The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board (MLB) held its most recent meeting on February 2, 2009 in Regina.

**New Board Members**

The Multitype Library Board would like to welcome four new members. The Minister of Education has appointed Brad Doerksen to represent post-secondary libraries; Karen Basky to represent the Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association; Alex Juorio to represent special libraries; and Gohar Ashoughian to represent the Saskatchewan Library Association. The Board would like to thank departing members Isabelle Butters, Heather West, Joan Martin and Julie McKenna for their many contributions to multitype library system development in Saskatchewan.

**Board Sponsoring Sessions at SLA**

The Multitype Library Board is very pleased to be sponsoring two sessions at the 2009 Saskatchewan Libraries Conference, *Branching Out: Saskatchewan Digital Alliance Presents...Digitization on a Shoestring Budget*, presented by May P. Chan and *Diversity in Saskatchewan: How Can Libraries Address it?* presented by Lorraine Salt and Maha Kumaran.

**SSBA Guidebook for School Libraries**

The Board would like congratulate Board member Bryan Wilson and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association for developing the guidebook *School Libraries in Saskatchewan: An Advisory for School Boards*. This document is intended to inform senior administrators and boards of education who make decisions regarding school libraries and to assist them in planning for school library programs and services. There are several recommendations for action based on legislative requirements and best practices.

**Digitization Update**

The “Our Legacy” project (kinanāskomitin) is currently developing phase 2 with support from the Provincial Library Digitization Grant. This expanded project includes the University of Saskatchewan Library’s Special Collections department, the Poundmaker First Nation and the Prince Albert Historical Society. The University of Saskatchewan will be publishing a book of interpretive essays by graduate students that used the materials in this collection for research.

May P. Chan will be presenting *Digitization on a Shoestring Budget* at the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference, *Branching Out*, on behalf of the Saskatchewan Digital Alliance.

**Provincial Panel on Student Achievement**

The Provincial Panel on Student Achievement was created to provide the Minister of Education with recommendations for improving Pre-K-12 student achievement. The panel consists of academics, teachers, administrators, First Nations authorities, school board members and educational leaders. The Board is represented by Joanne Beltramini. On March 4, 2009, Joanne made a presentation on behalf of the Board to bring evidence of the role of libraries in student achievement and provide recommendations for further action.

**Multitype Development Report**

The Multitype Library Development Unit has added a new Multitype Library Services Coordinator, Gerry Burla. Gerry’s main area of responsibility will be providing support for the Multitype Database Licensing Program. Provincial Library is working with the Information Technology Office with the intent of launching the new Sask Libraries website this spring.

The MDLP Committee is working on a draft document outlining future development options for the program to be presented for discussion at the April 1 AGM. The Health Quality Council (HQC) will sponsor the province-wide access to The Cochrane Library for 2009.

**Board Member Reports**

The Government and Libraries Forum will be held at Queensbury downs, October 19-20, 2009. This will be an opportunity for libraries to meet representatives from across government to find common areas of interest and begin a dialogue that will lead to new initiatives and effective policies.

Last May, the annual “Archives and You” conference was held in Regina. The conference focused on three broad areas: Aboriginal materials; genealogy,
with an emphasis on Doukhobor and Chinese materials and linking youth to archives. The first week of February was archives week in Saskatchewan. Events were held at Regina Public Library, University of Regina, Saskatoon Public Library and elsewhere around the province.

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, Saskatchewan School Library Association has joined the IT Summit Conference. The 2009 conference, entitled E-emerging Learning, will be held March 23-24 at the Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon. Joanne Beltramini will be conducting a one hour session on using databases.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Multitype Library Board will be held April 2, 2009 in Regina, in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting, April 1.

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