The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board (MLB) held its most recent meeting on June 22 and 23, 2009 in Regina.

**Correspondence**

The Multitype Library Board sent a letter to the University of Regina enquiring about the possibility of establishing a library school or partnering with existing library schools to provide instruction for local students. Currently, there is no online Master of Library Science program in Canada and tuition fees for US schools is substantially more than for Canadian programs. The letter emphasized how a local program would improve access to library education for First Nations and Métis people and others who cannot leave the province to attend classes. It would also create training opportunities for teacher librarians, a key factor in student achievement.

**Digitization Project**

Provincial Library has been working with the Saskatchewan Digital Alliance (SDA) to develop a new model for the Provincial Library’s Digitization Grant Program. This year, participating organizations will be led by the SDA responsible under the theme of “the Saskatchewan War Experience”. Partners will work with a technical coordinator, hired by the University of Saskatchewan, to scan materials and prepare them for inclusion in a central ContentDM database licensed by the University of Saskatchewan. The end result will be a collection with standardized metadata that can be accessed with a single search. A digitization kit may be developed for partners’ use.

**Aboriginal Library Bursary**

The Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA) has begun work on the establishment of an Aboriginal bursary to assist First Nations and Métis people with Librarian and Library Technician education. The Board has written a letter in support of SLA’s proposed bursary to the Ministers of Education, Advanced Education, Employment and Labour and First Nations and Métis Relation to request seed funding. In addition to seeking government support, SLA has been looking for corporate donors. It is estimated that about $550,000 in seed funding would be necessary in order to continually provide $25,000 in annual funding.

**Multitype Library Board’s Strategic Plan**

Last June, the Board began working on its 2010-2012 strategic plan and created new vision and mission statements and three new strategic directions. At this meeting, Brett Waytuck, Director of Library Planning and Administration, facilitated two half days devoted to developing goals, objectives and key actions for each strategic direction. The Multitype Library Development Unit will prepare a completed draft strategic plan for the Board to review at their next meeting.

**General Meeting**

The Board typically holds a September General Meeting, but due to provincial by-elections, the General Meeting was postponed until October 7, 2009. The MDLP committee is in the process of writing a proposal for restructuring the program and will present it at the meeting for approval. The meeting will be held in Regina.

Information on MLB is available at [www.lib.sk.ca/staff/multitype/](http://www.lib.sk.ca/staff/multitype/)
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