Who We Are

The Alberta Library is a province-wide consortium of 49 members in over 300 locations across the province, including:

- public libraries
- regional library systems
- university libraries
- college and technical institute libraries
- special libraries

The Alberta Library symbolizes the commitment of the province’s library community to creating a library system that meets the needs of all Albertans. With the support of the Government of Alberta, the province’s libraries are working together to create one of the most progressive and dynamic library systems in North America.
Strengthening communities through collaboration

2013 has been a year of significant change and progress for The Alberta Library and the diverse members of which it is comprised, a year in which its vision *Together. One Card. One Click* was galvanized through hard collaborative work and significant reorganization. It was a year that tested the commitment of its membership as changes in government priorities hit at the institutional level in the post-secondary sector and affected The Alberta Library directly through the reallocation of Alberta Public Library Electronic Network (APLEN) program funding. Within this changing fiscal environment, we forged ahead, emerging stronger through the dedication and concerted efforts of its Board, Executive, CEO, and Staff.

*The collaborative effort by The Alberta Library and its members has been guided and focused by the Strategies and Goals outlined in our Strategic Plan, under the broad pillars of “Engage, Connect, and Inspire” and with a mission of “Strengthening communities through Collaboration”.*

Two significant events took place in 2013 that bear special mention. In late August 2013 we learned of the cancellation of the APLEN program by the Public Libraries Services Branch (PLSB) and the consequent reallocation of funding from The Alberta Library to the PLSB. Along with the termination of the services associated with APLEN, this change impacted our operations and led to a reduction in staffing and the movement of our offices, all of which was managed and completed by the end of the year. CEO Clive Maishment worked closely with the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors to mitigate this situation and bring the organization into 2014 on a solid, if leaner, foundation. While this transition work reduced our capacity to forward key strategies, it has also stimulated us into an ambitious strategic thinking process aimed at transforming the organization in the coming years.

A second significant event in the history of The Alberta Library took place in October when the new TAL Online, Alberta’s only provincial library search engine, was launched. This initiative, led by Director of Planning and Program Development, Jason Openo, and supported by public library technology plan funding from the PLSB, brought together diverse community partners including staff from the PLSB, TAL, 49 member institutions, OCLC, and Hybrid Forge, an Alberta software development company. The result is an award-winning, state-of-the-art discovery and requesting platform that re-imagines how Alberta libraries can effectively share and collaborate to serve Albertans. As a successful cross-sectoral, province-wide initiative it embodies our collective values of cooperation and collaboration, respect, innovation, learning, and accountability. In short, the new TAL Online shows how The Alberta Library lives its mission of “Strengthening communities through collaboration”.
Year in Review

**Netspeed: The Human Side of Technology**

Netspeed has been TAL’s flagship conference for over 15 years. In 2013 the Executive Committee approved a ‘mission’ for Netspeed:

*Netspeed is a Western Canadian library technology conference that explores:*

- The use of technology to transform library service
- Emerging technology trends affecting the nature of library work
- The role libraries can play in the evolving connection economy
- Newly licensed resources, websites, apps and collaboration tools
- Marketing, metrics, and methods for evaluating digital impact
- Innovative strategies to build digital and information literacy skills

*Netspeed strives to provide attendees:*

- An affordable conference experience
- Practical ideas that can be implemented at the local level
- An opportunity to network and engage with colleagues about conference content

In 2013, over 200 delegates came to Calgary to take advantage of the opportunity to exchange ideas and connect with colleagues, including delegates from out of province.

Our opening and closing keynote speakers provided two very different experiences for delegate. Opening keynote speaker Nora Young discussed issues in big data, privacy, self-tracking, and ownership of data. The closing keynote was acclaimed storyteller Corin Raymond’s one-man show *Bookworm*. This powerful performance about the power of reading resonated with the delegates.

Breakout sessions provided a wide range of topics pertinent to the library technology landscape, such as cutting edge visualization walls, makerspaces, web design trends, and information literacy.

The strength of the Netspeed program can be attributed to the members of Alberta’s library community who participated as presenters and to the Netspeed Advisory Team who provided direction and innovative suggestions for the development of the program.
Governance
The Articles of Association were amended by the Members at the Annual General Meeting in April. Changes were made throughout to clarify that “Member” means those institutions listed in the Company Register of Members. In addition, the Board Chair term of office was changed to 2 years and two member-at-large positions on the Executive Committee were created.

Implementing technology plan recommendations
In the first part of 2013, The Alberta Library made significant progress on implementing specific recommendations in the Alberta Public Libraries Technology Report and Recommendations.

