

BC SUMMER READING CLUB 2020 REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Please note this report refers primarily to the traditional BC SRC program. For details related to the online program offered this year, please refer to: **BC SRC Online Final Report 2020**.

The COVID-19 pandemic had an enormous impact on the 2020 BC SRC – social distancing, cancelled programs and events, reduced staffing, lack of summer student hiring, reduced marketing, no school visits, and of course, library closures. Nevertheless, the program was still able to deliver materials to the 71 participating BC libraries on schedule and libraries were incredibly resourceful and creative in finding ways to connect with their communities including “takeout service” and “curbside pickup”.

The pandemic forced an escalation of the timeline BCLA anticipated for adding online enhancements to BC SRC. Originally, we envisioned a two-part project, each with a 9-month timeline, beginning in 2021. Instead BCLA delivered the first part of the project in under 6 weeks and on time for the opening of 2020 BC SRC. This enhancement of BC SRC meant that children and families had a new way to stay connected to their public library, had a new way to enhance their over-summer learning, and had a new way to deepen their literacy skills during a pandemic.

Building an online supplement to BC SRC enhances the in-person/in library BC SRC. This addition to BC SRC means better access to the program in remote and rural areas of the province, particularly in places where driving to the local library involves a considerable distance. At the same time online BC SRC supports children and parents whose learning style, abilities, perspective may be better served through an online environment. Building an even more accessible and inclusive BC SRC has been the goal of the program for several years and this year we took a giant step towards that goal.

BC SRC experienced significant changes this year that were *not* related to Covid-19.

1. Partnering with the H. R. MacMillan Space Centre to support the 2020 BC SRC theme: Explore our Universe!

For the first time BC SRC is developing significant partnerships with community organizations to deliver diverse quality programs to all areas of the province. This first step opens the door to developing more innovative programs that can be delivered equitably to children and families regardless of their location.

2. Hiring a Tween Coordinator as a response to one of the highlights that came out of last year’s survey was the need to address Tween participation (or lack thereof) in SRC.

We asked Stephanie Usher (née Hong) to help us develop a plan for provincial strategies to increase Tween engagement in the 2020 BC SRC. She created some benchmarks via the survey to help us better understand our audience, and be focusing primarily on digital content.

3. Changing our t-shirt and tattoo vendor as part of our ongoing effort to streamline the program and focus on sustainable products.

We are now working with [Fairware](#). This should significantly improve production and delivery timelines of our novelty items (t-shirts and tattoos) as well as ensure we are working with a company that is serious about sustainability.

4. Releasing the [What is the BC Summer Reading Club?](#) Brochure.

This brochure was created by the BC Summer Reading Club to welcome and support the participation of newcomer families in the BC Summer Reading Club. It has been translated into multiple languages and is intended for use by libraries, settlement organizations, and community groups. The brochure is intended for year-round display.

The anticipated outcome of BC SRC is to help maintain reading and literacy levels among all children over the summer, especially newcomer children, Indigenous children, children with disabilities, and children living in vulnerable situations defined by social and economic disparity. BC SRC introduces children to public libraries and thus begins a relationship between the library and the child that will support learning and community connections throughout the child's life. BC SRC is part of the foundation of each child's preparedness to participate in BC's communities, culture, and economy.

BC SRC is designed to support libraries as they plan and deliver programs that meet the distinctive needs and wants of their communities. BC SRC encourages libraries to build community partnerships. Organizers know that some of the most successful BC SRC programs happen when the library works together with community members. Thanks to the enthusiasm and commitment of library staff we know that BC SRC is featured in a broad variety of events including, but not limited to, parades, farmer's markets, Maker Fairs, and community days.

BC SRC prioritizes an equitable, diverse, and inclusive lens through which library programs can be planned and delivered. For many newcomer families, the BC SRC supports new language skills while connecting new families with their local library, their new community, and their new neighbours. Deaf children have an opportunity to participate in BC SRC using American Sign Language, and parents can read about the benefits of summer reading in over 40 languages. Ongoing parent feedback is incorporated into the overarching program so every library can benefit from this professional assessment. Committed library staff assess their individual programs regularly and share ideas, new learnings, and experiences through the annual BC SRC Survey.

In 2020 the BC Summer Reading Club (BC SRC) reached over 34,475 children in more than 200 communities throughout BC. Given the social and health conditions created by COVID-19, we feel this is exceptional participation and a testament to the importance of BC SRC in the lives of parents and children.

The BC SRC is made possible by a \$65,000 grant from the BC Ministry of Education. CUPE BC generously provided a \$50,000 grant ensuring that children across the province received a celebratory medal for participating in BC SRC.

Annette DeFaveri
Executive Director
BC Library Association

We noticed this year that people were so excited to have Summer Reading Club continue as one bit of normalcy. We received messages from parents about how important it was for their children, and especially that we awarded medals this year. It is wonderful to see children enjoying reading over the summer.

Submitted by North Vancouver City Public Library

OUR FUNDERS

Kids and families were so excited to have the Summer Reading Club this year. It was an opportunity to do something familiar in these strange times. It gave them a change to connect and have fun things to look forward as they worked towards earning their annual medal. An element of certainty in these uncertain times.

Submitted by Vancouver Public Library

Ministry of Education, Libraries Branch

The BC SRC is made possible by a \$65,000 grant from the BC Ministry of Education. The BC SRC easily aligns with the [BC Government Strategic Plan for Public Library Service](#).

PROGRAM INNOVATION, ACCOMPLISHMENT OR HIGHLIGHT	STRATEGY 1: Improving Access For BC	STRATEGY 2: Building Capacity	STRATEGY 3: Advancing Citizen Engagement	Policy for Student Success
Created an online application that allowed BC children and their families to participate in the 2020 BC SRC In spite of no or limited library access due to COVID-19.	x	x	x	x
Provided an online way for children and their families to track and monitor their reading progress throughout the summer	x	x	x	x
Navigated COVID-19 impact on libraries and suppliers and produced and delivered all SRC materials ensuring libraries were still able to provide reading records via various "curbside" services and/or partnerships , especially relevant in communities and neighbourhoods where connectivity and caregiver capacity is an issue	x	x	x	x
Provided weekly online activities for two different age groups in multiple formats, including downloadable PDFs and videos for children	x	x	x	x

Provided self-directed activities to engage children and support caregiver capacity	x	x	x	x
Designed a more flexible print reading record layout to accommodate reluctant readers and increase accessibility	x		x	x
Used Google analytics to monitor site visits and page use		x	x	
Created on-demand training for library staff and stakeholders to support their participation and promotion of the online SRC		x	x	
Partnered with the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre to enrich and engage BC kids in theme-related learning	x	x	x	x
Provided professional development for library staff in partnership with Space Centre; equipped library staff with increased theme-related knowledge	x	x	x	x
Engaged a new T-shirt/tattoo supplier; streamlined distribution and accounting		x		x
Engaged a Tween Coordinator to benchmark participation of and resources for this demographic	x	x	x	x
Engaged a Tween Coordinator to create tween-oriented digital content to better meet the needs of this demographic; many libraries lack the staff to do tween-specific programming	x	x	x	x
Released the " What is the BC Summer Reading Club? " Brochure. Created to welcome and support the participation of newcomer families to BC SRC, it has been translated into multiple languages and is intended for use by libraries,	x	x	x	x

settlement organizations, and community groups. The brochure is an “evergreen” display intended for use year after year.				
Directed children and their families to libraries’ digital collections and worked alongside the Libraries Co-op to promote access to OverDrive’s donation of summer reading titles	x	x	x	x

CUPE BC

The BC Library Association was pleased and honoured to announce our second year partnering with CUPE BC. CUPE BC generously contributed \$50,000 to ensure that the 2020 BC Summer Reading Club could provide medals to children across the province acknowledging their reading accomplishments.

“We are very proud of the strong relationship that CUPE BC and the BCLA have developed, and the first year of our sponsorship of the Reading Club has made that relationship even stronger,” said CUPE BC President Paul Faoro. “We’re big supporters of the Summer Reading Club because it encourages and fosters learning and a lifelong love of reading. Public libraries have always been important hubs for our communities and provide important services to all visitors. We’re very pleased to continue supporting this important initiative.”

With their contribution CUPE BC ensures that children and families across the province continue to see a high level of programming and participation including the many awards presentation ceremonies that BC public libraries mount at the end of the summer. CUPE BC’s contribution allows BCLA to continue this quality program at the high standards that libraries across the province expect.

CUPE BC represents over 97,000 people in more than 160 locals, including 29 public libraries in the province. Our shared commitment to libraries ensures that this partnership strengthens both CUPE BC and BCLA, as well as strengthening our members and the communities we serve.

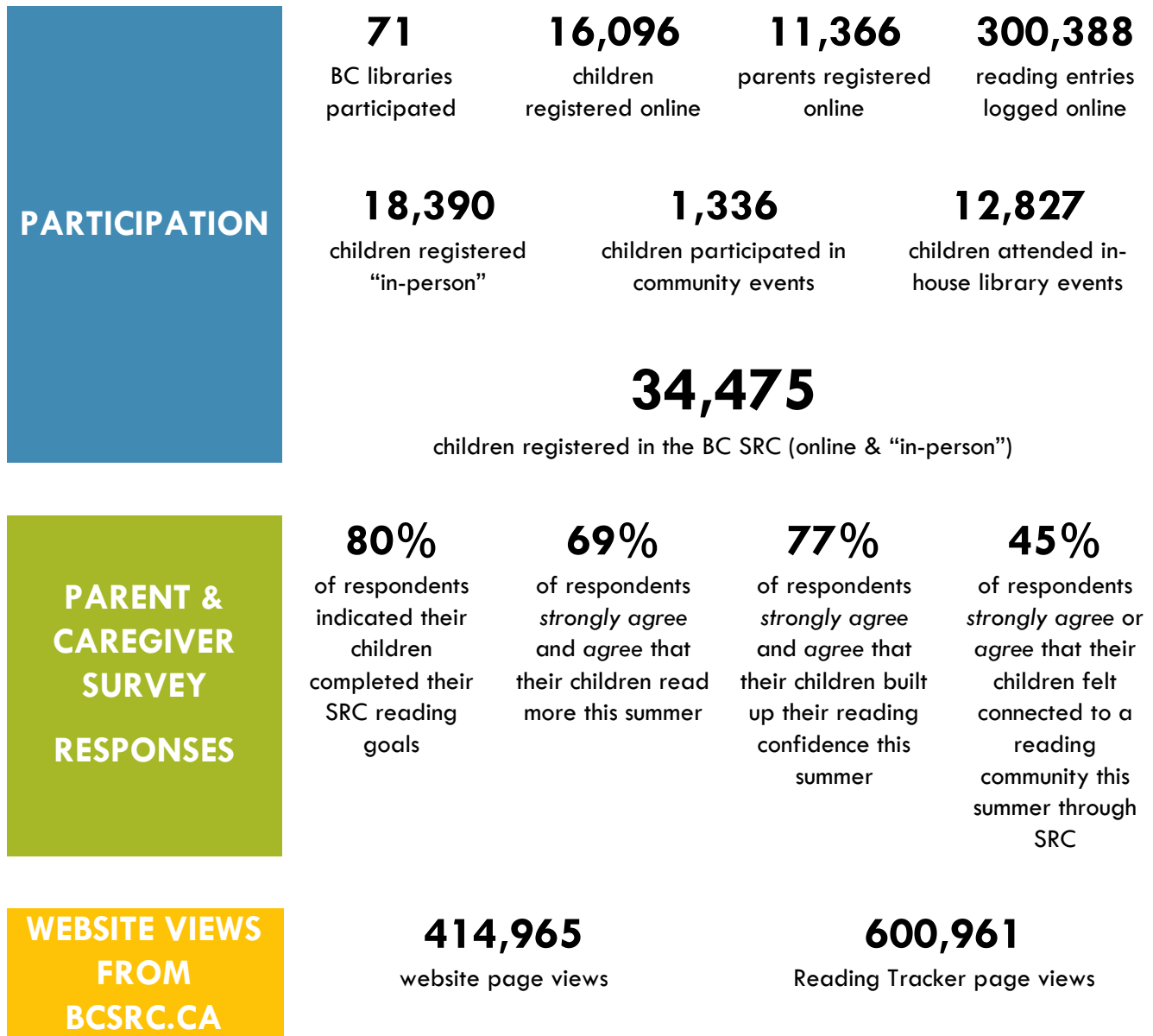
Zainab Alkuaibi, a parent of SRC participants, shared the following kind words on the impact the SRC medal has for her children: “Thank you. My kids got their medals today during our visit to the library. They love it and [it gave] them more encouragement to read.”

