kothari

Red Deer College Library

Cory Stier

Red Deer Public Library

Diane Clark

NAIT Library

Geoff Harder

University of Alberta Libraries

Doug Poff

University of Alberta Libraries

Steven Pattison

Marigold Library System

Paul Pival

University of Calgary Library

Isobel Rancier, Lisa Yeo and Marcus Roesner

The Alberta Library

EBSCO Database Training

On Thursday, October 21 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., a pre-Netspeed session on EBSCO Database Training will be held. The focus will be on the EBSCOhost® interface and other administration features. As the new Subscriptions Alberta Universal Core database collection will include 13 EBSCO databases, this will be of interest to all members of The Alberta Library.

Wireless Internet at Netspeed

Thanks to the generous assistance of D-Link Canada, Wi-Fi wireless internet access will be available during the Netspeed conference this year. This service will be available to all conference attendees and delegates—no pre-existing wireless internet accounts are needed. Attendees will be able to stay in touch with e-mail, look at websites highlighted during sessions and get more details on vendors while at the conference. Please bring Wi-Fi (802.11b or 802.11g) network cards for notebooks or PDAs. Setup information will be available, but everyone is responsible for their own configuration. Visit the D-Link booth at the conference or their website:

<http://www.dlink.ca/corporate/corporate/php>.

10,000 Questions and Counting!



Ask A Question!

Ask A Question (AAQ) has hit a milestone with its 10,000th answered customer question on July 13, 2004! The site traffic is increasing from this popular virtual service

and it is ready to answer questions from anywhere in the province! When it began 1998, the service was developed by the academic library community. Eventually, the public library community came on board, which enhanced the AAQ service further and provided more convenient access for users. Patrons can ask questions around the clock, even when their library is closed; the AAQ service is always available and user-friendly for accurate and informative answers.

Thanks and appreciation go out to former Knowledge Network Steering Committee members, Alberta Community Development and all the participating libraries for their commitment and support on offering and promoting this valuable service!

All AAQ questions should be directed to the service at: <http://www.talonline.ca/askaquestion/>.

Promote the AAQ service in your public library! There are free materials for display and distribution to library patrons. If you are from a public library and wish to order re-useable stickers, bookmarks and posters, please contact Jenny Wong, Communications Coordinator, The Alberta Library at (780) 414-0805 (ext. 233) or E-mail: jenny.wong@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca.

For further information on the AAQ service, contact: Marcus Roesner, Ask A Question Administrator, The Alberta Library, Ph: (780) 414-0805 (ext. 236), E-mail: mroesner@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca.

@your library™

Use the @ your library® campaign to publicize upcoming special events and programs. Examples of slogans may be:

READiscover

@your library™

Solve a mystery

@your library™

Relax

@your library™

Learn new cooking

@your library™

Executive Committee Member Profile – Punch Jackson

Punch Jackson has been supporting, advocating for and emphasizing the importance of libraries in Alberta since May 1996. The biggest thrill for him is when those from outside of Alberta recognize the achievements that occur through the collaboration of all library sectors – libraries large and small, urban and rural, public and academic – as well as the work from the many board members and enthusiastic staff from The Alberta Library and Alberta Community Development. Highlights also include the collaborative work needed to secure ongoing funding for APLEN and their partnership with The Alberta Library. The time and energy that Punch contributes to the library community is enormous: securing CAP funding, implementing the Canadian Grant Program (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), connecting Alberta's public libraries to the Internet, securing funding for the Alberta SuperNet and assisting with TAL Online.

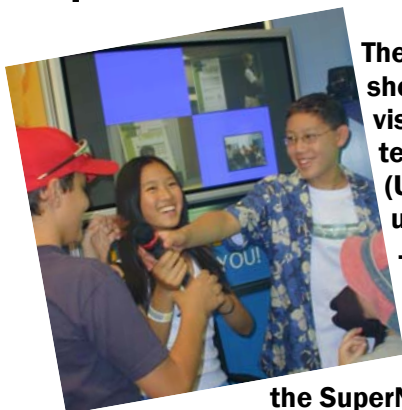


Punch Jackson
2004 TAL Executive Committee Member and APLEN Standing Committee Member

Punch was the recipient of the 2000 LAA President's Award and recently became the Director of Libraries, Community and Voluntary Sector Services Branch with Alberta Community Development. Thanks for your tireless efforts Punch!

