

# TAL TALES

TAL TALES — THE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE ALBERTA LIBRARY

April 2006

## Federated Search Symposium a Success

The Alberta Library presented the Federated Search Symposium, held February 2-3, 2006 at the University of Calgary. Federated searching (also known as meta-searching or cross-database searching) is a technology that allows users to search many information resources from one interface.

The Symposium featured Plenary speakers Roy Tennant, User Services Architect, California Digital Library and Cathy Gordon, Director, Google Scholar. In addition, panel discussions were held to discuss the issues and experiences their institutions have had with designing, implementing and using federated search products. Vendors were on-hand to answer questions and allow participants to experience the federated search products for themselves.

Conference presentations, as well as a compilation of all the group work done at the Symposium and blogs discussing the Federated Search Symposium, can be viewed on TAL's website:  
<http://www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/content/fssindex.html>.



Cathy Gordon, Google Scholar; Peter Binkley, University of Alberta; and Roy Tennant, California Digital Library.



FSS panelists discuss their experiences using federated search products in their libraries.

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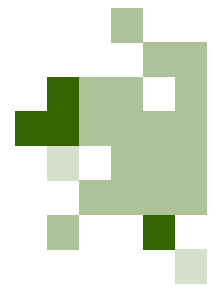
## Physical Delivery Study Complete

The Physical Delivery Study, which was undertaken to develop a model for the physical transportation of library materials between libraries across the province, is complete. Keith Turnbull, who was contracted to complete the investigation, has submitted his findings, which included identifying the limitations to the current transpor-

tation models, and identifying potential solutions and their associated costs.

Keith identified four main issues facing future physical delivery models: cost, speed, human resources and delivery of audio-visual materials. He also noted that the demand for the transfer of materials between libraries

is increasing due to the increase in remote access to catalogues. Several suggestions were presented to improve the physical delivery of materials between public libraries across the province. The full report of findings from the Physical Delivery Study is available on TAL's website.



## Netspeed 2006 Update

Planning is underway for a great Netspeed conference in 2006 ! TAL would like to extend thanks to everyone who sent in session proposals.

The Netspeed 2006 Program Advisory Team met in February to review the proposals and decisions will be sent out shortly. Thank you to the 2006 Program Advisory Team members: Leanne Drury, Northern Lights Library System; Marianne Graff, Yellowhead Regional Library; Nadine Hoffman, University of Calgary; Gisele Hoskinson, Capital Health Regional Library Services; Yvonne Rezek, Grant MacEwan College; Anne Warrington, Lakeland College; Mary Jane Bilsland, The Alberta Library Staff Liaison; Christine Bouchier, The Alberta Library Staff Liaison.

Netspeed 2006 will take place October 18-20, 2006 at the Chateau Lacombe in

Edmonton. Keynote speakers will be Catherine de Rosa, VP, Marketing and Library Services, OCLC; Brian Bell, Director of E-Services, Oakville Public Library; and Julie Walker, PINES Program Director and David Singleton, Deputy State Librarian, Georgia Public Library Service.

Sponsors confirmed to date are: OCLC, who are providing Catherine de Rosa as a keynote speaker, Micromedia ProQuest, Relais, EBSCO, CSA, Gibson Library Connections, 3M and YBP.

Netspeed 2007 will be held in Calgary at the Carriage House Inn from October 17-19, 2007.

Additional Netspeed information will be announced in upcoming issues of TAL Tales, and regular updates can also be found on the Netspeed 2006 webpage at [www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca](http://www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca).



## SuperNet Showcased at Three Hills Community Centre



Three Hills and area residents attend a presentation at the SuperNet Showcase.