Our son picked up his medal, certificate and ribbon today from the TNRD. He was absolutely thrilled. Thank you for continuing with this program.

Submitted by Heather, Parent of SRC participant

BC SRC IN NUMBERS

Fast Facts



At the end of every summer BCLA sends a BC SRC Survey to every library in the province. (See [Appendix B](#)) We have a 100 percent response rate to the survey. The survey is the primary collection tool for our annual assessment and is used to compile and compare our metrics.

In 2020, **18,390 (+ 16,096 children registered for the online reading tracker)** children were reached in BC SRC and reflect the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is important to note that not all children officially or formally register for BC SRC, but this does not exclude them from participating throughout the summer. There are many reasons some children and families chose not to register for BC SRC, and we respect this decision without querying it. Thus, the scope of BC SRC is best understood by the number of children BC SRC reaches, and not simply by the number of children registered.

Adults as well as children are directly and indirectly affected by BC SRC



Materials Distributed to Libraries



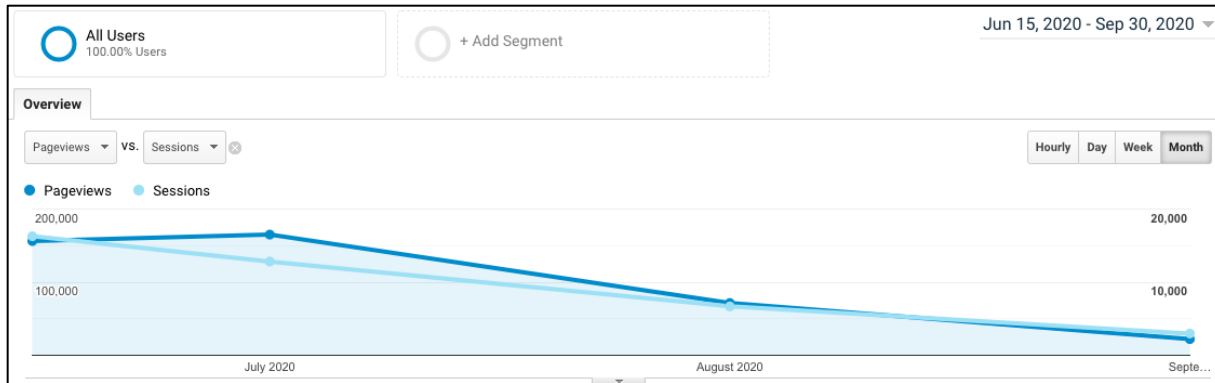
Website Visits and Participation for BC SRC Website (bcsrc.ca)

The numbers presented below capture the number of visits and page views between June 15 and September 30, 2020 (the first and last dates that children could enter in their reading). Analytics for the Reading Tracker can be found in the BC SRC 2020 Online Final Report.

The numbers below are specific to the bcsrc.ca landing page that included the “Join Here” button that directed visitors to the Reading Tracker and links to the activities and parent/caregiver pages.

BCSRC.CA LANDING PAGE STATS	NUMBERS
Page Visits	414,965
Sessions (active engagement w/site)	38,775
Average session duration	3 min and 07 sec
Users (initiated at least 1 session)	22,362
New users (first time visitors)	21,978

Number of sessions per user	1.73
Bounce rate	0.62%
Pages per session	10.70



Google Analytics Screen Shot of Page Visits vs Number of Sessions between June 15-September 30 for the bcsrc.ca landing page

MONTH	PAGE VISITS	NUMBER OF SESSIONS	AVERAGE SESSION DURATION
June 15-30	156,226	16,284	2 min 44 sec
July 1-31	165,100	12,822	3 min 42 sec
August 1-31	71,531	6,889	3 min 05 sec
September 1-30	22,104	2,980	2 min 52 sec

27% of our page visits came from our two main activity pages and parent page (top 3 page visits), indicating that users were bookmarking or searching specifically for these pages.

TOP 10 PAGE VISITS	VISITS
Fun Things for Younger Kids	44,115 (10.41%)
Parents Page (bcsrc.ca/parents)	41,090 (9.69%)
Cool Things for Older Kids	32,750 (7.73%)
BC Summer Reading Club 2020 (staff site)	21,699 (5.12%)
Weekly Activities (main page that leads to younger and older kids)	16,870 (3.98%)

Manual, Graphics, and Documents BC Summer Reading Club 2020 (from staff site)*	13,159 (3.10%)
Online Reading Tracker (this was an individual page on bcsrc.ca that explains reading tracker and directs them to visit app.bcsrc.ca)	11,519 (2.72%)
Mission Control Home Page	10,251 (2.42%)
Battle of the Books	8,731 (2.06%)
Weekly Caption Contest for Older Kids	7,931 (1.87%)

* = bcsrc.ca linked to this page on the staff site for access to activity sheets and completion certificate

We also collated individual statistics from the various virtual activities we offered throughout the summer. The table below captures the interactions we had from participants who engaged with our

EVENT/PROGRAM	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF VISITS/VIEWS
Weekly Activity Videos – Younger Kids	n/a	1,993 total views for videos
Weekly Activity Videos – Older Kids	n/a	843 total views for videos
Ask an Astronomer – July Session	59 total questions submitted in advance for the two events.	186 views as of Nov. 6, 2020
Ask an Astronomer – August Session		188 views as of Nov. 6, 2020
Battle of the Books	755 votes throughout 7 weeks	8,731 page visits
Caption Contest – Younger Kids	256 caption submissions	1,940 caption submission form visits
	650 votes	1,226 caption vote form visits
Caption Contest – Older Kids	394 caption submissions	1,363 caption submission form visits
	435 votes	1,455 caption vote form visits
Content Submissions – Activity submissions, activity sheets,	211 total submissions	1,552 “Share Your Work”* form visits

colouring sheets, BINGO sheets, Weekly DIY crafts,		*where participants can submit their work, not individual page visits to activities
Weekly Quizzes	2,282 submissions	7,026 visits

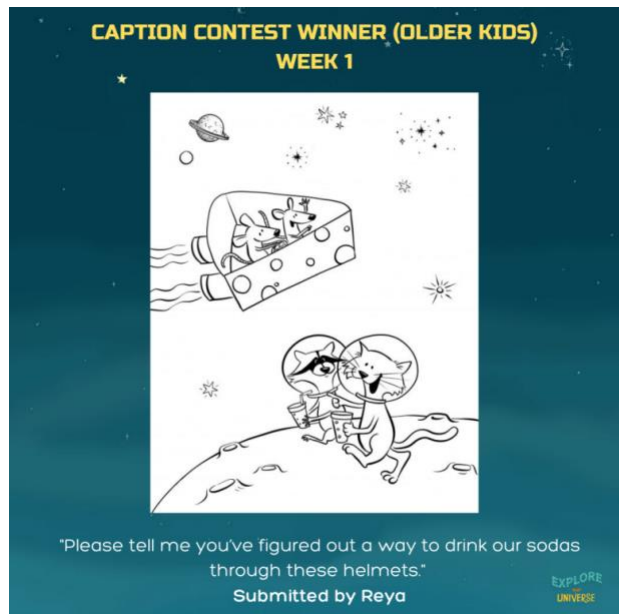
A sample of one of the caption contests can be found below. Participants would submit their captions at the start of the week and it would be narrowed down to three finalists and children could then vote for their favourite. The winning caption would be featured on our website and Instagram account.

VOTE FOR THIS WEEK'S CAPTION:

Week 1 Caption Contest Selections

- "Please tell me you've figured out a way to drink our sodas through these helmets." by Reya
- "Well, I guess that's what you call fast food!" by Froggo
- "If they get hungry they can eat their ship." by Dreydon

Submit



Registration 2020

COVID-19 had an enormous impact on libraries and participation in the 2020 BC SRC. Most library staff were unable to do their annual SRC class visits. COVID-19 as well as shelter in place recommendations meant an overall reduction of patrons visiting their libraries even if libraries were able to open in the summer.

At **Grand Forks Public Library**, they were “unable to do the class visits or talk about the program with children when they visited the library. It was difficult to raise awareness and generate enthusiasm for the program when we didn't see the children in person.”

For **Pouce Coupe Public Library**, they noticed that “families were hesitant to come to the library because of COVID.”

However, in spite of the challenges, libraries were incredibly resourceful in promoting the program by creating socially-distanced options for patrons, while keeping everyone safe.

Greater Victoria Public Library “set up Grab & Go Tables” in the community and in branches in a space separate from borrowing services. At this table, families were encouraged to pick up a package for the BC SRC program. Having the opportunity to talk to families and remind them that the program is still happening online and can occur from home helped reinforce literacy over the summer break.

Sonia Zagwyn at **Powell River Public Library** shared that they had “107 children registered online for curbside pickup of take-home packages containing reading records, book club books, and 7 weeks of activities.” And indicated that “the take-home package appealed on many levels. It was designed so that participants could self-direct or participate by watching online tutorials created by our SRC Project Assistant, which we called “mission”; they could attend Zoom book clubs, or not. They could track their reading using the reading records online or offline. Thus, the commitment required was more flexible than when all our events were run in-person, which I think appealed to families that didn’t want to drive in multiple days a week for various SRC events. I received direct feedback from a family that hoped we might continue to run book clubs virtually moving forward.”

Radium Springs Public Library noticed that their numbers were “slightly less, but still remained considerably high given the inability to do library programming. The grab & go activity kits in place of the in-person programs were a huge success.”

While many libraries were closed for part or all of the summer, **77%** were able to provide safe opportunities for “in-person” registration. In addition, **92%** of libraries found a way to handout print reading records, including via “curbside” or “takeout” service and even partnering with local food banks and school boards.

Lillooet Public Library “worked with the Lillooet Food Bank, operated by the Friendship Centre to offer reading activity kits with food distributions. Families were able to take home books, craft supplies, reading records, etc. The SRC team worked with the local radio station and read *A Wrinkle in Time* on the radio, copies of the book were also distributed.”

