

The Canadian Library Association Announces Winner of the CLA/OCLC Award for Innovative Technology

Press release

For Immediate Release

(Ottawa, April 15, 2014) - The Canadian Library Association / Association canadienne des bibliothèques is pleased to announce that the 2014 recipient of the CLA/OCLC Award for Innovative Technology is The Alberta Library (TAL) for TAL Online's Where Are You From (WAYF) Application, Interface, & Administrative Panel. Created in partnership with software developer Hybrid Forge, WAYF better facilitates resource sharing to TAL's 49 members, their multiple integrated library systems and the variety of interlibrary loan management software used throughout Alberta. The award is generously sponsored by OCLC Canada.

The WAYF interface enables requests generated from WorldCat to be processed by any TAL member library, regardless of their ILS or ILL management software. Users can request an item through the high quality interface, and their request is then formatted to the preferences of the relevant member libraries. WAYF reduces the level of staff mediation required to process requests – it automatically verifies user eligibility, and provides users with the ability to independently monitor the progress of their request.

WAYF increases the ease with which item requests can be both made and processed, streamlining it for both customers and staff. It provides a seamless 'discovery to delivery' experience. While this development has improved lending processes, it has also laid the groundwork for an even deeper level of collaboration between TAL's member libraries.

The CLA/OCLC Award for Innovative Technology is presented annually to honour a member or members of CLA for innovative use and application of technology in a Canadian library setting. The award will be presented at the plenary session on 30 May during the CLA 2014 National Conference & Trade Show in Victoria, British Columbia at the Victoria Conference Centre, May 28 - 31, 2014.

The Canadian Library Association / Association canadienne des bibliothèques is Canada's largest national and broad-based library association, representing the interests of public, academic, school and special libraries, professional librarians and library works, and all those concerned about enhancing the quality of life of Canadians through information and literacy.

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