



Alberta Association of Academic Libraries

AAAL 2025 Fall Meeting Minutes

Date: 20 November 2025, 9 AM MDT

Location: Hosted Virtually by AAAL

Meeting Link: [Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 879 9003 2251

Passcode (if prompted): 364995

Upon sign-in, please add your preferred name, pronouns, and institutional affiliation

AAAL Executive & Key Contact Information

General Contact:

aaal.executive@gmail.com

Chair:

Andrea Johnson, Red Deer Polytechnic

Chair-Elect:

Celine Gareau-Brennan, University of Alberta

Treasurer:

Yvonne Phillips, Red Deer Polytechnic

Secretary:

Sheena Sereda, NorQuest College

Past Chair:

Jane Duffy, MacEwan University

Communications Committee:

Caitlin Ratcliffe, NorQuest College

(Web, News & Social Media)

Meghan Staal, U of Alberta

aaal.communications@gmail.com

Tessa Brodhead, King's University

Mentorship Committee:

Roxy Garstad, MacEwan University

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Ron Rooth, MacEwan University

Holly Hoffman, St. Mary's University

Sarah Chomyc, University of Alberta

Shaun McMullen, Portage College

Statistics & Assessment Committee

Adam Cohen, Mount Royal University

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Jenn Laskosky, Concordia University

Emily Villanueva, University of Lethbridge

Learning & Development Committee

Ali Foster, MacEwan University

aaal.learningdevelopment@gmail.com

Dana Ouellette, University of Alberta

Christena McKillop, University of Calgary

Emma Scott, University of Lethbridge

Rynelle Wiebe, Medicine Hat College

Business Portion

8:45 am – 9:00 am

Morning “Registration” – Online Gathering

9:00 am – 9:10 am Meeting started at 9:05

Opening Remarks (AAAL Chair)

AAAL Land Acknowledgement - Andrea Johnston

Approval of Minutes of the Spring 2025 AGM ([Link to Meeting Minutes](#))

Melanie Forrest moved, Mary Dallas seconded.

Approval of Fall 2025 Meeting Agenda

Harold Jansen moved, Karina Dunn seconded.

9:10 am – 9:25 am

AAAL Executive: Verbal Reports

- Chair – Andrea Johnston (4 minutes)
 - Verbal overview of written update (attached)
 - STC Oct 20 & 21
- Chair-Elect - Celine Gareau-Brennan (3 minutes)
 - Verbal overview of written update (attached)
- Treasurer - Yvonne Phillips (3 Minutes)
 - Verbal overview of written update (attached)

AAAL Committees Reports

- [Please see the written reports below](#)

9:25 am – 11:00 am

Member Roundtable - Please submit your updates in writing into the chat or email

aaal.executive@gmail.com

11:00 - 11:15

Coffee Break

Facilitated Discussion Sessions (simultaneous breakout rooms)

11:15 am - 12:15 pm

Room #1 (moderator: Rynelle Wiebe, Medicine Hat College)

AI

Inspired by the article [Investigating the “Feeling Rules” of Generative AI and Imagining Alternative Futures](#)

Room #2 (moderator: Dana Oullette, University of Alberta)

Climate Change: Culture, Values, and Practice

Inspired by the article [Towards a Librarianship of the Future: Fostering Cultural Adaptation to Climate Change](#)

Room #3 (moderator: Ali Foster, MacEwan University)

Revising & Revisioning Library Research Guides (Libguides)

Inspired by the article [Using a Proposed Library Guide Assessment Standards Rubric and a Peer Review Process to Pedagogically Improve Library Guides: A Case Study](#)

Room #4 (moderator: Christena McKillop, University of Calgary)

Student Belonging

Inspired by the article [Inclusion and Empathy Are Not Enough: Cultivating Student Belonging in the Academic Library Through Compassion](#)

Room #5 (moderator: Emma Scott, University of Lethbridge)

Library Impact Framework

Inspired by the article [The CARL Library Impact Framework: A Logic Model Approach To Impact Assessment For Research Libraries](#)

Room #6 (Moderator TBD)

Troubleshooting and/or open discussion - Feel free to drop in and continue conversations from Roundtable, or start a new discussion!

