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This annual report is also available in electronic format from the department’s web site at http://www.sasklearning.gov.sk.ca/branches/prov_library/publications.shtml
Her Honour the Honourable Dr. Lynda M. Haverstock
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:


Deb Higgins
Minister of Learning

The Honourable Deb Higgins
Minister of Learning

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006.

Carol Shepstone
Chair, Multitype Library Board
Who We Are

The purpose of the Multitype Library Board is to optimize the capacity and outcomes of Saskatchewan Libraries by enabling all types of libraries and information providers to work co-operatively in a multitype library system.

Vision

Access to information is a democratic right of all people in Saskatchewan.

Mission

Libraries in Saskatchewan will work together to maintain and enhance a co-operative interdependent information network which will ensure a consistent and high quality information service through a multitype library system.

Partners

The partners in the multitype library system include:

- the public, school, post-secondary education, and special library sectors;

- the Provincial Library, which has traditionally played a coordinating role in the Saskatchewan library community; and other information providers, such as archives, business resource centres, and Aboriginal libraries.

Each partner has a unique role, mandate and client group that it serves. Partners vary in size, structure, governance, facilities, resources, and functions. Each one must understand the nature of the differences as well as the similarities to co-operate more effectively.

Public Libraries

The role and mandate of public libraries are to provide people of all ages with equitable access to informational, cultural, recreational, and educational materials and services. The public library system provides library service from over 300 branch libraries in communities across Saskatchewan through seven regional library systems, a federated library system in the north, and two municipal libraries in the cities of Regina and Saskatoon. The Provincial Library is also a key component of the public library system.

School Libraries

The role of school libraries is to support the learning program of the school and to meet the individual needs and interests of staff and students. School libraries play an integral role in supporting curricula by providing appropriate resources and in actively involving students in the location, evaluation, and use of information, ideas and resources. The range of resources in a school library includes print, non-print, electronic and human resources.

Post-secondary education Libraries

The role and mandate of post-secondary education libraries is to provide information and services which support the information needs of students, faculty, and staff of educational institutions, and to educate clients in the use of information resources.

Special Libraries

The role and mandate of special libraries is to provide specialized information services for staff, students, or members of a parent organization. Special libraries in Saskatchewan include government, corporate and private libraries, with specialized collections and subject-knowledgeable staff.

While special libraries tend to be concentrated in the cities of Saskatoon and Regina, they are also found in smaller communities, such as Humboldt, North Battleford and Swift Current.

Provincial Library

The Public Libraries Act, 1996 mandates the Provincial Library to serve as a coordinating agency for the provincial public library system and to administer public library grants. The Libraries Co-operation Act mandates the Provincial Library to act as secretariat to the Multitype Library Board and to support the multitype library system, for example, through research and planning and services and establishing policies and procedures.
Information Providers

Other information providers have a variety of roles, mandates and client groups depending on their organizations. They also bring a wide range of expertise and experiences to a partnership with libraries, which makes their contributions particularly valuable, especially in the area of use of information technology.

Mandate and Role

The Multitype Library Board was established by the Libraries Co-operation Act in 1996. Its mandate is to facilitate the cooperative development of the multitype library system in Saskatchewan by providing a forum for appointed representatives of library sectors and information providers in Saskatchewan to meet and discuss ways in which they can co-operate to enhance their capacity and services.

A multitype library system is a network of working relationships, between any combination of autonomous libraries and information providers, established to share services and resources for mutual benefit.

In a multitype library system, the jurisdictional boundaries and separate administrative structures of libraries and information providers remain intact, but co-operative initiatives and working relationships enable them to collectively acquire information products and develop services that they could not achieve independently.

The role of the Multitype Library Board is to find library needs that overlap and allow these areas of mutual need to be the basis for the development of co-operative policies and programs.

Programs

The Multitype Library Board operates programs and initiatives that enable collaboration among multitype partners in areas of mutual interest. Programs and initiatives are operationalized via the Board’s secretariat, the Provincial Library. The Multitype Database Licensing Program (MDLP) is the primary and longest running program of the board. Additional initiatives are developed as emerging needs and issues are identified by partners; for example, the libraries. online promotion campaign was run in 2005/06 to profile the online services offered by all libraries in the province. A strategy to support multitype partners in their digitization efforts is currently under development.

Structure

The Minister Responsible for Libraries appoints members of the Multitype Library Board.

