



NEWS & Notes

PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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New Training Resource



HOMELESS TRAINING INSTITUTE

The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness

by Ryan Dowd

The Librarian's Guide to HOMELESSNESS
an EMPATHY-DRIVEN APPROACH to SOLVING PROBLEMS, PREVENTING CONFLICT, and SERVING EVERYONE

As of this winter, Peace Library System is pleased to be able to offer PLS member public library staff access to Ryan Dowd's training via the Homeless Training Institute. For those who are not familiar with his work, Ryan Dowd began his career working with a large homeless shelter outside Chicago and spent the next twenty years learning how to prevent and deescalate conflict. Now, he trains organisations like libraries and other nonprofits on how to be inclusive and serve their whole community.

What he provides is empathy-driven de-training to help front line staff better understand troubled individuals (those experiencing homelessness, trauma, mental illness, addiction, etc.) and how to best handle problem behaviors. This is available in the form of pre-recorded webinars that are available to watch on-demand as well as live training sessions that staff can attend monthly.

More on page 5!

>> From the CEO



Louisa Robison

Have you ever seen the film *The Music Man*?

One of my favourite parts of that movie is the song *Marian the Librarian*, sung by Robert Preston to Shirley Jones. And part of the reason that it's a favourite is because of the portrayal of an early 20th century library, possibly modeled on a Carnegie library, and all its dark wood and silence and severe looks. It's nice,

it's retro, it's nostalgic, but the problem is that there are people who still think that that is what libraries still are – dour, silent, restrictive, oppressive, and never, ever changing.

Those people, obviously, are far, far out of touch with the modern library. If there's one thing that's constant about libraries in the twenty-first century, it's change. The speed at which society moves, the speed at which everything moves now, is so much faster than it ever has been before. The common wisdom has it took 3700 years to get from the abacus to the calculator (ENIAC) in 1946, then only 39 years to get to Excel in 1985, and then the first iPhone with an integrated calculator in our pockets in 2007, a mere 22 years later.

Libraries for a very long time were the repository of the words of the wise, chained to the shelves, with strict rules about when and how they could be accessed, and by whom. Now they're the open, accessible and welcoming spaces we all love, friendly and available to everyone no matter their state or station. I think we can all agree that this change in the approach was for the best. Libraries serving as community centres, community hubs, is one of the recent-ish changes that has been of benefit to a great many community members such as immigrants, the un- and under-employed, and the unhoused.

In addition to being the hub, we bring the library out into the community away from the building. Community book drops, kiosks, lending machines (hello, Clairmont!), curbside services and being a presence at festivals and community gatherings all are things that not that long ago would never have been considered for a library. I can remember in the 80s when I worked at GPPL that we had a Yellow Pages advert and an occasional column in the Daily Herald, but that was it for community outreach.

That libraries have embraced, and indeed in some areas driven, the digital revolution has been of benefit to all types of users in

all sorts of areas. Remote access to research databases, eBooks, audiobooks, even chat reference, have changed the way that libraries deliver services and materials to patrons who continue to expect instant access, and even better, receive it.

But we're not done. Heraclitus said, "the only constant in life is change". Libraries, and of course we as the system supporting our member libraries, are in the middle of that change, leading the change and even causing the change, and we must continue to be open to making those changes as a part of the way we do business. Clinging on to the past is the surest way to get left behind. Remember the past, sure, celebrate it as well, maybe even make a movie about it, but we must be ready to embrace the new when it comes to us, because stagnation is not an option for a vital, relevant, modern library service. And we may not always get it right the first time, but the beauty of change is that it'll come around again. Success is not permanent, and failure is not fatal, and changes have to happen for either of those to become a reality.

Oh, and *The Music Man* is available at Beaverlodge library. I highly recommend it.

Louisa Robison
CEO



What's trending in books

CBC CANADA READS FINALISTS 2023

This year's Canadian Battle of the Books is taking place between these five novels:

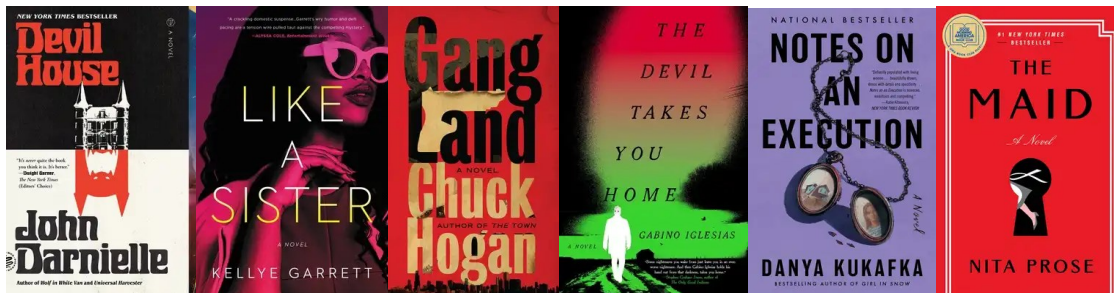
Ducks by Kate Beaton
Greenwood by Michael Christie
Hotline by Dimitri Nasrallah
Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia
Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel



