

An Evening With Musaeus



On Thursday December 8 the Chestermere Library spent an Evening With Musaeus. There were a couple of aspects that made this event a tiny bit more interesting here.

For the evening event hosted by Taber, we had a problem. Our program room was double booked. So we purchased a 50 foot extension for the RISE equipment and took it outside into the main body of the library. A few chairs were set up right in front of the screen and at the appointed time we were hooked up. Needless to say, the music was wonderful and it drifted across the entire library. On a cold winter night, this was truly awesome. Anyone looking in from outside Chestermere only saw one lady sitting in a chair listening, but as I worked my evening shift I noticed many others listening - out of view of the camera. This included a dad and his three-ish old son and two teenage students who were spotted tapping their feet to non-rap stuff! Whether they were listening for a few minutes while they browsed stacks or the full hour while studying, customers seemed to enjoy the time spent with Musaeus.

This was a good promo for the RISE Network, but if there had been some kind of interactive component I think it would have made the experience even richer. RISE is really just starting to take off in Chestermere. As a true believer in the potential of videoconferencing in the Library, I am pleased to say that we now use the equipment for meetings, training and programming with lots of plans in the works - including hosting a series along with Bow Valley College. Giving our customers a taste of Music via VC certainly had them perking up their ears! Thank you Taber!

Submitted by Mary McKay, Chestermere Municipal Library



Start the New Year with Bow Valley College

Join Bow Valley College as they discuss online educational opportunities towards a new career or lifelong learning. There are still spots available! Contact your consultant to register for these sessions:

Get there without going there: Online learning at Bow Valley College - Wednesday January 18, 2012 @ 7pm-8pm

Looking to further your education but need to juggle career and family at the same time? Join this session to learn about exciting online program opportunities offered through Bow Valley College and eCampusAlberta.

Common Cents! - Wednesday January 25, 2012 @ 7pm-8pm

This presentation will provide you with the Financial Aid options available for online studies at BVC. Other topics include how to prepare financially for school and budgeting tips.

Career Exploration Techniques - Wednesday February 1, 2012 @ 7pm-8pm

Our Career Advisor will spend an hour helping you to identify your skills, interests, traits and values and our Career Advisor will work with you to identify programs at BVC that can help you achieve that career goal.

Can I Do This? Essential Skills for New Online Learners - Wednesday February 8, 2012 @ 7pm-8pm

Planning to register for an online course but unsure if your current skills are sufficient? Join this session to find out what taking an online course is really like, including the computer and study skills you'll need to succeed



Writing A Basic Grant Proposal



So many projects, so little funds! Many non-profit groups are faced with having to find grants to fund projects or offer services they feel are valuable to their communities. Richard Larsen provided some great information on grant writing in his recent videoconference, "Writing a Basic Grant Proposal". He explored with participants different grant proposal formats and reminded participants to be sure to review grant guidelines carefully. Be sure to check if you are an eligible applicant and your project is eligible. I felt his information about how to begin writing a grant proposal was especially helpful. From figuring out your problem/opportunity statement exploring what the issue or opportunity

is to who is having the issue or opportunity. Participants were asked to draft problem/opportunity statements for a project they currently were seeking granting for. This was a huge help as we discovered the problem/opportunity wasn't what we would spend the money on but instead the impact this project would have on someone. He suggested we have someone read our statements and see what picture came to the reader's mind. He has found grade eight students work great and with a little bribery can give you some great input on how "real" the issue becomes. Question what will be missed if this project or opportunity isn't funded? He suggests you discover what the granting body is wanting to fund and then see how your project or opportunity can fit into those parameters. He also suggested using an introductory letter with your grant application to help sell your idea.

Next create objectives which are directional statements with words like increase, decrease, maintain, sustain, concerning the issue or opportunity. Then discuss the method and budget for the project. The method is the text and the budget is the numbers telling the same story. It explains what you want to spend the money on and the story of the solution you propose. In the method be sure to talk about who you will be working with in creating the solution, your partners or collaborators. Then he suggests you provide information on how the project will be evaluated and what type of evaluation you will be using whether it is an output or process evaluation. He then suggests writing your introduction for the grant establishing your credibility so you build trust that you will be able to successfully complete the project and use granting appropriately. Richard suggested credibility comes in three flavors; your track record, attributed credibility where someone else gives you credibility like in clippings or reports, and credibility of staff accomplishments either through other successful projects or awards, or educational achievements. Finally he says the last step is to provide an executive summary including the amount of grant funds you are requesting and restating your issue/opportunity statement, objective, and short description of the method. Before you send your grant he suggested the delivery sequence be your executive summary and introduction, then the issue or opportunity statement with objectives, and then your method: budget and evaluation. He then went further to discuss how to search for sources of grant funding and developing a donor map. The information delivered in this session will definitely help those applying for granting and provide a successful route to completing the project they seek funding for.

Submitted by Leah Hunter, Library Manager, Delia Municipal Library