- TAL Online: On April 5, 2013, APLEN hosted a consultative process to select the discovery service that would revitalize TAL Online. By July a three year contract had been signed with OCLC for the Alberta Group Catalogue (still to be called TAL Online). In order to facilitate inter-library loan, The Alberta Library partnered with an external company to develop a WAYF (Where Are You From) interface. The re-vitalized TAL Online launched October 1.

- E-content strategy: For the first three months of 2013, APLEN engaged in a consultation process that included the review of over 50 Alberta public library plans of service and six focus groups involving members of the Public Library Services Branch and representatives from the public library network. As a result of this consultative evaluation APLEN published an e-Content Strategy for 2014-2016. Due to the re-allocation of APLEN funds, The Alberta Library did not have the opportunity to implement the e-content strategy, however it will still inform the work of licensing activities for member public libraries.

- Licensing: Although the APLEN program came to an end at the close of 2013, the Public Library Services Branch granted permission that funds from the technology plan could be used to fund public library participation in year one of the Universal Core beginning January 1, 2014.
**Pat Jobb Service Award**

The Pat Jobb Service Award recognizes outstanding service and significant contribution to Alberta’s library community. The award acknowledges the legacy of Pat Jobb, who played a leading role in the creation of The Alberta Library. She passed away in 2012.

At the April Board meeting, Dean Frey and Ernie Ingles were presented with the Pat Jobb Service Award. Dean Frey retired in 2013 from Red Deer Public after 24 years as Director. He was one of the original signers of the Memorandum of Association that established TAL and served as the first chair of the Board of Directors. He remained active in the work of The Alberta Library throughout his career.

Ernie Ingles was the Vice Provost and University Librarian at the University of Alberta, first joining U of A in 1990. Ernie was chair of the Steering Committee that developed the business plan for the creation of The Alberta Library. He was also one of the signatories of the Memorandum of Association and was instrumental in the development of the first service plan. Ernie’s commitment to the principles of cooperation and collaboration is demonstrated by his service on over 100 professional and community organizations.

**Transition Planning**

- On August 20, 2013 the provincial government informed us that funding for the Alberta Public Library Electronic Network (APLEN) was being re-allocated from The Alberta Library to the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB). APLEN had been part of The Alberta Library and a partnership with the Government of Alberta since we were created in 1997. The PLSB granted permission to use remaining Public Library Technology Plan funds to wind up the program.

- Significant changes were made to The Alberta Library in light of the re-allocation of the APLEN funds. These include four staff laid off, office space reduced, and surplus furniture and equipment sent to auction or otherwise disposed of. In addition, the groundwork was laid for the strategic planning process to take place during 2014.
What we do

TAL Online
A re-vitalized TAL Online launched October 1. TAL Online now provides seamless discovery to over 16 million print items, over 4,000 full-text journals, and locally built archives. Since its launch, TAL Online has supported over 50,000 visitors who have completed over 200,000 searches. Weekly usage for TAL Online has doubled since it was launched on October 1, and enhancements to the project continue to be made.

TAL Online represents a truly collaborative effort, with significant effort on the part of the Alberta Library and every one of its members. All of it was made possible through the support of the Public Library Services Branch public library technology plan funding.

Licensing
TAL meets multiple licensing needs for the public and post-secondary library sectors as well as for school libraries. Purchasing online resources is a costly, time-consuming and specialized task for libraries. Leveraging the power of a consortium can result in savings of 25 per cent or more, which improves access to information for all Albertans. By further cooperating with other consortia across Canada, TAL improves on its purchasing power through coordinated licensing activities.

In 2013, TAL supported libraries by negotiating over $5.7 million in license agreements for member libraries and for the Online Reference Centre, a program which meets the needs of school libraries.

At the request of members, TAL has implemented a new process to identify and meet their licensing needs. Members will be surveyed annually to prioritize the resources to be negotiated. This supplements the current informal process; ideas from libraries for new e-resources are always welcome.
The Universal Core provides users in participating libraries with barrier free access to a key set of library resources – a ‘foundation collection’ of authoritative, quality digital content. The Universal Core for 2014 - 2015 consists of 8 resources with all member libraries participating; additional resources are licensed for special and academic institutions.

**TAL Card**
A TAL Card enables Albertans to walk into over 300 public, post-secondary and government libraries across the province, borrow material, and return it to any participating library. In 2013 a working group of staff were exploring ways the limits on the TAL Card could be expanded, so Albertans could have greater access to millions of books, magazines and more. The relevant changes to policy will go the Board in 2014.

