

Language Learning and Digitization Projects for Alberta's Libraries

Janis Galloway
Communications Coordinator
The Alberta Library

The Alberta Library (TAL) has been successful in securing funding under the Public Library Development Initiative for two projects, one on digitization, the other on language learning software.

This funding allows TAL to begin plans to help preserve Alberta's history by compiling inventory and readying the rich and diverse body of resources held in public libraries across Alberta for digitization. Post-secondary institutions have already been doing a lot of work in this area, but this will be a first for public libraries. Putting the building blocks in place for digitization fulfills The Alberta Library's strategic initiative in coordinating digitization and long-term preservation of digitized resources among TAL members and TAL partners. This project will also allow The Alberta Library to lead and coordinate digital initiatives among TAL members and TAL partners looking for opportunities to partner on national and international projects.

The Language Learning Software grant will especially benefit new Canadians. The funding pays for a one year license to Auralog's *Tell Me More* language learning software for every public library in Alberta. The goal of the project is to provide language learning software tools to those needing additional languages or literacy support. As a result, libraries across Alberta will be able to provide language learning software to their communities.

The Alberta Library has hired one fulltime contract position for each project. The initiatives are scheduled to be completed by November 2008.