12:15 pm - 12:30 pm

Brief Summary of talking points from breakout rooms by moderators, closing remarks

List of Reports

Chairs Report

Chair-Elect Report

Treasurer Report

Communications Committee Report

Learning and Development Committee Report

Mentorship Committee Report

Statistics and Assessment Committee Report

Chair's Report - Andrea Johnston

Happy Fall everyone! It is my absolute pleasure to be the Chair of such an incredible organization. We truly have the best committees, the best Executive, and the best membership and I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve and learn from you all.

This year, AAAL has a number of exciting opportunities and changes. As we have heard, the process has begun to dissolve NEOS. This is certainly a loss for the Alberta post-secondary community but also an exciting opportunity for AAAL. Before the announcement, NEOS Executive met with AAAL's Executive to discuss ways that AAAL can answer the call should

NEOS dissolve. This would be in the form of taking on the professional development opportunities that NEOS previously offered and growing our membership to include special libraries that were once under the NEOS umbrella. AAAL is excited for this opportunity and our amazing Chair-Elect is currently undertaking this project and laying the path forward for our organization. This will most likely include changes to our bylaws and we will be keeping everyone in the loop as things progress. Look forward to hearing more about additional PD opportunities, as well as more ways to get involved! Stay tuned!

I also had the extreme pleasure of attending the Stronger Together conference this year. I have to say, it was an *incredible* event with amazing, interactive presentations. I would strongly encourage anyone and everyone to apply to speak next year. We have to be the change we want to see if we want more academic content. This is a fabulous learning opportunity, a great time to connect, and to be inspired! Save the date for next year's conference: **Oct. 20 & 21**, with potential pre-conference on **Oct. 19**, and keep an eye open for the call for proposals! And to further incentivize you, the AAAL Executive is working on creating a sponsorship / grant / PD award to attend Stronger Together so stay tuned for more information about that as well.

And speaking of PD awards, the AAAL Executive is proud to announce that for this year's AGM, we will be offering **three** PD awards to attend. We recognize that we have missed the past couple of years and would like to make up for it by offering more awards this year. Stay tuned for when to apply!

I am so happy to be a part of this community and look forward to connecting with you all further. If you have any questions, or if you have an idea or need extra support, AAAL is here for you. Please reach out to myself anytime (andrea.johnston@rdpolytech.ca) and thank you for your continued dedication and participation.

Warmly,
Andrea Johnston, AAAL Chair.

Chair Elect Report - Celine Gareau-Brennan

I started my role as Chair-Elect after being acclaimed by the AAAL electors during our 2025 spring meeting. Since then, I have had the pleasure of working with the Executive and some of our subcommittees. Some of my completed duties have included sitting on our mentorship committee as well as sending out a call for volunteers for our Learning & Development Committee. As a member of the executive committee, we've had some conversations with NEOS as to their possible dissolution in 2026 and how AAAL could be welcoming and inclusive to NEOS members. As a personal project, I've reached out to many AAAL subcommittee chairs and NEOS directors and members. I am consolidating what I have learned from these conversations and will be making recommendations that will be brought to AAAL executives, AAAL subcommittee members, and the broader AAAL community. I look forward to continuing this work and the rest of my chair-elect responsibilities with the AAAL Executive, all the AAAL committees, and with the broader AAAL community.

Respectfully submitted,
Céline Gareau-Brennan

Treasurer Report - Yvonne Phillips

Since our Spring 2025 Meeting, main duties of the Treasurer have included:

Preparing and submitting our *Society Annual Return* to the Alberta Government to maintain our status as a society. The key part of this submission is our financial statement as audited by two AAAL members who are not part of the Executive Committee. Much thanks to Nicole Eva (U of L) and CJ de Jong (U of A) for volunteering to audit our financials; our paperwork has been sent to Alberta Registries.

Preparing the paperwork to update our Bylaws with Alberta Corporate Registry, as we voted in two key changes in May 2025: changing our fiscal year to May 1 to April 30, and having our membership fees payable October 31. Our paperwork has been submitted.

Further to the latter task, invoices went much more smoothly this year with the later due date (which I think worked better for everyone) and electronic funds transfer was offered as one of the payment options.

As of this writing, of our 32 members, we have received payment from most institutions. If for some reason you did not receive an invoice despite my best efforts, please let me know. I imagine some cheques are still lost in the mail due to the postal strike.

