

Southern Alberta Information Resources Project

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The Southern Alberta Information Resources (SAIR) Project [1,2] is an online bibliography of resources significant to southern Alberta. SAIR contains bibliographic information on the region and its communities such as Lethbridge, Claresholm, Waterton and Medicine Hat, environmental topics such as water and land, economy, and international border issues, among others.

SAIR is a collaborative effort between NextLibrary Inc. [4] and the Southern Alberta Digital Library (SADL) [5] at the University of Lethbridge. NextLibrary Inc. is a consulting company that provides digitization solutions. Their mandate is to promote lifelong learning through digitization. SADL is a site for developing online bibliographic and multimedia digital libraries. It runs Greenstone [3], which is open-source, and provides functionality for creating and customizing a collection of documents.

SAIR supports record browsing by categories (e.g. Economy, Environment, etc) and by conventional searching. Bibliographic records are imported in MARC format and displayed in Dublin Core format, making SAIR compatible with existing library systems. Records can be added, edited and deleted using any web browser. Therefore, any library or other organizations (such as historical and genealogical societies) can contribute to SAIR. This makes SAIR a system for true collaboration among librarians and non-librarians alike.

SAIR is an important step in a larger digitization initiative to preserve Alberta's past – and more importantly, its present – for future generations to study and appreciate. SAIR is available at:

<http://www.sadl.uleth.ca/gsd/cgi-bin/library?a=p&p=about&c=SAIR>

References

- [1] K. Crewdson, I. Dew and W. Osborn. Southern Alberta Information Resources (SAIR) project update. Newsletter of the Library Association of Alberta, 151, July 2006, p. 16.
- [2] K. Crewdson and I. Dew. CIDL News. <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/cidl/040021-200-2006-02-e.html>, February 2006.
- [3] The Greenstone Digital Library Software, <http://www.greenstone.org>
- [4] NextLibrary, Inc., <http://www.nextlib.com/>.
- [5] The Southern Alberta Digital Library, <http://www.sadl.uleth.ca/>.