The following representation must be appointed:

- a library director from a public library or public library system;
- a library director from a school library or school library system;
- a library director from a post-secondary library or post-secondary library system;
- a library director from a special library or special library system;
- the Provincial Librarian;
- a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association;
- a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association;
- a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan Library Association;
- one other person employed by a post-secondary library in any capacity; and
- one other person employed by a special library in any capacity.

The minister may appoint any of the following representation:

- one person who is, or who is employed by, an information provider;
- one person appointed after consultation with the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association;
- one person appointed after consultation with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities; and
- one or two other persons in consultation with the library community.

The role of board members is to consult with their library sector to ensure broad understanding of all sectors’ needs and to enable full participation of all sectors in multitype initiatives.
As entrenched in The Libraries Co-operation Act, the Board uses consensus decision making. Consensus decision making recognizes the autonomy and individual responsibility of autonomous libraries and library systems represented on the Board.

The Multitype Library Board advises and provides recommendations to the Minister Responsible for Libraries with respect to the development of the multitype library system.

It may also make recommendations to libraries and library systems concerning multitype library development.

The Provincial Library, a branch of Saskatchewan Learning, provides secretariat support to the Board.

**Values**

The multitype library system was founded on a set of values and principles. The Multitype Library Board has placed high priority on emulating those values and has emerged as a model for bringing strong autonomous partners together in collaborative initiatives. As new partners come to the table, the Board plays a critical role in cultivating a shared understanding of these values.

**Strong local autonomous library partners**

A strong multitype library system rests on strong, local autonomous libraries and library systems. Partners look after their own development and issues of jurisdiction.

**Decisions made by consensus**

Decisions on matters of importance to all partners should be made in a manner which recognizes that all the partners must either agree with the decision or at least that they could accept or work within the decision.

**Think globally … search locally**

Libraries work to share resources at a local level first, then regionally, provincially, nationally, and internationally.

**The whole is greater than the sum of the parts**

Autonomous library partners working together create a capacity for library service that is broader, more effective, and less costly than the partners could achieve individually.

**Commitment to co-operation for mutual benefit**

Co-operation is the cornerstone of the multitype library system. The reason people are willing to co-operate is that they see that things will work better if they do.

**Organic development**

Growth and development of multitype initiatives are based on what is possible for the partners. Multitype initiatives will be realized through people voluntarily working at the local level to develop what works for them.

**Sustained attention**

Continued effort is required to build a strong multitype library system. It must remain a high priority for each of the partners and it may mean marshalling resources to ensure that the system remains healthy as it develops.

**Environmental Trends**

In its Strategic Plan Update, the Board identifies several key trends that strongly influence the development of the multitype library system, and will continue to over the next few years.

**Demographics**

There is a growing sense of urgency to address the changing needs of an aging population, the rural/urban shift, an increase in Aboriginal/First Nations people, and the widening literacy divide in Saskatchewan.

**Demand for online information & services**

The growing demand for online information and a growing sophistication in how information is structured presents a number of issues: libraries’ response to how they will organize, manage and archive information; the public’s ability to access information; increased expectations that information will be provided in digitized form on the Internet; and, the need to reposition how libraries see themselves and are seen by the public.
Sharing of resources and services through partnerships

Increasingly, initiatives undertaken in Saskatchewan recognize the interconnectedness among sectors and the potential for mutual benefit. In the multitype library system this means ensuring there are common values for partnering at the local and provincial levels.

Increasing restrictions on access to information

The trend towards charging for information online and issues of ownership raises a number of questions and highlights libraries’ role in advocating access to information for the public good.

Recruitment, retention and training

The struggle to recruit and retain qualified staff has become a national issue crossing many sectors of the economy. A report entitled The Future of Human Resources in Canadian Libraries published in 2005 by the 8Rs Research Team indicates that Saskatchewan and Manitoba libraries have greater recruitment issues because the universities in these provinces do not have masters of library science programs. Saskatchewan libraries will require strategies to: attract new entrants and retain those currently in the workforce; ensure the competencies of information professionals are articulated and recognized; and, explore affordable, accredited and accessible distance education that would give Saskatchewan residents better access to librarianship education.
Board Members 2005-2006

Public Library Sector

Isabelle Butters, Former President, Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association, Weyburn; serving in the position of a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association.

Zenon Zuzak, Director, Saskatoon Public Library; serving the position of a library director from a public library or public library system.

School Library Sector

Barbara McNeil, Teacher Librarian, Regina Public School Board, Campbell Collegiate, Regina; serving in the position of a library director from a school library or school library system.