Vancouver Public Library was able to “use our relationship with the VSB (Vancouver School Board) to distribute the Reading Records, bookmarks, and stickers to the schools and teachers district wide. We had enough for half of all children registered in K-3 at each school plus had some on hand at all of our takeout locations for in person giveaways on demand. This got material into the hands of children who may not be able to participate in the online model and stood in for our in-person registration this year.”

Hazelton District Public Library looked into ways to connect with their more rural and remote communities: “We were expecting a drop in registration but many local residents, particularly in rural or remote communities, don’t have internet access. When we offered SRC registration and activity packs available through curbside pick-up, we received a lot of phone-in registrations. We also worked with WOW Bus staff and staff from Wet’suwet’en and Lake Babine Nation to deliver the craft packs to children in their communities.”

Furthermore, libraries relied on increasing their digital presence and relying on previous participants to spread the word. **Coquitlam Public Library** shared that “this year, our total registration (paper and online) was about 1950, compared to more than 2700 last year. Under the circumstances, we are actually pleased with the numbers. Most years, we visit every elementary school in Coquitlam to speak at an assembly, and/or

drop off leaflets about SRC. Due to physical distancing concerns this year, we visited no schools. Instead, we relied on public service announcements, information on our web site, and messages shared through social media, as well as the initiative taken by parents and kids who remembered or sought information about the club.”

The table below shows “in-person” registration alongside any online registrations for a combined total. As per the BC SRC survey, the number of children “registered” decreased from 91,169 in 2019 to 18,390 + 16,096 (34,486) in 2020. (-56,683 or -62%). **This is due entirely to the impact of COVID-19 as previous years have shown a steady increase in registration numbers 6% increase from 2018 to 2019; 5% increase from 2017 to 2018.** While the majority of libraries (80%), indicated a predictable decline in registrations due to the pandemic this year, 10% of libraries indicated theirs were the same. Another 10% indicated they had seen an increase.

LIBRARY SYSTEM / BRANCH	CHILDREN REGISTERED IN-PERSON/CURBSIDE	CHILDREN REGISTERED IN ONLINE READING TRACKER	COMBINED TOTAL
Alert Bay Public Library	3	14	17
Beaver Valley Public Library	0	12	12
Bowen Island Public Library	34	21	55
Burnaby Public Library	0	1481	1481
Burns Lake	112	2	114
Cariboo Regional District Library	118	62	180
Castlegar & District Public Library	60	57	117
Chetwynd Public Library	22	12	34
Coquitlam Public Library	1259	695	1954
Cranbrook Public Library	137	153	290
Creston Public Library	70	19	89

Dawson Creek Municipal Public Library	275	59	334
Elkford Public Library	22	15	37
Fernie Heritage Library	6	31	37
Fort Nelson Public Library	27	34	61
Fort St. James Public Library	600	5	605
Fort St. John Public Library	4	327	331
Fraser Lake Public Library	0	7	7
Fraser Valley Regional Library	615	612	1227
Gibsons & District Public Library	12	36	48
Grand Forks & District Public Library	58	31	89
Granisle Public Library	11	6	17
Greater Victoria Public Library	2095	1043	3138
Greenwood Public Library	0	3	3
Hazelton District Public Library	105	20	125
Houston Public Library	72	70	142
Hudson's Hope Public Library	10	5	15
Invermere Public Library	60	24	84
Kaslo Public Library	43	7	50

Kimberley Public Library	7	31	38
Kitimat Public Library	77	4	81
Lillooet Area Library Association	6	0	6
Mackenzie Public Library	35	7	42
McBride & District	11	5	16
Midway Public Library	0	0	0
Nakusp Public Library	23	22	45
Nelson Municipal Library	39	47	86
New Westminster Public Library	466	267	733
North Vancouver City Public Library	450	195	645
North Vancouver District Public Library	1837	440	2277
Okanagan Regional Library	477	1378	1855
Pemberton Public Library	2	23	25
Pender Island Public Library (also orders for other Gulf Islands)	59	22	81
Penticton Public Library	76	41	117
Port Moody Public Library	890	207	1097
Pouce Coupe Public Library	17	3	20
Powell River Public Library	107	27	134

Prince George Public Library	226	54	280
Prince Rupert Public Library	31	6	37
Radium Hot Springs Public Library	29	6	35
Richmond Public Library	952	1112	2064
Rosland Public Library	0	31	31
Salmo Public Library	4	15	19
Salt Spring Island Public Library	8	23	31
Sechelt Public Library	64	23	87
Smithers Public Library	13	39	52
Sparwood Public Library	45	16	61
Squamish Public Library	150	80	230
Stewart Public Library	9	5	14
Surrey Public Library	5051	2309	7360
Taylor Public Library	16	11	27
Telkwa Reading Centre	27	0	27
Terrace Public Library	126	46	172
Thompson-Nicola Regional Library	41	415	456
Trail Public Library	98	34	132
Valemount Public Library	2	12	14
Vancouver Island Regional Library	0	963	963
Vancouver Public Library	0	3022	3022

Vanderhoof Public Library	40	21	61
West Vancouver Public Library	994 (WV's own online version)	232	1 226
Whistler Public Library	55	28	83
TOTAL BC REGISTRATIONS:	In person 18,390	Online 16,085	Total 34,475
Nunavut *		0	
Yellowknife *		11	
TOTAL REGISTRATIONS:	In person 18,390	Online 16,096	Total 34,486

PARTNERSHIPS

The BC SRC, and, in turn, BC Libraries, have benefited tremendously from partnerships. These partnerships build relationships in communities and enrich the summer learning experience for all.

H.R. MacMillan Space Centre

The BC SRC was delighted to [partner with the H. R. MacMillan Space Centre to support the 2020 BC SRC theme of space: Explore our Universe!](#) The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre is a non-profit community resource that brings the wonders of space to Earth, while providing a personal sense of ongoing discovery. Through innovative programming, exhibits and activities, their goal is to inspire sustained interest in the fields of earth science, space science and astronomy. The Space Centre has been taking their STEM program to Northern libraries for the past couple years. With a theme like “space” (Explore Our Universe) for the 2020 BC SRC, this was a perfect partnership.

With this partnership we were able to provide a free [Professional Development Session](#) for BC library staff. On May 20, 2020, 70 BC library professionals attended a free online professional development session via Zoom. They had the opportunity to meet Astronomer, Rachel Wang, and learn about space science and astronomy. Space Centre Programs Coordinator, Trish Pattison, was on hand to describe easy-to-present astronomy program ideas. Everyone left better-equipped to answer space-questions from children this summer!

Thank you for a great presentation! I learned and was inspired for our Summer Reading Club coming up. Trish and Rachel were great!

This event was held on Zoom and recorded so staff who were unable to attend live were still able to view the content. One staff

Shared by Staff Participant

member shared that they were “looking forward to reviewing the blog and pdf’s as there was a lot of information in a short time, but excellent presentation and I can’t wait to explore more.”

Astronomer, Rachel Wang, provided an overview of current space science topics and Space Centre Programs Coordinator, Trish Pattison, displayed some easy-to-present astronomy demonstrations. Everyone left better-equipped to answer space-questions from children this summer!

Registered attendees received a certificate of completion from the BCLA Professional Development Institute.

Interestingly, we learned the Professional Development event also supported library staff by modelling virtual programming: “Thank you for arranging this! It’s was wonderful to see what a potential virtual SRC program could look like.”

In addition, we offered two separate public events for BC children: “[Ask an Astronomer](#)” with the Space Centre’s Rachel Wang (July 15 and Aug 12). These events were promoted by BC Libraires as well as on the BC SRC website and social media.

Using Space Centre technology, Rachel took viewers into space and answered questions along the way. Children and their families were invited to submit questions ahead of time via [bcsrc.ca](#) and also via YouTube during the session. Both events were streamed live via YouTube and recorded. The recordings were made available on [bcsrc.ca](#) all summer.

This year’s program was amazing!! Wow! How inspiring it was to have the astronomer! We were able to advertise the event to gather in a few more readers that weren’t quite ready to join at the end of June. A big ‘catch all’ event mid-July was well timed.

Submitted by Kimberly Public Library

In addition, the Space Centre contributed generously to this year’s prize packages, including multiple admission passes to the Centre and a grand prize of a one-on-one “Ask an Astronomer” session with Rachel.

This partnership was an incredibly positive and beneficial experience for everyone involved. Trish Pattison shared the following kind words:

Hi Stephanie and Cynthia,

I wanted to say a big thank you to both of you for a great year of collaboration! I had so much fun working with you both and connecting with both the librarians, kids and adults across the province.

I hope we get a chance to work together in the future. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

*Cheers,
Trish*

BC Publishers Booklists

In 2017, [BCLA](#) and the Association of Book Publishers of BC ([ABPBC](#)) marked the beginning of a [collaborative partnership](#). As one small part of this relationship our [partners at ABPBC](#) contribute their own theme-related titles and annotations. In addition, the ABPBC contributed prizes to the program.

BC Libraries

In addition to developing and mounting in-house programs and community events, BC libraries created BC SRC-specific partnerships with community groups including, but not limited to: newcomer groups (3% of libraries), First Nations Bands (6% of libraries), Groups with a First Nations Focus (6% of libraries), and Literacy Groups (15% of libraries). These numbers are approximately half of previous years, and reflect once again the impact of the pandemic.

Comments from BC SRC library staff:

- *Normally we work a variety of partners but this year we did not as we were not open to Children under the age of 14. We only had curbside pickup for that age group.*
- *Most groups were closed down because of COVID-19*
- *Due to the pandemic, we did not have the opportunity to partner with community groups this year.*

Other partnerships and collaborations typically include puppeteers, local tech hubs, the Credit Unions, local arts organizations, local museums and art galleries, social development groups, Friends of the Library and local learn to code groups. Libraries are creative and daring in looking for partnerships and building relationships with community organizations that can help support BC SRC.

Specific partnerships mentioned by libraries include:

- Royal Astronomical Society
- Northern Brain Injury Association
- Whistler Museum and Archives
- Heritage Park Museum (Terrace)
- Arts Council (Penticton)
- Kelowna Museum
- Wild Safe BC
- Canada Learning Code
- Lillooet Food Bank
- Bulkley Valley Child Development Centre
- Friends of the Library
- HR Macmillan Space Centre
- School districts (VSB, West Vancouver)

TWEEN PROJECT COORDINATOR

Based on previous year's feedback from staff and the need to engage older school age children (tweens), BC SRC hired Stephanie Usher (née Hong) to be the Tween Project Coordinator. Stephanie's role was to find ways to create digital programming to engage tweens such as a Battle of the Books competition, Caption Contests, Book BINGO, and weekly DIYs. These programs provided participants to engage with the program with a bit more independence and autonomy, while still participating in the SRC. Furthermore, Stephanie included questions in both the Staff and Parent and Caregiver surveys to gauge participant age level and set benchmarks to track trends amongst different age groups that can help inform future SRC programming decisions.

