The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board (MLB) held its most recent meeting on January 14, 2011 in Regina.

Discussion with Library and Archives Canada

Librarian and Archivist of Canada, Dr. Daniel J Caron and Sean Berrigan, Director General, Strategic Office joined the Board for the morning discussion. Legislative Librarian, Melissa Bennett and University of Regina Archivist, Mark Vajcner, also joined the morning discussion. Gerry Burla, Multitype Library Coordinator and Shona Dippie, Provincial Cataloguing Coordinator, observed the discussion.

Dr. Caron outlined his seven-year plan to modernize Library and Archives Canada (LAC). He emphasized the importance of collaboration among stakeholders in pan-Canadian efforts to preserve our literary heritage; especially since LAC does not have the resources to do it alone. This includes LAC’s function as a trusted digital repository. Provincial and local archives have a role in the repository system.

Dr. Caron emphasized the need for libraries and archives to focus on value-added services. These institutions no longer hold a monopoly on information and often face cuts in direct services. Social media is one method of engaging with users.

LAC is reorganizing itself around three main functions: acquisition, preservation and programming. Efforts are underway to make all of three areas more policy-driven to increase transparency. Digital formats present new challenges for acquisition and preservation because authenticity is less certain than it is with physical items and content must be migrated before formats become obsolete.

LAC is also working with stakeholders to create a new emphasis on trans-disciplinary research in library and archival schools that matches the interests of the library community.

Copyright

Bill C-32, an Act to amend the Copyright Act, was called for second reading in November 2010. If passed, it will bring sweeping changes to Canada’s copyright law. The Canadian Library Association has developed an advocacy kit related to the proposed changes for library communities to use for contacting local MPs and expressing our key points. The Board asked the Multitype Library Development Unit to monitor developments on this issue and provide them with analysis of the impact on libraries if it passes. Board members suggested copyright lawyer, Michael Geist, as another source of information on this issue.

The Copyright Board of Canada approved Access Copyright’s tariff increase for schools and government institutions. However, since then, they have been unable to reach an agreement with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). Further complicating negotiations is the potential for Bill C-32 to expand educational exemptions on photocopying.

Digitization Update

Year two of The Saskatchewan War Experience digitization project is underway. Project Coordinator, Catherine Nygren has been making site visits to help participating institutions begin the process of scanning and creating metadata.

The Saskatchewan Digital Alliance will hold a strategic planning meeting in March to plan its direction over the next two years.

MDLP Update

The Health Quality Council will not continue providing a province-wide license for the Cochrane Library. The general feeling among the partners is that it is a resource more appropriate for health care professionals than the general public. Saskatchewan Health Information Resources Partnership decided to subscribe this product for its members. There are still Gale health electronic resources available for most of the MDLP members to meet their users’ needs.

Discussion Paper

The last MLB discussion paper was written in 2005 and the environment has changed a great deal since then. The Board would like to create a new discussion paper, but felt that this time two papers should be produced. One will be written for an audience of decision makers (including the government) and a more detailed paper will be written for the library community. At the AGM in April, the Board will present stakeholders with a few questions to stimulate ideas about some of the issues to highlight in the paper(s).
Saskatchewan Library Education Bursary

The Saskatchewan Library Association has awarded the bursary for 2010 to Zhizhong (Jack) Chang, a University of British Columbia student originally from Hohhot, China. The annual $5,000 bursary offers funding to a student enrolled or accepted in a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program, or equivalent, who will live and work in Saskatchewan for one year after graduating.

Next Meetings

The Multitype Library Board will meet next on April 4, 2011 in conjunction with the AGM on April 5.

Information on MLB is available at http://www.lib.sk.ca/Multitype-Library-Board.

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