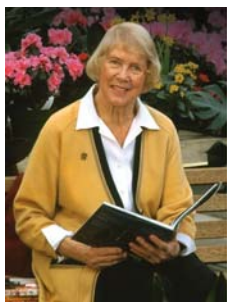
The Three Hills SuperNet Showcase was held at the Three Hills Community Centre on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 250 residents from Three Hills and surrounding communities attended presentations, demonstrations and trade show that explored innovative ways to utilize SuperNet in the community. Among the presentations was The Alberta Library's demonstration of how SuperNet enhances library services and accessibility to the community.

The Three Hills showcase was part of a larger initiative that is exploring ways to make SuperNet services more broadly available in rural communities, including the concept of a Virtual Learning and Business Centre in the community. The information gathered from this showcase will be used to move this initiative forward.



The 2006 Library Campaign is in full swing. The final two posters are almost ready for distribution. In addition, this year's campaign will include some new and exciting initiatives, including adding two more PSA videos, featuring stories about how libraries have positively impacted community members across Alberta, new print advertising and a Library Month feature that will be inserted in newspapers across the province.

## Hole Family Makes Donation to Library Legacy Program



As part of their commitment to the Lois Hole Library Legacy Program, and in memory of their parents, Ted and Lois Hole, the Hole family has generously donated three of their latest books to all public libraries in Alberta. The late Lieutenant Governor Lois Hole was a long-time supporter of Alberta's libraries and

their value in our communities.

Alberta libraries will receive a copy of Jim Hole's "What Grows Here? Volume 3: Solutions", "Hole's Dictionary of Hardy Perennials, A Buyer's Guide" and "Lois' Spring Gardening" .

## Lois Hole Library Legacy Program Survey Complete



The Alberta Library recently conducted an evaluation of the Lois Hole Library Legacy Program. TAL asked its members to complete a survey on the program's materials as well as the results of implementing the program in their library. TAL would like to thank all of the libraries that participated. The survey had a 52% response rate, with 60% of respondents volunteering the monetary value raised as a result of the program.

Results of the survey indicate that of the program materials, pamphlets and posters were found to be the most useful. Bookplates and other materials were ranked considerably lower. Of the libraries providing

cash values of donations, two achieved over \$20,000. Four libraries achieved over \$7,000, and six achieved over \$1000.00. Of the libraries that achieved over \$7,000, all reported having media presence when the program was announced locally, and two mentioned that their success was in part due to contributions that were a result of leaving pamphlets and information at local funeral homes.

Finally, 74% of respondents noted that they would like to see the Lois Hole Library Legacy Program promoted annually at a provincial level.

## TAL Renews Wilson's Library Literature

The Alberta Library has renewed Wilson's Library Literature, a database of indexed information science journals, as a benefit to TAL's members. It is available for use by library staff only. Library Literature offers easy access to information on a variety of topics, such as automation, cataloging, censorship, circulation procedures, copyright legislation, government funding, information brokers, library associations, personnel management, public relations,

publishing, rare books, and more.

Library Literature also covers almost 300 journals and offers information on current library trends. Library staff can access Library Literature using a URL and a login/ password. To receive the login and password, email Terry, TAL Licensing Assistant at [tromaniuk@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca](mailto:tromaniuk@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca).

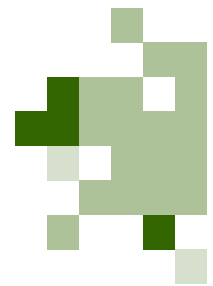
## Timing Out a Thing of the Past

Although previously a source of frustration for libraries without access to high speed Internet, databases can now be utilized with ease by libraries that are connected to the SuperNet. For some libraries, dial-up or low bandwidth connections may have resulted in repeatedly receiving time-

out messages while trying to access databases. Many of these libraries are now connected to high speed Internet though the SuperNet and are able to easily employ databases as a functional tool, improving access to information for Albertans.

### Did you know?

The Ask A Question program received its 20,000<sup>th</sup> question in February 2005!



## Libraries Play a Part in Facilitating Democracy

The following letter from Monika Schaefer, who ran for the Green Party in Yellowhead during the Federal Election, describes how she was able to use computers at the Jasper Library to do campaign work.

