The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board (MLB) met September 14, 2007 in Saskatoon. The September general meeting for the Multitype Database Licensing Program was held on September 13, 2007.

**MDLP General Meeting Update**

The meeting began with a good cross-sectoral discussion where many excellent ideas were put forward for the development of the program. There were no objections to the overall estimated price increase, but partner libraries expressed some concern about large estimated increases from some of the vendors. A number of recommendations were made regarding this issue. Suggestions for growing the program included purchasing some products that are currently licensed, adding new formats and working with, or developing, national consortia. A number of libraries expressed an interest in obtaining MARC records for E-books and improving remote access to these resources.

The afternoon dealt with the Saskatchewan Libraries web site. There was general agreement that most of the content was mainly of interest to library staff and that content for the public should be kept separate. Much of the discussion focused on the use of communication technologies. While some people were comfortable with the existing site, the consensus of the larger group was that forums, blogs, and RSS feeds would be useful tools. There is a need to foster discussions among sectors and for the Board to have regular communication with library community.

**Library Book Rate**

Bill C-458, that would have expanded and guaranteed sustainability for the Library Book Rate, died when parliament was prorogued. The Board has done a great deal of work on the Library Book Rate issue and it remains a Board priority. The Board strongly encourages library staff to contact their local MPs to make the Library Book Rate part of the government’s fall agenda. The Saskatchewan Library Association has a Library Book Rate Advocacy Campaign Kit to make it easier for libraries to participate in advocacy on this issue.

**Digitization Update**

The two digitization pilot projects funded in the 2007/08 budget “Explorations of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Life” and “Culture and Heritage Image Bank of Southwest Saskatchewan” have made significant progress and have submitted their interim reports. Saskatchewan Learning is looking at continuing the grant program in 2008/09.

The Saskatchewan Digital Alliance (SDA) has been working on a website and blog to provide information and support for organizations in Saskatchewan wanting to undertake digitization projects.

Alouette Canada, a national aggregator for digital collections, has created a new tool set for building digital collections. The SDA has initiated contact with the Saskatchewan Library Association to discuss possible collaboration on training session(s) for these tools in the coming year.

**Representative Workforce**

The Board reviewed an outline for a background paper on a representative workforce in Saskatchewan libraries. The Board recommended that the paper discuss diversity issues including, but not limited to, Aboriginal representation in library workplaces. Once the background paper is complete, the Board will engage the library community in discussions about achieving a representative workforce.

**San Jose School of Library and Information Science Information Session in Regina**

The Board would like to encourage everyone who is interested in Library Science education to visit Regina Public Library on September 27 for Dr. Ken Haycock’s presentation about the San Jose School of Library and Information Science. If 25 students from Saskatchewan enroll, the program can be tailored to meet the needs of both students and employers in the province.

The next meeting of the Multitype Library Board will be held November 22-23, 2007 in Regina.

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 ebunston@library.gov.sk.ca

Multitype increases access to information through the sharing of resources among different kinds of libraries!