

# Partnerships for Community Learning Resources Grant

## PROJECT REPORT 2007-2008

1. **Project Name:** How Green is My Saskatchewan - Levelling the Rural Learning field Through Information Literacy

2. **Funding Amount Requested:**

\$65,000

3. **Principle Partners**

Name of School Division:

***Prairie South School Division # 210***

Name of Public Library System:

***Palliser Regional Library System***

4. **Our Partners:**

Chinook Regional Library

Southeast Regional Library

5. **Premise of Project:**

The **How Green is My Saskatchewan - Levelling the Rural Learning field through Information Literacy project** was designed to benefit literacy, information literacy, the environment and educational initiatives in all communities which fall within the boundaries of ***Prairie South School Division #210*** and ***Palliser Regional Library***, inclusive.

Observations within both the ***Prairie South School Division*** and the ***Palliser Regional Library System*** have revealed that youth (grade 3 and up) are "Googling" for homework. "According to studies conducted in 1999 by Johns Hopkins and Ohio State Universities, 70 percent of health and medical information on the Web is wrong or misleading." <sup>1</sup> The same applies to other sectors. Unfortunately, without the proper development of critical evaluation skills, the students and the general public have no tools to help them navigate the Internet, to navigate between the good and the bad information.

6. **Our Purpose and Goals and how they were met:**

**Goal 1: The development of critical evaluation skills**

- **How Green is My Saskatchewan:** An interactive WebQuest and a Jeopardy game were used in conjunction with a lesson plan to teach all students to do research using the Internet and the online databases and how to critically evaluate their findings. The game questions were based on the science/health curricula related to environmental studies for grades 5, 8 and 11.
- **1,088 students in 21 schools participated in the program**
- Over the progress of the sessions there was discovered a need for special time to teach the students how to properly cite the works obtained from the Internet and how to use **Citation Machine**
- Public information sessions at all rural libraries with mixed success as 97 patrons participated at 27 branch libraries. Time of the year may have been a factor.

**Goal 2: Increase awareness and usage of the online databases amongst the students, the teachers, public library staff and the general public.**

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<sup>1</sup> A Library Advocate's Guide to Building Information Literate Communities, American Library Association, 2001.

- Figures are not available yet for the Regional Library and cannot be obtained independently by school division so at this point in time we can only relate anecdotal information. The rural branch librarians are reporting an increased interest in the online database by both students and their parents. We have had several cases of parents bragging about the good information that they found online through our (or Chinook's) website.

**Goal 3: To Provide support for the amalgamated school division through the provision of equitable access to resources.**

- The training provided and gaps are best explained in Sharon Wagner's report. Suffice it to say that she found out what we already suspected – that many of the rural staff were unfamiliar with the online databases and were reliant on "Google" for all answers.

**Goal 4: Provide the local librarian with an opportunity on hone their own database search skills**

- The rural librarians loved the sessions and many made the best of an opportunity to promote their library services. They absolutely loved and were fascinated by Sharon's training techniques (especially the Jeopardy game) and were only too glad to, in some cases, drive ½ hour to give her assistance with the program at some of her schools.

**Goal 5: Course development as related to Curricula.**

- Sharon Wagner has developed a course plus the games and we are including a copy of it on a memory stick for use or modification by other institutions. A complete paper copy can be found in Appendix A. Warning – the Jeopardy answers must be checked before running the program as the citation changes daily.
- The course is a 3 day course (1 hour per day)
  - Day 1 – PowerPoint Intro and Citation Manager
  - Day 2 – Database Webquest
  - Day 3 - Jeopardy

**Goal 6: Increase usage of the provincially funded online databases.**

- The results are inconclusive at this point in time. Palliser online database usage statistics were up in 2007 but this program did not become active until November of that year. The 2008 mid-year statistics will be available in late July and should show the trends, assuming that they are not being lost in the giant "K-12" general statistics.

**Project Conclusion:**

- From a qualitative perspective the project was a success. The three- one hour sessions conducted in the schools were successful in introducing the databases and provided sufficient practice in doing this form of research. Students would have completed over 50 searches in the 3 days.
- The culmination of the training with the game was very motivating and reinforced the various research skills with the different databases.
- The information literacy training and research skills needs to be made part of the main stream curriculum and offered, not just occasionally, but on an annual basis to all students, grades 5 and above.
- It is too early to evaluate its overall impact as the last of the sessions were held in May 2008. Given the difficulties in obtaining separate statistics for the Prairie South School Division, it may not be possible to quantify the study.

