The Board held its most recent meeting on October 1, 2013 at the University of Saskatchewan.

MDLP Surveys
The Multitype Library Development Unit prepared two surveys in consultation with the MDLP Committee. One is for library staff to compare the current Gale suite in the MDLP Core Collection with a similar Ebsco suite. This will help inform the committee’s recommendations to the partners at the next AGM. The other survey is intended for end users. It will provide the committee with information about user satisfaction and the importance patrons place on their library’s electronic resources.

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Multitype Programs
MDLP continues to explore exciting new products and the committee is looking at the feasibility of province-wide licenses for some resources already available through some of the larger libraries, such as Zinio, an online magazine service. Saskatchewan History Online continues to develop with updated mapping features, interface improvements and more new content. Craig Harkema and Joel Salt showed the Board the SHO’s latest features and offered a tour of the digitization facilities used by the project.

New Business
The Board discussed the potential for Saskatchewan to host the Access Conference in a future year. It would require broad support from the library community, a venue capable of holding 100-200 people and considerable IT support. There is some interest in the Saskatchewan library community, though Board members felt that there is not enough time to plan for 2015 and 2016 would not be a good year if we are planning for a super conference that year with SLA.

Measuring the Value of Libraries
Markham Public Library has a calculator on their website that enables the public to discover the value of the services they receive. That concept was supported at the Board table, though Saskatchewan libraries might choose to use different numbers. The Multitype Unit will look at this further and bring ideas to the Board table about how they might use this tool in their sectors.

Website and Communications
After the last Board meeting, the Board recommended a number of improvements for the Sask Libraries Website, including reducing clutter and incorporating the new logo and colour palette. The updated site will go live in October. The Multitype Unit will continue to add content and simplify the navigation as recommended by the Board. Provincial Library and Literacy Office is also working with the Ministry of Education’s Communications Branch to prepare a comprehensive communication plan for the Board and its programs.
What’s new at the Multitype Library Board?

Continuing Education Certification Program
The Board continues to monitor the Continuing Education Certification Program (CEC) developed by The Partnership of provincial and territorial library associations of Canada. The Board discussed some recommendations for improving the program’s uptake and effectiveness that they will share with the Saskatchewan Library Association.

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Royal Society Invitation
Royal Society of Canada has established an eleven-member international expert panel to investigate the status and future of Canada’s libraries and archives. An invitation was sent to the Board close to the meeting date, so there was little time for review. None of the Royal Society’s meetings are planned for Saskatchewan, so there was some discussion about sending a Board rep to the meeting to be held in conjunction with the Ontario Library Association Super Conference.

The Board will work with the Multitype Unit on a written response.

Next Meetings
The next Multitype Library Board meeting will be on January 21, 2014. This meeting will include a facilitated discussion to prepare for a strategic plan update in 2014.

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