Hello,

My name is Monika Schaefer, and I am a resident of Jasper. I am a single mother, make my living as a musician, and I live frugally but well.

It is partly a lifestyle choice, partly a function of my desire to live simply, and partly affordability, that I do not own a computer. However, there are times that I do need access to a computer, the internet and e-mail. This happened recently, and I am ever-so-grateful that I had access to these resources at the public library.

I was a candidate in the federal election which was held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006. I could not have run had I not been able to come to the local library here in Jasper practically every day for two months to access my e-mail. It was absolutely necessary. So I really think that the public library indirectly facilitated the democratic process. It allowed me, an ordinary citizen without huge resources, to run in an election.

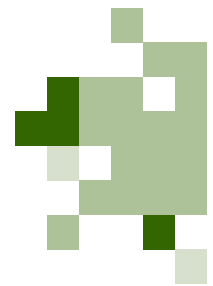
While spending so much time at the library, it was wonderful to notice all the people wandering through, people of all ages, some staying to read in the cozy couch area, others just finding what they needed and checking out, still others needing to look something up.

Hurray for public libraries! Let's keep them alive. What an integral part of every community.

Thank you so much.

Monika Schaefer

# Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library Update



The planning phase of the Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library (LHCADL) is nearing completion and the next phase is set to begin. The Business and Implementation Plan was completed and submitted to the provincial government in January 2006. The committee received a positive response from the provincial government to the Business Plan and the initiative has been approved.

The former project teams have been re-grouped and re-structured into new teams that will support the next phase of the build. This phase will include building the digital library collection with digitized content. Infrastructure requirements and associated costs that will be needed to access and manage the digital collection have been investigated and evaluated. Athabasca University, University of Alberta, University of Calgary and University of Lethbridge will be the lead institutions for the

digitization of materials.

Currently there are 35 libraries participating in the digital library initiative. These libraries will work with the LHCADL committee and staff to make the digital library a reality, thereby expanding the digital resources and services available to Albertans.

The Business and Implementation Plan, a PowerPoint presentation to the Post Secondary Library Directors from March 22, 2006 and a fact sheet about the digital library can be found on TAL's website: [www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca](http://www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca).



## TAL Executive News

TAL would like to welcome three new members to the Executive Committee. Keith Walker, of Medicine Hat College Library has been elected as Chair of TAL's Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Also joining the Executive Committee are Marinus Swanepoel, of the University of Lethbridge, as the University Representative and Helga Kinnaird of NAIT Library, as the Colleges and Technical Institute Representative.

Many thanks to Linda Cook of Edmonton Public Library for her contribution as TAL's chair for the past two years. Linda will continue on the Executive Committee, as the Public Library Representative. TAL also wishes to thank Steve Schafer of Athabasca University, Elizabeth Rossnagel of Lethbridge Public Library and Jerremie Clyde of St. Mary's University College for their contributions on the Executive Committee.

## TAL Staff News



TAL would like to welcome Weiwei Shi, who started as our Link Resolver Administrator in March 2006. Weiwei graduated from the University of Alberta with her MLIS in June 2005. She completed her internship at the University of Alberta Library, Information Technology Services as a Web Assistant, then worked as an Academic Intern Librarian at the University's Science and Technology Library. Weiwei can be reached at [wshi@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca](mailto:wshi@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca).



TAL would also like to welcome Terry Romaniuk as our Licensing Assistant and Christa Foley as our Licensing Coordinator.

Terry successfully completed his practicum with TAL in March 2006 and will be working part-time while finishing his MLIS. Terry can be reached at [tromaniuk@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca](mailto:tromaniuk@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca).



Christa Foley joined TAL in April 2006. Previously she worked at the Yellowhead Regional Library as the Automation Services Librarian. Christa can be reached at [cfoley@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca](mailto:cfoley@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca).



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