EDGAR AWARD FINALISTS 2023

The Edgar Awards celebrate the best works of mystery and suspense fiction. This year's nominees for best novel are:

Devil House by John Darnielle
Like a Sister by Kellye Garrett
Gangland by Chuck Hogan
The Devil Takes You Home by Gabino Iglesias
Notes on an Execution by Danya Kukafka
The Maid by Nita Prose



RNA FANTASY ROMANTIC NOVEL AWARD 2023

The Romance Novelists' Association honours the best of romance with their annual awards. This year's nominees for best fantasy romantic novel are:

Hidden in the Mists by Christina Courtenay
I Let You Fall by Sara Downing
Skip to the End by Molly James
Impossible by Sarah Lotz
Ocean's Echo by Everina Maxwell



>> Consulting Corner



News & Notes

News & Notes is your quarterly professional guide to news, services and connection with the staff at PLS.

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Emma Stewart

Here in Grande Prairie we are in the midst of a deep freeze as I write this article. I'm crossing all my fingers and toes that this will be the last time we see -30 this winter, but let's be honest—I'm not holding my breath.

Updates from PLSB and the Government of Alberta

The public libraries' 2022 LibPAS Annual Report is due to the Public Library Services Branch on February 28, 2023. If you have any last-minute questions with your LibPAS, I will be happy to assist.

Updates about provincial library funding can be expected on Budget Day, also on February 28th, when the provincial budget will be tabled. Submissions for your operating grants will come later this spring, so watch your email for more, and please direct any grant questions to the PLSB at libgrants@gov.ab.ca.

TD SRC

We have 23 libraries that registered for the TD-Summer Reading Club this year; delivery of the promotional materials is anticipated in May for the activity notebooks, sticker sheets, recommended reads brochures, bookmarks, and Kids' website access code stickers. We're also currently wrapping up the prize order forms from Hannah Promotions and getting in our final order for prizes, which we also expect to be delivered in May.



The theme for 2023 is "Check This Out" which encourages participants to discover mysterious, bizarre and intriguing stories gathered from near and far and from our imaginations.

Stronger Together Conference

The 2023 Stronger Together Library Conference will take place this fall in a hybrid format, with a day of online sessions and a day of in-person conference in Edmonton. Peace Library System, Parkland Regional Library System, and Yellowhead Regional Library are once again partnering to create and host the event, with the addition of Northern Lights Library System, who have seen the successes of the past three years and are eager to participate. More details on the timing and location of the in-person conference sessions will follow.

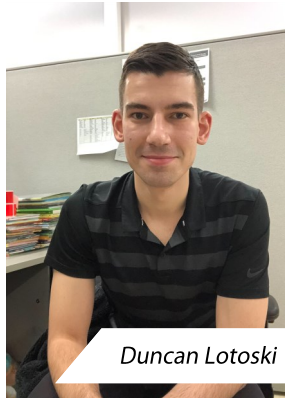
New Consultant Librarian

We said farewell to Mallory earlier in February and wish her all the best in her future endeavours. That means that we're currently in the midst of hiring a new Consultant Librarian to fill her shoes and to cover communications and conference coordination. Stay tuned for an announcement soon about our new team member!

As always, if one of the consultants is not available for an inquiry from their assigned library, another consultant can be asked for help. The consulting department works as a team!

Emma Stewart
Consulting Services Manager

>> Homeless Training Cont.

