The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board (MLB) met November 23-24, 2006

School Libraries

Judy Nicholson and Delee Cameron from Curriculum & E-Learning, Saskatchewan Learning, presented research on the impact of school library services on academic achievement in Ontario to the Board. A growing body of research indicates that well-stocked, professionally-staffed libraries have a positive impact on student achievement. Consequently, the November 3, 2006 Saskatchewan Gazette included new legislation stating that boards of education and conseil scolaire must provide school library services. The Board will prepare a letter to congratulate the Minister on this achievement and provide her with the Board’s definition of library services.

Multitype Database Licensing Committee (MDLP) Report

The Committee is currently looking at favourable conditions and they are considering several options for next year. A recommendation will be made in January 2007 to be presented at the February Annual General Meeting. The MDLP paid for a fixed e-book hosting fee that allows partner libraries to purchase additional e-books without paying any hosting fees.

A sub-committee was created to draft a product evaluation policy, which will be presented at the February AGM as well.

Representative Library Workforce

The Board sent a letter to libraries throughout the province with the intent of gathering and sharing information about efforts aimed at promoting a representative workforce. The Board continues to evaluate what role it can play in promoting and facilitating a more representative library workforce in Saskatchewan. Information regarding foreign credentials will be added to the redesigned Saskatchewan Libraries Web site in 2007.

Saskatchewan Libraries Web site

The Board has recommended that the Saskatchewan Libraries Web site and the mylibrary.sk.ca Web site become more clearly separated. Both sites would be more functional if Board content was more prominent on the Saskatchewan Libraries site and information relevant to the public was moved to the mylibrary.sk.ca site. The Saskatchewan Libraries Web site is mainly of interest to library staff and trustees. Interactive features are under consideration for both sites.

Digitization Update

The Saskatchewan Digital Alliance (SDA) will hold a pre-conference session at the Saskatchewan Library Association conference in May 2007 called “Digitization 101: Planning and Managing a Successful Digital Project.” There will also be a “Spotlight on” session to highlight SDA activities and introduce the pilot project(s) to the library community.

Judy Nicholson of Curriculum & E-Learning was appointed to the SDA by the Board to represent the school sector.

Board Session at SLA Conference

The Board is moving forward with its planned panel discussion, “Building Positive Relationships in Literacy.” The Board has invited education faculty, Department of Learning experts on curriculum and teacher librarians to join the panel. The Board developed the following questions for the panelists:

1. What are the perceptions of the role of libraries in (i) advancing information literacy? (ii) enabling and enhancing life-long learning?
2. What kind of partnerships would advance literacy and life-long learning?

The Board agreed on the following questions for the audience:

1. Are there any systemic barriers to improvement of information literacy?
2. If yes, what are they? What are the solutions?

Competency Profile

The competency profile for professional librarians has finally entered the editing stage. This document will support the hiring process for professional librarians within provincial government and will aid in job assessments. The Board appreciates the efforts of everyone who has contributed to this project, especially Pat Kolesar, Marian Powell, Melissa Bennett, Eileen McCrank, Heather West, Pat Kolesar, Marian Powell, Heather West, etc.
Amy Rankin, Elgin Bunston, Marilyn Jenkins and Joylene Campbell.

**Multitype Library Board Annual General Meeting on MDLP**

The Annual General Meeting will be held on February 28, 2007 in Regina. This meeting will be a decision-making meeting. Partner libraries will be asked to approve the recommended purchase strategy for 2007/08, as well as the product evaluation policy. Decisions will be made by consensus, on the basis of one member, one voice. Please book that day on your calendar.

The next meeting of the Multitype Library Board will be held on March 1, 2007 in Regina.

Information on MLB is available at [www.lib.sk.ca/staff/multitype/](http://www.lib.sk.ca/staff/multitype/)

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