REACH

Prince Rupert Public Library perfectly summarizes the support that BC SRC provides in the form of resources and materials, and the impact it has for our library community, especially the smaller library systems: "It is extremely helpful to have a professionally produced suite of products to promote our Summer Reading Program. It helps get our information into the community. All of the materials (actual and digital) help the smaller libraries produce a program with polish. We don't have the staff or ability to create all of these resources ourselves. We're extremely lucky to have access to such a wonderful program. Kudos to all of the library staff and the artist that make this possible."

BC Libraries

All BC public libraries participated in the 2020 BC SRC except Tumbler Ridge. Tumbler Ridge chose to participate in the TD SRC and has done so since 2014. The Toronto Dominion Bank sponsors the TD SRC reading program run through the Toronto Public Library.

In total, the BC SRC reaches 71 public library systems in BC and over 200 communities that range from urban, suburban, and rural.

Being Province-wide is neat for families that travel in the summer. All operating under the same program gives consistency to those kids looking to update their reading record, etc.

Submitted by Terrace Public Library

Library Participation Outside BC

Nunavut libraries (5 locations) and the Yellowknife library chose to participate in the BC SRC rather than the Toronto Dominion SRC. Libraries outside BC are welcome to purchase Core Print Materials and Novelties to use in their summer reading program. Such libraries are responsible for their own shipping and handling costs. BCLA does not publicize this opportunity and is currently not looking to monetize the interest shown in BC SRC across the country.

As libraries across the country become more aligned with social justice issues, and adopt a more community-led model for delivering library programs, more and more libraries have shown an interest in

a summer reading program that is not funded by a large bank, and is instead funded by local and provincial governments, and by groups with a direct interest in their communities.

COMMUNITY-BASED

One of the most important and most powerful aspects of the BC SRC is how the framework empowers library staff across the province to adapt the materials and respond to the unique needs of diverse communities. This “ground-level” approach makes BC SRC a responsive and community-driven program.

The BC SRC provides core print materials (posters, reading records, bookmarks) and medals, as well as a programming manual (7 weeks of program ideas, activities, and booklists for different age groups), as well as outreach and promotional resources for libraries to work with. Each library develops and implements the BC SRC program in the way that best meets the needs of their community. This approach assures that each library is responsive and aware of what their communities want for their children, and it provides an overarching framework to help shape the program and build library’s relationships with their larger communities. Hazelton District Public Library has been able to connect with their First Nations communities through the use of SRC. This has opened a dialogue for larger ways their library can further build connections and larger reconciliation work with the First Nation communities in their area.

The Summer Reading Club is the best, most popular way our library reaches the communities we serve, especially First Nations communities. Our practice of recruiting community members to run their own clubs is valuable not only to the individuals we recruit, train, and pay to facilitate our clubs, it is valuable to our communities in general because we have contributed to the social capital of each community. Because of SRC we are now in discussion with two different First Nations organizations, helping them gain information about how to get Native language books published. We have provided samples books by and about other First Nations as examples of what could be done. We have facilitated research into publishers and their requirements. While this is a type of community support, it would never have happened if we had not connected with key people thorough our SRC outreach.

Submitted by Hazelton District Public Library

Technology Supports BC Participation

Thanks to our significant use of technology, specifically online project management, file sharing, and video conferencing, the BC SRC is truly a provincial program. For example:

- Our 2020 Core Committee included a Co-Chair from the Lower Mainland and one from Castlegar and District area
- Our Content Creator libraries are from the Lower Mainland, the Interior, and Vancouver Island.
- Survey tools allow us to include all BC library staff in selecting annual BC SRC themes.

Technology allows us to work more efficiently and effectively and has made it possible to include more varied and diverse voices in program planning.

An online poll was created on the BC SRC staff website, and library staff from across the province were invited to vote for their favourite theme for 2022. The shortlist of possible 2022 themes included:

- All Together Now (emotions/sharing/mental health)
- Underground
- Environment and Nature

It was nearly a three-way tie but “All Together Now” won by a single vote as the theme for 2022 BC SRC!

With the help of library staff across the province, we plan our themes 2-3 years ahead. While the upcoming year’s tagline still gets announced each fall, this advance planning of the broader themes not only increases participation and a sense of involvement, it also allows libraries to gather materials and make plans for future, theme-appropriate community partnerships. When we plan ahead, libraries too can plan ahead.

Community Story Award Winner

In 2013 BCLA, introduced the BC SRC Community Story Award in order to recognize and honour those stories that described the impact of BC SRC on participants and library staff. Each year the BC SRC presents the award to an individual whose story best demonstrates how important BC SRC is to children and community members.

The 2020 winner was Kate Inman of the Squamish Public Library. Her story “[Another Young Reader Emerges Thanks to BC SRC!](#)” is all about the power of the BC SRC to transform a child's relationship with reading!

About Kate



Kate Inman has been the Children’s Librarian at the Squamish Public Library for the last 15 years. She loves working with all ages of children and really enjoys seeing the youngest library patrons grow and change over their years of visiting the library. Many of her storytime attendees have gone on to be involved in the Summer Reading Club as well as other programs like Reading Link Challenge or Reading Buddies. Kate loves her teen volunteer group too and has had the true pleasure of getting to know many wonderful young people over the years in her job.

Kate has lived in Squamish for over 20 years and really enjoys the outdoors. Mountain biking and hiking are two of her passions. She also loves yoga and dance. And her cat!

Another Young Reader Emerges Thanks to BC SRC! By Kate Inman

We have a number of Syrian families living in Squamish now. One family lives in a suite in my good friend's house and she has taken it on to make sure they enjoy life here to the fullest – especially the children. She talked to me about the summer reading club and decided she would bring the two children to the library to sign up.

Sammi is 10 and his sister is 8. Both are doing well with their English but Sammi would definitely have fallen into the category of reluctant reader. He was quite uncomfortable in the library at the beginning of the summer and I could tell he would have preferred to be somewhere else. But he is a sweet boy and never once looked sullen or annoyed. Over the weeks in the club he started smiling more and clearly was starting to enjoy himself. I'm not personally in the programs so I'm only guessing when I say he enjoyed them but he definitely looked happy whenever I saw him.

And he filled in his reading record every week. My friend (the one who brought them to the library each week) made sure they had filled in exactly one page per week but who really knows how much Sammi was actually reading each day. But he definitely was reading something and enjoying it. Here in Squamish we try to focus on whatever they have filled in, not how much or for how long they have read. So whatever the children write down, they get a sticker.

Whenever I think of Sammi, I think of his big smile. And here's the best part of the story. Last week I was visiting his school to talk about Reading Link Challenge which is a program where all the children read up to 6 chapter books and then compete in a quiz-like challenge. It's a lot of reading! At Sammi's school, it is run as an extra-curricular event and the students can choose if they want to join. And guess who I saw, smiling his big smile at me and waiting with the others, excited to hear the titles? That's right. Sammi chose on his own to join. Sammi had become a reader!

The Planning Committee

Laura Zaytsoff Co-Chair, Castlegar & District and Alicia Dobbs (New Westminster Public Library) did a terrific job guiding the artwork with the rest of the Core Planning Committee, Coordinator and Graphic Designer.

Having our Co-Chairs and Content Creators from different-sized library systems as well as from different parts of BC helps ensure we are truly reflecting the needs of the province and are bring diverse BC voices into the planning of BC SRC.

We're extremely lucky to have access to such a wonderful program. Kudos to all of the library staff and the artist that make this possible.

Submitted by Prince Rupert Public Library

Laura and Alicia, and their team of Content Creators, developed the BC SRC manual (<http://kidssrc.libraries.coop/manual/>). When COVID-19 made it evident that the BC SRC would need to make significant changes in order to facilitate online programming, Laura, with the support of her library management, agreed to extend her term as Co-Chair. As it became evident that we would need to find a way to provide online programming for children and for libraries to direct their patrons to, Laura and Alicia joined forces with our Tween Coordinator, Stephanie Hong Usher, and produced weekly videos based on activities from the manual. This was an incredible amount of unforeseen work and they did an exceptional job.

The Full 2020 Team:

Cynthia Ford, BC SRC, Provincial Coordinator,
 Stephanie Usher (née Hong), BC SRC, Tween Project Coordinator
 Laura Zaytsoff and [Castlegar & District Public Library](#), Committee Co-Chair
 Alicia Dobbs and [New Westminster Public Library](#), Committee Co-Chair
 Jennifer Lee of [Vancouver Public Library](#), Past Chair
 Mehjabeen Ali and [Surrey Public Library](#), Content Creator
 Julie Carter and [Vancouver Island Regional Library](#), Content Creator
 Gina Gaudet and [Vancouver Public Library](#), Content Creator
 Wiena Groenewold and [Fraser Valley Regional Library](#), Content Creator
 Jamie McCarthy and [Burnaby Public Library](#), Content Creator
 Corene Maret Brown and [Port Moody Public Library](#), Content Creator
 Dr. Tess Prendergast, [Inclusive Early Literacy](#), Consultant
 Dr. Carole Ford, [The Whole Dyslexic Society](#), Consultant
 Roger Handling, [Terra Firma Digital Arts](#), Graphic Designer
 Neil Firkins, Web Design
 Shayne Letain, [Rain in Spain Creative Studio](#), Children's Site Animator
 Michal Utko and team, [Utko Creative](#), Online Reading Tracker Designer
 Mari Martin, Director, [Libraries Branch, Ministry of Education](#)
 Scott Leslie and Jonathan Schatz, [BC Libraries Cooperative](#)
 Michael Burris and the staff at [InterLINK](#)
 Angie Ayupova, [BCLA](#), Manager
 Annette DeFaveri, [BCLA](#), Executive Director

MEASURING SUCCESS

Our aim is to support libraries in serving the specific needs of their communities. To that end, each library determines whether a child has completed or has been successful in BC SRC participation.

We encourage children to set their own goals, whether it be a number of books to read, number of pages, or for the Read-to-Me participants, it might be the number of people who read to them. Our favourite is to encourage children to set an amount of time reading each day as their goal. We encourage children to read at least 20 minutes a day... We modify the certificate to read "participated" instead of "completed" SRC, and every participant gets one. Medals go to those children who participated in half or more of the program days, and who reach their goals. We accept the child's or parent's word about whether they have met their goals.

Submitted by Hazelton District Public Library

Examples of reading-goals include:

- Time-based: 15 minutes a day, 50 days of reading

- Quantity-based: number of pages/ chapters/books read
- Tool-based: reading-log completion, stickers collected
- Participation-based: “Just that children are continuing to read over the summer.”
- Self-determined: “Families set individual daily or weekly goals with their children and measure success by their own standards.”

More than 90% of BC libraries award medals, and 62% award medals based on participation. The remaining 38% award medals based on completing a reading-goal. This year, due to the pandemic, we saw more libraries award medals based on participation. Libraries shared the following feedback:

- *We allowed families to choose their own goals this year. (Port Moody Public Library)*
- *In a usual year the medals would be awarded on completion of reading records. This year we gave all participants a medal. (Grand Forks Public Library)*
- *Our reading goals were very loose this year. Without them coming weekly and giving them a sticker for a week we really couldn't track that. We awarded a medal for children 5 and up who had participated in any of the activities over the summer. (Kimberly Public Library)*

2020 ARTIST: BAMBI EDLUND

For 2020, the BC SRC was thrilled to work with BC artist **Bambi Edlund**.