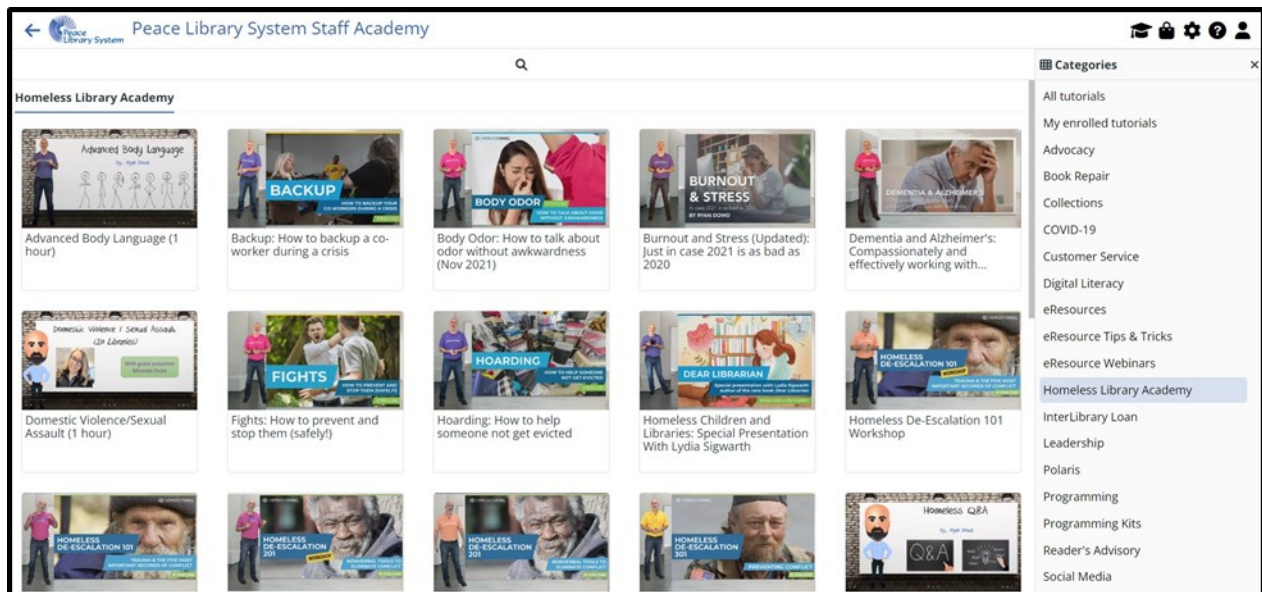


Duncan Lotoski

To access Ryan Dowd's Homeless Training recordings discussed on page 1, all prerecorded sessions are hosted on our Staff Niche Academy (my.nicheacademy.com/peacelibrary-staff). For additional staff logins, please contact Duncan (dltoski@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca) and provide the emails you would like new accounts attached to. Once added, you will receive an email with login instructions.

In addition to the recorded training on Niche Academy, we also have access to Ryan's live training sessions which are held on Zoom.

If you would like to receive an email each month with information about the live training and the Zoom registration link, use the following URL: bit.ly/MonthlyWebinarSignup!



>> eResource Usage

Overall eResource usage has dropped since last year. Total combined stats are lower than our 2020 numbers.

A few resources have seen notable increases - for instance, page views on Consumer Reports are up 61%, and staff usage of Niche Academy is up an incredible 121% - we're excited to see this data! However, most eResources have seen a steady decrease in usage since pandemic highs of 2020, when most of us were trapped indoors for months on end and doing lots of reading on our devices.

Please, make sure that you are promoting our to your local patrons and reaching out with questions when you have them!

2022 usage statistics from some of our more popular eResources can be found below:

eResources	2022	2021	2020
Overdrive eBooks and eAudiobooks	113,492 checkouts	119,706 checkouts	121,128 checkouts
CloudLibrary eBooks and eAudiobooks	8,185 checkouts	8,332 checkouts	8,986 checkouts
LinkedIn Learning online training	5,042 views	9,575 views	9,522 views
Overdrive eMagazines	9,924 checkouts	11,372 checkouts	15,048 checkouts
Consumer Reports online	2,220 page views	1,376 page views	1,846 page views
Niche Academy – Patrons (tutorials)	1,145 views	2,115 views	2,641 views
Niche Academy – Library Staff (tutorials)	2,219 views	1,012 views	2,678 views

>> Green Energy and IT



Ryan Goff

You can't go a single day without hearing the phrase 'green energy'. Whether it's in regards to moving away from fossil fuels, electric vehicles replacing combustion engines, or a host of other use cases, it's clear the direction we as a planet want (and need) to take when it comes to our energy needs. One of the coolest aspects that doesn't get talked about is how technology is shaping and improving these trends.

Battery storage technology is probably the most important aspect that will lead to more and more renewable energy options and technologies. The biggest road block we have currently is storing energy, but there may be hope on the horizon. One of the current technologies being investigated is solid state batteries. If these are viable, it could improve on the amount of energy stored, reduce charge times, and improve safe-

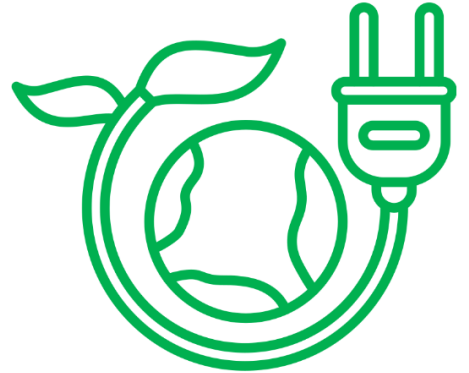
ty.

Another interesting angle is the combination of big data and machine learning with regards to things like wind power. By analyzing huge amounts of data around wind patterns and other environmental variables, it's made optimizing the placement and management of wind farms more efficient than even a few years ago.

Automation will also lead to the potential of "smart grids", or power grids that can automatically manage themselves to improve delivery of energy. This will lead to less waste and lower consumption, which helps both the environment and your pocket book.

By involving technology in green energy, we will see more efficient production, better storage, and smoother delivery. The best news of all is that many of these improvements are not far away!

Ryan Goff
Desktop and Network Administrator



>> Old Friends and New Ones



Rose-Marie Fitch

The last flurries are coming down; slowly winter is losing its grip, and warmer days are on the way. Spring is a time of renewal. The plants start pushing up to meet the warm sunshine and bring forth the new leaves and buds. Birds are back and chirping, and everywhere you look, there is a promise of a new season.

The spring rains come and warm the earth, children are playing in the puddles and rainbows appear making for a time of wonder and hope. If you are a gardener, you eagerly await the new growth of the perennials as they push up from their winter slumber and bring color to the garden again.

