Profile: Petra Mauerhoff
CEO
Shortgrass Library System
Medicine Hat, Alberta

What was your first job?
Sales clerk in my mother's bookstore.

If you didn't work in a library, what would you do for a living?
Owning my own business, probably related to dog training or pet supplies.

What do you like best about your current job?
Making a difference for Shortgrass's member libraries. We have so many opportunities to come up with different initiatives that will help them provide better library service in their communities. It never gets boring!

In addition, Shortgrass Library System has great partnerships with our local college library and other regional library systems, and those collaborations are opening so many doors for us and are letting us explore projects we could never do on our own.

What issues do you think will have a big impact on libraries in the next few years?
Government funding, ever-changing technology, and library user expectations are three of the main issues that I think will drive how we deliver services in public libraries over the next few years. These issues will be challenging and keep us on our toes.

What do you do for fun?
I enjoy spending time with my dogs (walking/hiking & training), yoga, and reading.

Name one person you admire, and explain why.
There isn't necessarily one specific person I admire, but rather traits I admire in people, and they are patience and flexibility. Thankfully, at Shortgrass Library System I am surrounded by people who have these traits.
If you were stranded at the airport, what would you want to have with you to read, and why?

I would want to have my iPhone with me. It allows me to read downloaded eBooks and eAudiobooks and documents or listen to podcasts. And, who am I kidding? I would probably be doing work-related email or text messages!