Our membership fee structure has not changed for 2025-2026 and remains as follows:

- FLE 1-999: \$101.25
- FLE 1000-6499: \$135.00

- FLE 6500+: \$270.00
- Tribal College: \$33.75
- TAL: \$67.50 (Affiliate non-voting)

We also have a new member from Edmonton: Newman Theological College! Welcome Newman.

Our starting financial position for 2025-2026 is healthy at **\$17,486.25**. Thank you for supporting AAAL.

Respectfully submitted by:

Yvonne Phillips (Red Deer Polytechnic)
AAAL Treasurer

Communications Committee Report

AAAL communications are shared on the [AAAL Website](#), Bluesky ([Alberta Association of Academic Libraries](#)) Facebook ([Alberta Association of Academic Libraries](#)), the AAAL Newsletter ([subscribe here](#)), and the Jerome-L listserv ([subscribe here](#)).

- We've continued to add events to our AAAL [library events calendar](#). If you have events that you would like to see added to the calendar, please reach out to us at aaal.communications@gmail.com
- The Communications Committee has consolidated the AAAL membership contact list into a single, centralized location. Please let us know if there are any changes to your preferred contacts!

If you have any communications you would like to share via AAAL, please contact aaal.communications@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Caitlin Ratcliffe (NorQuest College), Social Media Manager
Tessa Brodhead (The King's University), Webmaster Administrator
Meghan Staal (University of Alberta), Blog Administrator

Learning and Development Committee Report

Spring 2025 AGM

As always, thank you to all our colleagues who participated in the Spring 2025 AGM at MacEwan University in May. Whether attending, presenting, or organizing, everyone's presence and support are crucial to our ongoing success. In our post-meeting survey, we received 25 responses, and feedback was overwhelmingly positive! Below are some highlights of the responses, as well as suggestions for programming:

- The quality, variety, and pacing of the programming were appreciated by multiple respondents, who noted that the meeting stayed on schedule and the break schedule kept up energy throughout the day. The longer breaks allowed attendees time to connect with other participants.
- Having the tour run during the lunch break, the timing and delivery of the tour were well-received. Many thanks to Nicolle Lemay for her time and expertise!
- Sharing the menu for the day beforehand and connecting with members with dietary considerations were both noted as “please continue.” Multiple responses noted that the vegetarian menu was inclusive and offered variety to all members.
- Suggestions for programming:
 - More presentations related to actively decolonizing library spaces
 - A “get to know your librarian” activity where multiple tables are set up to highlight different crafts, activities, or spaces that their library features and participants can then interact with and try out the different offerings.

A gentle reminder that we are still **seeking a host for the Spring 2026 AGM**. Please reach out to ali.foster@macewan.ca if your institution is interested in hosting!

Committee Updates since Spring 2025

Our committee is grateful to Christy Nichols for her contributions to the committee over the past two years, as she needed to step down from the committee in Summer 2025. After a call for committee members, the L&D committee is excited to introduce Emma Scott (University of Lethbridge), who joined us in August 2025!

We have been working on the Fall 2025 meeting for the past several months. With the support of the Executive Committee and due to scheduling challenges in finding a keynote speaker, our committee organized drop-in, topic-based discussion rooms for our participants. Given the period of change many of our member institutions are experiencing, we look forward to offering members an opportunity to connect and discuss their work.

Looking ahead, our committee is working closely with the Executive Committee to discuss the future of our program planning and how AAAL can continue to offer timely and relevant support to our members.

Respectfully Submitted,

The AAAL Learning & Development Committee: Ali Foster (MacEwan University, Committee Chair); Christena McKillop (University of Calgary); Dana Ouellette (University of Alberta); Emma Scott (University of Lethbridge); Rynnelle Wiebe (Medicine Hat College)

Mentorship Committee Report

The Mentorship Committee was pleased to welcome thirteen mentor–mentee pairs this past fall—surpassing last year’s total and marking the highest participation since before the

COVID-19 pandemic. Participants represent institutions across Alberta, from the northernmost Keyano College to the southernmost University of Lethbridge. A midterm survey will be distributed in January to gather feedback on participant satisfaction, use of mentorship resources, and the level of support provided by the Mentorship Committee.

The current committee members are Sarah Chomyc (University of Alberta), Roxy Garstad (Chair, MacEwan University), Holly Hoffmann (St. Mary's University), Shaun McMullen (Portage College) and Ron Rooth (MacEwan University).

