

5.0 LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

5.1 Regent Place Branch

The Regent Place Branch construction is going well. Opening of the branch will likely be a bit behind schedule, but still early in the summer. Furniture, shelving, and millwork are on order and the interior design elements are now apparent. The overall project budget is still on track.



Looking north to the program room.

The wide door in the centre is an overhead glass door, and will be flanked by bookcases.



West wall and vestibule.

The opening in the vestibule wall will be glass-backed bookcases.

5.2 Literacy Award Winner

Phyllis Jones, one of RPL's literacy volunteers, was recently awarded the *Saskatchewan Literacy Award of Merit* in recognition of her 23 years of work as a tutor. In a ceremony at Government House on May 9th, Ms. Jones received the award from Her Honour the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, S.O.M., Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. As a trained Volunteer Tutor, Ms. Jones has helped people of all ages learn English through one-to-one tutoring, and also as the leader of English-as-an-Additional Language (EAL) Group Tutoring Sessions. RPL nominated Ms. Jones for the award, and a number of RPL staff attended the ceremony to cheer her on.

5.3 Library2Go

The ebook and e-audiobook service that RPL offers is through OverDrive, and we've called the provincial service *Library2Go*. RPL has been offering the service for just over two years and use has been growing rapidly. E-audiobooks are a digital version of spoken word books – a reading of the book has been recorded and can be downloaded and played on an MP3 player. Use of these downloadables has been increasing by about 20% per year since *Library2Go* came online.

The other downloadable offered through *Library2Go* is ebooks – a digital version of a book that can be downloaded and read on a reader that simply displays one page of text at a time. Downloadable ebook use for RPL has increased, and continues to increase, significantly. Since the launch of this service, ebook use has increased an average of almost 14% per month. From a library service perspective, the increasing use of the service is great.

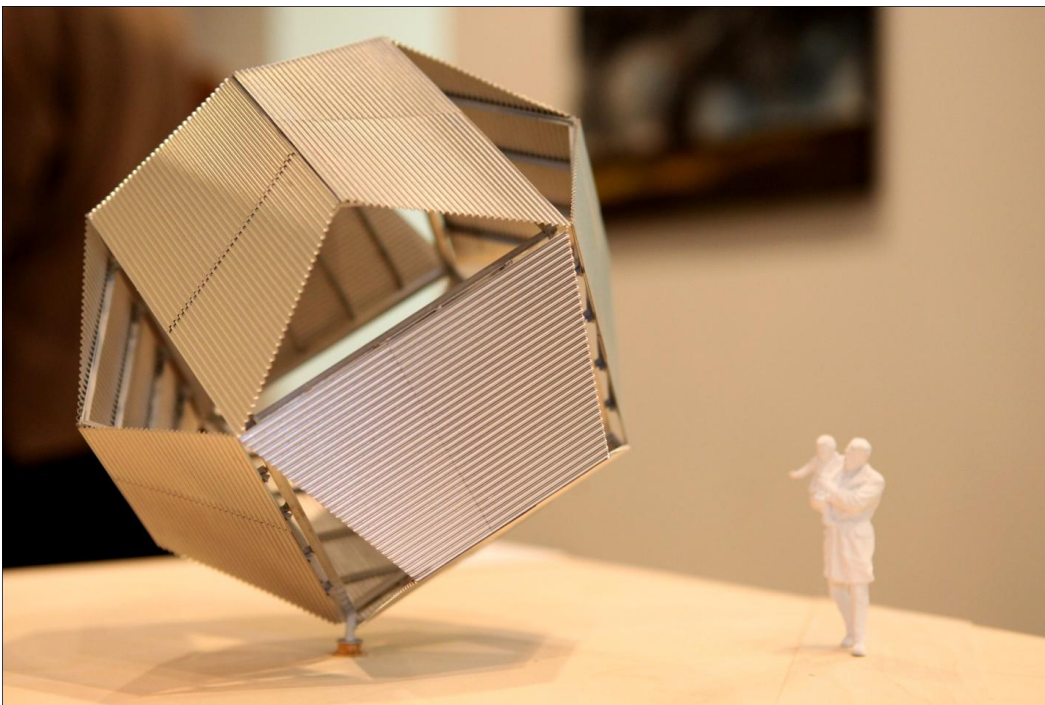
Increasing use and changes in the pricing models available for electronic delivery of content are creating pressure points for RPL's collections budget. There was significant media coverage within the library community when HarperCollins announced that it would sell a copy of an ebook to a library but restrict access to the electronic copy to 26 uses. Other publishers have taken the approach of not limiting uses but significantly increasing the price of an ebook sold (licensed) to a library. Some publishers have taken the approach of not selling ebooks to libraries.

The digital environment has allowed publishers and content owners to more directly control sales. Libraries are working with publishers to create a digital model that is mutually beneficial, but it will take time. In the meantime, I provide this summary as an introduction to what may be a recurring theme in library budget discussions in the coming years.

5.4 Library Sculpture

Over the past month or so, Board members may have seen the results of an art competition displayed both at the Dunlop Art Gallery and at the Mayor's Arts & Business Awards. The competition was conducted under a grant program that invited proposals from artists to create pieces using the 1912 tornado as the theme. The winning pieces would then be commissioned for placement in various Regina locations.

One of the locations being considered is the west yard of the Central Library. The program and the artist understand that the Central Library Development may require the piece be moved at a later date. At the moment, the Competition Committee is waiting on word about a further grant to cover the cost of the artwork.



Platonic Shelter

Michal Bartosik