See what's new at The Alberta Library at www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca

SuperNet Showcase a Hit at the Calgary Stampede!



The Alberta Library partnered with Bell West for the SuperNet interactive showcase at the 2004 Calgary Stampede. Using the imagination of young visitors who were in the Bell tent, three creative stories came to life. Story-teller Merle Harris (University of Alberta) and illustrator Dean Stanton (University of Calgary) turned these ideas into instant stories through the use of video-conferencing suites from Netera Alliance.

The SuperNet showcase used SMART™ Board technology to demonstrate the possibilities of SuperNet use for libraries. This demonstration of multi-point interactivity offers just a glimpse of the possibilities that communities could utilize with current and emerging technology. With the SuperNet, various locations can connect and communicate in ways that before may not have been possible.

After the interactive sessions, the young adults were so excited in participating that they wanted the stories e-mailed directly to them! Find these original stories on The Alberta Library website at: <http://www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/content/apsn0002.html>.

For more information on this event or for inquiries regarding the SuperNet, contact Lisa Yeo, SuperNet Project Coordinator, The Alberta Library at Ph.: (780) 414-0805 (ext.238), E-mail: lyeo@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca.



The Alberta Library Linking Project

The first phase of The Alberta Library linking project is near completion. This involved visiting various post-secondary libraries around the province to demonstrate what linking can do and to inform them of what the linking project hopes to accomplish. Some libraries are familiar with linking, while for others, it was a comparatively new concept. It was fascinating to see the faces of staff members light up as they saw the potential associated with linking and a link resolver.

Five libraries (Lakeland College, Mount Royal College, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), University of Alberta and University of Calgary) have already implemented link resolvers. Several others are actively pursuing one or have set finances aside in their budgets for such a product. Other libraries are waiting for The Alberta Library to provide the lead, while some do not see a link resolver being a priority at this point.

The process of drafting a Request for Information (RFI) is currently being done and will be sent out to the vendors of link resolvers. The RFI will ask the same set of questions for each vendor and their link resolver – questions dealing with the vendor company itself, the features and technical specifications of their link resolvers, how they would work in a consortial setting, and what their products cost. As of July 19, twelve vendors have indicated an interest in receiving and responding to the RFI. The RFI will likely be sent out in early August, with responses forwarded back by mid-September.

To see more about linking and the linking project, please see http://www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/content/kn_linking.html.



Lols Hole Library Legacy Program

CD/DVD plates are now available for ordering by participating libraries. To order this or additional book-plates, please complete and send the order form to The Alberta Library. Order forms are available at:

http://www.visityourlibrary.net/lhlp/Price_List03.pdf.

Mannville Municipal Library and Northern Lakes College have recently become participating libraries in the program.

View the list of participating libraries in the program at: <http://www.visityourlibrary.net/lhlp/libraries.html>.

Award Winners!

Congratulations to **Linda C. Cook**, Chair of the Executive Committee, The Alberta Library and Director of Libraries, Edmonton Public Library, who was the 2004 recipient of the Outstanding Public Library Service Award, sponsored by the Canadian Association of Public Libraries and Brodart International.

The 2004 Miles Blackwell Award for Outstanding Academic Librarianship was awarded to **Doug Poff**. Doug is the Associate Director for Library Technology Resources and Services at the University of Alberta Libraries and was on the 2003 APLEN Standing Committee and Knowledge Network Committee.

The former Knowledge Network Steering Committee was also awarded the 2004 CTCL Innovation Achievement Award. Jennifer Cameron from Yellowhead Regional Library also won a CAPL bursary to attend the CLA Conference in Victoria. All well deserved!

Celebrate Library Week in Alberta October 24 -30, 2004

If you haven't started, get ready for Library Week in Alberta! Share your knowledge, programs, services and community pride by holding events at your library. Celebrate with your customers and get them involved to show their support! For a listing of events, check out:

http://www.visityourlibrary.net/home_files/Library_Week_Events2004.pdf.

To publicize your events around Alberta, send your information to Jenny Wong, Communications Coordinator at The Alberta Library at: jwong@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca.

Promoting the Online Reference Centre for the 2004-2005 School Year

The 2004-2005 promotion of the Online Reference Centre (ORC) is set to launch for the upcoming school year in Alberta. The ORC is accessible through the students' school or through remote access (with a username and password) and is available at no cost to students from kindergarten to grade 12, teachers, pre-service teachers and parents.

