

**Public Library Report to CILS Advisory Committee
June 9th, 2010**

Public library InterLINK:

Statistics: - In 2009 InterLINK moved over 4.9 million items among its 18 members, which accounted for 13.3% of the total circulation of these libraries. The 4.9 million total was an increase of 5.4% over 2008. InterLINK expects to move over 5 million items in 2010.

Audiobook Production – 2007 was the last year that Public Library InterLINK received funding to produce audiobooks for visually-impaired public library patrons. InterLINK continued production in 2008 and 2009 using internal funds, but there is no budget for production in 2010. InterLINK was still producing cassettes, which impacted sales to libraries across the country. The InterLINK Board and Administrators Advisory Group are in a holding pattern, waiting to see how other initiatives unfold, before taking any further action. InterLINK still purchases and distributes commercial audiobook product for its 18 member libraries.

Strategic plan – InterLINK is in the second year of its strategic plan and is moving forward on a number of fronts, including collaboration on collections of multilingual materials, consortial buying in other areas such as library supplies, and promoting InterLINK's services via a marketing campaign and a revamped website.

Provincial Scene:

Conferences - the 2010 BC Library Conference was held in Penticton, April 22-24. Registration is now open for the joint conference of the Pacific Northwest Library Association and the Washington Library Association, being held in Victoria, August 11-14.

Summer Reading Club & Teen Summer Reading Club - the theme of the 2010 SRC (www.kidssrc.ca) is "Reading Rocks!". The artist for 2010 is Chris Tougas. His books include *Mechanimals* and *Art's Supplies*. Each year, over 80,000 children take part in Summer Reading Club activities.

AskAway - the province-wide virtual reference service will close for public library patrons on June 30, 2010 at 5 p.m. Public library service was funded by the B.C. Ministry of Education, and this funding ended on March 31, 2010. Public libraries have been able to continue the service until June with existing funds by making staffing adjustments and reducing service hours.

Sitka - Sitka is a group of libraries in BC using the award-winning open-source Evergreen software as its shared Integrated Library System (ILS). Sitka is governed by the non-profit, member-driven BC Libraries Cooperative. There are now 32 public library Sitka sites in BC.

-submitted by Michael Burris, public library representative