Filled with delightful humour and invention, colour, and energy, this year's artwork was by [Bambi Edlund](#). This self-taught artist, designer, needle-felted sculptor, and stop motion animator, has been the Art Director for *Edible Vancouver* since 2008. She illustrated the picture book *What a Waste: Where Does Garbage Go?* (Annick Press, 2017), and is currently at work on a new book for Kids Can Press.

Bambi was scheduled to do stop-motion workshops for several libraries this summer. Of course, the pandemic changed this. We approached Bambi to see if there might still be a way for libraries and children to work with her. Bambi generously agreed to create a short overview video for us. It was released on the bcsrc.ca site at the end of June for children and their families (and libraries!) to enjoy.

INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY

Increasing Inclusion

BC SRC welcomes the participation of all children and their families and we continue to seek ways to provide an accessible and fully inclusive program.

COVID-19 meant moving much of the 2020 BC SRC online. Not only did this provide opportunity for children to register for the BC SRC and safely participate in the program, it created new levels of inclusion. This is what we heard from libraries and parents:

Keep up the good work – considering the circumstances this year, families benefited greatly from all that was offered. I work at the admin building so do not get the public's comments daily, but I did hear from a mom that her son with Downs Syndrome was elated every time he heard the 'ding' of another SRC badge!

Submitted by Staff Person at Okanagan Regional Library

Anita Shum, a parent of an SRC participant shared these words about the program: “I hope you will continue to do this virtual badge next year. My daughter didn't want to miss a reading day, because she really wanted to click the button on the days she read. She doesn't even want to sleep until she reads her book. **Over the last 5 years since we started doing the summer reading, we had to remind her to read and write down what books she read... the virtual badge was awesome for my ADHD child.** She really loved clicking each day she read and the sound it made every time. So kudos to the BC Library for creating this summer reading event online.”

Some examples of ways in which we endeavour to build an inclusive and diverse program include:

- Core Print Materials are produced with a minimum of text in order to support the participation of children of any language and any reading ability
- More flexible Reading Record. Last winter we asked our Content Creators and their teams for feedback on the Reading Records. While many people loved the “classic” reading log, many also expressed a desire for something more flexible, less daunting for reluctant readers. With all this in mind, The Core Committee worked to develop a new layout that honours the best of both worlds while continuing to provide maximum accessibility. We are delighted to be able to have this [more flexible reading record](#) available for this summer! Our Tween Coordinator also did a session on [DIY-ing your reading record](#) for older kids
- A [video in ASL](#) (American Sign Language) with English subtitles, on both the BC SRC staff and kids' websites welcomes children with hearing impairment to the BC SRC
- Annotated book lists are produced each year indicating titles available in audio formats (commercially, and through [NNELS](#) and [CELA](#)), so its convenient for anyone with a perceptual or print impairment to find theme-related titles to listen to
- Each year the BC SRC Program Manual is reviewed by Dr. Tess Prendergast ([Inclusive Early Literacy](#)) to ensure programs and activities include adaptations for different needs. With the assistance of Dr. Prendergast, general guidelines for Summer Programming Staff on how to increase inclusion are provided as part of the Program Manual
- in consultation with Dr. Carole Ford (Co-Director for Davis Learning Strategies, [The Whole Dyslexic Society](#)), dyslexia-friendly adaptations were made to print materials and supplemental Resources
- A “[Caregiver Page](#)” provides general information on the program, as well as explanations on how to join the program. Currently, it is available in [French](#) and [English](#). (See also “[Other Languages](#)”, below.) NOTE: This page also provides a dropdown menu with links to BC libraries making it easy for families to find a library in their community

- Customizable “Parent Letters” are available on the BC SRC staff site for libraries to download and send to their local schools. These letters include language that explicitly supports children reading in whatever language they feel most comfortable. As well, the letters specifically express support for cultures that emphasize oral storytelling

Increasing Language Accessibility

FRENCH

Thanks to the Ministry of Education, Libraries Branch, children and their families are able to join in and “**Explorez notre Univers**” (i.e. “Explore Our Universe”). Core Print materials were available in English and French:

- Poster (one side English; one side French)
- Reading Record (English cover on one side; French cover on the other)
- Bookmarks (both languages on bookmarks)

BC SRC also produced a thematic French booklist and French downloadable letters for parents, schools, media, and other interested groups that are available on the [Staff Website](#).

As part of our larger inclusion and language accessibility goals, Core Print Materials are produced with a minimum of text in order to support the participation of children of any language and any reading ability.

ASL

We include an audio and an [ASL \(American Sign Language\) video](#) on both BC SRC websites to welcome children with hearing and/or print-impairment to the BC SRC assuring them that all reading counts, including ASL stories.

OTHER LANGUAGES

For many newcomer families the BC SRC not only supports new language skills but also connects them with their local library and new community.

Support materials are available for parents and librarians, including [The Value of Summer Reading](#), (available in nearly 40 languages). The BC SRC staff site also includes a Google translate plug-in so visitors can readily translate any page.

A recent survey of languages spoken in Burnaby homes indicates that more than 100 languages (other than English) are spoken in the homes of Burnaby students¹.

As we continue to evolve the Language Accessibility component of the BC SRC, we are aware of the complexity of the challenges involved and focus our efforts on:

¹ Source: <https://burnabyschools.ca/about-sd41-overview/>

- creating Core Print Materials with a minimum of text in order to support the participation of children of any language and any reading ability;
- increasing our understanding of the needs of the various language communities, and the best way to support them;
- providing better support to library staff (specifically, SRC) in connecting to Newcomer communities; and
- creating background/support materials for Newcomer parents to increase their understanding of the BC SRC and confidence in how to access it at their local library.

To date, background/support materials include:

- A letter for parents on [The Value of Summer Reading](#), translated into nearly 40 languages. The site also includes a Google translate plug-in so visitors can readily translate any page
- Customizable [“Parent Letters”](#) are available on the staff site for libraries to download and send to their local schools. These letters include language that explicitly supports children reading in whatever language they feel most comfortable. As well, the letters specifically express support for cultures that emphasize oral storytelling
- A [“Parent Page”](#). This page provides general information on the program, as well as simple explanations on how to join the program. Currently, it is available in French and English. (The content has been adapted for a brochure, designed specifically to meet the needs of Newcomers.) This page exists year-round on the Staff site (Information for Families and Caregivers) and is linked annually to the Kids’ site (Info for Grownups)
- The [“What is the BC Summer Reading Club?” Brochure](#) This brochure was created by the BC Summer Reading Club to welcome and support the participation of Newcomer families in the BC Summer Reading Club. It has been translated into multiple languages and is intended for use by libraries, settlement organizations, and community groups. The brochure is “evergreen”, intended for year-round display

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

2020 BC SRC proceeded on multiple fronts this summer. Thanks to generous funding from the BC Ministry of Education, with the support of the BC Libraries Cooperative, an online registration and enhanced digital participation component was added to the BC Summer Reading Club.

General

Regular announcements and updates are sent out via the BCLA and BC SRC listservs. As well emails are sent specifically and directly to libraries with information on such things as quantities of materials and surveys Email is sent to the SRC contacts at each library.

In addition, the SRC Provincial Coordinator submits articles to YAACing and posts on the SRC Blog to keep libraries informed and involved, and tweets as [@BC_SRC](#).

The BC SRC Community Story Award provides an additional opportunity for libraries to share the impact of the BC SRC in their community.

BC Library staff are invited to post on the BC SRC Blog, requesting and/or sharing information, ideas and materials.

The Ministry of Education's news release for families; internal promotion through their newsletters.

"Parents" page of SRC site contained general info on the SRC, as well as an update at the top, advising patrons to check with their local library about in-person registration, print reading records, etc.

All print materials directed people to bcsrc.ca where they found out how to register online.

Throughout the summer, we provided weekly emails to libraries with updated registration numbers for their library. At the end of the summer, we provided a more comprehensive list showing schools and grades, while continuing to protect children's privacy.

COVID-19 Response

On March 16, 2020 we began closely monitoring government updates and communicating with libraries about the rapidly changing situation with COVID-19 and its potential impact on the 2020 BC SRC. We used all our channels, including the SRC blog and social media, recognizing that regular means of communication (e.g. staff email) were impacted by layoffs and closures.

We committed to regular updates to libraries. We worked with our suppliers to determine the best way to navigate and coordinate the production and delivery of BC SRC materials amidst library and plant closures. We also immediately began exploring options for expanding the online aspects of the SRC program, as always with the intention of increasing accessibility. With the generous and committed support of our funders, Ministry of Education, Libraries Branch and CUPE BC, we planned for the best possible outcomes for the BC SRC.

Moving our entire program online cut out all of our patrons in rural communities with limited or no connectivity. Having our Mobile Library only offering curbside pick-up of holds very much restricted the outreach that normally takes place in many of our smallest and most rural communities. Without school visits we lost our best method of reaching the majority of children in our school districts, and along with a lack of local advertising (due to many businesses being closed or not accepting posters), and the general exhaustion that hit communities by mid-June, we saw registration at about 30% of what it was in previous years (including the registrations through the bcsrc.ca website).

Submitted by Thompson-Nicola Regional Library

School visits are one of the primary ways libraries promote the BC SRC. Usually these visits begin in May and go all the way through June, serving to inform families and connect children to the program, and get them excited about summer reading. This year the pandemic made school visits largely impossible. A few libraries valiantly attempted Zoom visits and/or sent pre-recorded messages but most schools were overwhelmed with navigating the year-end.

STATISTICS AND EVALUATION

Given the extraordinary circumstances of this year, we endeavored to support libraries as much as possible in their reporting. We provided an (optional) spreadsheet for libraries to use for the collection of any in-person/curbside registrations, as well as to use for filling in their BC SRC Survey at the end of the summer. The spreadsheet mirrored the information collected in the Online Registration Site.

We (BC SRC) tallied the combined total from each library's Online Registration and the totals submit in their end-of summer survey and counted that as their registration, acknowledging that the numbers would be significantly reduced from the previous year.

An exit survey was made available to parents via the bcsrc.ca website and/or by their consent to receive communications from BC SRC.

BC SRC Staff Website

RESOURCES

Libraries have access to a wealth of outreach and promotional resources in the [Resources](#) section of the [staff website](#): images, icons, this year's logo and font, icons, report card stuffers in French and English, to name just a few.

The staff site contained a [Where to find...](#) post on the blog listing the most sought after bits of SRC-info, all in one place. This post was updated throughout the summer.

There are four sections to our resources page:

1. PROMOTION & OUTREACH: GRAPHICS (includes logos, theme title, images, etc.)
2. PROMOTION & OUTREACH: DOCUMENTS (includes parent and school letters, report card stuffers, PSAs, etc.)
3. PROGRAM MANUAL (includes programs and booklists)
4. SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION (includes, supplemental, read-to-me and print-on-demand reading records, certificates of completion, colouring sheets, DIY t-shirt images, etc.)

These resources are heavily used by library staff throughout the province between June 1 to August 31, 2020:

TOP 10 PAGES FROM STAFF SITE	HITS
/resources/file-resources/	13,133
/reports/	4,528
/themes/book-lists/	4,144
/about-us/newcomer-brochures/	2,414
/blog/	2,176
/materials/	1,788
/materials/reading-record/	1,308
/themes/	1,187
/about-us/	1,104
/blog/2020/06/26/fabulous-promotional-videos-from-bc-libraries/	1,067

The Resources page will continue to evolve and grow as we explicitly welcome requests from libraries for resources that will help them to better serve their communities.

