The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board (MLB) met November 22 and 23, 2007 in Regina.

Welcoming New Faces

The Board welcomed Wendy Sinclair-Sparvier to her first meeting. Wendy brings a wealth of experience to the Board from her work at Regina Public Library’s Albert Branch and her contributions to various committees, including Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal People (LSSAP). The Board also welcomed Colleen Addison, the new Multitype Library Coordinator at Provincial Library. Colleen is a recent MLIS graduate from the University of Western Ontario who also possesses a Master’s degree in English Literature.

Strategic Planning

The Board is in the process of determining the structure of its strategic planning process. The current Strategic Plan is due to be updated or replaced in 2008. The Board will be seeking input from the library community as it prepares an updated environmental scan for the Strategic Plan. Part of the Board’s March 12 Annual General Meeting will be devoted to gathering information from partners about the current environment and issues they are facing. The Board’s Strategic Plan enables libraries in all sectors to place their work in the context of a multitype library system.

Library Book Rate

Bill C-458, the private members’ bill to expand and guarantee sustainability for the Library Book Rate, has been revived by MP Mervin Tweed for the new Parliamentary session. First Reading was on October 16, 2007. Libraries should be aware of this development in order to renew their advocacy campaigns.

Ministerial Meeting

The Board is requesting a meeting with the new Minister of Education, the Honourable Ken Krawetz. The Board wants to use this opportunity to highlight the library Board’s successes, such as the Saskatchewan Libraries Education Bursary, partnerships with First Nations and the promotion campaign for province-wide e-library services. The Board also plans to emphasize the importance of library services in building a knowledge economy and for culture and recreation.

Digitization Update

The Board is recommending that the Ministry of Education continue the Digitization Pilot Project Grant Program in the 2008/09 budget year. The current projects, “Explorations of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Life” and “Culture and Heritage Image Bank of Southwest Saskatchewan” are making good progress toward meeting the objectives set out in the Project Description document. The Board considered the analysis and recommendations provided by the Saskatchewan Digital Alliance during their discussion on this topic.

The Saskatchewan Digital Alliance (SDA) has officially launched their website and blog to provide information and support for organizations in Saskatchewan wanting to undertake digitization projects.

Representative Workforce

The Board reviewed and commented on a background paper prepared by the Multitype Library Development Unit, Provincial Library. The background paper discussed Saskatchewan’s demographic trends, diversity and Aboriginal workforce programs and national research on human resources in libraries. In the New Year, the Board will develop strategies to address the need for a more diverse library workforce in Saskatchewan.

Wendy discussed her experience at the International Indigenous Librarians’ Forum and highlighted some of the current initiatives to improve library services for Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan. Provincial Librarian, Joylene Campbell is chairing the pan-Canadian Aboriginal Library Services Working Group for the Provincial/Territorial Public Library Council.

Sask Libraries Web Site Update

Provincial Library is working on a request for proposal in order to hire a contractor to conduct a usability study and redesign the new site architecture.

Board Says Thank You
The Board sent thank you letters to the panelists who participated in the “Building Positive Relationships for Literacy” session at the 2007 SLA Conference. Plans for continuing the dialogue established during this session have been discussed.

MLB AGM

The next meeting of the Multitype Library Board will be held March 11, 2008 in Regina, in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting on March 12.

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