The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board (MLB) held its most recent meeting on April 2, 2009 in Regina in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting on April 1.

AGM Summary

The Multitype Library Board Annual General Meeting for the Multitype Database Licensing Program was held on April 1. The morning discussion focused on the 2009/10 purchasing plan. Consensus was reached on the renewal of all current products and a 5% increase in partner contributions for the coming year. Some money will be withdrawn from the exchange rate fund.

In the afternoon discussion, the partners contributed ideas for the future development of the MDLP after the committee presented five development options. Provincial library will synthesize the results of the discussion and continue to work with the Board and the committee on the development plan. Feedback from this meeting will be considered along with the mandate and resource limitations of Provincial Library as a proposal is finalized for the September General Meeting.

Provincial Panel on Student Achievement

On March 4, Joanne Beltramini made a presentation to a sub-panel of the Provincial Panel on Student Achievement that provided evidence of the role school libraries play in student achievement. In January, the Board also submitted a proposal recommending that the Ministry fund an expansion of MDLP resources for the Pre-K to 12 sector. The panel was created to provide the Minister of Education with recommendations for improving Pre-K to 12 student achievements and it consists of academics, teachers, administrators, First Nations authorities, school board members and educational leaders.

Board Vice Chair

Bryan Wilson, the representative of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association has been named Vice Chair of the Multitype Library Board for the rest of his current term.

Canadian Libraries Human Resource Summit

In October 2008, Julie McKenna attended the Canadian Library Human Resource Summit on behalf of the Board. The summit was hosted by Canadian Library Association and focused on key issues that currently challenges to the library community in the areas of recruitment and education. The goal of the summit is to establish promising strategies that will help address the current and future human resource issues, to identify the actions that participants and stakeholders will undertake to implement the strategies over the next 5-6 years and to determine how the library community can move forward in a coordinated and collaborative way.

Digitization Update

The University of Saskatchewan has published a book of interpretive essays by graduate students, edited by Cheryl Avery and Darlene Fichter, based on the digitized materials on the “Our Legacy” portal. This project was funded in part by Provincial Library’s Digitization Pilot Project Grant Program.

Provincial Library is consulting with the Saskatchewan Digital Alliance to redesign the grant program to make it easier for more institutions to participate in digitization this year. A call for Expression of interest will be announced soon after the new program description is approved.

Board Discussion on AEDP

The Board met with Victoria Gubbels, Director of Aboriginal Employment Development (AED) from the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations to discuss how libraries can work with the Aboriginal Employment Development Program. The Board is interested in exploring a partnership with AED to create an innovative model in Saskatchewan library community.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Multitype Library Board will be held June 22-23, 2009 in Regina.

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