This is the time of year that the new seed catalogues come to my home and I pour over each page and ooh and aah over the new flowers that are being offered. I pull out my leftover seeds from the year before and plan where and which seeds that will be going into my garden. Maybe this year I will plant a couple of tomatoes in pots with a basil or two. Maybe in another pot, put a zucchini.

I will look in the nurseries for flowers to put in the garden for the bumblebees that visit my garden all season long. There are the butterflies as well and they are a delight to see.

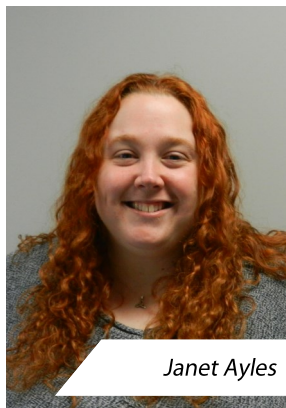
I watch people as they walk by my home and stop and point at the flowers and see the wonder and joy on the faces. They are just as excited as I am to see the flowers poke their heads up and greet the warmer air.

Check out these spring-themed titles:

- *Flowers And Their Meanings: The Secret Language and History of Over 600 Blooms* by Karen Azoulay
- *The Story of Flowers: And How They Changed The Way We Live* by Noel Kinsbury
- *OMFG, BEES!: Bees Are So Amazing and You're About to Find Out Why* by Matt Kracht
- *The Plant Lover's Backyard Forest Garden: Trees, Fruit and Veg in Small Spaces* by Pippa Chapman

Rose-Marie Fitch
Acquisitions Specialist

>> From the IT Desk



Janet Ayles

A few years ago, I was attending a course. I can't remember what the course was for, but I know there were a bunch of us from different fields. The one thing I do remember from that course, was listening to a fellow attendee laughingly remark that if you ever wanted to find the password for any user account in their field you just had to look for the post-it note underneath the keyboard.

At the time, I laughed it off, but before too long I relayed this as an anecdote during a meeting. I was shocked at how many people agreed. Passwords were meant to be secure and how could leaving them on a post-it note or other piece of paper keep them secure? I could not wrap my head around it.

I am part of the Gen-X generation. My first foray into the internet and computer accounts was when I went to university in the mid-1990s. I remember logging into my network account for the first time and needing to agree to the rules set out by the university IT department. One of those rules was that my password must remain a secret and I was not allowed to share it with anyone. If I broke that rule, my account could be suspended and I might not be able to get it back. That was a rule I took seriously.

Although I have secreted away my password, assuming that it's secure in the deep recesses of my mind, I haven't always adhered to other best practices for passwords.

According to Microsoft, "password security starts with creating a strong password," which encompasses the following guidelines:

- The longer the better with passwords. PLS requires passwords to be at least 8 characters, but Microsoft recommends 12 or more characters.
- Make your password a combination of letters (uppercase and lowercase), numbers, and symbols.
- If you're going with a longer password, instead of a random string (which can be hard to remember), try a phrase that uses the above mixture of characters. If your phrase has an e in it, swap that out for a 3. An A can become @. So an example of a phrase might be: lR3@dGraph!cNov3Ls (admittedly, this leaves your password looking like something out of the 1980s game show Bumper Stumpers, but also more secure than lreadGraphicNovels)
- Microsoft also recommends not using a word that can be found in the dictionary, a person's name, a fictional

character, a popular product, etc. Which means my password should not be DietCokelsLife.

- PLS passwords are set to expire every 90 days. When you need to choose a new password, go with something different that you just used. It is not recommended to use the same password and just change the number at the end.
- Also, don't use the same password for multiple accounts.

What am I bad at? Reusing the same password for multiple accounts and when I do have to change them, just changing the number at the end. I know, bad IT manager. However, that doesn't mean I shouldn't do better. I am working on it, but changing how you do things is a bit of a mind shift.

There is a theory in the world of cybersecurity that the more complicated and less hackable you try to make passwords, the more likely users will do things like write them down or reuse the same passwords across multiple accounts. Or as one article summed it up as: overcomplication leads to simplification. What does that mean? Basically, we're human. For all the accounts that we have in modern life, it would be near impossible to make them complicated enough to be secure and yet unique enough that all your passwords are different.

I know, it sounds like I just contradicted everything I've already said. I have and I haven't, because truthfully, the biggest weakness in cybersecurity is the end user. We're the ones who do things like write down our passwords or reuse the same passwords over and over again.

Fortunately, there are tools out there to help us keep our passwords more secure. A password manager is an amazing tool that will store your passwords in an encrypted database, meaning that you don't have to write them down or use something unencrypted like an Excel spreadsheet or a Word document. There are oodles of password managers out there, some free and some paid, so it's worth doing some research on which one would work for you. I use Last Pass (the free version) and have for years, but I recommend that you look at this list by Investopedia (<https://www.investopedia.com/best-password-managers-5080381>). Each result comes with a list of pros and cons and reasons why it was chosen.

This is a lot of information to take in, so if you have any questions at all, please reach out to us at helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca. We're here to help keep you (and our network) secure.

