

Virtual Ink!

Southern Alberta writers will receive guidance, encouragement and training from J. Jill Robinson, a successful, published author through Virtual Ink! – a writer in residence program provided by videoconference through the RISE Network.

J. Jill Robinson has published four books (*Residual Desire* [2003], *Eggplant Wife* [1995], *Lovely in Her Bones* [1993], and *Saltwater Trees* [1991]), numerous articles, poems, plays and short stories.

With traditional writer-in-residence programs, aspiring writers are required to travel to a central point to receive coaching and guidance. With Virtual Ink! the writer in residence is as close as the nearest RISE Network public library.

J. Jill Robinson will be offering five workshop sessions between late March and early May and will be available for one-on-one consultations. The complete schedule of workshops and instructions on participating in the consultations will be posted on the RISE Network website on or before March 8th, 2011.

J. Jill Robinson will be based at the Canmore Public Library and will be providing the workshops and consultations via videoconference to RISE libraries.

For more information about Virtual Ink! contact Lauren Jessop at the Chinook Arch Library System – 403.380.1506.



RISE Network Program Evaluations

In an effort to improve the videoconference experience for library staff and patrons, the RISE Advisory Committee has created a short post-program survey.

This survey is to gather information on the quality of the presentation, any technology issues and to help in the retrieval of statistics for presenters.

The survey will be posted on the RISE website with the program description for library staff to access after each session. Or you can simply use the link provided below as the survey can be used more than once.

Completing this survey will really help to make the videoconference service as effective as possible.

If you would like to use the survey now, follow this link:
www.surveymonkey.com/s/RISENetworkEvaluation

The First 10 Minutes...

Every videoconference scheduled on the RISE Network offers a 10 minute buffer before the session is actually set to begin. To ensure that the session gets underway on time, use these minutes wisely.

This buffer gives the bridge time to connect all participants and it gives you time to:

- A. Do a sound check
- B. Make sure everyone can see your presentation (if applicable)
- C. Check your camera position
- D. Pass out any handouts

Using this buffer wisely ensures that all participants enjoy the session.

Cowboy Close Up!

Airdrie Public Library connected through videoconference to the Amon Carter museum in Fort Worth, Texas to explore the history of the cowboy. The event was tied in to a display of western art by Gary Giesbrecht. Cowboy Close-up included the photographs of Erwin E. Smith, along with the paintings and sculpture of Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell, who help to tell the story of the American cowboy during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Participants experienced the lifestyle of a cowboy through the eyes and words of an historical re-enactor as they watched video clips filmed with an authentic chuck wagon. The west came to life at the Airdrie Public Library!

Submitted by: Christina J.S. Waldner, Airdrie Public Library



Free programs from TANDBERG Connections

Imagine connecting with museums around the world, seeing the bones of prehistoric dinosaurs, creating your own music or becoming the scientist and defining matter - without ever leaving the library.

The TANDBERG Connections Program makes this possible. Each month between 20 and 25 virtual field trips are available, free of charge, from high quality, professional videoconference providers. Recently virtual field trips have been from the following organizations:

Calvert Marine Museum	Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium
Center for Puppetry Arts	Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum
Center of Science and Industry	Royal Botanical Gardens
International Wolf Center	Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology

These virtual field trips are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and your library may participate in a maximum of two sessions per semester. The semesters run from January to May and August to December. If your library is registered, you'll receive a monthly email listing the upcoming programs. If you need to register, visit http://tandberg.cilc.org/connections/account_request.asp. On the form where it asks for "School Name," put the name of your library and where it asks for "School District" put "RISE Network." Be aware that only one account per library will be approved.

While these programs are typically intended for school age children, you can work with the organization to tailor the program, if you want to offer it to adults.

To improve your chances of getting the virtual field trip you want, be prepared to register for the session right when the registration opens. The longer you wait, the less likely it that you'll get the session.

Visit the TANDBERG Connections website for more information about the program:
<www.tandberg.com/ind_focus/education/connections.jsp>.