The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board (MLB) held its most recent meeting on October 8, 2009 in Regina, in conjunction with its General Meeting on the MDLP held on October 7.

Aboriginal Library Bursary

The Multitype Library Board’s letter to the Minister of Education in support of the Saskatchewan Library Association’s proposed Aboriginal Library Bursary was received favourably, though there has not been a commitment for seed funding to date. SLA has also received support letters from the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Prince Albert Grand Council, First Nations University of Canada and Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal People that will be included with their own letters to relevant ministers.

Digitization Project

At the time of the meeting, fourteen partners had agreed to join the revised digitization project for this year, “the Saskatchewan War Experience”. Partners will work with a technical coordinator hired by the University of Saskatchewan with the grant from the ministry to add their collections to a ContentDm repository. The Board was very pleased that the interested organizations include a diverse range of partners, including rural public libraries, universities, archives, museums and other information providers, which proves the Multitype concept again.

Saskatchewan Library Education Bursary

The Board has learned that the some recent bursary recipients have accepted work outside of Saskatchewan. Some issues were raised at the Board meeting, such as the willingness of bursary recipients to work in libraries outside of Regina and Saskatoon. A subcommittee will be created to consider strategies that will help ensure future recipients accept work in Saskatchewan upon graduation. The Board will then meet with SLA to share ideas.

Multitype Library Board’s Strategic Plan

The Provincial Library and Literacy Office prepared a completed draft of the new strategic plan for the Board to review. This document can proceed to printing early in 2010 after some minor content and style adjustments. The Board would also like to highlight some of their past accomplishments in the preamble to reemphasize the effect of the Board.

Provincial Panel on Student Achievement

The Multitype Library Board has been represented by Joanne Beltramini at the Provincial Panel on Student Achievement. The Panel created a discussion paper, Building for Student Success: A Guide for Focused Conversations with the Provincial Panel on Student Achievement for stakeholder consultation. The paper asks for feedback from stakeholders for concrete actions that fit under the six foundational components identified by the document. These are: First Nations and Métis Education; Community Engagement; Early Learning and Child Care; Sustainable Learning Organizations; Effective Practices; Equity for all Students. The Board was asked to submit a summary of its discussion to the Panel by December 21, 2009.

MLB General Meeting on the MDLP

The partners agreed that a 1.5% contribution increase was appropriate for next year. Jack was asked to negotiate better prices on some products, if possible. Gale has offered a 1% price increase and it was felt by many partners that some of the other vendors have not taken the current economic climate into account in their price estimates.

The afternoon discussion was about developing new strategies for forming partnerships to purchase new products. Libraries were in favour of establishing a supplemental collection which allows the MDLP to help two or more libraries from at least two sectors to make group purchases of electronic information resources. Partners also discussed new ways to communicate, including the use of social networking to help identify products of common interest and communicate with partners. The new Saskatchewan Libraries site will play a role once it goes live.

Saskatchewan Libraries Website

The architecture for the new site has been completed and the Multitype Library Development Unit has received initial training from ADX, the content management system vendor. Migration of the content will begin soon, with the exception of the Library Directory and the Saskatchewan Websites database, which will remain where it is because of technical challenges and cost. However,
both of these two databases will have the same interface as other pages on the CMS site.

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