## **Teacher –Librarian Sharon Wagner’s Recommendations as found in her attached report:**

**“Before extensive usage of the databases will occur as an integral part of the research in the various curriculums”** the following issues need to be addressed:

1. Since rural schools do not have teacher librarians to lead the research process in the schools, administration and teachers need to be exposed to the online databases and citation management further through workshops.
2. Many teachers had little or no knowledge of the databases as a source of research.
3. For the databases to be utilized fully teachers must have a familiarity and skill in using them.
4. Administrators must also have a working knowledge to assist in encouraging teachers to use this resource.

### **What the Youth thought of the project:**

- The students liked working in the teams of two and everyone got highly involved in the Jeopardy game. Prizes were a definite contributing factor to its popularity and made it a memorable experience for the youth.

### **Impact of the “How Green is My Saskatchewan” Project on the School Division and the library systems:**

- Tim Eirich, curriculum consultant agrees with Sharon Wagner’s findings and is looking for ways to accomplish the staff training and will be recommending that it be integrating it into possibly the English curriculum.
- A package has been developed for use in the Prairie South School Board and by Palliser Regional Library.
- Palliser Regional library is looking at setting up an online game similar to Jeopardy or Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader? that can be run at branches over the winter.
- Pense Elementary School, one of the 3 bronze-level green schools in Canada, heard about what we were doing and requested that Sharon come out and give the workshop at their school. They are part of the Regina school division, Sharon was kind enough to accommodate them. Although they are a town in the Palliser region, we do not have a branch library in town.
- Palliser’s older travelling lab laptops needed replacement.

### **What we learned:**

1. Sharon experienced difficulty in some schools obtaining permission to come in and give the sessions. This is in spite of a series of communications being issued by Prairie South School Division and by Tim Eirich, Curriculum Consultant, on her behalf. It made scheduling difficult.
2. Prizes, prizes, prizes and make it fun.
3. We need more publicity for evening sessions.
4. Central Vehicle Agency is wonderful! We could not have done it without them as they were much more cost effective than school division, Palliser or personal vehicles.

### **Our most heart-warming experiences:**

- Pense Elementary School (see above)
- The 6 elderly gentlemen who can into the LaFleche library to learn about the automotive repair database.
- In Loreburn we had an 80 – year old man (who’s wife made him come) came in to get information on his birth place – St. Petersburg Russia and we found an actual video of the city off of the encyclopedia database. He was absolutely amazed.

## Expenditures:

### Projected Costs by Administrative Unit How Green is My Saskatchewan Leveling the Rural Learning field through Information Literacy

<b>Prairie South School Division #210</b>	<b>Projected Cost</b>
1 lap top plus software - Prairie South #210	Incl. below
<b>Palliser Regional Library System</b>	
Librarian out-of-library extra hours ****	\$ 1,041.15
5 Public lap tops plus software - Palliser Regional Library	\$ 6,912.90
Salary - .60 time teacher librarian	\$51,318.41
Mileage	\$ 4,616.18
Meals	\$ 490.70
Prizes	\$ 478.90
Advertising for Position	\$ 141.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$65,000.00</b>

## Partner's Contributions:

Both partners provided the Teacher Librarian with staffing and expertise:

### Palliser Regional Library System:

- Provided the administrative, clerical and payroll support for the project
- Provided the teacher librarian with an office and phone.
- Supplied the bulk (5 of 6 machines) of the portable computer lab, the portable screen and the data projector.
- Provide space in the public library's or other arrangements as necessitated by public demand.
- Many rural branch librarians contributed their time, free of charge, to assist Sharon.

### Prairie South School Division # 210:

- The School Division hired the retired teacher-librarian. However, due to the nature of the contract with the teacher-librarian, Palliser paid her salary and expenses and then billed the costs back to the school division.
- Managed the monies, All bills were sent for payment after documentation was completed by Palliser.
- Provided Sharon Wagner, the teacher librarian with an e-mail account.
- Sent letters to all schools and principles and actively advocated on behalf of the school participating the project. There was some initial rural reluctance.
- Provide access to the schools.
- Provide space in the school computer labs provided that they were available.