Lois Smandych, Southeast Branch Representative, Saskatchewan School Boards Association, Bredenbury; serving in the position of a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association.

Post-Secondary Education Library Sector

Rian Misfeldt, Program Head for Library Services, SIAST Wascana Campus, Regina; serving in the position of one other person employed by a post-secondary library in any capacity.

Frank Winter (until June 15, 2005), Director, University of Saskatchewan Libraries, Saskatoon; serving in the position of a library director from a post-secondary library or post-secondary library system.

Heather West (starting December 28, 2005), Director, SIAST Library and Testing Services, Regina; serving in the position of library director from a post-secondary library or post-secondary library system.

Special Library Sector

Lalita Martfeld, Library Technician, John Dolan Resource Centre, Saskatchewan Association for Community Living, Saskatoon; serving in the position of one other person employed by a special library in any capacity.

Dianne Pammett (until August 31, 2005), Head, National Research Council Information Centre, Saskatoon; serving in the position of a library director from a special library or special library system.

Marian Powell (starting December 28, 2005 until March 31, 2006), Legislative Librarian, Saskatchewan Legislative Library, Regina; serving in the position of a library director from a special library or special library system.

Information Providers

Carol Shepstone, Head, Access Services, University of Saskatchewan Library, Saskatoon; serving in the position of a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan Library Association.

Phyllis Lerat, University Librarian, First Nations University of Canada Library, Regina; representing Aboriginal Libraries.

Mark Vajcner, University of Regina Archives, Regina; representing the archives community.

Provincial Library

Joylene Campbell, Provincial Librarian; representing Saskatchewan Learning, Provincial Library, Regina.
There were four board meetings in the reporting year, as well as a semi-annual and an annual meeting with stakeholders. Multitype program committees, including the Multitype Database Licensing Committee and the Promotion Implementation Working Group, meet multiple times throughout the reporting year.

The Board’s priorities for 2005-2006 were guided by the strategic directions, goals and objectives of the Multitype Library Board Strategic Plan Update, a five-year plan created in 2003. The strategic directions and goals set out what the Board plans to accomplish during the five-year period. The objectives are specific result statements that support the goals. The performance indicators define the outcome and are the basis for measuring and evaluating impact. The key results articulate accomplishments made during the reporting year.

Strategic Direction 1 – Develop the multitype system.

Strengthen partners by developing co-operative strategies to address emerging issues. Nurture and build relationships.

The relationships that form a healthy multitype library system require ongoing development. A key role of the Multitype Library Board is to foster communication among the partners and awareness of the benefits of the multitype cooperation. The Board also ensures a responsive environment to partner needs by monitoring issues and trends that are affecting partners and identifying co-operative strategies to address them.

Performance Indicator

Strong, diverse, independent partners – with appropriate staffing, training, funding resources and facilities – contributing equitably to multitype initiatives.

Goal 1 – Actively involve communities of interest and educate members on multitype values and participation standards.

Objective 1 – Strengthen and expand the process to ensure participation of archives, Aboriginal libraries, and other information providers.

Objective 2 – Design an approach to support the creation of multitype activities locally, regionally and provincially.

Objective 3 – Update the Board’s communication strategy.

Key Results

- Contacted a broad range of organizations including archives, museums, galleries, local history societies, and libraries to gather information about their digitization activities, as part of the Digitization Inventory Project. Almost 100 organizations were surveyed. The outcome is improved data on digitization activities in the province as well as a broader network of relationships for the province-wide Digital Alliance.

- Continued with archives representation on the Board. The board member representing archives has worked with the board, and the broader multitype community, to identify areas of need and interest that span both archives and libraries. Digitization has been identified as an area for collaboration.

- Continued with Aboriginal libraries representation on the board. The board member for Aboriginal libraries is currently Phyllis Lerat, librarian at the First Nations University of Canada and a member of the Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal People Committee.

- Continued with communication activities including sending all stakeholders a communiqué following each meeting, and bringing partners together at both the Semi-annual General Meeting and the Annual General Meeting to review the vision and values of multitype and to discuss the Multitype Database Licensing Program (MDLP). The Board also sponsored a session at the 2005 Saskatchewan Libraries Conference entitled, “Digital Canada: Toward a Common Information Infrastructure for Canada.”
Goal 2 – Research and document emerging issues facing the partners and develop strategies to address.

Objective 1 – Develop a strategy to address recruitment, retention and training needs of the partners as identified in the Report of the Multitype Public Relations Committee.

Objective 2 – Advance recommendations from the June 2002 discussion paper, Saskatchewan Libraries Working Together.

