The Multitype Library Board met on June 1 – 2, 2000 at the Provincial Library.

The Board bid a reluctant farewell to Colleen Warren, Head of SIAST Libraries, and Board representative for post-secondary education library directors. Colleen has been a strong ambassador of multitype, serving on the Minister’s Multitype Library Development Advisory Committee and then serving on the Multitype Board itself since its inception in 1999. Her contribution has helped build the foundation for a strong multitype library system. The Board wishes Colleen well in British Columbia.

The June meeting was an opportunity to reflect on the past year, reviewing accomplishments and identifying goals for the year to come.

Board members unanimously agreed that the process of coming together has created a new and profound awareness of the goals, work, needs, and strengths of each library sector. Through the Board, the separate library sectors are beginning to see how together they form a strong whole.

Opportunities for library staff across the province to participate on Board committees has also created more awareness of multitype and a broader understanding of how each sector fits into the cooperative picture.

The Database Licensing Project has grown significantly over the last year due to the work of the Board, its Database Licensing Committee, and the contributions of all partners. The education sector recently announced that they will fund a database for province-wide access.

Everyone agreed that the work of the Board’s Promotion Committee has begun to popularize the Board’s identity and the concept of multitype.

There is much more work to do, but all Board members feel revived enthusiasm for the challenges before them.

In 2000-2001, the board will continue to undertake promotional activities, develop the Database Licensing program, investigate the potential for an electronic document delivery program, and determine the potential for Multitype cooperation in a number of different library service develop areas.

The Board was pleased that its new logo will be used as the new name for the re-designed web site “by, for, and about Saskatchewan libraries.” Library staff across the province were invited to suggest new names for the web site, and there was overwhelming support for the Multitype logo.

At the spring SLA/SLTA Conference, Bill Birdsall, of Nova Scotia’s Novanet library consortium, outlined nine factors that contribute to consortia effectiveness. The Board is pleased at the remarkable strides we’ve made at embracing all factors:

- philosophical commitment,
- previous experience working together,
- taking advantage of opportunities,
- establishing clear goals,
- compatibility of consortium participants,
- effective leadership,
- time,
- making collaboration a lifestyle, and
- participation by all levels of staff.

Several of the Board Members’ terms will expire in September. The next meeting of the Multitype Library Board will be determined once the new Board Members have been appointed.

For more information, check the Multitype web site at: http://www.lib.sk.ca/pleis/multitype/
Or contact the Board’s Secretariat at:
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