## Participating Rural Schools

### Schools

Bengough  
Coronach  
Rockglen  
Craik  
Eyebrow  
Glentworth  
Gravelbourg Elementary  
Gravelbourg High  
Kincaid Central  
Lafleche Central  
Mankota  
Central Butte  
Chaplin  
Assiniboia 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Assiniboia Composite High  
Assiniboia Elementary  
Mossbank  
Avonlea  
Caronport Elementary  
Caronport High  
Lindale  
Mortlach  
Rouleau

## Participating Rural Libraries

### **Palliser Branches within Prairie South**

Assiniboia  
Avonlea  
Coronach  
Craik  
Elbow  
Mortlach  
Mossbank  
Rockglen  
Rouleau

### **Chinook Branches to be served**

Central Butte  
Chaplin  
Glentworth  
Gravelbourg  
Kincaid  
Lafleche  
Mankota

### **Villages with Libraries but no school**

Briercrest (Closed 2008)  
Elbow  
Riverhurst  
Tugaske (served by Eyebrow)  
Willow Bunch (Closed 2008)  
Wood Mountain

### **Southeast Branch to be served**

Bengough

### **Palliser Branches Outside PSSD**

Bethune  
Davidson  
Holdfast  
Imperial  
Loreburn

**Palliser Regional Library System Online Database Usage Statistics  
to July 1, 2008**

<b>Database</b>	<b>2006 Searches</b>	<b>2006 Sessions</b>	<b>2007 Searches</b>	<b>2007 Sessions</b>	<b>2008 Searches</b>	<b>2008 Sessions</b>	<b>Sessions '% change 2006-07</b>
Discovering	356	1,453	278	1,139			-21.61%
General Reference Centre	279	777	398	1,262			62.42%
Ref Centre Gold	212	623	409	1,378			121.19%
Health Reference	286	902	119	328			-63.64%
Health & Wellness Resource	346	1,345	73	399			-70.33%
One File	362	1,010	576	1,923			90.40%
Junior	289	782	556	1,231			57.42%
Kids Infobits	2,227	22,055	482	3,392			-84.62%
Literature Resource Centre	119	645	54	196			-69.61%
Student	32	50	525	1,200			2300.00%
Auto Repair	222	416	423	539			29.57%
Novelist	242	5,776	348	3,467			-39.98%
Novelist K-8	63	421	65	176			-58.19%
Britannica	342	962	43	54			-94.39%
Newsstand	1,005		617				61.39%
Education Collection	10	15	7	12			-20.00%
Environmental Directory	11	17	7	12			-29.41%
Business	36	63	6	8			-87.30%
BCRC	144	186	16	71			-61.83%
CPIQ	302	896	387	3,387			278.01%
Expanded Academic	215	688	35	20			-97.09%
Gale Ref.	138	482	394	1,262			161.83%

General Business	114	429	254	988			130.30%
LegalTrac	119	420	256	1,073			155.48%
Proquest CRI	540	115	169	72			-37.39%
CBCA	2,271		1,039				45.75%
Association Canada	11	16	20	35			118.75%
Canadian Almanac	11	17	12	7			-58.82%
Director of Libraries	13	21	12	7			-66.67%
Financial Services	10	15	12	7			-53.33%
Government of Canada	92	122	13	8			-93.44%
Total	7,169	44,034	9,330	23,653			-46.28%

Note: Kids Info-bits reflects the training that we had done in 8 non-Prairie South School Division schools in 2005-06

## K-12 General Online Database Usage Statistics to July 1, 2008

Database	2006	2006	2007	2007	2008	2008	Sessions % change 2006-07
	Searches	Sessions	Searches	Sessions	Searches	Sessions	Change
Discovering	32,606	7,814	17,607	7,203			-7.82%
Association Canada	403	188	347	222			18.09%
Auto Repair	2,254	1,387	1,045	987			-28.84%
BCRC	321	123	29	12			-90.24%
Britannica	7,363	8,563	1,207	989			-88.45%
Business	100	63	21	15			-76.19%
Canadian Almanac	408	191	79	57			-70.16%
Canada Info Desk	2,847	1,330	525	389			-70.75%
CBCA	95,696		98,524				2.96%
CPIQ	33,466	9,944	15,807	19,214			93.22%
Director of Libraries	403	188	70	45			-76.06%
Education Collection	416	196	79	47			-76.02%
Environmental Directory	403	188	73	54			-71.28%
Expanded Academic	23,749	6,529	16,073	6,793			4.04%
Financial Services	402	187	70	54			-71.12%
Gale Ref.	21,492	5,567	15,366	6,661			19.65%
General Business	20,693	5,383	15,087	6,431			19.47%
General Reference Centre	25,072	7,071	16,162	699			-90.11%
Government of Canada	412	192	79	56			-70.83%
Health & Wellness Resource	8,046	1,696	4,832	783			-53.83%
Health Reference	22,904	6,334	15,888	6,819			7.66%
Junior	27,082	8,499	5,162	2,012			-76.33%
Kids Infobits	71,039	23,060	28,923	8,884			-61.47%
LegalTrac	21,762	5,711	15,431	6,631			16.11%

