The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board (MLB) held its most recent meeting on January 6, 2010 in Regina.

New Chair and vice-Chair

There Board has selected Bryan Wilson as its new Chair and Joanne Beltramini as its new vice-Chair. Jeff O’Brien, Pat Kolesar and John Murray were welcomed to their first Board meeting.

AMICUS Update

There had been concern in the library community that Library and Archives Canada (LAC) was considering discontinuing its AMICUS database. Just days before the Multitype Library Board meeting, Dr. Daniel J. Caron, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, stated that this service will not be terminated. Several members of Saskatchewan’s library community sent letters to LAC in support of AMICUS.

MDLP Update

The committee is recommending the renewal of all database subscriptions and that partners increase their contributions by 1.5% as discussed at the General Meeting. Since the last meeting, some vendors have reduced their estimated price increases to account for the current economy. The E-books budget for this year will be $20,000. The Saskatchewan Health Information Resources Partnership will provide funding for the The Cochrane Library for this year.

Digitization Project

The Board is recommending that the Provincial Library & Literacy Office, Ministry of Education, continue the digitization grant program for the 2010/11 fiscal year. The new project format initiated by the Saskatchewan Digital Alliance (SDA) this year includes many more partners than in past years (14) on a modest $20,000 budget, thanks in part to support from the University of Saskatchewan. The SDA will submit its final report in March and will prepare a beta version of the digital collection for launch some time in late March.

Saskatchewan Library Education Bursary

Several Board members met with the Saskatchewan Library Association’s (SLA’s) executive and Executive Director to begin discussions on ensuring the future effectiveness of the Saskatchewan Library Education Bursary. SLA will discuss the ideas generated by this conversation with their members before sharing new proposals with the Board. During the meeting, the Board reaffirmed its commitment to the recruitment and retention of professional librarians in Saskatchewan and recognized the role played by the bursary program.

Strategic Planning

The Board identified seven goals and objectives from its upcoming strategic plan that will become priority areas over the next 12-18 months. Board members also attached key actions to these goals and objectives to help direct the Board’s focus over the coming months. The strongest area of interest is related to human resource challenges, including recruitment and retention in rural areas and developing a representative workforce.

Ontario Library Association Super Conference

Elgin Bunston from the Provincial Library &Literacy Office is presenting at the OLA Super Conference on the Multitype Library Board and multitype cooperation in Saskatchewan. The Board held a brainstorming session to give Elgin ideas for his presentation that will outline the development of library cooperation in Saskatchewan and the establishment, structure activities of the Board.

Library Book Rate

The Board has proposed writing letters to the Minister Responsible for Canada Post and the Minister of Heritage. It will also explore advocacy activities by the Canadian Library Association and the New Brunswick Public Library Service to ensure a consistent message is sent.

SILS Discussion

Marilyn Jenkins, Director of Public Library Planning and Ghyslain Sabourin, Manager of Library Network Development spoke to the Board about the Single Integrated Library System begin implemented by public libraries. They discussed some of the policy development and technological challenges that faced the project and highlighted some of the topics that...
would need to be explored if SILS was to expand beyond public libraries. They also helped new Board members understand the need for a strategic framework to be developed far in advance of province-

Information on MLB is available at www.lib.sk.ca/staff/multitype/
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