The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board (MLB) met June 21-22, 2007 in Regina. The next meeting will be held September 14, in conjunction with the September 13 General Meeting for the Multitype Database Licensing Program.

New Board Members Appointed

Four new Board members have been appointed by the Minister of Learning: Joanne Beltramini, representing school libraries; Wendy Sinclair-Sparvier, representing Aboriginal libraries; Charlene Sorensen, representing post-secondary education libraries; and Bryan Wilson, representing the Saskatchewan School Boards Association.

Confirmation of Chair and Vice Chair

The Board re-appointed Zenon Zuzak and Julie McKenna to second terms as chair and vice chair respectively for 2007/08 fiscal year.

MDLP Update

The committee has recommended the purchase of 28 reference e-books from Gale. A subcommittee will begin developing a guideline for future e-book purchases this fall. The committee is concerned about large price increases for some of the existing products and they will begin looking at alternatives.

Digitization Pilot Project(s)

The Digitization Pilot Project Grants, managed by Provincial Library, Saskatchewan Learning, have been awarded as recommended by the Multitype Library Board. “Explorations of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Life,” a partnership between the Pahkisimon Nuye?âh Library System, the University of Saskatchewan Indigenous Studies Portal and the University of Saskatchewan Archives will receive $20,000 and “Culture and Heritage Image Bank of Southwestern Saskatchewan,” a partnership involving the Swift Current Public Library, Swift Current Museum and Art Gallery of Swift Current will receive $5,000.

One of the Board’s long-term goals is to “expand multitype projects to encompass archives, Aboriginal libraries, museums and other service providers.” Both of these projects are models of such cross-sector cooperation.

Information Literacy Session at SLA Conference

A group of panelists including education faculty, school librarians and Department of Learning representatives discussed their views on literacy and information literacy. The second part of the discussion asked panelists to give their views on creating partnerships for literacy in the context of lifelong learning. The discussion was moderated by Board vice chair, Julie McKenna. This session began a dialogue that could lead to effective partnerships.

Multitype Library Board Logo

The Board revised its logo use policy to allow a black and white representation provided by the Board to be used when appropriate. The updated logo use policy will include details including the font and it will appear on the Board’s section of the Sask Libraries web site later this summer.

Closure of the Saskatchewan Learning Resource Centre

The Board expressed concern over the closure of the Saskatchewan Learning Resource Centre and the implications for future access to this collection. Further response is being considered.

Saskatchewan Libraries Website Redesign

The Board discussed the recommendations made by the consultants regarding the Saskatchewan Libraries web site and highlighted some areas for improvement. Ideas included: focusing the site on users who work in libraries and related institutions; using technologies such as RSS to disseminate information; using discussion boards to foster discussion among sectors; and, using audio/visual tools for instruction. Both the Sask Libraries site and the mylibrary.sk.ca site should use Serials Solution to help users find journal titles.

Bill C-458 to Preserve and Expand the Library Book Rate

Bill C-458, introduced by Mervin Tweed, Member of Parliament for Brandon Souris, would guarantee the long-term sustainability of the Library Book Rate and expand it to include non-print library items. The Board is recommending that the Minister of Learning send letters to the Prime Minister, the Minister of
Canadian Heritage and the Minister responsible for Canada Post Corporation to ask for their support. The Board will also provide Saskatchewan libraries with a template letter that outlines the importance of this issue for all Canadians. Libraries are encouraged to adapt this letter and send it to their local MPs.

The next meeting of the Multitype Library Board will be held September 14, 2007, in Saskatoon. The Multitype Database Licensing Program’s General Meeting will be held September 13, in Saskatoon.

Information on MLB is available at www.lib.sk.ca/staff/multitype/
Or contact the board’s secretariat:
Provincial Library, 8-1945 Hamilton Street
Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3V7
306-787-2355 e bunston@library.gov.sk.ca