

## RISE Meeting Promised Outcomes

**The RISE Network is meeting many of its promised outcomes. Highlights in a recent report to the RADF include:**

- In 2010 RISE libraries increased their hours of opening by approximately 340 hours per week – a total increase of 17,680 hours of library service in southern Alberta
- RISE libraries created 16 full time and 52 part time positions since the beginning of the project. In addition, many libraries increased the hours of part time staff thus making their positions more sustainable. Staff at 78 libraries were trained to manage the videoconference equipment in their library
- 54 RISE coffee break sessions provided training and support by videoconference to participating libraries
- 35 separate sites hosted 519 videoconference programs in 2010
- Almost 10,000 people participated in 2,005 videoconferences
- Partnerships with literacy associations, the Public Legal Education Association, the University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge College, Alberta Parks and Recreation, Alberta Culture and Community Spirit and many more organizations were created to provide content and programming over the RISE Network
- A large variety of programming allowed participation by many groups including ESL students, children, young adults, seniors and the general population
- A conservative estimate indicates that 250,000 km of travel and almost 5,000 hours of travel time were saved

### Take a Virtual Field Trip!

Take your patrons on a virtual field trip to the Royal Botanical Gardens! Interact with educators and scientists to explore topics like biodiversity, conservation, botany, plant ecology and the environment. Learn about organic gardening, insects, "creatures with wings," colours in nature, and more.



While these programs were developed for school children, the RBG has, in the past, been willing to adapt their programming for more general audiences. These programs are also a great resource for homeschoolers.

To learn more about these programs visit:

<http://www.rbg.ca/Page.aspx?pid=341>

To find out how you can access one of these programs for free, visit TANDBERG Connections:

<http://www.rbg.ca/Page.aspx?pid=341>

### Report Problems Promptly!

Are you experiencing packet loss (pixilation)? Having trouble connecting a laptop? Issues with video or sound? Tell someone!

During a videoconference, it's recommended that library staff be on hand just in case something goes wrong. If staff can't fix the problem immediately, call your IT department or your RISE consultant librarian.

Many problems can be fixed easily, but only if they are reported promptly.



## Weather Watch

The 3rd and 4th Grade students of Tilley School participated in an hour-long videoconference with the COSI (Center Of Science and Industry) out of Columbus, Ohio on Thursday, January 27th, 2011. This program was modified for the Grades 3 and 4 students as it is originally designed to be presented to students in Grade 4 through 7. The teacher received a kit of materials and a handbook about a week before the program. There was a small delay getting connected so we hooked up right at 11:00 am. This did not give us the opportunity to introduce ourselves and to chat a little before the session but it worked out fine anyway.

The presenter was energetic and knowledgeable and engaged the students immediately. She first spoke about weather and defined some terms and symbols. Then she showed the students a couple of quick experiments before proceeding to lead the them in their own hands-on projects. The students answered her questions and interacted very well with her and after the first experiment caught on to the procedures very easily. This was a wonderful way to prepare our 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students for next year's curriculum of studying weather factors. I hope to repeat this experience or participate in a similar program in the future as it was a lot of fun and truly showcased the joy of learning in a new way. This was a free TANDBERG Connections session!

Submitted by Anita Chappell, Tilley Public Library



## IMPORTANT: Find New Programs @ risenetwork.ca

In an effort to streamline the registration process for RISE videoconference programming, the RISE Team has decided to announce upcoming videoconference programs only on the RISE website. It is our hope that by moving away from email announcements, the registration process will be fair to all RISE libraries.

Don't despair, however! You don't have to visit the RISE website everyday (unless you want to), all you have to do is subscribe to the RSS feed using a feed reader or via email subscription. By subscribing to the RSS feed using a reader or via email, you will be notified daily when there are new sessions available.

When you see a program that would suit your community, email your RISE consultant librarian or other System representative to register your library.

Handouts or other materials for sessions will also be posted with the program description, when they are available.

To learn how to set up automatic email notification from the website, follow the directions provided in this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhHDP57gqul>

For more information on subscribing to an RSS Feed and for a tour of the RISE website, take a look at this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KG1tGjOJ7Bg>

The RISE Team is striving to create the most efficient and convenient service possible for you and your patrons. If you have ideas on how we could improve, please speak to your RISE consultant librarian.