Respectfully submitted by Roxy Garstad.

Statistics and Assessment Committee Report

Membership Updates

There are no new membership updates to share

Annual Survey

The annual survey has been sent off to member institutions with a submission deadline of February 6, 2026. Reports on the data collected will be made available before the Spring 2026 AGM. The survey has not been updated since last year.

Respectfully submitted by,
Adam Cohen (Mount Royal University)
Emily Villanueva (University of Lethbridge)
Jenn Laskosky (Concordia University of Edmonton)

Member Updates

Alberta University for the Arts

- We completed an inventory of the general collection over the summer. Two people counted nearly 30,000 items. Hopefully, we'll be able to work on our archive and two smaller collections in the near future.
- This Fall, we have launched a more collaborative initiative to work with the five AUArts schools for collection development.
- We've had a very good response from the faculty members from the different schools ... large title lists/suggestions have been shared with the library which will enhance the current physical collection.
- We've also been working on getting the Acquisitions module in our Alma system up and running properly! The functionality and key configuration details are done and we're ordering, tracking, and invoicing materials in the system ... hallelujah!
- Will hopefully move onto the next Alma projects very soon, which includes setting up ILL in the system and prepping for the PRIMO NDE migration in the near future.

- Have also been working on updating some general library policies – collection development, lending policy, and the donation policy.
- We've watched our numbers rise in terms of users visiting and spending time in the Library and the Learning Commons so far this semester.
- We've also seen an increase in materials being borrowed and used in our space, which is great too.
- We lost a staff member last year at this time and continue to wait and see if that individual is replaced.
- Working on providing details to Library and Archives Canada about our artist files in our archive, to share them in the Artists in Canada Database.
- Alberta University of the Arts – formerly known as Alberta College of Art and Design – is celebrating its 100 th anniversary! The official birthday happens in 2026, but events have already begun to mark this milestone.
- Our first exhibition – entitled [Faces and Places](#) – runs until November 22 nd on the AUArts campus. The Library contributed an extensive reading list to the materials for the exhibit and can be found at the link provided above.
- Watch the AUArts [webpage](#) and Instagram for further event details to mark this our anniversary.
- Want to learn more about the history of AUArts over the past 100 years – [click this link](#)
- Earlier this year, former AUArts president Daniel Doz retired after 15 years with the school. For more information about Daniel, [click here](#).
- Dr. Janis Goldie is our new president. Dr. Goldie has been with AUArts since 2022. She was the Dean of Academic Programs before this moving into the President and CEO position for a five-year term. To find out more about Dr. Goldie, [click here](#).
- We will kick off 2026 welcoming Dr. Dawn Johnston as our new Vice President, Academic. I am a bit biased about this appointment! I've known Dr. Dawn for 20 years, as she was one of my profs at the University of Calgary. She's made a huge impact on the Faculty of Arts at University of Calgary during her time there, and we are excited to have her join the AUArts community. More details about Dr. Johnston can be found [here](#).

Ambrose

Staff Transitions: In September we said goodbye to Megan Hallam (Library Technical Services Coordinator since May 2021) as she moved into a new role at Mount Royal University Library. Our search for Megan's replacement is ongoing and in the meantime Kim Kissack (Public Services Librarian) and I have been very busy covering daily technical services operations in addition to our usual responsibilities!

Resource Sharing & Requests: We have been working with our SAIL partners over the past few months to configure and test Resource Sharing in Alma and have also enabled the ability for students and faculty to make requests for electronic scans of print content.

Night Against Procrastination: Last year, the Library and Student Academic Success teams partnered in designing and hosting a series of events, called Writing+ Cafes, to help students focus on assignments and exams at mid-term and end of semester. This year we rebranded the event to the more recognizable “Night Against Procrastination” which took place on November 18, and added a series of short “Brain Breaks” throughout the evening led by members of student council, athletics, and faculty. As with last year, overall student engagement demonstrated a high level of need and appreciation.

Program Prioritization: Ambrose University has started a process of “program prioritization” as part of a strategic planning initiative led by our new president in his second year. This process will involve evaluating academic programs, as well as administrative units, to determine demand, value, and cost of programs and services in light of the priorities in our newly-released institutional strategic plan. The library is just starting to engage with this process in determining which programs and services to look at. We hope to report the outcomes at a future AAAL meeting!

