The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board (MLB) met March 1, 2007 in Regina. The annual general meeting for the Multitype Database Licensing Program was held on February 28, 2007.

MDLP Annual General Meeting Update

The partner libraries agreed to a 3% contribution increase. The MDLP Committee was given the authority to use accrued interest pay for product enhancements or other emergencies between general meetings. The committee will set up a free trial for Global Books in Print for the partners who do not currently subscribe to this product to compare it with Novelist. The product evaluation process and forms created by a sub-committee of the MDLP were accepted and will be given a one year trial.

Saskatchewan Library Education Bursary

The Saskatchewan Library Education Bursary is a Board priority, though there is no on-going funding other than the Provincial Library grant. The Saskatchewan Library Association has begun fundraising for the Saskatchewan Library Education Bursary and they are exploring a number of options for generating revenue. The Board would like to remind people that donations to SLA are tax-deductible.

Digitization Pilot Project(s)

Based on evaluations made by the Saskatchewan Digital Alliance (SDA), the Board has made its recommendation to the Minister of Learning regarding the proposed Digital Pilot Project(s). An announcement regarding the successful projects will be made in April.

PST Exemption for MDLP

After a number of consultations with Provincial Library, Saskatchewan Finance has determined that MDLP products are PST-exempt reading materials. It is estimated that approximately $30,000 per year will be saved by the program as the result of this ruling. Provincial Library will make these guidelines available for individual libraries before they approach Saskatchewan Finance regarding electronic subscriptions purchased outside of MDLP (contact Jack Ma, jma@library.gov.sk.ca or 787-1306). Provincial Library was also advised libraries can revisit their contracts/expenditures for up to four years (back to January 2003) when requesting a rebate of PST collected on electronic reading materials.

Saskatchewan Libraries Website Redesign

Provincial Library has contracted a Web design firm to perform an assessment of the Saskatchewan Libraries website. This process includes an online, focus group survey for libraries to give their input. The Multitype Library Board has also given helpful suggestions for the redesign.

Representative Workforce

Ardith Stephanson, Senior Director for Advocacy Services of Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) spoke to the Board about how the SSBA has worked with Saskatchewan Learning and Department of First Nations and Métis Relations to design and implement an Aboriginal Employment Development Plan (AEDP). Marilyn Jenkins, Director of Public Library Planning, Nina Wilson, Aboriginal Library Coordinator, and Jeremy Fourhorns, Aboriginal Careers Connections Intern highlighted efforts currently underway at Provincial Library. They talked to the Board about some of the barriers to greater Aboriginal participation in libraries as users and employees.

After the last Board meeting, a letter was sent to the major post-secondary libraries, all public library systems and the Legislative Library asking about their policies and plans for encouraging a representative workforce. The responses the Board received indicate that libraries in Saskatchewan face a challenge in developing a pool of qualified applicants from identified groups.

Building on the information gathered, the Multitype Library Board is preparing a background paper on the issues related to promoting and developing a representative workforce in Saskatchewan libraries.

Thank You to Outgoing Board Members

The Board would like to thank the three Board members who have just completed their second consecutive term on the Board. They are: Phyllis Lerat, representing Aboriginal libraries; Rian Misfeldt representing post-secondary education libraries; and, Lois Smandych, representing the Saskatchewan School Boards Association. Each member has ably represented their sectors and thoughtfully advanced
multitype library cooperation in Saskatchewan. The appointment process for replacing the outgoing Board members is underway.

The next meeting of the Multitype Library Board will be held June 21-22, 2007 in Regina.

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