The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board met February 1, 2002 in Regina and June 24-25, 2002 in La Ronge.

Multitype Database Licensing Program

The Multitype Database Licensing Program (MDLP), a co-operative project in which many Saskatchewan libraries bulk purchase access to electronic information databases, successfully added several new resources in June. Participants in the program now have access to Business and Company Resource Centre, Discovering Collection, InfoTrac Onefile, Literature Resource Centre, General Reference Centre Gold, Legal Trac, and Junior Edition. These resources are a valuable addition to the other 15 information databases acquired through MDLP. They also represent strong commitment from all participants to raise funds to improve libraries’ electronic collections.

Discussion Paper Released

Saskatchewan Libraries Working Together, a discussion paper by the Multitype Library Board, is now available for distribution. The discussion paper highlights the value of libraries to the fabric of Saskatchewan life, as well as addressing issues of importance to libraries. Paper copies are available from the Provincial Library. PDF versions are located at http://www.lib.sk.ca/workingtogether.pdf

Saskatchewan Libraries Education Bursary

The Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA) and the Multitype Library Board have worked together to establish a Saskatchewan Libraries Education Bursary. The bursary offers financial assistance to a Master of Library Science student willing to return to Saskatchewan to work upon completion of their degree. Provincial Library provided core funding and SLA will administer the program. A single bursary of $5000 will be awarded this fall. The deadline for applications is September 30th. More information is available at: http://www.lib.sk.ca/sla/bursaryguidelines.htm

Public Libraries Part of CommunityNet

The August 2001 communiqué reported that the Multitype Library Board was very concerned that libraries be included in CommunityNet. In May 2002, the federal and provincial governments announced funding to the Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association in order to bring CommunityNet to 162 public library locations in Saskatchewan.

Consultations with Libraries Planned

In the year ahead, the board will begin a series of consultations with the Saskatchewan library community to discuss priorities for co-operative library initiatives over the next five years. The consultation process will include holding an annual general meeting regarding multitype, likely in February.

National Library of Canada Facilities

The Multitype Library Board recently wrote to the Minister of Canadian Heritage expressing its concern about the National Library of Canada’s facilities. The facilities are inadequate for the library’s collections and leaking pipes have caused severe damage to the nation’s historical collections. The board urges other libraries to lend their support to this important cause. More information is available at http://www.lib.sk.ca/sla/letter.htm

Meeting with Northern Libraries

Board members had a valuable opportunity this June to meet with northern Saskatchewan libraries to learn about their operations. The Pahkisimon Nuye-áh Library System graciously hosted the two day meeting. The agenda included a reception with northern library stakeholders, as well as orientations to La Ronge Public Library, Senator Myles Vennen School/Public Library, NORTEP/NORPAC Library, and Pahkisimon Nuye-áh Library System.

The next meeting of the Multitype Board will be held September 20, 2002 in Regina.

For more information, check our web site at: http://www.lib.sk.ca/staff/multitype/
Or contact the board’s secretariat at:
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