SRC Exchange Blog and Knowledge Sharing

The SRC Exchange Blog continues to allow us to be more responsive to the shifting demographics within the province. Using the blog, libraries can post if they have extra material or need more of materials.

The blog also facilitates the exchange of information and ideas amongst libraries (e.g. handing out print materials and medals during a pandemic.) Libraries were also generous in sharing the promotional videos they made, providing inspiration for everyone, which garnered the honour of being our 10th most popular page hit.

SUSTAINABILITY

Fairware

As part of our ongoing effort to streamline the BC SRC program, this year we worked [Fairware](#) to produce t-shirts and tattoos. This significantly improved production and delivery for our novelty items (t-shirts and tattoos) as well as ensured we are working with a company that is serious about sustainability.

ACCOUNTING OF EXPENDITURES

Please see Balance Sheet in [Appendix E](#).

EXECUTIVE CONCLUSION

COVID-19 has changed the landscape for libraries and the BC SRC. Our ability to move significant portions of the program online ensured children were able to participate in the program in spite of library closures, so long as their community and/or family had connectivity and parental capacity.

The online program is an essential component going forward but does not replace the need for print materials, open libraires, and in-person programming.

Not everyone is able to participate in digital programming. Some of the reason's include: no internet connection at home, no computer equipment available, parents not willing to encourage or support participation in digital programming.

Submitted by Cariboo Regional District Library

The experiences of 2020 have taught us many things and brought specific needs into high focus.

- It is essential that children without connectivity and/or caregiver capacity not be left behind in the digital divide. We need to actively advocate for better provincial connectivity.
- There needs to be further integration between the provincial program and the local communities to ensure goals of inclusion and literacy are not lost. Developing additional technological support and communication is essential to build an inclusive, sustainable, and accessible provincial program.
- It is imperative that libraries have the ability to connect through the online program to their communities in order to engage, encourage and invite them into the program in the ways that best match their communities needs. It is essential that we build a “portal” to facilitate connections with communities.
- A digital programming component should become a permanent fixture of the program “manual”, funding permitting.
- Increased connections between the BC SRC and BC schools in the spring – through library visits (access permitting), promotional videos – increase the likelihood of awareness and registration in the program, and, subsequently, summer learning. Advocating for additional funding to build and facilitate the connection between BC SRC and BC Schools is important in coming years.
- Importance of partnerships at a provincial and community level to increase the richness of the SRC experience. The need to investigate and identify new partnerships and new sources of funding is a necessary step in the coming years.
- While families appreciated having an online SRC, many also expressed screen fatigue, and growing challenges with connectivity. It’s imperative we not lose sight of the fact that libraries are essential community gathering places.

BC SRC is developed, evolved and coordinated by the BC Library Association. BC SRC encourages children to build their reading and literacy skills through the summer months. BC SRC connects children and families to their local library and encourages children to discover a love of reading. BC SRC is a fun, positive, family and community orientated program that brings families into the library, brings the library to communities, and brings communities together to celebrate reading, literacy, and libraries.

BC SRC’s success in reaching children and families grows from the program’s intention to be responsive to the expressed needs of local neighbourhoods, and alert to the unique needs of British Columbians.

The BC SRC 2020 Report was prepared by:

Annette DeFaveri
BCLA, Executive Director

Cynthia Ford
BC SRC Provincial Coordinator

Stephanie Usher (née Hong)
BC SRC Tween Coordinator
November 20th, 2020

APPENDIX A: SUMMER READING

Research from around the world supports the statement that reading over the summer, through reading clubs as well as through other means, is crucial to a child's development in every aspect of life. Please see:

Study.com (For teachers and schools) - This site collects research as well as testimonials:
<http://study.com/blog/why-is-summer-reading-so-important-for-kids-success.html>

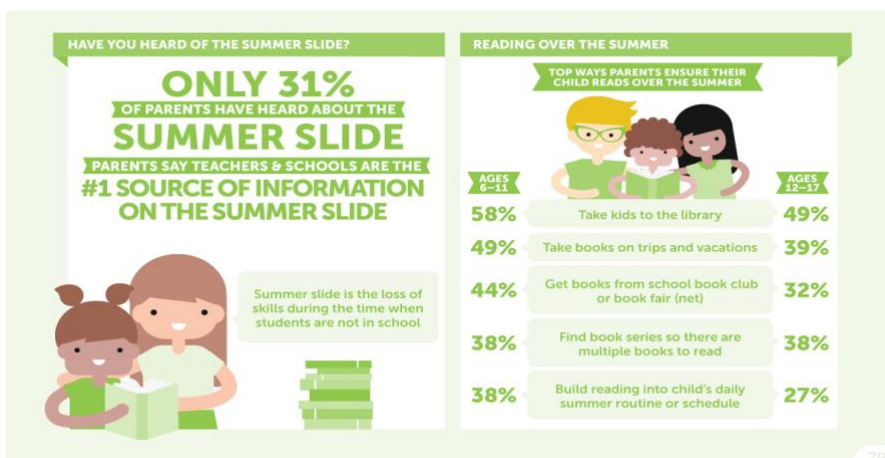
Summer reading is critical to a child's ability to not only retain information learned the previous year, but also to grow in knowledge and critical thinking skills for the coming year. Literacy expert Julie Wood believes that it is necessary for children to read on a daily basis in order to maintain literacy skills learned in the previous school year.

Assistant Principal Twana Santana-Embry likens reading to exercising. She encourages students to read in an effort to strengthen their reading skills. Just like exercising keeps muscles in shape, reading keeps the brain in shape. If you don't exercise, you lose muscle, and if you don't read, you will lose literacy skills.

A University of Tennessee, Knoxville, research study shows that children who don't read over the summer lose at least two months of reading development. This is often referred to as 'the summer slide' or the 'summer learning loss.' On the other hand, students who do read over the summer may gain a month of proficiency in reading. Reading over the summer is not a suggestion to keep kids busy; it's a critical requirement to help students stay on track for their entire educational career and beyond.

Reading, in general, is highly effective at building up a child's knowledge in a vast amount of subject areas, including English, math, science and history. Studies conducted by Dr. Alice Sullivan monitored the impact of reading in a child's life from elementary through adulthood. These studies discovered a greater intellectual progress in vocabulary, spelling and math than that of a child not reading more than the required school amount. Clearly, reading is a strong tool for growing in comprehension skills and general knowledge of the world. This is why children who read are able to stay ahead of their classmates during the school year.

From Decoda Literacy Solutions: <http://www.decoda.ca/read-all-about-lit/summer-reading-and-children>



Summer Reading and Children

How do Canadian children and their parents feel about summer reading? 96% of Canadian parents and 84% of their children agree that summer reading is important and fun. But, the positive attitude doesn't always get translated into reading behaviour. Just over half of children will read during the

summer without prompting, and an additional third will read if parents work at it. Summer Reading Club supports parents support their children reading over the summer.

Science News: University of Tennessee: “Summer Reading is Key to maintaining and Improving Students’ Skills” <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/07/100721112234.htm>

To children, the summer slide means water, garden hoses and slippery plastic sheets. To teachers, the "summer slide" is the noted decrease in reading skills after a vacation without books.

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, faculty members Richard Allington and Anne McGill-Franzen have completed a three-year study showing a significantly higher level of reading achievement in students who received books for summer reading at home. Allington and McGill-Franzen are both professors of education; McGill-Franzen is also director of the Reading Center in the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences.

New York Public Library

Extensive Research on the value of Summer Reading Clubs has been done by the New York Public Library and that bibliography can be found here: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/research.htm>

Other Articles

Celano, D., & Neuman S. B. (2001, February). *The Role of Public Libraries in Children’s Literacy Development: An Evaluation Report*. Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Library Association.

Groups of children from the Philadelphia area were monitored for achievement differences between those enrolled in a public library summer reading program and those in a local recreation program. The study demonstrated a positive correlation in reading scores for those children who attended the library summer reading program. In additional findings it was reported that children in the library program spent more time with books, benefited from literacy related activities, and had increased parental involvement with reading.

Dominican University. (2010, June 22). *The Dominican study: public library summer reading programs close the reading gap*. Retrieved from http://www.dom.edu/academics/gslis/downloads/DOM_IMLS_research_in_brief_FINALweb.pdf

The Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Dominican University received a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for a three-year research study to determine the effects that public library summer reading programs had on student achievement. The study reported that students who participated in public library summer reading programs scored higher on reading achievement tests at the beginning of the next school year. Students who participated in public library summer reading programs also demonstrated higher reading achievement than those students who did not participate. The study concludes by observing that children who participate in public library summer reading programs returned to school ready to learn, improved their reading achievement and skills, increased their enjoyment of reading, were more motivated to read, were more confident in their reading, read beyond what was required in their free time, and perceived reading to be more important.

Krashen, S., & Shin F. (2004). Summer Reading and the Potential Contribution of the Public Library in Improving Reading for Children of Poverty. *Public Library Quarterly*, 23 (3/4), 99-109.

Research shows that there is very little difference in reading gains between children from high and low-income families during the school year. Over the summer, children from high-income families make better progress in reading and the difference is cumulative over time. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds benefit from increased access to books and attendance at public library programs.

APPENDIX B: BC SRC 2020 SURVEY AND EVALUATION OF OUTCOMES

Form Preview : ID 187

 display grid show structure

Note: This is a simple form preview. This form may display differently when added to your page based on normal inheritance from parent theme styles.

BC SRC 2020 Survey and Evaluation of Outcomes

Please take a moment to review this year's survey. Given the impact of Covid-19, this year's survey results will not be representative of usual SRC activity and this will be taken into account. As always, our goal is to maintain the intrinsic value of the BC SRC while improving our ability to measure outcomes and provide our funders with accountability. To that end, it is essential that each library SYSTEM (NOT BRANCH LIBRARIES OR INDIVIDUALS) complete the survey. By all means consult your staff but report once only please! Our future funding is dependent on us reporting this information. Please spend some time reviewing the questions beforehand so that you and your staff will be comfortable answering them. Please note, the survey deadline is September 25th, 2020. We need all surveys in by that date in order to report back to our funders in time for next year's application. Thank you for your efforts — this information will help us to guide the evolution of the BC SRC and ensure its relevancy.

1. Library Reporting

Name of your library/system *

Name of individual reporting *

First

Last

Email *

2. Volunteers

Due to Covid-19, your library may not have had any traditional volunteers this year. Please feel free to include any virtual volunteer work in this section. For each question in this section, please enter the number of volunteers who participated directly in the BC SRC. If your library does not have volunteers, please enter '0'.

Number of volunteers age 12 & under *

If your library does not have volunteers, please enter '0'.

Number of volunteers age 13-18 *

If your library does not have volunteers, please enter '0'.

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Number of volunteers age 19-24 *

If your library does not have volunteers, please enter '0'.

Number of volunteers age 25+ *

If your library does not have volunteers, please enter '0'.

Number of volunteer hours (total, to the nearest hour) invested directly in the BC SRC. *

If your library does not have volunteers, please enter '0'.

