

Fast Forward Media Showcase: What Is It and Why Should I Care?



By Sylvia Skene.

What Is Fast Forward?

Sponsored by Langara College and organized by a group of library media people and media distributors in the K-12 and post-secondary sectors, the showcase is set up as an on-demand previewing event. In other words, delegates can watch what they want when they want, rather than sit through preset screenings. You can evaluate and compare a wide variety of media -- documentary, business, training, children's, and educational productions -- from many different distributors (14 this year), as well as new programs by Canadian independent filmmakers.

Why Should I Attend?



Ellen Hogarty, First Run/Icarus Films, New York (April 2007).

People who attend find it saves their library or organization hundreds, even thousands of dollars in staff time and purchasing power by finding the right programs at the right price (and avoiding the wrong

ones) for their collections and users. Librarians and library staff, teachers, faculty and trainers from all over the province and beyond also use this event as a rare chance to network with colleagues who may have similar interests and challenges.

Jo-Anne Naslund, Education Library, UBC, is organizing Timely Topics, the lunchtime PD sessions, which typically focus on "hot" media issues. This year they're on video streaming and teaching with technology. Hope Power, Education and Political Science Librarian, SFU, is setting up the new Prime Time poster sessions, which will feature short presentations by various media and technology organizations on new initiatives.

Where Can I Get More Information?

If you want to know more about Fast Forward, please visit our web site: <http://www.langara.bc.ca/ffwd/>. It includes more detailed information on the event (this year held on April 29th -30th at Capilano University in North Vancouver), tips, registration forms, and a list of distributors with links to their catalogues.

I hope to see you at Fast Forward in the future. Please feel free to contact me (sskene@langara.bc.ca / 604-323-5217) if you have any questions.

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Delegates and exhibitors enjoying a break from previewing (April 2008).