

Media Release

EPL's outreach and digital literacy services recognized internationally

Set of American Library Association awards marks the first time a library has won twice

For immediate release:

EDMONTON, AB, June 29, 2015 – Two Edmonton Public Library (EPL) services are among five being recognized internationally by the American Library Association (ALA).

EPL is one of four recipients of the 2015 ALA Presidential Citations for Innovative International Library Projects for both the Outreach Services and Digital Literacy as a Core Service. This marks the first time a library has won twice.

“EPL is both thrilled and honoured to be recognized for these projects,” said Pilar Martinez, Deputy CEO of EPL. “Ensuring access to literacy, education and social support, as well as providing a safe and welcoming place for all is an important role of a public library. We also strive to continue to build and provide a digital environment where our customers have access to rich, collaboratively-created and nurtured digital public spaces.”

Stationing social workers in the downtown location to support and empower at-risk Edmontonians inside and outside library walls began in 2011. The program, employing three social workers, has since been expanded to reach five other branches.

EPL's bold objective to establish digital literacy as a core service means staff are equipped with skills and confidence, as well as a digital sandbox of devices for training and programs. Another result is a robust suite of digital literacy programs when and where customers want them – in-branch and in outlying communities through the epl2go Literacy Van. There has also been an increase in online, any-time eLearning resources, as well as growth beyond the flagship EPL Makerspace.

The EPL Makerspace, located in the downtown library, opened in late 2013 and provides free access to audio, video and graphic productions. The creative hub also offers the ability to print and bind books, manufacture items using 3D printers, and use a green screen, sound booths and more. EPL has also added digital maker equipment to other branches.

Projects for the prestigious citations are nominated by members of the international library community, while award recipients are selected for programs best reflecting innovative approaches to creating and delivering sustainable library services.

Others recognized include the Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies at Taiwan's National Central Library for sharing academic resources globally in the fields of Chinese arts, culture, history and social sciences, as well as the NLB Mobile Application created by the National Library board of Singapore, which implemented innovations in book circulation, patron account management and collection security. The Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of the Philippines was also recognized for the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Station (STARBROOKS) project, which makes science and technology materials available to the general public in areas without easy access to information resources and Internet connectivity.

Award-winning libraries were recognized at the 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco, CA during the International Relations Round Table's International Librarians Reception on June 29.

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About the Edmonton Public Library

The Edmonton Public Library (EPL) is proud to be [2014 Library of the Year!](#) We've come a long way since 1913 when books were all you could find on our shelves... and we're just getting started! Today, EPL carries everything you care about. We are Edmonton's largest lender of all manner of information and entertainment. Our professionally trained staff take you beyond Google with the knowledge, discernment and desire to help you navigate a universe of information. The second most visited place in Edmonton, every year EPL hosts over 14 million in-branch and online visits across our 19 branches and website. We deliver our incredible content to you everywhere – in the library, at home or on your handheld device. Unmatched access and unrivalled value – that is today's EPL. EPL is a registered charity and relies on donations to enhance services. Spread the words. www.epl.ca/donate.

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