

May 4, 2012

Dear Library Supporter:

On behalf of the Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL) Board of Trustees and staff, I am pleased to present our 2011 Annual Report.

We hope this document showcases how YRL is committed to adapting to the changing needs of our member libraries and seeking creative ways to provide quality service to our region.

We invite you to read our report and discover the many ways that YRL is working toward being a leader in library service. We also encourage you to visit our website at [www.yrl.ab.ca](http://www.yrl.ab.ca) for more information.

If you would like an electronic copy or additional print copies of the 2011 Annual Report, please contact YRL's communications coordinator, Shannon Edge, at [sedge@yrl.ab.ca](mailto:sedge@yrl.ab.ca).

We appreciate your continued support and commitment to the libraries of Alberta.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kevin Dodds'.

Kevin Dodds  
Director  
Yellowhead Regional Library

Enclosure

YELLOWHEAD REGIONAL LIBRARY

2011

Annual Report



YRL staff at the celebration

# 40 years in the making

2011 marked YRL's 40th anniversary as a regional library system. In 1971, YRL opened its doors to serve 18 public libraries and 64 school libraries – a total population of 65,183. Forty years later, the region comprises 261,160 Albertans in 44 public libraries and 54 school libraries. To celebrate this milestone, YRL recognized its members for their ongoing support and dedication to the region. At the 40th anniversary celebration held in October, YRL gave each member library a Kobo Touch eReader or a Playaway Viewer, and announced the creation of three Xbox Kinect Kits that libraries could borrow for use with their patrons. Thank you for your support!

31,500



In addition to the \$10,000 YRL budgets for OverDrive content, 18 of its 44 member public libraries contributed \$31,500 to purchase a total of 2,002 downloadable eBooks and audiobooks.

4,713



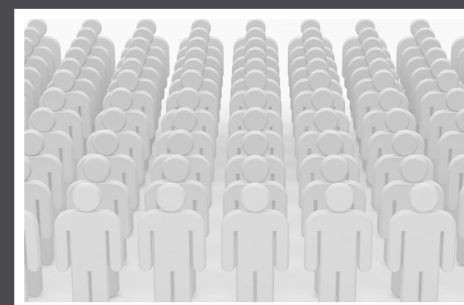
With the purchase of a new disc repair machine, YRL was able to meet the demand for this service from its member libraries. The machine can repair up to 100 discs per session and can handle CDs, DVDs and BluRay discs. In 2011, YRL repaired 4,713 discs – an increase of 60 per cent from the year prior.

388,115



YRL member libraries had a busy 2011 – shipping 388,115 items throughout the year. Of that, 75 per cent was filled within the region. YRL is proud of this statistic as its goal was to reduce the use of government courier for interlibrary loans.

261,160



YRL provides quality service to both urban and rural residents of Alberta through the sharing of material, resources and expertise. Currently, YRL serves 261,160 Albertans in 54 municipalities and 13,136 full-time equivalent students in four school divisions.





Welcome

In 2011, two municipalities joined YRL:

- Summer Village of Sandy Beach
- Summer Village of Sunrise Beach

Welcome to the region!

# eResources

At the end of 2011, YRL offered 37 online databases along with more than 8,000 downloadable items.

1,404



The Government of Alberta provided two years of access to Mango Languages, a language learning software now available to all Albertans.

Since it went live in May 2011, YRL member library patrons have logged 1,404 sessions – the most popular language being Spanish.

16,887



TumbleBooks are animated, talking picture books. They have always been pretty popular, but this year they really boomed.

Between the three TumbleBooks products offered, 16,887 books were read in 2011. That's up 40 per cent from 2010.

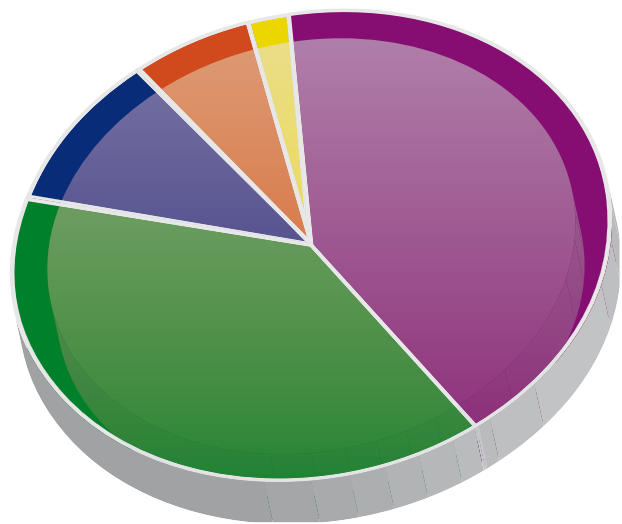
2,123



YRL is proud to offer Consumer Reports to its member libraries and their patrons.

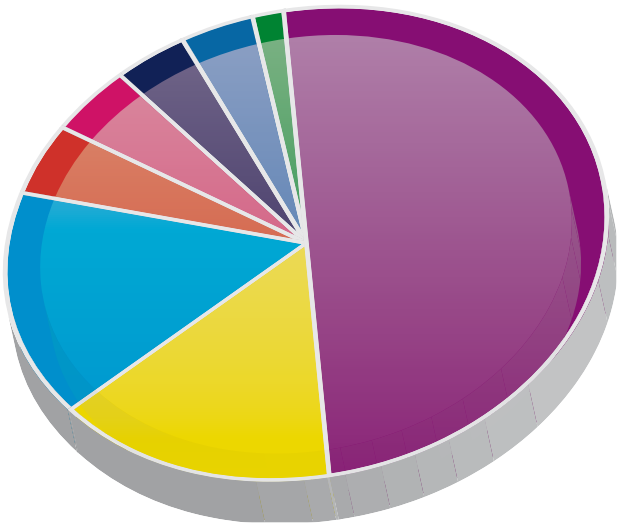
In the first two months of being offered – it was launched in November 2011 – 223 people visited 2,123 pages of product reviews.

# Financials



## revenues

- Province of Alberta (42%)
- Municipal levies (39%)
- Other (10%)
- School levies (6%)
- Contract services (3%)



## expenses

- Staffing (50%)
- Transfer to reserves (16%)
- Material and database purchases (15%)
- Operating (5%)
- Other (4%)
- Building costs (4%)
- TRAC expenses (4%)
- Delivery (2%)

Details on YRL’s financial statements are available online at [www.yrl.ab.ca/content/financial-information](http://www.yrl.ab.ca/content/financial-information).

# Kevin Dodds

YRL director

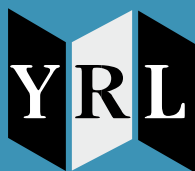
If I had to think of one word to describe 2011 for Yellowhead Regional Library, it would be celebrate.

40 years of success for YRL. More than \$30,000 to the OverDrive collection by our member libraries. And the collaborative effort of our libraries to minimize the use of the government courier for interlibrary loans – to name a few.

But the accomplishments celebrated this year couldn’t have been done without collaboration, which is the word I will use to describe the upcoming year. With member satisfaction as our main priority, YRL will be conducting a needs assessment in 2012. This will be the foundation for the 2013-2015 Plan of Service and will be used to develop goals for client services, bibliographic services and communications. We look forward to the needs assessment because it not only gives us information for future planning, but also provides us an opportunity to evaluate our current services. We are committed to providing our members with valuable services and strive to keep them well-equipped and up-to-date to enhance their patrons’ library experiences.

As we continue with our needs assessment and fulfill the last year of the 2010-2012 Plan of Service, I look forward to a year of continued growth, exciting developments and great successes for our member libraries.





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