Banff Centre for the Arts

The Paul D. Fleck Library & Archives at the Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity has had a busy year! Our stats continue to be healthy as participants, artists, faculty, and staff make use of our collections and resources. Recently, we were able to get a much-needed furniture refresh on which we are getting great feedback, especially on the [privacy-pod chairs](#). Manager [Alexandra Wilder](#) has been in her position for a year and a half now, and Library Tech I Alexandra Reiniger was promoted to Library Tech II with a focus on cataloguing which means she has been able to tackle the large pre-pandemic backlog of materials, including additions to our popular [artist book collection](#). The Banff Centre hosted journalists from around the world in June 2025 as the media hub for the G7 Summit in nearby Kananaskis. Because the library was closed to patrons during this time, we offered delivery directly to artist studios and set up a temporary materials check-out cart in the artist welcome services area. Our small staff of four has done much to address the needs of our patrons this year, including adding a children’s book section for those using the library with their young ones, and adding a mannequin to our library of things ([Creative Tool and Object Library](#)) that can be checked out by our fashion students.

Bow Valley College

- We have launched a Library of Things that includes items such as a steam cleaner, a power drill, and automobile jumper cables available for loan.

- We've also recently launched our Borealis instance in support of collecting and preserving research data from the college community, and are working with other units on campus to participate in the launch of a full research data initiative in the next while.

Burman College

- We hired Shania Sola, a recent graduate of the University of Western Ontario for full time work. Shania began her work in libraries as a student library assistant here a number of years ago before she graduated and went to library school.
- We went live with WMS in May after migrating with the cohort of NEOS libraries that chose WMS.
- I am working on an article with the education faculty on students' preferred teaching strategies in the classroom.

Concordia University

- Concordia Library has been adjusting to our new LSP (OCLC WMS). This has been a relatively smooth transition, with ILLs being the area with the steepest learning curve.
- Although overall enrollment at Concordia is flat, our B.Ed. program expanded to include a 4th cohort this fall, resulting in significantly more instruction for our Education Librarian, Jenna Innes.
- Our other librarians (Victoria Eke & Jenn Laskosky) have also been busy teaching and supporting faculty research.
- We've noticed a significant drop in demand for research assistance at our help desk this fall. We'd like to think it's because of all that great instruction and more robust library FAQs available through chat and our website, but we suspect AI is also contributing to this shift in student behaviour. Finally, Lynette Toews-Neufeldt, the Assistant Library Director, announced her retirement in February 2026.

Keyano College

Keyano College will be welcoming a new president at the beginning of December, after a long executive search process. Dr. Scott MacPherson comes to us from Nova Scotia Community College in Halifax. While it's always a bit of a transition when leadership changes, we are looking forward to seeing how he engages with and supports the Library and the work we do with our campus community.

On the Facilities front, the Library has been making gradual improvements to our physical spaces over the past couple of years. In May, the Library shared an update about our new computer lab furniture which was donated by the Student Association and this time, we are happy to report that our collaborative study zone now features new tables, chairs, and soft seating, and that the computer lab has received a fresh coat of paint. In the grand scheme of things, these are small upgrades, but they've made a noticeable difference for students and the feedback has been really positive.

Finally, the Library has been actively working on integrating into the College's Sustainable Development Goal initiatives. We have been mapping out our programming to align with and incorporate the SDGs, especially in areas like digital literacy and Open Education Resources, which has been a great way for the Library to contribute to some of the bigger conversations happening on campus.

Lakeland College

Signed up with Alma, In the process of implementing Rialto. No timelines for implementing Rapido, thereby affecting our ability to process ILL requests.

Staffing : Lost our E-Resources Technician. Our manager is on medical leave, We have a skeleton staff for now. Otherwise, all is well in Lakeland College.

MacEwan University

- Enrolment has increased by 6%, and the library has been very busy.
- The Library has a new organizational structure and it is working well.
- We've introduced a children's area and are promoting it as a space where students can study while having their children with them.

Medicine Hat College

- 2 new hires - Lucas Hill as the Technology and Resources Librarian and in that role also serves as one of the library managers, and Sara Percy as the Open Access Librarian.
- The library created a game collection for students and hosted a game night at the start of the school year.
- As for renovations we carpeted our group study spaces to mitigate sound transfer, and we added new soft seating. Instead of pillows on the sofas we added squashmallows which seem to be a big hit with students.

