The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board met September 27 and November 9, 2001 in Regina.

New Board Members

On September 1, 2001, new members were appointed to the Board:

Susan Powelson, Director of Regina Health District Library, replaces Hélène Stewart as the new representative for special library directors.

Carol Shepstone, Librarian/Research Officer at the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan, replaces Jeff Barber as the representative for the Saskatchewan Library Association.

Hélène Stewart, Information Management Advisor, Information Technology Office, Saskatchewan Economic and Co-operative Development, is the new representative for information providers.

Discussion Paper Drafted

The Board has drafted a discussion paper entitled, Saskatchewan Libraries Working Together. It profiles the role of libraries in the fabric of Saskatchewan society and it highlights several issues of importance to libraries today.

The discussion paper will be distributed to library stakeholders and will be used particularly to conduct departmental consultations within the provincial government to address the issues.

Public Relations Committee

Several librarians have been selected to serve on a Multitype Public Relations Committee that will study public relations issues in libraries and develop a province-wide multitype public relations strategy.

The Committee recently consulted with public, post-secondary education, school and special library sectors to identify their public relations needs.

Four key promotion challenges emerged:

- promoting Saskatchewan's library job market to address recruitment and retention problems;
- promoting the value of library services;
- building capacity for libraries to develop public relations initiatives; and
- building capacity for diverse libraries to cooperate on public relations initiatives.

The Public Relations Committee is developing action plans to address these issues. Librarians serving on the Committee are Colette Fischer (school libraries representative); Carol Shepstone (special libraries representative); Julie McKenna (post-secondary education libraries representative); Audrey Mark (public libraries representative; Committee Chair) and Marilyn Jenkins, Julie Arie, and Melissa Bennett (Provincial Library support staff).

Business Plan Committee

The Board has established a Business Plan Committee to define broad principles and address business issues relating to the implementation of multitype activities.

The Business Plan will identify the types of cooperative library activity underway and envisioned. It will also address cost-sharing structures, decision-making, partner relations, bylaws for conducting business, and participation standards.

An entity capable of fiscal management and legal matters concerning multitype projects is also needed to implement multitype projects. The Committee's job is to make a recommendation for building this entity.

Impetus for the Business Plan Committee's work has come primarily from the Multitype Database Licensing Program, which needs these business matters addressed in order to continue.

The next meeting of the Multitype Board will be held on February 1, 2002.

For more information, check our web site at: http://www.lib.sk.ca/staff/multitype/
Or contact the Board’s Secretariat at: Provincial Library, 1352 Winnipeg Street Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3V7, 306-787-3005, jenkins@prov.lib.sk.ca