Janet Ayles
IT and Technical Services Manager

>> Collection Services Stories



Ken Sawdon

I don't think most people believe me when I say that the worlds of bibliographic theory and practice are exciting and engaging. Or perhaps I'm just odd. Whatever the case, I am honoured and pleased to have been made PLS's representative to TRAC's Bibliographic Services Group (BSG) about a year ago.

Please be aware that the BSG is planning to put on a webinar sometime in the coming weeks. All staff at TRAC Member Libraries are invited to join. In this presentation we will discuss some of the projects that we have been working on. This will also be an opportunity for you to ask questions to the BSG as a whole. Of course, you are always free to contact me directly about questions or concerns on any Bibliographic topics. The tentative date for this webinar will be March 23, but official date and time will be sent out closer to the presentation.

In the past I have talked about how the BSG is taking steps towards improving the language used in our shared Catalogue. Specifically, about "decolonizing" the terms and information within. This is part of local, provincial, national, and international efforts to replace or remove inappropriate language regarding Indigenous peoples and Indigenous topics. It is a vital step in the goal to remove language that is outdated and harmful, and to strive towards descriptions that are inclusive and respectful to all people. But, it is not the only way we are working to improve the experience of all of our patrons and staff.

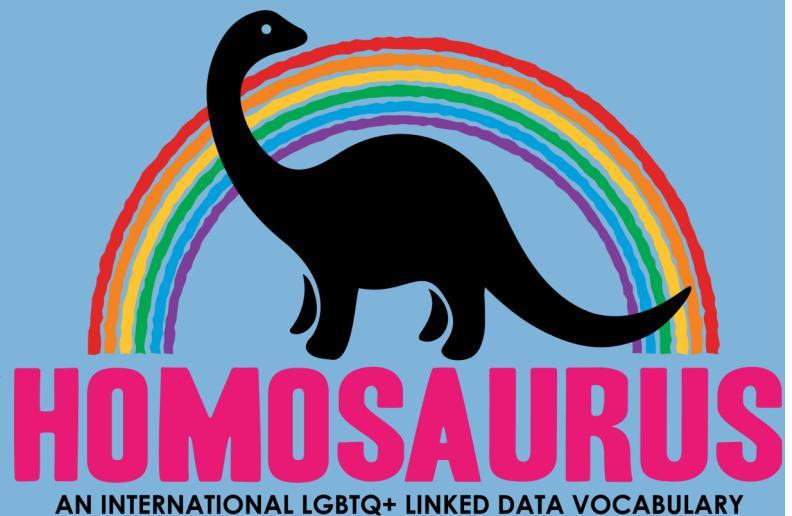
Last October the BSG approved the usage of the Homosaurus international LGBTQ+ linked data vocabulary within the TRAC Catalogue. Homosaurus (<https://homosaurus.org/>) is a controlled vocabulary, similar to Library of Congress Subject Headings, that identify and describe LGBTQ+ peoples and LGBTQ+ topics.

LIBRARY
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

We identified a few things before approving this vocabulary. First, in certain topics the Library of Congress Subject Headings, and Canadian Subject Headings, may be dated or inadequate. This was

supported by a statement from the Program for Cooperative Cataloging, an international cooperative effort with the mission of promoting discoverability and supporting metadata creators and mutually-accepted standards. We also identified other libraries and library organizations implementing this

vocabulary. Meaning, we found that while copying Bibliographic Records these Homosaurus terms had been included by other institutions. Finally, and most importantly, we have noticed an increase and focus on LGBTQ+ resources within your collections. Using Homosaurus will both increase the visibility of your collections while also using terms appropriate to and used by members of LGBTQ+ communities.



While I hope you are as excited about this as I am, we do know this will be a slow implementation. We may add Homosaurus terms to records previously catalogued, but that is not a current project. Additionally, we have to balance the enhancement of records with the need to get your items into your hands as quickly and efficiently as possible. Homosaurus is a great tool for us to have available in order to best describe resources in an equitable and inclusive way, as well as to improve searchability and circulation. But, again, this will be a slow implementation that will build over time.

Ken Sawdon
Collection Services Manager

>> From Grande Prairie Public Library

How to Design Banners for Your Website Using Canva

by Charlotte Anderson, Emerging Technologies Librarian, Grande Prairie Public Library

Are you interested in learning how to make fun and relevant banners for your website? GPPL uses a free online graphic design tool called Canva to make things like our website banners, social media posts, posters, and more. Before getting into the how-to, I'll go over a few reasons you'll want to use Canva:

Open source images. Any images a library uses for their graphics needs to either be owned by us, or have licensing that allows us to use it. We shouldn't be pulling images off the internet without a source, as it can lead to legal issues. Any images on Canva are stock photos you are able to use without worry.

Free to use. Canva has a few subscription plans. The base service is free, but doesn't allow for the full suite of services. However, Canva is open to giving their Pro service to registered nonprofits and charities for free (just need to apply). I recommend testing it out to see if you'd use it, and then applying for the nonprofit plan.