King's University

King's went live with OCLC WMS last May, as part of the NEOS cohort. We are finding a lot of people really like the new search box on the library homepage. It's really great to have a seamless, one vendor only search set up, compared to the previous system. King's too has taken on ILL. It's interesting, mostly the requests are for article copies, not so much book loans, which matches what we saw happening with NEOS book movements. Like Concordia, we are seeing fewer book borrowing, which is likely because of the move in the Arts faculty, to have students use supplied sources and write assignments in class. AI continues to be a big discussion here @ King's. It's budget time, I will leave this meeting to attend an all departments budget meeting, I'm not looking forward to it. Our enrollment continues to rise slowly.

Fortunately, King's doesn't have a lot of international students, so we budgeted for only 2 less than arrived.

Northern Lakes College - No updates at this time.

Mount Royal University

- [New study pods](#) from Framery Acoustics have been incredibly popular
- Undergraduate Research Leaders Program has been successful, and we're doing it again for a second year.
- We are trying a new initiative, a "student ambassadors" program where we will hire students to contribute to library planning and promote and represent the library
- We made some furniture changes last year with a goal of helping students know what kinds of activities are welcome in a learning environment; the usage data we are seeing shows its been successful in directing people to appropriate places in the library
- MRU is a signatory to DORA and we've been working closely with the Research Office to share information and advice across campus about research assessment

A few webpages aimed at researchers that we have been updating over the past year at MRU:

- <https://library.mtroyal.ca/faculty/evidencesynthesis>
- <https://library.mtroyal.ca/faculty/orcid>
- https://library.mtroyal.ca/faculty/research_assessment
- <https://library.mtroyal.ca/open>
- <https://library.mtroyal.ca/open/data>

NAIT

We are growing intentional student involvement in the Library, including hiring our first student Makerspace tutors. We have also seen growth of programs using the Library for hands-on projects for their students. Ex: this semester, NAIT's Interior Design program's capstone project is for students to redesign the Library space, and Public Relations students are building PR plans for our new(ish) Writing Centre. We also have a stronger role to play in Assistive Technology, growing what we loan to students regardless of a declared disability and growing AT demos and programming.

NorQuest College

- We continue to feel the impacts of IRCC changes and the International Student Program - NQ enrolment has declined
- There has been budget mitigation, and layoffs across the college. The library lost 2 staff the end of July and wasn't able to fill a librarian vacancy from last year.
- As part of our Alma/Primo transition we are implementing Rapido for ILL - we expect it to be live in February.
- The library is partnering with our Applied Research faculty on the development of an Institutional Repository - it should be up and running some time early next year
- NorQuest is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year
- Our arts and sciences programs continue to grow. We introduced a 1st year engineering transfer program (to the University of Alberta) this year
- NorQuest's correctional library at FSCC also received a large donation from the UofA's faculty of native studies! Thank you to the UofA library for thinking of us and coordinating this!

Newman College

Newman Theological College is located on the upper banks of the North Saskatchewan River valley in Edmonton. Thank-you for welcoming Sopchyshyn Family Library to AAAL.

Mary-Lou Veeken came to Newman as Library Director on August 1, 2025. Library Technician Marissa Wilde joined on October 1, and is making great progress in processing the large cataloguing backlog. The College itself has a new President as well, Dr. Darren Dahl.

Newman Library migrated to the Koha/Aspen platform in March 2025. Staff and students are still learning the new system and adjusting fairly well to the change. Users like the phone app, Aspen LIDA. As is the case for all (former) NEOS members, handling Inter-Library Loans in a less-seamless manner has been the main obstacle to overcome.

Fun fact: Marissa and Mary-Lou jumped right into their new roles and did a major shelf-shift of half the main floor collection during the Autumn break.

Olds College

Olds College welcomed a new president, Debbie Thompson in 2025. Brewing and Hospitality & Tourism programs had suspended intakes in 2025/26. Bachelor of Digital Agriculture started its 3rd year in Fall 2025 and intake for this degree has been increasing. Our new Trades building is being built and is hopefully on schedule as students are currently between the Olds College campus and off-site.

