The Multitype Library Board (MLB) met June 11-12 in Regina. During the meeting the Board updated its vision and mission statement and created a draft of three strategic directions for the next three years. The strategic planning process will continue in the next Board meeting when performance indicators and goals and objectives will be developed for each strategic direction.

MLB Annual Report

The Board’s 2007/08 annual report will be produced and tabled in the Legislative Assembly in July. Some highlights from 2007/08 include:

- Twenty-eight e-books were added to the Multitype Database Licensing Program (MDLP) program. The committee began developing e-book guidelines for using the program surplus to expand the program and five new products were identified for further evaluation;
- A competency profile for professional librarians in government was submitted to the Public Service Commission;
- Successful digitization projects were developed with assistance from Provincial Library’s Digitization Pilot Project Grant Program;
- The Board sponsored a digitization pre-conference session at the Saskatchewan-Manitoba Joint Libraries Conference;
- Provincial Library has now contributed enough seed money to the Saskatchewan Library Education Bursary for it to be self-sustaining;
- A new design of the Saskatchewan Libraries website has been developed with the intention of going live by the end of March 2009.

Digitization Update

The 2007/08 digitization projects, “Our Legacy” and “Culture and Heritage Image Bank of Southwest Saskatchewan” submitted their final project reports to Provincial Library. The reports were reviewed by the Saskatchewan Digital Alliance (SDA) to help in the development of standards and best practices for future projects.

The SDA has agreed to work with the organizations involved with the 2008/09 project proposal to ensure that the requirements of the grant are met. An official announcement will be made when the grant is approved.

On the invitation of the SDA, Walter Lewis, technical lead for Our Ontario, conducted a pre-conference digitization session at the Saskatchewan-Manitoba Libraries Joint Conference. Walter’s presentation gave the attendees a solid foundation in image scanning and other steps involved in creating a digital collection. There was also a discussion of various options an institution must choose from when creating archival copies of items.

Library Directors Survey

The Board revised and expanded the survey that was sent to public library directors last year about how Canadian library schools could better prepare students for working in Saskatchewan. The new survey includes more emphasis on recruitment and retention of employees who are not entry-level and covers related topics such as succession planning and support for professional development. This survey will be confidential and only aggregate results will be publicly available. The survey results will be analyzed at the September Board meeting.

Saskatchewan Libraries Education Bursary

The Saskatchewan Library Association provided the Board with the 2007 Saskatchewan Libraries Education Bursary Report. The recipient of 2007 Bursary was Kendra Bender, who attends classes at the University of Alberta. SLA also started a campaign to seek donations from previous bursary recipients towards the Libraries Education Bursary, as Provincial Library has fulfilled its funding commitment.

Announcements

The Board would like to recognize and congratulate Saskatchewan Health Information Resources Partnership (SHIRP) for receiving the 2008 CLA/OCLC Award for Resource Sharing Achievement. SHIRP is an excellent example of library cooperation.

Board Appointments

The Multitype Library Board wishes to express their appreciation for the efforts of four Board members whose terms are ending. Isabelle Butters, who represents the Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association; Heather West, who represents directors of post-secondary libraries; Julie McKenna, who represents the Saskatchewan Library Association;
and Joan Martin, who represents directors of special libraries, will be leaving the Board. Each of these individuals has contributed to the development of the Board’s projects and policies that will continue to help guide multitype co-operation in Saskatchewan after their terms are over.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Multitype Library Board will be held September 25 in conjunction with the Board’s General Meeting on MDLP on September 24 in Saskatoon.

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