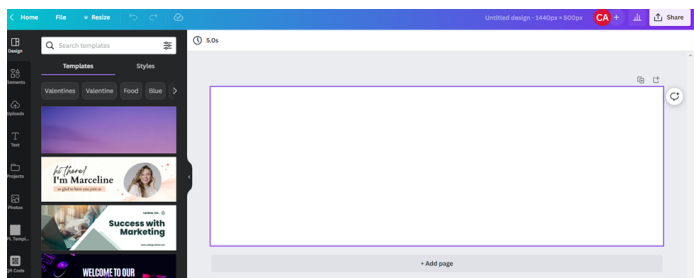
Easy to use. Canva has an unlimited number of templates you can use and customize as needed. It's easy to learn for people with a little technology know-how, and is way easier than learning Photoshop. It basically holds your hand through the whole creation process.

That said, there are other options out there for free stock photos and for free graphic design software, so if you have favourite resources, you don't need to switch.

Making a Website Banner

Banners on the website should be 1440 px (width) by 500 px (height). The easiest way to do this on Canva is to press the Create a design button and choose the Custom Size option.

The blank document will look something like this:



You can see in the navigation along the left-hand side that the first option is Design. This is great, if you want to apply a template to your Banner. You can see a few examples of existing templates in the screenshot.

Warning: Your banners should NOT have text on the image themselves. While it is possible to have a banner image with text, it looks a lot better if you don't include text. Remember that the banner images on the website are responsive to the size of a person's screen. What this means is that viewing the website on a computer

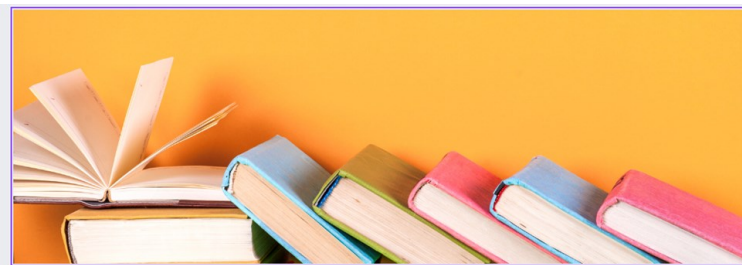
looks very different from viewing it on your phone. If you haven't noticed before, you should take a look at your website banners on both devices and notice the differences. A lot of time text will get cut off in weird ways if you try to include it in the image. This is why the website allows you to put text over the image and why you should use that feature.

Templates are great for times where you might want to have more than one image on your banner, or you want a cute design. I like to use a template when I'm using an image I took myself, since it helps create a different focal point other than the image itself and looks more professional. Most of us aren't professional photographers and love the extra help to make our images look great.

Single Image Banner

This is my preference for creating a banner. Starting back with that blank document, go to the option for Elements on the left-hand menu and search for a word associated with the topic of your banner. For this example, I looked up books.

Canva then pulls a bunch of graphics, photos, and videos that have the keyword books in them. I decided I want a photo today, and browsed until I found a photo that works.



Great! That's it. I resized the image a little to center it, and now it looks like a nice banner. I can now download this image from Canva, and upload it on the website. After uploading it to the site, this is the step where you'll put the text and link it to More Info.



(End result – you can see the text overlay the website puts over the image.)

For information on how to login and post a banner to the website, see the website guide PLS distributed.

Around the System...

Spring is trying hard to emerge from the snow... so here's your update on what happened around Peace Library System over the winter! Remember, you can send your own photos and articles at any time to mbruinsma@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca and they will be included in the next newsletter. We'd love to hear from you!

Peace River Municipal Library

We ran a new program this month for ages 6 and up called "Pokémon PD Day". On February 10 from 1:00-4:00 PM, 14 Pokémon enthusiasts ranging in age from 6 to 12 joined us for Pokémon card battles, crafts, games, and snacks. I noticed when talking to kids in other programs that many of them love Pokémon and enjoy collecting the cards, but don't know how to use them to play the official card game. Two parent volunteers joined us to teach the game to all of the kids so they can take it home to teach to others. Our Pokémon trainers also teamed up for a scavenger hunt around the library, finding wild Pokémon and capturing them to bring back into our battle space.

—Submitted by Annette Eddy, Peace River Municipal Library



McLennan Municipal Library

Friday Crafternoons have been a hit this winter at McLennan Municipal Library. Every Friday afternoon throughout January and February the sounds of camaraderie and laughter rang out from the back room of the library where beginners were learning to knit, crochet, and make scrap journals. We're sending a huge shout out to community members who volunteered their time to share their skills and knowledge with others.

—Submitted by Maureen Fisher, McLennan Municipal Library



More from Around the System!

Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library

At the Slave Lake Library we have been offering lots of in-person programming!

We have been partnering with SLAM (Slave Lake and Area Mental Health Network) to offer The Human Library. People can come to the library and listen to/have a conversation with “Human Books”. The books share their unique life experiences with participants as a way to broaden horizons and build interconnectedness.

We are delighted to once again be able to offer our “Blind Date with a Book” Program, which our patrons love!

We held a “Braille Storytime” where one of our community members came in and read a braille book to the kids.

We took part in the community’s “Dignity Drive” which solicited donations for our community members that are experiencing homelessness.