The Olds College library is a shared, collaborative space between Olds College and Ecole Olds High School and usage in all areas of the library have increased over the last year. As a new academic library librarian, I feel I actually know what is going on and can now assess and plan for exciting things in years to come. OCLC WMS implementation successfully implemented. Long Night Against Procrastination was a big success (last night) and students were very appreciative for the longer hours and accessibility to instructors, who were invited and attended the event as well.

Portage College

In June, not long after our spring AGM, our colleague CJ moved on to greener pastures in the public library world, and although we could never replace her completely, we finally found someone who could take her position in new and exciting directions. In October, we welcomed Mandie Thomson as the new Library Support Specialist at the St. Paul Campus. Mandie originally hails from Ontario, has a BA Hons and MA in English from McMaster, her LIT diploma from Mohawk College, and came to us after a stint with The College of the North Atlantic in Stephenville NL.

Also in October, Portage College welcomed our new President and CEO, Dr. Stephen Price. He will be familiar to our colleagues at Mount Royal University as he spent many years there as an Instructor, Associate Professor, and Dean.

There have been many changes in the programs at the College. The Professional Cook and Heavy Equipment Operator programs have been suspended, but we have also brought in the

Addictions Counseling Diploma, we are getting closer to launching the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer – Structural diploma, and we've also taken some big steps towards starting up a Bachelor of Education program.

In the library itself, the Lac La Biche Library was also able to upgrade their furnishings, which was long overdue, and now has new couches, desks, and computer chairs for the students. We have purchased 2 new hush pods, one for Lac La Biche and one for Cold Lake. Now the students have a quiet, ventilated space to do their work. We are developing a new LibGuide in copyright, and of course, use of AI is always on our minds.

Red Deer Polytechnic

- Library Platform Transition: RDP Library is moving from the NEOS shared catalogue to a new OCLC-based platform. The platform went live in May 2025, introducing a modern, user-friendly catalogue and updated workflow for interlibrary loans. Communication and training plans were well executed by the various RDP library teams.
- Academic Integrity Activities Along with massive uptake in our Academic Integrity Fundamentals and Academic Integrity Remedial tutorials, we hosted 2 fun events for students so far this fall: “Oops, AI Did It Again” booth to help students learn about effective use of AI and common pitfalls. + “Escaping Academic Misconduct” escape-booth experience, where students worked through puzzles about understanding and avoiding academic misconduct. If they solved the puzzles correctly, they “escaped misconduct.”
- Select Operational Updates
 - SSO for some databases: Off-campus access for some resources required the use of our institutional SSO. We had never implemented this before, so building this “proof of possible” with our IT group was exciting.
 - Pests-be-gone: The Library moved to a covered drinks/small snacks only practice in Fall 2025. Staff have done an awesome job of managing the space while preserving our reputation as a prime spot on campus.
- Community & Culture: Gate counts and questions at the service desk have nearly returned to pre-COVID levels. We continue to balance the vibrancy of our space with the needs and expectations of all students using it.

St. Mary's University

- Institutionally, St. Mary's has an interim president as of this summer, Scott Morrison (a leader from K-12 Catholic education who has a history of teaching at StMU). StMU has had enrollment growth and has big goals to continue to grow. We have a new Academic Plan and Facilities Plan being announced soon. The library will remain small for now but we are working on squeezing in more seats.
- The library has re-run a 'Donut Panic' event for drop-in research help and tried a 'Writing with Friends' event that featured quiet writing time with writing 'sprints'. We host a faculty writing accountability clinic that has a strong core group. We had offered a session 'Oops AI wrote my paper' but we had no uptake (!)

- On the technical side, StMU has implemented Resource Sharing in ALMA - we are working on issues with our lending requests but our connections for borrowing are working well.
- We sent 2 staff to the Archives Institute to support our work with preservation of our Special Collections and continued work with a donated archive and possible institutional archive work.

The Alberta Library

Over the past year, TAL undertook a process to inform the new Strategic Plan. This included a Vision/Mission/Values meeting, a comprehensive PESTLE and TOWS analysis, a province-wide member survey, and 28 interviews to refine TAL's next steps. Data from regional systems, post-secondary libraries, and previous plans was synthesized to identify consistent sector needs and organizational priorities. The TAL Town Hall saw over 30 attendees who provided vibrant discussion that really helped explore the data. Thank you so much to everyone who let me invade their libraries for interviews and otherwise participated throughout the year; we are on schedule to launch the plan in January or February 2026.

