How do we know libraries offer excellent value for the taxpayer’s dollar?

- Southeast Regional Library calculated that for every dollar of taxpayer money allocated to the Regional Library, turns into three dollars of value in terms of things like books, magazines, database access, DVDs, programming, etc.
- A typical Saskatchewan family making even just modest use of their local public library uses an estimated $1,000.00 worth of resources each year.
- These figures were calculated using a Library Value Calculator (http://www.ilovelibraries.org/what-libraries-do/calculator)

How do we know libraries get busier during economic downturns?

- Detailed research has been conducted on this question at several different library systems in the USA and Toronto Public Library. Below are links to the studies:
  - http://www.library.arkansas.gov/PublicLibraryServices/Documents/recession.pdf
  - http://www.ala.org/research/librarystats/economichard
- In 2010 (a “boom” year) there were 23,200 attendees at Southeast Regional Library programs. In 2014 (a “decline” year) there were 27,500 attendees at Southeast Regional Library programs. Demand for programming also increased: in 2010 = 2,400 program, in 2014 = 3,000 programs.

What have libraries done for Saskatchewan and for Saskatchewan communities?

- Southeast Regional Library branches offered over 2,300 services in our communities such as meeting room space, seniors outreach and support to home school families.
- Libraries provide direct economic support to communities in terms of employment in an automated and community-building focused environment.
- Public libraries maintain a cultural, informational and intellectual presence in many rural and remote communities.
- Public libraries are an outlet for government programs, services and messages. For example, a branch of Service Canada currently operates out of the Fort Qu’Appelle branch.
- Libraries preserve Saskatchewan’s cultural heritage. For example, decades worth of The Weyburn Review newspaper are accessible at the Weyburn Public Library in microform.
The intangible outcomes to all of these programs and services include things such as:
  - Support and encouragement to Saskatchewan residents to lead better lives.
  - Strengthening family life.
  - Building community.
  - Supporting literacy and lifelong learning.
  - Equitable access to services no matter income, education, gender, ethnicity, etc.

What do libraries do to be responsive to the needs of their communities?

In 2012 Southeast Regional Library began a region wide Community Needs Assessment Project.

- In each of the 47 communities where a Southeast branch exists a detailed study of that communities' unique strengths, challenges, threats and opportunities was conducted. A booklet and presentation summarizing the data was presented to each local library board.
- Over 400 phone interviews were conducted with local community leaders around the region.
- Each local library board created a three year action plan designed to address and respond to the unique needs of their individual community.

A regional summary of the results of the project is available on request.

The Provincial Library and Literacy Office initiated a detailed Library Branch Facility survey in 2014 among all public libraries in the province. Southeast Regional Library completed the survey at all of its locations and the results are currently being analyzed to see how library facilities could better serve our communities.

The Ministry of Education's literacy and early learning goals are our goals.

- 73% of Southeast Regional Library's programming (or approximately 2,180 programs) in 2014 were aimed at children, primarily children under 12.
- All 47 Southeast Regional Library branches participate in the national Summer Reading Club program in at least some capacity.
- In 2015 in Southeast Regional Library 59,000 children's print books alone (not including children's DVDs, ebooks or audiobooks) were circulated. That means approximately one in five books checked out in our libraries is a children's book.
- Public libraries routinely support home school families, offer computer literacy classes for seniors and conduct exam invigilation for adult distance learners. These are non-traditional, but important, literacy initiatives being addressed by public libraries that appear to have been overlooked in the Ministry's formal plan.
Annual General Meeting

16 April 2016

Annual Report

The region’s Annual Report for 2015 was presented to trustees attending the Annual Meeting. This included reports from the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Allan Johnson, CEO & Library Director, announced his plans to retire in 2017. The provincial public library grant pool was frozen for 2015-16. Unfortunately, the provincial grant formula worked against us once again and we suffered a small decline in provincial funding. Municipal library grants fund the operation of the branch network. The average increase in municipal funding was around 3% which was primarily used to increase branch staff compensation levels. We continue to support our local library boards as they work through a needs assessment process for their branch. When this process is completed branches will be better able to tailor their services and programs to the unique needs of their communities.

Saskatchewan Library Trustees’ Association Report

Highlights of the past year were presented by Donna Hartley, the Regions representative for SLTA. The 2016 Saskatchewan Libraries Association Conference is May 5-7 at the Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon SK. The theme for this conference is “Cooperation Saskatchewan Style: 20 Years of Success”.

50th Anniversary Celebrations

All 47 branches have booked a BBQ date with the first being on April 14 and the last on October 22. The vast majority are occurring between June and August. The Regional Library is providing the food, birthday cake, juice, a few staff members, and promotional materials such as balloons and stickers. The local communities are providing volunteers, local advertising, a BBQ and tables. A 50th Anniversary history display is also going to be present at each BBQ. We are looking forward to sharing this special year with all of you!

Makerspaces

Kate-Lee Nolin spoke about the launch of Makerspace Kits in March 2016. Twenty kits have been created that are intended for branch staff, volunteers and board members to put on new and unique branch programs. Some Makerspace Kit examples include: a button maker, a PS4 game console, LEGO, cooking utensils, and 3Doodler. Bookings can be made through James at HQ, and kits can be checked out for a month at a time. Rural branches can borrow three kits per month and city branches five kits per month.

Video Games

James Richards gave a presentation on the new Video Game collection. The collection was launched in February and joins four other library systems in the province currently offering this service. Currently there are 400 items and this number will continue to expand in 2016. Games are being provided for all major consoles currently on the market. Early checkout statistics are encouraging with approximately 92% of the collection having circulated in its first two months. James explained how video games are a natural fit for public libraries as a circulating item in terms of their culture and popularity. Video game use among Canadians is only expected to increase as younger generations are playing video games in ever greater numbers. Some positives for the library are that video games can create an attraction to the library for younger patrons, make people re-think their perceptions of a public library and, most importantly, are fun!

Award of Merit

Ken Sutherland, Southeast Regional Library Chairperson, presented the Branch Award of Merit. The successful candidates for the Branch Award of Merit for 2015 were Bengough, Estevan and Indian Head.

Trustee Service Awards

Ken Sutherland presented Blaine Morrison, Stoughton; Charlotte Kovach, Maryfield; and Gerard Parent, Sedley; with a trustee service award for attending 10 meetings.

Executive Committee

Chairperson
Ken Sutherland

Vice-Chairperson
Dianne Sander

From Cities
Carol Cundall

Donna Hartley

Karen Sinclair

Ken Sutherland

Bill Wilke

Colleen Gallinger

Ida Donovan

From Towns

Member at Large

From Villages

From RMs