3. Training and Development

Due to Covid-19, your library may not have had any traditional training and development events this year. Please feel free to include any virtual events in this section. Please specify the number of volunteers, summer students, and/or staff TRAINED or DEVELOPED as a direct result of the BC SRC. If none are applicable, please enter '0':

Number of volunteers trained or developed: age 13-18 *

If your library does not have volunteers, please enter '0'.

Number of volunteers trained or developed: age 19-24 *

If your library does not have volunteers, please enter '0'.

Number of volunteers trained or developed: age 25+ *

If your library does not have volunteers, please enter '0'.

Number of Summer Students, trained or developed ***Number of opportunities specifically created for Indigenous students/staff *****Number of Staff (part-time or full-time), trained or developed ***

4. School Visits

For many of you, this question will not be applicable this year due to Covid-19. Some of you, however, did do Zoom "school visits". Please feel free to count those here. For each category, please enter the total number (without commas), even if that number is '0'. We appreciate this is a difficult task, so just do your best!

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Total number of class visits *

Please count each class in a school as one visit.

Total number of children reached *

Include all children present during school visits.

Total number of adults reached *

Include all adults present during school visits.

Of the total number of class visits, how many visits were to a French-language class: *

If not applicable, please enter '0'

Of the total number of class visits, how many Children were reached in French-language class: *

If not applicable, please enter '0'

Of the total number of class visits, how many Adults were reached in French-language class: *

If not applicable, please enter '0'

When do you conduct school visits? *

- Mid May
- Late May
- Early June
- Mid June
- Late June
- All of the above
- We don't do any school visits

Additional comments regarding school visits (optional):**5. Registration**

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This year's registration numbers will, of course, be impacted by Covid-19. Please enter only in-person/curbside registrations here. Any patron who registered online this year (at bcsrc.ca), will be added to your total registration by BCLA from the Online Registration site.

Did your library provide in-person registration this year? *

Yes No

Did your library handout print Reading Records this year? *

Yes No

Please enter the total number of children registered in-person/curbside: *

(number only):

Did you observe an increase in registrations this year?

Yes No About the same

To what do you attribute any significant changes in registration? If not applicable, please indicate "n/a".

When does your library begin registration?

- Early June
- Mid June
- Late June
- When school lets out
- Other

Do you keep track of age groups or class grades when registering your participants? *

Yes No

How many tween participants do you have on average (ages 10-12/grades 5-7)?

(number only):

What is the approximate percentage of French-speakers in your community?

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(number only):

If possible, please indicate the approximate number of children who intend to participate in French:

(number only):

6. Evaluation

How does your library use the medals? *

To award completion of a reading goal

To acknowledge participation in the program

We don't use the medals

What reading goals (if any) does your library use to "measure" success? *

7. Community Events

Due to Covid-19, your library may not have had any traditional Community events this year. Please feel free to include any virtual events in this section. Please indicate total number of each type of Community Event your library/system participated in. If an event may be represented by more than one category, please enter in all that apply (i.e. one event may be captured under multiple categories). If your library did not participate in Community Events, please enter '0'.

Focus of Community Events participated in:

Please select all that apply.

Select All

Community Days

Farmer's Markets

Indigenous Community Events

Literacy Events

Museums

Maker Fairs

Medal Ceremonies

Parades

Pop-up Libraries

Other

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If you selected "other", please describe:

Total number of Community Events *

Total number of children reached *

Include all children present during Community Events. If none present, please enter '0'.

Total number of adults reached *

Include all adults present during Community Events. If none present, please enter '0'.

If possible, please describe any unique aspects to your community that may impact SRC delivery and/or participation:

7. In-Library Events

Due to Covid-19, your library may not have had any traditional in-library events this year. Please feel free to include any virtual events in this section. For each category, please enter the total number (without commas), even if that number is '0':

Total number of SRC-related events at your library (including virtual visits to your library) *

Total number of children reached *

Include all children present during In-Library Events. If none present, please enter '0'.

Total number of adults reached *

Include all adults present during In-Library Events. If none present, please enter '0'.

How many SRC-related programs did your library offer for the following groups: *

All ages	Preschool	Ages 5-7	Ages 8-9	Ages 10-12+
<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>

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If none are applicable, please enter '0'

If no programs were offered for the 10-12+ age group, what are some of the reasons:

Please select all that apply.

- Select All**
- Not enough interest from that age group
- Difficult to develop programs for that age group
- Don't have staff capacity for that age group
- Other

If you selected "other", please describe:

If you did offer programs for the 10-12+ age group, please briefly describe those programs:

What are some ways that BC SRC can help support tween engagement for your community?

Of the total number of In-Library events, how many: *

Events were delivered in ASL (in part or fully)

Children were reached in ASL-language events

Adults were reached in ASL-language events



If none are applicable, please enter '0'

Of the total number of In-Library events, how many: *

Events were delivered in French (in part or fully)

Children were reached in French-language events

Adults were reached in French-language events



If none are applicable, please enter '0'

Of the total number of In-Library events, how many: *

Events were delivered in an Indigenous language (in part or fully)

Children were reached in Indigenous-language events

Adults were reached in Indigenous-language events



If none are applicable, please enter '0'

Please indicate any languages (other than English) you deliver programs in at your library (in part or fully)

- Select All**
- ASL (American Sign Language)

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- Arabic
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- Chinese (Cantonese)
- Filipino
- French
- Korean
- Indigenous language(s)
- Persian
- Punjabi
- Spanish
- Vietnamese
- Other

If you selected "other", please describe:

8. Partnerships

Due to Covid-19, your library may have had limited opportunity for Partnerships this year. Please include any "virtual" partnerships. For each category, please indicate the total number of formal and informal partnerships you developed through collaboration as a direct result of the BC SRC at your library. If your library did not develop partnerships, please enter '0'.

Number of Partnerships developed: *

Local businesses (e.g. restaurants, stores)	Local services (e.g. fire station, police)	Local government	Newcomer Groups	First Nations bands	Groups with an Indigenous focus (e.g. day camps)	Literacy organizations	Local media	Other
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<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

If you selected "other", please describe:

9. Quantities (Core Materials)

As we continue to refine the "Core Materials Packages", please indicate how closely the quantities you received matched your needs. Please note additional quantities of stickers and posters are provided intentionally. See below for more details.

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Reading Records**Way too much! Could have used a bit less Perfect! Could have used a bit more! Not nearly enough!**

Stickers (10% extra allocated to accommodate visitors)**Way too much! Could have used a bit less Perfect! Could have used a bit more! Not nearly enough!**

Bookmarks**Way too much! Could have used a bit less Perfect! Could have used a bit more! Not nearly enough!**

Medals**Way too much! Could have used a bit less Perfect! Could have used a bit more! Not nearly enough!**

Libraries are provided with a base quantity of medals in proportion to their quantity of reading records.

Additional comments regarding quantities (optional):**10. Manual**Please see <http://kidssrc.libraries.coop/manual/>**Does your library use the Manual? *** Yes No**If your library uses the BC SRC manual, who are the primary users? Please check all that apply. *** Library Staff Our Summer Students Our Volunteers We don't use the manual**If your library uses the BC SRC Manual, which sections do you use? Please check all that apply.** We use all of it, as is, front to back! We pick and choose, mix 'n match! We use the Booklists We use the Activity sheets

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- We use the Storytime sections
- We use the Primary sections
- We use the Tween sections

Do you print the manual or use it online only?

- We print the whole thing
- We print selections only
- We only use it online

What, if any, changes would you like to see to the manual to make it more useful? If you don't use the manual at all, is there something that would make it more helpful to you?

11. Staff Website

<https://kidssrc.libraries.coop/resources/>

Which items do you use from the Resources page of BC SRC Staff website? Please check all that apply. *

- Logo
- Poster (English)
- Poster (French)
- Stickers
- Theme Title (English)
- Theme Title (French)
- Bookmarks (press ready)
- Reading Record (press ready)
- I've Joined the SRC, Now What? (English)
- I've Joined the SRC, Now What? (French)
- Parent Letter (English)
- Parent Letter (French)
- Press Release (English)
- Press Release (French)
- School Letter (English)

Viewport (Width : 1698px , Height :685px)

- School Letter (French)
- Radio and TV Public Service Announcement (English)
- Radio and TV Public Service Announcement (French)
- Summer Reading Tips for Parents (English)
- Summer Reading Tips for Parents (French)
- Report Card Stuffer (English)
- Report Card Stuffer (French)
- Full Manual (PDF)
- Web Quiz (English only)
- Certificate of Completion (English)
- Certificate of Completion (French)
- Colouring sheets
- Read-to-me (for pre-readers)
- Supplementary Reading Record
- Reading calendar
- Reading Record 11" x 17" (print-on-demand version)
- DIY T-shirt Image
- This year's font
- We don't use any of these items.

Is there something missing from the Resources page you'd like to see added?

12. Final Thoughts

Please describe what you've observed to be the most significant values and benefits the BC SRC brings to your library and your community:

Describe one change you think would improve the BC Summer Reading Club program.

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APPENDIX C: SIGNIFICANT VALUES & BENEFITS ACCORDING TO LIBRARIES

We typically include a survey question asking libraries to describe “**what you've observed to be the most significant values and benefits the BC SRC brings to your library and your community**”. As a provincial program, BC SRC works alongside 71 different library systems and connects with over 200 communities. Each library system chooses to run the program that best meets the needs of their community, and as a result, share individual feedback that relates to their communities. It is important to acknowledge the similarities and differences in these answers to provide direction on how we support libraries across the province.

This year, those comments were heavily weighted with the impact of COVID-19. Library staff throughout the province did an incredible job of using the SRC resources and adapting them to the needs of their communities. We heard stories of virtual school visits, online programs and performances.

Below, listed alphabetically, are library responses in their own words.