We are very happy to welcome back students from the Community Classroom, and look forward to providing programming for them twice a month.

A new program that is going over very well is the “Social Butterfly” program. The goal of this program is to offer social interaction for kids of all ages who need more interaction since COVID.

The community is happy that we are once again able to offer what they love and our new programmer Susan is certainly stepping up to the challenge!

—Submitted by Kendra Mcree, Rotary Club of Slave Lake Regional Library



Grimshaw Municipal Library

Mid-January we got the news – the package had left Calgary that morning and was going to land in Grande Prairie by late afternoon. Through a network of like-minded people, it got to Fairview that evening. Vivianne was waiting in her car in a darkened parking lot, when a woman approached, handed her the cooler, and advised her to drive straight home to Grimshaw with the contents...

And that's how over five dozen Rainbow Trout eggs came to our library!

The eggs are provided through the Fish in Schools (FinS) Raise to Release program, and we are one of 88 locations participating in the province this year. Most are schools, as the name suggests, but we knew this was going to be such a valuable opportunity for our public patrons that we worked for the chance to take part. FinS sent out over 5,720 Rainbow Trout eggs in January, and the plan is that we will all have fish to release in approved water bodies by late May or early June.

We can safely say that these are highly supervised fish. There are two Grade Three classes and one Grade 4/5 split class that send students in every day to check and record the water temperature and feed the fish, and they will be helping with water changes and checking pH levels when the time comes. Our Book Buddies and Little Learners programs do their regular checks as well, with modified log books and stamps. Patrons stop when they are in and see what is new in the tank, and sometimes ask for updates when they see library staff in the grocery store or post office...! In the month we have had them, the fish have gone through amazing changes in development, from eyed eggs, to alevin with protruding yolk sacs, and are just starting to look like the tiniest version of what we would recognize as a Rainbow Trout.

It is a free program, and FinS does provide the eggs, feed, and supplies needed for testing and conditioning the water. What we needed to provide was a new tank, filter, chiller, and aerator, among other things – and that was well over \$1000. Receiving sponsorship from the Grimshaw and District Ag Society and the Friends of the Library for this purchase was fantastic. The other good news is that this is a one-time cost, as FinS provides direction to make sure we can clean and use the equipment again next year.

After just a month in the program, we are already learning more about fish development, ATUs (accumulated thermal units), and water conditioning, than we expected. The fish require daily monitoring, and will need water changes twice a week, so they do take some time! The upside is the involvement and interest they have generated in the community and among the schools. Absolutely worth the effort.

—Submitted by Vivianne Gayton, Grimshaw Municipal Library



>> Freedom to Read Week



This year's Freedom to Read Week in Canada fell from February 19-25, 2023, and is our annual opportunity to reflect on intellectual freedom and its role in Canadian society. This year, as we watch the growing number of challenges and bannings happening among our neighbours to the south, it feels more important than ever to reaffirm our commitment to freedom of expression and access to information.

Here are some things you can do to celebrate intellectual freedom at your library:

- Check out the [Intellectual Freedom Toolkit](#). There are lots of sample documents and policies in there for you and your board to look at—for example, model letters and library statements that address challenges to library resources or library bookings.
- Create book displays and promotions. Highlight controversial materials and open up the discussion with your community.
- Organize events and programs that highlight intellectual freedom. For example, invite local personalities to highlight banned books that have had a positive influence on their lives. Or do readings where patrons can read aloud from censored materials.
- Review your policies. When's the last time your board took a look at the local collection development policy? What is the local process if you receive a patron complaint or a book challenge? Do you have an existing form available for them to fill out? Do all your frontline staff know what to do when confronted by this kind of request?
- Report book challenges. If you get a complaint or a challenge to any materials in your collection, make sure that information gets passed along to the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the CFLA-FCAB. They host the [Intellectual Freedom Challenges Survey](#) which allows Canadian libraries to document and share information on local challenges. This information then gets turned into an annual report.
- Have your board endorse the [CFLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries](#). Review the statement together at a board meeting and discuss it together. Does everyone wholeheartedly support the principles they espouse in the statement?

