

April 23, 2009

WebJunction BC Launched!

Attention Library Board Chairs/Liaisons:

(Please excuse duplication as this announcement is going out to several lists.)

BCLTA is very pleased to announce that WebJunction BC (WJBC) was launched last Friday at the BC Library Conference. Please visit <http://bc.webjunction.org> to take advantage of this new resource for BC's library community.

Over the past several months, the four partner organizations – your BC Library Trustees Association, the BC Library Association, the BC Teacher Librarians' Association and the Public Library Services Branch – have worked with WebJunction staff to get the WJBC portal ready for its debut.

Members of the three associations and all public library staff and volunteers in British Columbia now have access to all kinds of library related content, discussions, courses, and social and professional networking tools that will keep their skills up-to-date and help their libraries stay relevant to current user needs.

WJBC will be **the** online place for BC library staff, trustees and volunteers to "explore, connect and learn" about anything and everything library-related.

WJBC includes:

- Self-paced online courses related to computer applications, library skills, library services, governance and management. ****[Note that initially the courses are FREE while they last! After that they are \$25 US per course.]****
- Rich content organized into the main categories of "Library Management," "Technology" and "Library Services."
- A "BC Libraries" section where BC-related content will continue to be added.
- Two calendars of events: one for BC events and one for events posted or sponsored by WebJunction Central (e.g., free webinars, conferences, etc.).
- And a soon-to-be-launched WJBC blog.

There will also be the opportunity for groups with special interests (e.g., Library Governance, Library Advocacy, Public Library Associations, etc.) to create their own sections on WJBC and to post documents and announcements or discuss issues of interest to the group and/or the larger library community.

Trustees are encouraged to check it all out at <http://bc.webjunction.org>. To register for any of the WJBC courses, you'll need to create an account first and then register as a BC affiliate. It's a two step process. Look on the right-hand bar for affiliation links.

There are also a couple of PLSB webinars coming up to provide a short tour of the site on May 21 and 26. Visit www.bclibrary.ca/workshops/Webjunction%20BC/index.php to learn more and enroll in one of these sessions.

Questions or Comments?

To get going in WebJunction and WJBC, see the many links on the following page:
<http://bc.webjunction.org/getting-started>.

For comments, email the WJBC team at webjbc@gmail.com.

WebJunction BC is the first non-US WebJunction Community Partner. WebJunction was founded in 2003, and is based in Seattle, WA and Dublin, OH.

In these days of very tight budgets, everyone loves the word "FREE" but please keep in mind that your provincial associations and the Public Library Services Branch are paying for these courses. Each time you enroll in a course, the cost of the course is deducted from the WJBC pre-paid account. So please follow the guidelines you'll see on the left-hand side of the "Courses" page.