Bowen Island Public Library	During 2020, so many programs and services were cancelled. It was a huge value to be able to provide families with an online version of SRC. Once we reopened, many families were excited to see that reading logs were available and that we were still moving forward with summer reading club. We weren't able to host our own library events and programs this year, but we were happy to be able to promote the BC SRC events and activities.
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Burns Lake Public Library	Our local schools were closed for nearly three months this spring. Being able to provide materials in the form of fun Summer Reading Club activities supported literacy in the community when it was especially important. The program is well-known throughout the community and parents appreciated the extra support since it was a wet, cold summer and SRC offered indoor activities.
----------------------------------	--

Castlegar & District Public Library	Summer Reading Club continually brings our community together - and this year was such an interesting one to observe. I feel like during the pandemic this summer, it continued to do the same. People came in and interacted with staff and were able to have some sort of normalcy in the midst of the unknown. The program gave us value that we will continue to carry into our Fall-Spring programming year.
--	---

Coquitlam Public Library	<p>The BC SRC instills qualities in kids (and parents) that we like to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- excitement about reading -- dedication: the sense of working towards and eventually achieving what seems like a far-off goal -- discipline: to achieve their goal, kids make reading part of their daily routine -- exposure to new books, authors and ideas -- parents become active participants in their kids' reading lives by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reading with them - encouraging them to read - reminding them about the club and their reading goals - helping them to locate new reading materials -- above all, the club creates the sense of a shared venture, building
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	excitement because so many other people (classmates, friends, siblings) are involved
Creston Valley Public Library	I think it's a great program for the community. Creston has a few programs in the valley, but a lot are paid programs. It's great that the children who may not have the opportunity to complete the paid programs have a chance to do something.
Grand Forks and District Public Library	It was a wonderful way for families to stay connected with our library during co-vid times. Children were excited to share their projects on line and tell us about what they were doing when they stopped by the library to pick up their Grab and Go activity kits (based on activities from the BCSRC manual).
Greater Victoria Public Library	<p>This year, having online registration and participation was a huge highlight for many of our patrons. Families felt safe, yet engaged with a regular summer routine. Online BCSRC has proven to be beneficial for patrons who might not have regular access to the library. We had many patrons complete SRC online without once having to come to the library and we are grateful for that (as well as our patrons).</p> <p>To supplement the numbers, GVPL community was equally happy that reading records were physically being distributed at open branches, community pop up libraries, and our grab and go tables.</p>
Hazelton District Public Library	The Summer Reading Club is the best, most popular way our library reaches the communities we serve, especially First Nations communities. Our practice of recruiting community members to run their own clubs is valuable not only to the individuals we recruit, train, and pay to facilitate our clubs, it is valuable to our communities in general because we have contributed to the social capital of each community. Because of SRC we are now in discussion with two different First Nations organizations, helping them gain information about how to get Native language books published. We have provided samples books by and about other First Nations as examples of what could be done. We have facilitated research into publishers and their requirements. While this type of community support, it would never have happened if we had not connected with key people through our SRC outreach.
Houston Public Library	I have observed that there are some families that rely on these types of free programs for their children.
Invermere Public Library	The online tracking was great to see this year! We had a lot of very positive feedback from parents about how this is getting their kids reading more than they do during school, or they're way more motivated to read for SRC. I ... SRC is such a great program and is so good for bringing kids to the library and building strong reading habits!
Nelson Public Library	A beneficial and productive opportunity for kids during the COVID-19 pandemic!

North Vancouver City Public Library

We noticed this year that people were so excited to have Summer Reading Club continue as one bit of normalcy. We received messages from parents about how important it was for their children, and especially that we awarded medals this year. It is wonderful to see children enjoying reading over the summer. In a typical year, SRC provides a great opportunity to connect with Teacher Librarians and all of our students in the City.

Okanagan Regional Library

This year families were very happy to have something to do to promote reading. There is a market for online but still a demand for physical materials, especially after a month of online school learning. (We were able to hand out physical reading records during curbside.) More than ever we realize that outreach to schools is essential! Even if there are families participating online, outreach prior is very important.

Pender Island Public Library / Southern Gulf Islands Community Libraries

The most significant value is that without the BC SRC, we would not have such a robust and wonderful summer reading program at all due to very low staffing in our rural island library facilities. Loved the expanded online component in 2020.

Penticton Public Library

Summer Reading Club encourages and values all readers, whatever their skills or interests. The club keeps reading as a part of everyday activity and fun in the summer. It makes reading a more active and social thing to do by connecting with family, friends and community through crafts, games, experiments, projects and activities that take readers from the page to meaningful life experiences.

Prince George Public Library

This year the most significant value I saw was with families continuing to use the library and our resources throughout the summer, and perhaps more importantly, during our closure. Our weekly programs, despite being online, still saw a lot of participants and many families relied on it as a weekly source of entertainment and education for their families. We saw an uptick in our children's materials and were able to engage with children regarding what they were reading and how much reading they were doing throughout the summer. Considering the challenges we faced this year in terms of space, technology, and time, I still think things went reasonably well. We saw a lot of patrons returning to the library specifically to participate in the SRC, as well as patrons that we hadn't met before.

Prince Rupert Public Library

It is extremely helpful to have a professionally produced suite of products to promote our Summer Reading Program. It helps get our information into the community. All of the materials (actual and digital) helps the smaller libraries produce a program with polish. We don't have the staff or ability to create all of these resources ourselves.

We're extremely lucky to have access to such a wonderful program. Kudos to all of the library staff and the artist that make this possible.

Richmond Public Library

SRC helps to show children and families the importance of reading for fun. Families were thrilled that the program was continuing again this year - it helped provide a sense of normalcy to those who had done the program before, and gave new participants something fun to focus on.

Salt Spring Public Library It was something for the kids this year - a bit of normal despite so much weird. That mattered and gave a sense of comfort and stability to participating families.

Smithers Public Library This year's most important value was that there were activities for the children to engage in at home. A lot of parents tried to work from home and also tried to keep their children entertained.

Stewart Public Library I really appreciate all the time and energy put into this year's virtual programming. The SRC gives children and tweens something to look forward to and something to keep them busy during the summer.

Taylor Public Library Reading has been one of the best ways to keep kids (of all ages) entertained. This year with social distancing, it has been extremely important with regard to mental health and isolation. School has seen a 30% decrease in enrollment - we have had several families decide to home school this year. Having access to a developed program for reading helps the parents in many ways - less stress and a guided platform are just two of those ways. Even though we didn't do a lot of canvassing for the reading program, we still had more kids sign up! And online, too!

Terrace Public Library

- a FREE activity for children in the summer
- children who consistently participate each year gain a feeling of community and belonging at their Library
- reinforces the Library as a safe place in our community
- Gives Library staff a solid starting point/framework for summer programs, (timelines, themes, graphics, core materials).
- Being Province-wide is neat for families that travel in the summer. All operating under the same program gives consistency to those kids looking to update their reading record, etc.

Trail & District Public Library Running accessible programming has benefited our community by providing an opportunity for children and young people of diverse backgrounds to participate. SRC brings together groups of participants to take part in a fun and inclusive program that promotes literacy and library involvement in a safe environment.

Vancouver Island Regional Library In many rural communities, SRC is one of the only summer long free events children can partake in. SRC provides families with activities to do together that are literacy based; it gives children more confidence in reading and helps them maintain their reading level over the summer, and provides necessary fun and entertainment for all ages of children. SRC was additionally valued this summer as it provided families with a program they could participate in from the safety of their homes, while also giving children a sense of normalcy in that the program was still happening, even with the COVID situation. Comments from families this year included:

"Thank you for the wonderful programming for this odd summer! Both of my sons participated online (& we all had a blast!)"

"Thanks for the club, especially this year it's been a highlight."

Vancouver Public Library

Kids and families were so excited to have the Summer Reading Club this year. It was an opportunity to do something familiar in these strange times. It gave them a change to connect and have fun things to look forward as they worked towards earning their annual medal. An element of certainty in these uncertain times.

West Vancouver Memorial Library

SRC is a program our students look forward to every year. It creates excitement about reading over the summer months and helps kids stay on track with their reading goals. The online program was an awesome resource for families during our COVID summer

APPENDIX D: SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT FROM 2020 SURVEY

The following comments were in response to the survey question:

Describe one change you think would improve the BC Summer Reading Club program.

- I'd love to see us choose a pink ribbon one year! It feels conspicuous that this colour is missing... Neon pink would be a great choice!
- For this year specifically, it may have helped if the manual had more of an "at home" portion. The activities were more focused towards in-person programming. I realize the manual is written well in advance, but that may have helped others who struggled.
- We could benefit from special funding to small libraries to cover extra operational/staff expenses. We do not qualify for summer student grants but still scramble to afford the extra hours required for our staff.
- Having virtual events at our own library and virtual events at BCSRC.ca was confusing for a lot of participants, as they had to visit two separate websites. We are not sure that some of our participants understood that there were two different programs running at the same time. Being able to add our own library's content to BCSRC.ca could have solved this issue.
- If we are to continue using the digital tracker, it would be great if Library staff could access some identifying information for the participants.
- It would have been great for the staff to have access to the weekly activity that came out on the Monday's at least a week in advance from when it was released so they could better prepare.
- It would be nice to have an Indigenous component to the activities in the program manual. This year I would like to have seen something about Indigenous astronomy, for example. As it is now, we always have to make that part up ourselves. Lately, with the popular need to reconcile between colonial culture and First Nations culture, I would think that any library community would benefit from having culturally inclusive ideas. The caution would be to have them come from suitable sources, hopefully with input from local First Nations people. The Gitksan have a welcome song, for example, that would be great to use especially with the pre-school programs, but culturally only certain people within each clan have the right to sing the songs.
- The online registration doesn't give us any useful information, such as the age or grade of the registrant, or any personal information so we can contact them in advance of package pickup.
- We would love it if we could receive more information about how many weeks of reading were logged by our participants on the online reading record (but if it's too much work to disaggregate that data we totally understand!) Thanks again for all of your help!
- It would be fantastic for libraries to have a way to interact directly with kids and families who are participating online.

- Individual libraries ability to reach participants through the system when they sign up online. Keep the online system, upgrade it, make it more "personalizable" for institutions - and include ways libraries can rock these upgrades this in the next manual.
- Offering an online registration platform that allows individual libraries to edit to their needs and to see their participants would be a great improvement. The ability to contact participants and their parents is very important.
- Enabling staff in community libraries to have greater access to the provincial website to facilitate interaction with their local patrons, such as seeing which patrons have registered for each community, or communicating with patrons about what they are reading (I realize this requires more robust functionality as well as privacy assessments, but it would be so great to be able to make those participants still feel like they are part of their local community rather than just one participant in the province).
- We had issues with promoting our home grown SRC activities this year. Participants connecting to the provincial website did not always realize there were more activities and resources available from our Library. If you are able to offer stronger encouragement to check out local library programs and resources, that would be very helpful. and provide a richer experience for families.
- More activities that can be printed/downloaded and then done completely offline. For many months we were only doing our Library Takeout service, so we were printing the SRC colouring pages and craft instructions and stuffing them in any bags that included children's materials, which patrons really appreciated.
- If the program will be largely online again next year, making the website a bit more intuitive so that even patrons with low digital literacy could potentially take part.
- The BC Summer Reading Club program was absolutely AMAZING this summer. I can't believe how fast you managed to pivot to offering online registration and contests/additional content on the website. Kudos to everyone who played a part in making that happen! The online registration system was superb. It would be fantastic if that was a feature of SRC every year and perhaps we could also add library portals for each individual library system so we could have access to our own stats, etc.?
- Also, it would also be great if we could change SRC so that is was officially for ages 0-12 years. We could have a suite of passive programs for them on the website too, etc.
- Have test accounts/ or generic logins for each library system so that the stats are not skewed by dummy accounts and staff can familiarize themselves with how the website works and what it can offer kids.
- The online version proved pretty popular. Maybe keeping it up as well as the hard copy.

APPENDIX E: FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2020 BC SUSMMER READING CLUB

STATEMENT OF EXPENSES

Artist, Graphic Design, Website.....	\$13,520
Coordinator Salary, Including Teen Coordinator...	\$12,325
Website Hosting.....	\$657
Tattoos, T-shirt, Game.....	\$13,140
Print Materials.....	\$28,600
Distribution.....	\$3000
Survey.....	\$1000
Translation.....	\$3180
TOTAL	\$75,422

STATEMENT OF REVENUE

Ministry of Education, Grant.....	\$65,00
BC Library Association.....	\$10,422

In addition to the \$10,422 BCLA provides in cash, the Association also provides in-kind support including administrative assistance, office supplies, audit costs, and Executive Directors time to oversee the project. These costs are significant and can add up to \$4000 more to the cost of running BC SRC.

Annette DeFaveri
Executive Director
BC Library Association