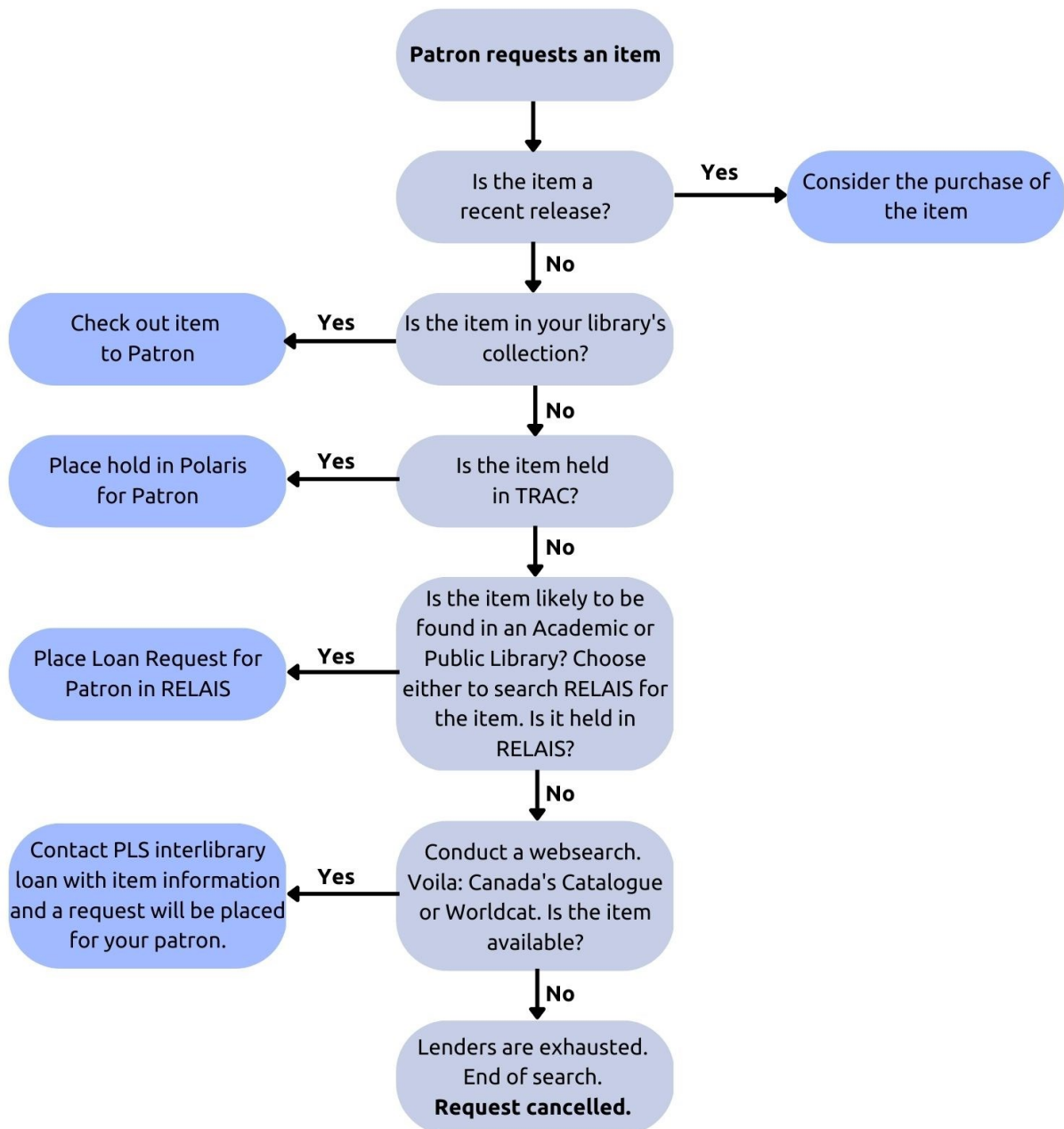
As Canadians, we are lucky that we get to decide for ourselves what we choose to read. Let's make sure that it stays that way.

Finding Items for ILL

Sometimes your patrons are on the lookout for materials that are obscure or hard to find. Luckily, we have access to both the TRAC collection and interlibrary loan through Relais. This handy flowchart below will help you figure out where to turn to source those obscure books.

And remember, if you ever need assistance in hunting down an item, reach out to ILL@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca!

How To Help a Patron Place a Request



Peace Library System acknowledges Treaty 8 territory of the Cree, Beaver, and Dene people, and Region 6 of the Métis Nation of Alberta. We are grateful to live, work, and learn together on this land which has been home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples since time immemorial. We recognize this land as an act of reconciliation, and we also commit to supporting and celebrating our local indigenous communities while working to break down institutional barriers to make our libraries equitable and accessible.

TD Summer Reading Club

The TD Summer Reading Club (TDSRC) [Staff Site](#) is live with updated content for 2023! The theme for this year is *Check It Out*. The staff site's Resources section has a new batch of recommended reads, activities, images, promotional templates, program forms, and online films provided by the National Film Board. For staff who are new to the TDSRC, they have created an [onboarding presentation](#) to help you get the most out of your experience!

The TDSRC Kids' Site goes live June 12, 2023 with brand new content. Until then, anyone who visits the website will see the *About the Club* page and a countdown to the launch of the 2023 Kids' Site.



Submit to News & Notes!

Submissions are welcome at any time and will be in the next newsletter. Submissions from public and school libraries welcome!

Send photos and articles to Emma Stewart: estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

Please note: PLS email inboxes can only receive emails less than 10 MB in size. If you do not receive an email acknowledging that your submission was received, delivery may have been prevented due to file size. Please contact Emma Stewart.

Peace Library System's events calendar

Freedom to Read Week

February 19-February 24, 2023

Intro to Ancestry Webinar

Online

March 2, 2023, 1:00pm

March 3, 2023, 1:00pm

Canada Reads Debates

March 27-30, 2023

International Children's Book Day

April 2, 2023

PLS Executive Committee Meeting

PLS Headquarters

April 22, 2023, 10:30 am

PLS Board Meeting

PLS Headquarters

May 27, 2023, 10:30 am