The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board (MLB) met September 7, 2006

New Board Members

The Board welcomed four new members at the meeting: Mary Chipanshi, Clients Services Librarian at Regina Qu’Appelle Health Science Library and Joan Martin, Head Librarian of Canadian Agriculture Library will be representing special libraries; Julie McKenna, Services Assessment Librarian at University of Regina, will be representing the Saskatchewan Library Association; and Bev Siebert will be representing the public.

Isabelle Butters, Joylene Campbell and Heather West were reappointed.

Representative Library Workforce

The Board would like to gather information from libraries around the province in order to share information about efforts aimed at promoting a representative workforce. Does your organization have any policies to help recruit from underrepresented groups such as First Nations and Métis, new Canadians, or others? Let us know. A letter will be sent to various libraries for their input.

Multitype Library Development Unit Staff Changes

Jack Ma has been appointed as Manager of Multitype Development. Provincial Library is currently seeking a new Information Resources Management Specialist (e-collections).

Digitization

The Board recommended names for the cross-sector province-wide digitization advisory committee, the Saskatchewan Digital Alliance (SDA). The Multitype Unit at Provincial Library will organize a first meeting of SDA in October.

There will be at least one digitization pilot project in the 2007/08 fiscal year, supported by a grant from the Provincial Library, Saskatchewan Learning. This project is intended to demonstrate standards and best practices supported by the SDA and provide a model for other proposed digitization projects in Saskatchewan.

Multitype Database Licensing Committee (MDLP) Report

The MDLP Committee had their General Meeting on September 6, 2006. There was agreement on the maximum allowable contribution increase for 07/08. It was also agreed the currency exchange rate fund would float between 15 and 20% of the program’s total annual cost. All future estimates will be prepared using conservative exchange rates. A subcommittee will further develop the evaluation process before the committee decides which products to evaluate. A number of partner libraries expressed a desire for continued training and promotion of MDLP to increase awareness among both the public and library staff.

Board Session at SLA Conference

The Board is planning to hold a panel discussion tentatively called “Building Positive Relationships in Literacy.” This session will bring together education faculty, Department of Learning experts on curriculum and other stakeholders, to investigate ways that libraries, universities and other learning sector partners can work together to promote literacy. The discussion will focus on teaching students the necessary research skills for lifelong learning.

The Power of Collaboration

The Power of Collaboration is a draft policy framework document that was produced by a working group representing the Department of Learning and a wide range of sector partners. It outlines various levels of collaboration that currently exist between sectors and encourages a common vision and goals for these partners in their efforts to advance literacy and life-long learning for all residents of Saskatchewan. The Board made some recommendations for the department to consider.

The next meeting of the Multitype Library Board will be held November 23 & 24, 2006 in Regina.

Information on MLB is available at www.lib.sk.ca/staff/multitype/
Or contact the board’s secretariat:
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