**Toolshed**
The Toolshed is a digital learning object repository that provides on demand access to locally built training materials for frontline library staff across the province. We have also used it successfully as a knowledge management tool for the new TAL Online project.

Originally introduced as the Training Centre in February 2013, the Toolshed has been enhanced through strong collaborative work between The Alberta Library and the BC Libraries Coop. This includes a cleaner user interface, a resource recommendation system and easy to embed widgets. The BC Libraries Coop is currently soliciting resources from over a hundred libraries that are eager to share their resources on the Toolshed, further strengthening it as a resource for library staff involved in digital literacy training and library programming.

All Alberta libraries have been encouraged to share, modify, and exchange materials with library staff from across two provinces.
Online Reference Centre

The ORC is a collaborative partnership between The Alberta Library and Alberta Education. Since 2001 the ORC has ensured that every student studying the K-12 Alberta curriculum has access to a consistent core of high-quality digital reference resources.

In 2013 the ORC collection was updated with eleven new resources. In addition, public library staffs were added to every ORC resource contract at no additional cost. These accomplishments ensure that the ORC is providing a large array of resources to staff, students, and parents across Alberta.

ORC resources consistently rank among the most popular resources on the LearnAlberta.ca website. With declining school resource budgets, and declining in-school resource experts like teacher-librarians, curriculum coordinators, and learning commons leaders, the ORC is playing a key role in ensuring equitable education for students across Alberta.

As part of an ongoing evaluation, we completed a return on investment (ROI) calculation of the ORC program. A conservative analysis showed that the benefit-to-cost ratio is 3:1, meaning that for every $1 in grant funds, Alberta schools received $3 in benefits.
Below is a summary of the key financial indicators from the 2013 audited financial statements. A full copy of the audited statements is available upon request from The Alberta Library.

## Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances
For the year ended December 31, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Externally Restricted</th>
<th>Internally Restricted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operating Fund</td>
<td>APLEN Fund</td>
<td>APLEN Contingency Reserve Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund balance,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beginning of year</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 330,897</td>
<td>$ 135,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>827,463</td>
<td>510,000</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>1,067,686</td>
<td>1,205,746</td>
<td>22,173</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interfund transfers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative costs</td>
<td>281,250</td>
<td>(206,250)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other transfers</td>
<td>(41,027)</td>
<td>571,099</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund balance,</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 112,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>end of year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Sources of Revenue

For the year ended December 31, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Externally Restricted</th>
<th>Internally Restricted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operating Fund</td>
<td>APLEN Fund</td>
<td>APLEN Contingency Reserve Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta Municipal Affairs</td>
<td>$ 250,000</td>
<td>$ 510,000</td>
<td>$ -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta Education(^1)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Fees</td>
<td>384,537</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>192,926</td>
<td>12,736</td>
<td>13,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$ 827,463</td>
<td>$ 510,000</td>
<td>$ 12,736</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Funding from Alberta Education received in 2012.
# Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended December 31, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Externally Restricted</th>
<th>Internally Restricted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operating Fund</td>
<td>APLEN Fund</td>
<td>APLEN Contingency Reserve Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>$ 48,326</td>
<td>$ 43,044</td>
<td>$ 112,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 48,326</td>
<td>$ 43,044</td>
<td>$ 112,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities and Fund Balances</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>$ 48,326.00</td>
<td>$ 43,044.00</td>
<td>$ 123.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balances</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>112,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 48,326</td>
<td>$ 43,044</td>
<td>$ 112,950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Board of Directors

## University and College Libraries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Start/End Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alberta College of Art &amp; Design Library</td>
<td>Christine Sammon</td>
<td>(to June)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adrienne Connelly</td>
<td>(from August)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambrose University College Library</td>
<td>Sandy Ayer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athabasca University Library</td>
<td>Steve Schafer</td>
<td>(to April)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elaine Fabbro</td>
<td>(from May)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bow Valley College Library</td>
<td>Colleen McPhee</td>
<td>(to May)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kelley Wadson</td>
<td>(from August)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian University College Library</td>
<td>Sheila Clark</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concordia University College Library</td>
<td>Dan Mirau</td>
<td>(Chair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grande Prairie Regional College Library</td>
<td>Jennifer Thomas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant MacEwan University Library</td>
<td>Jane Duffy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyano College Library</td>
<td>John Burgess</td>
<td>(to February)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeland College Library</td>
<td>Fang Liu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lethbridge College Library</td>
<td>Fiona Dyer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine Hat College Library</td>
<td>Keith Walker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Royal University College Library</td>
<td>Carol Shepstone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NorQuest College Library</td>
<td>Eve Poirier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Alberta Institute of Technology Library</td>
<td>Helga Kinnaird</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern Lakes College Library</td>
<td>Deborah Kendze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Olds College Library</td>
<td>Robin Minion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Portage College Library</td>
<td>Terry Donovan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prairie Bible Institute Library</td>
<td>Veronica Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Red Crow Community College Library</td>
<td>Mary Weasel Fat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Red Deer College Library</td>
<td>Kristine Plastow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southern Alberta Institute of Technology Library</td>
<td>Susan Brayford (to July)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Alberta Libraries</td>
<td>Genevieve Luthy (from November)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Calgary Libraries</td>
<td>Tom Hickerson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Lethbridge Library</td>
<td>Brenda Mathenia (to June)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yellowhead Tribal College Library</td>
<td>Simon Underwood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes:
- Tim Janewski (Secretary/Treasurer)
- Gerald Beasley (from August)
- Brenda Mathenia (to June)
Regional Library Systems
Chinook Arch Regional Library System
Maggie Macdonald

