

## Media Release

For Immediate Release:

### **EPL recognized for innovative Me Card technology EPL one of four libraries in North America, and only Canadian library, honoured by American Library Association**

**EDMONTON, AB, Feb. 14, 2014** – The Edmonton Public Library has been honoured by the American Library Association (ALA) as an innovative leader in library technology and services.

EPL's Me Card technology has been named an ALA 2014 Cutting Edge Service. Launched in September 2013, the [Me Card](#) allows members of libraries across Alberta to access collections at other libraries with no staff intervention or additional library cards. The web-based Me Card service works with any integrated library system (ILS).

"This award recognizes technology that is first of its kind. It has long been desired not only in the Edmonton area, but across the province and country, and will likely be replicated throughout North America as well," said Linda Cook, CEO of the Edmonton Public Library. "The result is the Me Card, which has led to increased resources and services for customers, and a reduction in borrowing barriers for Albertans."

Once EPL created the Me Card technology, the service was rolled out to customers with memberships at Edmonton, St. Albert, Strathcona County and Fort Saskatchewan libraries. The Parkland Regional Library has since joined and work is currently underway to bring other Alberta library systems on board.

In total, nearly 3,000 customers have accessed the web-based service and registered for membership.

"We are extremely pleased to receive this award," said Pam Ryan, EPL Director of Collections and Technology. "It was truly a team effort, led by ILS Administrator Andrew Nisbet.

"We look forward to expanding the Me Card and have already been contacted by library systems in the U.S. who have been seeking a similar technology solution."

Programs at [three other libraries were also recognized](#) by the ALA Office for Information Technology Policy and the Library & Information Technology Association (LITA).



**About the Edmonton Public Library**

From March 2013 to March 2014, the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) is celebrating 100 years of service to our great city. 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 we host over 14 million in-branch and online visits across our 17 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](http://www.epl.ca/donate).

**For more information, contact**

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**Spread the words.**