Literature Resource Centre	10,197	1,881	6,284	1,148				-38.97%
Newsstand	26,193		25,484					-2.71%
Novelist	2,370	314	20,092	4,254				1254.78%
Novelist K-8	1,232	204	2,572	822				302.94%
One File	33,591	10,269	62,731	30,363				195.68%
Proquest CRI	647	306	19,765					-100.00%
Ref Centre Gold	27,388	7,982	13,634	7,103				-11.01%
Student	48,723	17,284	28,582	12,299				-28.84%
Total	569,680	138,644	447,630	131,046				-5.48%

## Appendix A

**Section 1 – School / Public Library Schedule 2007-08**

**Section 2 – How Green is My Saskatchewan Introduction**

**Section 3 – Going Green – Database Quest Ages 11-14**

**Section 4 – Going Green - Database Quest Ages 15-18**

**Section 5 – Jeopardy – Ages 11 -14**

**Section 6 – Jeopardy - Ages 15-18 plus answers**

**Section 7 – Teen Summer Reading Program Database scavenger hunt questions plus answers Ages 11-14**

**Section 8 – Teen Summer Reading Program Database scavenger hunt questions plus answers Ages 15-18**

**Section 9 - Sharon Wagner, Teacher Librarian’s Project report**

### Appendix A - Section 1 – Schedule

#### **Prairie South Schools Database Training Schedule**

<b>School</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Contacted</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Assiniboia	Feb 12,13,14	√	√	√
Avonlea	Feb 19, 20,21	√	√	√
Bengough	Oct 22-24	√	√	√
Caronport	Jan 9-11	√	√	√
Caronport	Jan 29-31	√	√	√
Caronport	May 14-15	√	√	√
Central Butte	April 1-3	√	√	√
Chaplin	Mar 10-12	√	√	√
Coronach	Oct 25,29,30	√	√	√
Craik	April 21-23	√	√	√
Eyebrow	Mar 18-20	√	√	√
Glentworth	Feb 5-7	√	√	√
Gravelbourg	Jan 14.16.18	√	√	√
Kincaid	May 8,9,12	√	√	√
Lafleche	Nov 13-15	√	√	√
Mankota	Nov 27-29	√	√	√
Mortlach	Jan 29-31	√	√	√
Mossbank	Mar 4-6	√	√	√
Rockglen	Nov 6-8	√	√	√
Rouleau	Ap 7-9	√	√	√
Pense	May 5-6	√	√	√

#### **Palliser Regional Library Public Database Training Schedule**

Assiniboia	13-Feb	√	√	√
Avonlea	19-Feb	√	√	√
Bethune	21-Apr	√	√	√

Briercrest	8-Apr	√	√	√
Coronach	Oct 25,30	√	√	√
Craik	Ap 22	√	√	√
Davidson	23-Apr	√	√	√
Elbow	19-Mar	√	√	√
Holdfast	24-Apr	√	√	√
Imperial	24-Apr	√	√	√
Loreburn	3-Apr	√	√	√
Moose Jaw	Apr 14,16	√	√	√
Morlach	30-Jan	√	√	√
Mossbank	5-Mar	√	√	√
Riverhurst	Apr 14,16	√	√	√
Rockglen	7-Nov	√	√	√
Rouleau	9-Apr	√	√	√
Tugaske	Apr 14,16	√	√	√
Willow Bunch	24-Oct	√	√	√
Wood Mountain	7-Feb	√	√	√

**Chinook/Southeast Branches**

Gravelbourg	16-Jan	√	√	√
LaFleche	14-Nov	√	√	√
Kincaid	9-May	√	√	√
Mankota	28-Nov	√	√	√
Glentworth	6-Feb	√	√	√
Chaplin	11-Mar	√	√	√
Central Butte	2-Apr	√	√	√
Benegough	23-Oct	√	√	√