The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board (MLB) held its most recent meeting on April 8, 2010 in Regina in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the Multitype Database Licensing Program (MDLP) held on April 7.

**AMICUS Update**

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) has begun modernizing its National Union Catalogue, AMICUS, and made a commitment to maintaining and improving this National Union Catalogue as part of its mandate to preserve and make accessible Canada’s documentary heritage. The Board was pleased that the strong show of support for AMICUS from the Saskatchewan library community and libraries in other provinces played a role in Library and Archives Canada’s decision to continue this service. LAC is working on improving access to the National Union Catalogue with new technology and looking to engage stakeholders through consultations about metadata exposure, sharing and reuse as they work to modernize AMICUS.

**MDLP Update**

The MDLP Committee recommended the renewal of all database subscriptions and that partners increase their contributions by 1.5%. The contribution increase was discussed at the AGM and all partners agreed to a 1% increase in light of tight budgets and increased purchasing power due to a high Canadian dollar.

At the AGM, Gerry Burla from Provincial Library and Literacy Office (PLLO) demonstrated Confluence wiki software that the MDLP Committee, the Board and possibly other committees may use as a communication and document sharing tool.

Since the Literature Resource Center back file will be paid in full this year, some funds will be available to commit to new resources annually starting next year. The partners agreed to use this money for new subscriptions rather than one-time purchases and they recommended subjects/products to the committee for research and evaluation.

**Board Strategic Planning**

The Board updated the draft of its new strategic plan with a new page that shows strategic alignment between the Board and the Ministry of Education.

The Board also worked out key actions for next 12-18 months and identified higher priority items among these key actions. The final strategic plan and the key actions documents will be reviewed by the Board in May or June and made public soon after.

**Provincial Panel on Student Achievement**

On May 13, the Provincial Panel on Student Achievement will present its recommendations to the Deputy Premier and Minister of Education, the Honourable Ken Krawetz. The Board has received an invitation to attend the event and speak to the recommendations. Joanne Beltramini will speak on behalf of the Board in response to the Panel’s recommendations and their implementation, and re-emphasize the positive roles of libraries for student achievement.

**Digitization Project Report**

The Saskatchewan Digital Alliance submitted its final report on the Saskatchewan War Experience digitization project to the Provincial Library and Literacy Office. The Board was given an opportunity to review the document in order see how the project met the grant’s objectives. The report outlined how the SDA developed a collection that will be of interest to researchers, teachers, students, war history enthusiasts and local historians. This multi-jurisdictional repository has been designed so that its metadata may be shared with other projects. The partnering institutions with limited digitization experience learned a great deal about digitization throughout this project, contributing to the overall digitization capacity in Saskatchewan.

**Next Meetings**

The Multitype Library Board will meet September 9, 2010 and tentatively on January 7, 2011.

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

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