

Red Deer Library Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2003-04

A partnership of

Red Deer Public Library
The City of Red Deer
Red Deer College

September 30, 2004



Introduction

The Public/College Library partnership continued on a positive note during the period of July 2003 to June 2004, the second year that the Library Information Common (LIC) has been in operation. This year has been as successful as the year of the grand opening as there is an increased awareness of the LIC as a community library. The worry that after the excitement of the Grand Opening and all the events scheduled in the first year that the LIC would be ignored was unfounded. Co-marketing between libraries helped increase awareness of library services in the community.

Trends

The use of the Public Library by students and staff of the College, and of the LIC by the general community, increased in 2003-04, as measured by the use of The Alberta Library card. TAL Card use at the two libraries is made up primarily of Red Deer customers. More people used the LIC in 2003/2004 as the gate count indicates.

Highlights

The second full year of our partnership saw increased awareness of both the Public and College libraries on the part of both our customers (students and staff at RDC, and the general public), and our staff. The Library Council met to ensure public use of the LIC, and the two Library Planning Teams are working together to meet the primary goal of the partnership: to enhance library service in our community.

Attendance at events at the LIC increased by 20%. Some events, in fact, were so successful that a larger space is required to accommodate the participants. We hope to help promote these events so that the community can still see the benefit of the RDPL/RDC Library partnership.



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Events:

September 2003 – May 2004

Month	Program	Attendance
September	Rick Ranson and Geoff Bromhead	15
	Philosophers' Café	30
	Sensory City Tour Walk	
	Alberta Foundation for the Arts	
	Traveling Exhibit -Bill Laing	
October	J. Jill Robinson Reading	22
	Philosopher's Café	20
	Creative W/Rites – Jason Frizell	49
	Rebecca Luce-Kapler	15
November	Creative W/Rites – Jim Trevelyan	56
	Steven Ross Smith	15
	Philosophers' Café	26
December		
January	Creative W/Rites - David Moore	72
	Philosophers' Café	39
	Kimmie Beach	55
February	Creative W/Rites – Pierre Oberg	49
	Philosophers' Café	28
March	Creative W/Rites – Trudy Golley	44
	Philosophers' Café	20
	Blain Newton	14
	Artists Roundtable	15
	Candace Coonan and	
	ARIEL book launch	28
April	Alberta Foundation of the Arts	
	Traveling Exhibit – Local Legacies	
May	Ten Days in May	30
	Travel Iran - Jean Kennedy Roy	22
TOTAL	25 events	664



The changing displays and art in the LIC were enjoyed by the community as well as by college staff and students. Art displays from the Alberta Foundation of the Arts, RDC students and faculty, and visiting faculty, along with Creative W/Rites events featuring college artists brought a large a varied group of people into the library. Art as an attraction produced a number of collaborative opportunities in the community and increased the libraries profile with local media. The art has also visually enhanced the library space.

A similar project at the Downtown Branch of RDPL is the Kiwanis Gallery, where RDC student and faculty shows as well as Alberta Foundation for the Arts and other community shows take place.

PLENA/TAL Project

This project was successfully completed with the production of several guides, a website and training sessions.

In the Fall of 2002, a group of librarians from the Parkland Regional, Red Deer Public and Red Deer College libraries participated in a series of public legal information training sessions, delivered by PLENA, the Public Legal Education Network of Alberta. This training evolved into a joint project among the libraries, the goal of which was to find better ways to provide public legal information to library customers in central Alberta, via area librarians. The group developed a collection of resource sheets based on the information from the original training. The sheets were distributed to local libraries to be available to library staff and users as a resource for accessing public legal information. Parkland Regional Library staff may also use the resource sheets as guides for doing one-on-one training with librarians in the region, as a part of their consulting service. The final element of the project was the creation of a web page. Mounted on the Red Deer College Library website, the page includes electronic copies of the resource sheets, general project information, and an interactive element where PLENA members are invited to submit information on their area of expertise, which will be used to create additional legal resource guides.

Public Legal Information page:

<http://library.rdc.ab.ca/community/plena/index.php>



Red Deer Urban Community Access Program Network

RDPL and the RDC Library are major partners in the Red Deer Urban CAP Network, along with the City of Red Deer and Community Information & Referral Society (CIRS). Funding for the project comes from Industry Canada. In 2003-2004 the Library Information Common provided community access to computers through this program. Library staff offered one-on-one assistance and 31 workshops to the community. These workshops complemented workshops offered by RDPL and CIRS, and focused on advanced Internet searching, evaluating Internet resources, introduction to the library catalogue, introduction to government information on the Internet, searching techniques for Statistics Canada information, and searching techniques for the Sragetis website.

The LIC has xx public access computers available, while RDPL has 27 computers at its two branches. As well, 21 other Urban CAP sites are in place throughout Red Deer, at City facilities and community agencies.

Planning

The Planning Teams of Red Deer Public Library and Red Deer College Library met once a term to discuss the following:

- community programming
- circulation procedures
- opportunities with the Bethany Care Centre
- sharing values

As a result of these meetings, RDPL Downtown and Dawe Circulation staff have spent time with their colleagues at RDC. Plans for reciprocal visits are underway. RDPL Technical Services staff members have met with their colleagues at RDC and the Reference staff members are planning similar visits.



Indicators of Use

Indicator	RDC LIC			RDPL		
	2002-03	2003-04	%	2002-03	2003-04	%
Total Circulation	69,049	70,321	+1.8%	664,238	673,671	+1.4%
TAL Card Circulation	2,385	3,047	+9.8%	10,460	25,844	+147%
Customer Visits	551,519	605,886	+28%	595,533	595,303	0%
Computer Workstations		150			37	