By the end of September 2004, public libraries will receive an information package to assist students who use the public library to access the ORC. The package will provide library staff with background materials on the ORC, its promotions and 'how to' information in aiding students. Look for these eye-catching materials soon! For ORC information, contact Dianne GallowaySolowan, ORC Program Coordinator, Ph. (780) 414-0805, E-mail: dgallowaysolowan@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca.

(continued from page 1)

The APLEN project was recognized for its efforts when Alberta Community Development received a Bronze Premier's Award of Excellence in 2003. This important award acknowledges the achievements that the public library community has made through APLEN and represents the positive synergy among the network of individuals who drive APLEN's initiatives. Many thanks and appreciation goes out to past committee members and the 2004-2005 APLEN Standing Committee for their dedicated involvement and support.

Current committee members are:

Clive Maishment, Chair
Yellowhead Regional Library

Pamela Forsyth
St. Albert Public Library

Maggie MacDonald
Chinook Arch Regional Library System

Julia Reinhart
Brooks Public Library

Gerry Meek
Calgary Public Library

David Bahnmitter
Medicine Hat Public Library

Joanne Griener
Edmonton Public Library

Sheila Bertram
Alberta Library Trustees Association

Maggie Walsh
Industry Canada

Punch Jackson
Libraries, Community and
Voluntary Sector Services Branch
Alberta Community Development

Lucy Pana
Executive Director
The Alberta Library

Karla Palichuk
APLEN Program Manager
The Alberta Library

Isobel Rancier
APLEN Technology Training Coordinator
The Alberta Library

Web Awareness Workshops

The Alberta Library and APLEN announce their renewed license for access and use of the Web Awareness Program on behalf of all public libraries! The Web Awareness program teaches parents, librarians and those who work with children and youth about Internet literacy, Internet safety issues and how to support children and youth as they interact in the 'wired world.' In March, 2004, the Media Awareness Network was honored as a global leader in Internet safety education by WiredSafety (www.wiredsafety.org), the world's largest online safety, education and help group. The Web Awareness program was singled out because of the depth and relevance of the program, and the quality of the support materials.

APLEN Web Awareness training is provided to library staff in a 'train the trainer' format, with the expectation that library staff can then provide the information to their communities. There are three modules in this program; each can be used as a stand-alone session or combined into a fairly significant training day. For training sessions conducted by APLEN, participating libraries could request training to include all three modules or focus just on one, dependant on the time available.

Parenting
the Net
Generation

The agreement allows Alberta public library staff and board members the right to access and use the resources for professional development and information workshops for their staff or for public library education programs to community residents. The modules have been updated, but the names and content remain the same. In addition to the *Safe Passage*, *Kids for Sale* and *Fact or Folly* modules, there is also a *Parenting the Net Generation* presentation for parents.

If you would like more information about the Web Awareness program, how to download the modules or Web Awareness training from APLEN, contact Isobel Rancier, APLEN Technology Training Coordinator, The Alberta Library, Ph. (780)414-0805, E-mail: irancier@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca.

SuperNet Update

Bell West has completed the build for over 100 libraries. However, this does not mean that SuperNet services are available for subscription in those locations yet. We will keep you informed of any new developments in this area.

On July 30th, several SuperNet Advisory Committee (SNAC) members attended a demo of Nortel hardware configured based on the committee's initial WAN design. SNAC will be meeting at the end of August; at that time we will be developing recommendations for the hardware purchasing process as well as reviewing and prioritizing recommendations from the SuperNet Readiness Project Final Report. To review the report, go to: http://www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/content/aplen/supernet_readiness_report.pdf

For any SuperNet inquiries, please contact Lisa Yeo, SuperNet Project Coordinator, The Alberta Library at Ph.: (780) 414-0805 (ext.238), E-mail: lyeo@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca.

Netspeed 2004

Register soon! Early Bird Registration deadline is September 17, 2004.

Get the conference program online at: http://www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/netspeed/netspeed2004/Netspeed_program2004.pdf.

Web Awareness for Librarians Launched on Media Awareness Network (MNet)

In June, the MNet launched a new section on their website for library staff to help young people become safe and responsible Internet users. *Web Awareness for Librarians* provides a comprehensive range of Internet literacy resources.

This section can be found at: www.media-awareness.ca/english/special_initiatives/web_awareness/wa_librarians/index.cfm.

In the Next Issue of

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Advocacy Steering Committee