# What makes us different from your local library?

Municipal libraries and Library Systems are both governed by the *Libraries Act* — a legal framework for public library service in Alberta. Municipal libraries serve their communities directly, often by providing operational funds for their facility, staff and programs. In comparison, Library Systems are a cost-effective aggregate of progressive public library services. Library Systems support their member libraries by collectively making resources, innovative technology and expert advice easily accessible, without duplicating what municipal libraries do.

## Funding Regional Library Systems

### From the Province

The System Operating Grant—a per-capita grant based on official population as determined by the province— allows systems to provide library services to Albertans as outlined in Alberta's Library Legislation and in each Regional Library System's Agreement (signed by member municipal councils).

### From Local Municipal and Library Board levies

Per-capita levy rates are defined in each Library System's Agreement. Each Library System provides library services based on the needs of its municipal members.

## We believe in resource sharing

Resource sharing is an efficient and environmentally sustainable use of community resources. Regional Library Systems enable resource sharing by supporting interlibrary loan and reciprocal borrowing of materials in a variety of formats. This is possible with the help of Library System van deliveries and Canada Post.

Patrons can sign up for ME Libraries, a web-based service. As long as patrons have a current library card, materials from the physical collection at all other participating Alberta libraries across the province can be accessed and borrowed. Check out **melibraries.ca**

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## Alberta's Regional Library Systems



**CHINOOK ARCH REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM**
403.380.1500
**www.chinookarch.ab.ca**
Population served: 209,184

**MARIGOLD LIBRARY SYSTEM**
403.934.5334
**www.marigold.ab.ca**
Population served: 343,332

**PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM**
780.538.4656
**www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca**
Population served: 178,009

**NORTHERN LIGHTS LIBRARY SYSTEM**
780.724.2596
**www.nlls.ab.ca**
Population served: 176,541

**SHORTGRASS LIBRARY SYSTEM**
403.529.0550
**www.shortgrass.ca**
Population served: 107,349

**PARKLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY**
403.782.3850
**www.prl.ab.ca**
Population served: 234,256

**YELLOWHEAD REGIONAL LIBRARY**
780.962.2003
**www.yrl.ab.ca**
Population served: 303,197

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# Alberta's Regional Library Systems

# Working together for municipal success!

# Alberta's Regional Library Systems...



## We support our local economies

Alberta's **seven** Regional Library Systems embrace the power of municipal partnership. Each system is a municipal membership collaborative that provides cost-effective public library services and support for residents and member libraries in rural Alberta. Together, the systems:

- Employ more than **160** headquarters staff
- Spend over **$24 million** annually on behalf of their libraries and their residents
  - These expenditures are funnelled back to member libraries: new materials, programs, computers, software, supplies, eResources and professional development

Together, Alberta's Library Systems and **306** member municipalities support more than **270** libraries

### Every year, member libraries excel because of passionate people

**2,000+** staff

**390,000+** Cardholders

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### 1 ... support information & recreation needs of Alberta's diverse population

- ☐ With interlibrary loan and delivery services provided by Library Systems, patrons can access materials from over 300 libraries in Alberta and return materials to any public library in the province
- ☐ Library patrons have access to appealing and current print and online content. Library Systems acquire and pay for digital subscriptions
- ☐ Library System websites are portals for eResources, news, documents, member information and 24/7 online library access
- ☐ Library System consultants work with member libraries to meet the needs of each member community

### 2 ... provide cost-effective excellence in public library service

- ☐ Pooled purchasing and processing of books and materials means library budgets go further
- ☐ Library System staff negotiate discounts for bulk purchasing of materials and IT equipment for member libraries
- ☐ Library Systems are known for their well-managed Boards
- ☐ Van delivery services, combined with government courier and mail, provide timely, cost-effective delivery of shelf-ready materials to fill patron requests

### 3 ... balance technology & traditional library service

- ☐ IT services: help desk support, hardware and software support, installations and purchases, Internet, Wi-Fi, email and remote book lockers. No rural library can afford IT support on its own
- ☐ Library Systems stay informed on new technologies to meet the needs of the next generation of patrons
- ☐ Library Systems provide the tools for member libraries to promote services and programs through social media and traditional media

### 4 ... are models for innovation, collaboration & communication

- ☐ Library Systems provide opportunities to network, learn and share ideas at workshops, conferences and training sessions
- ☐ Expert consultants provide training and support to their member library staff and boards
- ☐ Regional Library Systems employ professional librarians, library technicians, IT specialists and other specially trained staff to provide expert consultation and advice to member library staff

### Library System Services

- IT and Network support
- Collection development, materials and digital content
- Delivery services
- Board development and orientation
- Services and program support
- Space planning for renovations
- HR and OH&S training
- Conferences, training and workshops
- Communications and marketing support