The Multitype Library Board held its fifth meeting on February 7 – 8, 2000 at the Provincial Library in Regina.

The Board welcomed two new board members. Sharon Doepker, Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) Library, has been appointed to represent special libraries; she replaces Beverly Scarrow. Alice Risling has been appointed to represent the Saskatchewan School Trustees’ Association; she replaces Ernie Pappas. The Board thanked both Mr. Pappas and Ms. Scarrow for their contributions to multitype library development in Saskatchewan.

The Board created an Electronic Document Delivery Committee. Its purpose is to develop a pilot project for interested libraries to jointly acquire electronic document delivery services. Two representatives from each library sector will form the committee. Hélène Stewart will coordinate its work. A summary of the Board’s fall EDD 1999 survey results is available on the Multitype web page at: http://www.lib.sk.ca/pleis/Multitype/EDDSur.htm.

The Board’s Database Licensing Committee reported that its top priority is to ensure that current library licenses for InfoTrac and Canadian Business and Current Affairs (CBCA) databases are renewed. Other high priority tasks are to develop mechanisms for product selection, training, and sector coordination and to develop standards for participation. Chinook Regional Library and Provincial Library are organizing patron home access to InfoTrac as a pilot project.

Provincial Library presented Board Members with a range of options through which the Board could deal with the three key issues, need to handle funds, enter into agreements, and advise more than one minister -- functions associated with multitype library projects. The Board then held a detailed discussion of the structures needed to achieve its goals over the long term. Under consideration were issues such as governance, board structure, membership, accountability, relationship to government and Provincial Library, roles and services, and funding.

All mechanisms that would enable the Board to handle funds require some form of substantive structural change. Alternatively, the Board could contract a different library organization to handle funds for multitype projects. Changes required for the Board to enter into agreements and advise more than one minister do not require structural changes.

The Board decided that substantive structural change is not desirable at this time. They requested that Provincial Library open a discussion with the Saskatchewan Library Association to inquire if it is interested in administering agreements and funds for the Board on a contractual basis. The Board also requested that Provincial Library identify amendments to The Libraries’
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Co-operation Act that would enable the Board to advise several Ministers (recognizing that the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Culture and Housing retains responsibility for administering the Act).

There will be two sessions on Multitype at the SLA/SLTA Conference in May 2000. “Multitype Showcase: Enhancing Services for Your Users” is at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, May 5th. “Think Consortially!” presented by Bill Birdsall is at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 5th. The Board has been involved in additional promotion work at the SUMA (Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association) and SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) conventions this spring.

The Board was recently invited to participate in a Canada-wide consortium of libraries called “Consortia Canada.” Provincial Library, as secretariat to the Board, will represent the Board.

The next meeting of the Board is June 1-2, 2000.