Marigold Library System
Michelle Toombs

Northern Lights Library System
Mircea Panciuk (Vice-Chair to April)

Parkland Regional Library System
Ron Sheppard (Vice-Chair from April)

Peace Library System
Linda Duplessis

Shortgrass Library System
Petra Mauerhoff

Yellowhead Regional Library System
Kevin Dodds

Public Libraries
Calgary Public Library
Ellen Humphrey

Edmonton Public Library
Linda Cook

Fort McMurray Public Library
Miranda Maguire (to February 10, 2013)
Carolyn Goolsby (from February 11, 2013)

Fort Saskatchewan Public Library
Angela Kublik

Grande Prairie Public Library
Pamela Chislett (to February 13, 2013)
Maureen Curry (from February 14, 2013)

Lethbridge Public Library
Donna Hunt (to May 14, 2013)
Tony Vanden Heuvel (from June 1, 2013)

Medical Hat Public Library
Shelley Ross

Red Deer Public Library
Dean Frey (to June 30, 2013)
Christine Wilson (from August 13, 2013)

St. Albert Public Library
Peter Bailey

Strathcona County Library
Sharon Siga

Special Libraries
Alberta Government Library
Linda R. Scott (to May)
Teresa Bendall (from May)

Alberta Legislature Library
Valerie Footz

Province of Alberta
Diana Davidson
Alberta Municipal Affairs, Public Library Services Branch

Affiliate Members
Alberta Association of Library Technicians
Alberta Library Trustees’ Association
Alberta Public Libraries Administrators’ Council

Library Association of Alberta
School of Library and Information Studies
Executive Committee

Diana Davidson  
Government Representative  
*Alberta Municipal Affairs, Public Library Services Branch*

Terry Donovan  
Post-secondary Representative (Advisory, to April)  
Member-at-large (from April)  
*Portage College Library*

Tom Hickerson  
Universities Representative (from April)  
*University of Calgary Libraries*

Tim Janewski  
Secretary/Treasurer  
*The King’s University College Library*

Dan Mirau  
Chair  
*Concordia University College Library*

Mircea Panciuk  
Vice-Chair (to April)  
Regional Libraries Representative (to April)  
*Northern Lights Library System*

Kristine Plastow  
College and Technical Institutes Representative  
*Red Deer College Library*

Shelley Ross  
Public Libraries Representative (from November)  
*Medicine Hat Public Library*

Steve Schafer  
University Libraries Representative (to April)  
*Athabasca University*

Ron Sheppard  
Vice-Chair (from April)  
Public Library Representative (Advisory, to April)  
Member-at-Large (from April)  
*Parkland Regional Library*

Michelle Toombs  
Regional Libraries Representative (from April)  
*Marigold Library System*

Clive Maishment  
CEO  
*The Alberta Library*

Honorary Life Members
Ray Danyluk  
Hazel Fry  
Ernie Ingles  
Punch Jackson  
Pat Jobb  
Lucy Pana

Pat Jobb Service Award
Dean Frey  
Ernie Ingles
Thank You

The Alberta Library thanks the Government of Alberta for its vision, leadership and financial support in helping to build a progressive and dynamic library system.

Specifically, The Alberta Library thanks:

- **Alberta Municipal Affairs, Public Library Services Branch**, for support of the cross-sector work of the library community through TAL.

- **Alberta Education** for support of the Online Reference Centre.

The Alberta Library also gratefully acknowledges the support of the **University of Alberta** and **Edmonton Public Library** for information technology services, facilities and other services.