The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board (MLB) held its most recent meeting on April 4, 2011 in Regina.

New Board Members

The Minister of Education has appointed Michael Shires, Collection Development Librarian at the University of Regina, to the Board to represent the Saskatchewan Library Association. As the new Provincial Librarian/Executive Director, Brett Waytuck will join the Board at their next meeting. The Provincial Librarian must be appointed to the Board by the minister according to The Libraries Co-operation Act.

The Board would like to thank outgoing Provincial Librarian, Joylene Campbell, for her commitment to the multitype concept and her many contributions to the Board since its inception. Joylene has accepted the Executive Director position with the Accountability, Assessment and Records branch.

Board Representation on the SIAST Library and Information Technology Advisory Committee

Charlene Sorenson is representing the Board on the SIAST Library and Information Technology Advisory Committee. Board members provided some recommendations related to course content that could help graduates of the program find employment in various library settings and in government. Charlene will report on the Board’s discussion to the Council.

Workshop on Instruction in Library Use (WILU)

This is conference on information literacy and library instruction has been specific to academic librarians in past years. This year, for the first time, it is open to participants from all sectors. Recognizing the multitype nature of this even and the potential for partnerships, the Board is sponsoring four concurrent sessions at 1:15 on Thursday June 2. John Murray will attend the conference on behalf of the Board.

Digitization Update

The Saskatchewan War Experience digitization project (accessible through the SDA homepage) is wrapping up. Project Coordinator, Catherine Nygren, has done a tremendous job involving participating institutions this year, but will be leaving the project at the end of April. Ben Neudorf, who just completed his third year in the English Honours program at the University of Saskatchewan, has been hired to complete the remainder of the work over the summer. Ben has related experience from a seminar course where he was part of a team that published an electronic version of a 17th century manuscript.

The success of the Saskatchewan War Experience project over the past two years led the Ministry of Education to expand digitization based on this model. A grant of $400,000 has been issued to the University of Saskatchewan from the 2010-11 budget to lead this project and $275,000 will be granted for each of the following two years, subject to the budget of the Ministry of Education. The ministry has signed an agreement with the University of Saskatchewan Library to establish a framework for this new initiative. The University of Saskatchewan Library will work with the Saskatchewan Digital Alliance (SDA) to develop the project plan and identify collections to be digitized. A digital repository and discovery portal will be developed as part of this initiative.

MDLP Update

The MDLP Committee continues to review the core collection of products. Some public libraries are concerned about costs given current usage. However, the Research Pro discovery layer will make these resources accessible through the SILS catalogue, potentially increasing use. The MDLP Core is also being revised to move some products to the supplemental collection. The partners agreed to renew all current products and fund a one-year pilot for Library PressDisplay. There will be no contribution increases for this year. The afternoon discussion was an information gathering session to help the Multitype Library Board prepare to write its new Discussion Paper.

Next Meetings

The Multitype Library Board will meet next on September 1, 2011.

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

Or contact the board’s secretariat:

Multitype increases access to information through the sharing of resources among different kinds of libraries!
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