We are just sorting out the final math for Lois Hole's Canadian Business & Current Affairs and will be sending out items in the coming weeks. The LHCADL Advocacy Working Group has a document under construction.

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We are working on a training opportunity provided via a grant from the Public Library Services Branch with the Library Association of Alberta that will, assuming everything goes as planned, provide a half-day symposium at the Southern Alberta Library Conference in April and 3 Fireside chats with library leaders in the province.

2026 MOU signed for Stronger Together Conference, a Working Group will be put together soon.

University of Calgary

Galleries, Archives & Special Collections: New AUL – Jason Nisenson

- Combined our Galleries with ASC

Collections & research support: New AUL (was already Acting)– Christie Hurrell

- *Agreement with UofManitoba to house and make accessible their physical collections

Facilities, Infrastructure and Technology: AUL – Claudette Cloutier

- Upgrade to our Visualization Studio <https://library.ucalgary.ca/services/visualization>

- Upgrade to our Audio-Visual Edit Suites

Student Learning and Engagement: AUL – Leeanne Morrow

- *Centre for Artificial Intelligence Ethics, Literacy and Integrity - May 2025 to present we have held 36 unique sessions (46 total) with 5,187 people in attendance (hybrid)
<https://library.ucalgary.ca/services/caiei>
- Library-led Transdisciplinary AI initiative focused on students
- Address critical gap in students' foundational understanding of AI and to foster responsibility.

University of Lethbridge

Our Library is in the midst of a transition to Alma/Primo/Rapido, which is taking a lot of time in training and planning. So far, the transition is going well. Our go live date is April 29.

We opened the Ian Tyson Reading Area in the University Library to house and display the bulk of the iconic Canadian folk singer's personal library, which he bequeathed to the University of Lethbridge upon his death in 2022. We held a grand opening for the space on November 13 with special guest Corb Lund.

The Library has hired a new professional librarian, who may be familiar to some of you in AAAL. Emily Kroeker will be joining us in February. Part of her responsibilities will be taking charge of the University Archives, a position we have been wanting to fill for some time. We're excited to welcome Emily to our team.

Institutionally, the University is getting ready to welcome the first intake of medical students in the Southern Alberta Medical Program (SAMP). This is a joint project between the Cummings School of Medicine at the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge. Most of these students' library needs will be met from the U of C, but we do anticipate some use of our collection and space, since the students will be physically located here in Lethbridge. This will start in June 2026.

The Library released its impact report for 2024-25.

https://www.ulethbridge.ca/lib/about_Us/University_of_Lethbridge_Library_Impact_Report_2024-25.pdf

We're also planning a survey of our users in the Winter term. We last did a LibQual survey just before the pandemic so we're due for another study. With the demise of LibQual, we decided to develop our own in-house survey. We just finished the survey and are awaiting approval to deploy it from our university's institutional analysis team.

Vanguard College

Vanguard College also went live with OCLC WMS (NEOS) in May, and the learning curve is steep, but we're feeling more settled in our configurations and working hard to provide interlibrary loans to places we've never been asked to before. We've seen a strong increase in enrollment at Vanguard, and that has resulted in nearly doubling the reference and circulation statistics. We wrote clear guidelines about AI this summer and switched the majority of our courses from APA formatting style to Chicago Manual of Style so I've been updating all the help files for students and teaching several information literacy classes on these topics. I am having all kinds of fun issues with EBSCO authentication these days and hope to integrate it better with our OCLC WMS without paying for another service. I am thankful to have a good relationship with our IT department who is working hard on Microsoft SSO. On a fun note, we built our book tree again this year, and students have been very engaged in our stress-reducing passive p

our stress-reducing passive program building Lego decorations for it. I hired a fresh MacEwan LIT grad, Joanna Schmidt, last January and I am so glad to report that she returned in August on a permanent seasonal contract, tackling my backlog of cataloguing and collection assessment work with excellence.

Yellowhead Tribal College

Yellowhead Tribal College Library received a donation of Indigenous studies books from the University of Alberta in October. In addition, thanks to the UofA, librarians at the five tribal Colleges in Alberta were able to meet in-person for the first time in over a decade. Anecdotally in-person library use by YTC students has been higher this term compared to recent years with many students taking advantage of our study areas.