

## NEWS LOCAL

# Library's Solaro program aides students



By Miriam Ostermann, Strathmore Standard  
Wednesday, March 4, 2015 4:20:24 MST PM



The Marigold Library System has introduced a new E-resource, Solaro, that mimics the Key series in where patrons can access the material online, particularly helpful in preparation for the provincial examinations. Carmen Erison, assistant director of library services at the Strathmore Municipal Library says residents are already making use of the material.

The Marigold Library System became the third system in Alberta to provide its patrons with an exciting new online tool, Solaro, that helps further education and prepares current students for their provincial achievement tests.

Castle Rock Research Corporation, the developers of the KEY study guides, launched a digital study guide for math, science, and ELA that became available at all 43 Marigold libraries on Jan. 22.

"We always get requests from the libraries about more types of study guides for students, and of course Marigold and public libraries as a whole do not purchase textbooks... but we do provide resources that compliment the curriculum and this we felt was a good resource," said Laura Taylor, assistant director of Marigold Library System.

"It's very important for us to get the word out because I think it's such an important and worthwhile resource that students will use at all ages."

With examination approaching quickly, Solaro is geared towards Grade 3 to Grade 12, providing them with access to assignments, quizzes, and creating flashcards on a computer, smartphone or tablet.

"Because we are a public library we're providing resources for the full range of ages and that means that people who maybe want to go back and upgrade their high school education would have access to a tool like that," said Michelle Toombs, CEO of Marigold Library Systems.

“This is good for not only kids who are going to regular schools or parents helping them, but there’s an incredible number of people outside of the school system.”

The Strathmore Municipal Library has also noticed a large homeschooling group that would occasionally come to the library. By mentioning the online program to their patrons, advertising it on their social media, and with exams inching closer, the library staff is hoping the usage of the resource will increase.

“We noticed that there is a very active homeschooling group in Strathmore, so to be able to offer these types of resources to these groups and individuals that are not in the regular school system is quite helpful,” said Carmen Erison, assistant director to Strathmore Municipal Library.

“When people think about library, they think of books, and so I think it’s just a matter of pushing it more and promoting it a little bit harder, but think we’ll see more people using it once we’re about to get it out to the schools.”

The KEY study guides are available at the Strathmore Municipal Library and provide information regarding the online program on the back cover.

---

## **Reader's comments »**

If you already have an account on this newspaper, you can login to the newspaper to add your comments.

By adding a comment on the site, you accept our terms and conditions