

Showing Off Your Library
Things to Show MLAs
Visits by MLAs/Councillors

The goal of showing off your library is to create an understanding of the scope of services provided and to extinguish the perception that the library is only about borrowing books.

1. Services based on community needs assessment
All library services should be founded on regular community needs assessments.
The assessment should be beyond regular users.
2. Facility highlights
3. Technology
Recent enhancements, community access terminals, Wifi access, searching the collection, eReader assistance, website
4. Books – range of collection based on #1
5. DVD/Video/CD (not in competition with local outlets). Videos – non-commercial scope
6. Audio books (explain the range of users – don't forget the disability groups)
7. Interlibrary loan
Show how participation in interlibrary loan increases the size of user collections.
Talk about the size of your collection, the regions/city, the province.
8. Databases
Show visitor specific databases including full text newspapers from across the world in a wide range of languages, automobile/machinery repair manuals online, language training, student learning support databases, anything you think would be of interest to your visitor.
9. Energy saving innovations
Anything that the library has done to make it energy efficient (solar panels, wind generator), special glass or insulation . . . and how the sharing of books is big time recycling.
10. Programs – highlight programs and expected outcomes
11. Partnerships with community groups
Highlight the community partnerships that the library has. These should include all the groups that the library provides free space to meet or to operate a program such as adult literacy, preschool reading/literacy, parent supports, student homework groups, travel clubs, new Canadian drop-in services.
12. Relationships with authors
Highlight the role libraries play with authors as they research material for books.
13. Relationship with budding writers
Highlight any workshops or special services provided to support budding writers. These could include author talks, writers in residence, writing workshops.
14. Persons with disabilities
Demonstrate the basic services provided such as audio books and large print books. If your computers are equipped with special programs, show these off.
15. Seniors
Home delivery, large print books, audio books, meeting place, programs.
16. Preschoolers
Describe the services provided and the importance of developing early literacy skills and an appreciation for reading. Point out the positive impact for youngsters entering Kindergarten/Grade one.
17. Responding to questions
18. Support for students
19. Support for immigrants
20. Jobs – support in finding jobs, resumé writing, web site hunting, email letters.
21. Volunteer involvement in library and the Board
22. Areas of service that support government priorities

- a. Crime prevention
 - b. Environment
 - c. Education
 - d. Parenting
 - e. Preschool literacy
 - f. Seniors services
 - g. Aboriginal services
 - h. Energy initiatives
- 23. Reference
 - 24. Searching capacity
 - 25. Genealogy support
 - 26. Local newspapers, local history

Courtesy of Punch Jackson of Alberta
Add more things and let him know what you add!
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