Key Results

• Supported the continuation of the Saskatchewan Libraries Education Bursary. On the recommendation of the Multitype Library Board, Provincial Library, the board's secretariat and a branch of Saskatchewan Learning, granted $10,000 to the Saskatchewan Libraries Education Bursary, which is administered by the Saskatchewan Library Association. This bursary awards $5,000 to a student enrolled in a Master of Library and Information Science program or equivalent, who is willing to return to work in Saskatchewan upon completion of the degree. The bursary was started in 2002. The first three bursary recipients have completed their degrees and are working in libraries in the province. Since the bursary began, Provincial Library, on the recommendation of the Board, has granted $70,000 in seed funding to the bursary program.

• Delivery of a province-wide promotion campaign – libraries. online. – profiling the online resources and services of all libraries in Saskatchewan. The campaign achieved a primary recommendation of the June 2002 discussion paper: deliver a ‘province-wide strategy to promote library services to Saskatchewan residents.’ The campaign was coordinated by the Board's secretariat, the Provincial Library, and the Board's Promotion Implementation Working Group. It was launched in partnership with all types of libraries in September 2005, during Centennial celebrations.

• All types of libraries had input into the design of the campaign including the creation of a common slogan, key messages, promotional products, and other common promotional resources that libraries province-wide can use. The Board partnered with both Saskatchewan Library Week and Saskatchewan Education Week to promote Saskatchewan's online library services. Events included the official launch of Saskatchewan Library Week, the launch of the Saskatchewan Libraries Gateway, the launch of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, among others.

As part of the promotion campaign, a Saskatchewan online library services and resources web portal, www.mylibrary.sk.ca, was launched to provide Saskatchewan residents with “one stop” online library services.

Over 1000 libraries participated. Usage of e-library services increased during and following the campaign.

• Continued development of a competency profile for use by the Government of Saskatchewan in hiring information management professionals. Librarians from the Board, Provincial Library, Legislative Library, the Information Technology Office, and SIAST worked with the Public Service Commission to draft the profile, which is targeted for completion in 2006.

• Produced a 2006 updated discussion paper, Working Together: Saskatchewan Libraries and other Information Providers, which was sent to the Minister Responsible for Libraries and to multitype stakeholders. The discussion paper identifies emerging issues and recommendations for potential solutions. It also profiles the value of libraries and information providers in Saskatchewan.

• Monitored developments in the area of school libraries and cultivated relationships with school division and school library representatives.

• Participated in the Department of Learning Collaboration Steering Committee to create guidelines for collaboration between learning sector partners and libraries.
Strategic Direction 2 – Implement the multitype library system.

Expand access to content, including digitized information; broaden multitype partnerships; and build capacity of the partners.

The Board develops initiatives to enhance partner information services. The flagship initiative, the Multitype Database Licensing Program, has extended library collections through bulk purchasing subscriptions to electronic magazines, journals, and newspapers. Future endeavours will expand access to content—in particular through digitization of print collections—and will focus on involving other types of multitype partners in such projects.

Performance Indicator

Partners have the capacity to digitize information and have enhanced online collections that are utilized by the public.

Goal 1 – Develop strategies that enable partners to expand their collections and become central players in publicly accessible high quality information.

Objective 1 – Review the digitization report and develop a provincial strategy for multitype partners.

Objective 2 – Participate in innovation and learning initiatives.

Objective 3 – Conduct a formal evaluation of the multitype library system and initiatives.

Objective 4 – Continue to develop the Multitype Database Licensing Program.

Objective 5 – Develop a staff training strategy for multitype library initiatives.

Objective 6 – Aggregate, identify, find and implement access to commercial and digitized content.

Key Results

• Completed a Digitization Inventory Project to survey libraries, archives, museums and other types of information providers in Saskatchewan identifying the level of digitization activity in these institutions, as well as the challenges and opportunities relating to digitization and potential for a province-wide collaborative digitization strategy. Almost 100 Saskatchewan organizations participated in the inventory, including libraries, archives, museums, art galleries, local history societies, and other organizations. Information collected was compiled in a database, providing a rich source of information about the digitization landscape in Saskatchewan.

• Published Digitization in Saskatchewan and Critical Issues in its Continuing Development, a report synthesizing the findings of the Digitization Inventory Project. It provides an overview of the digitization environment in Saskatchewan and identifies existing and potential digitization projects, perceived benefits and obstacles of digitization, the institutions’ capacity to digitize collections, standards used in digitization projects (and how that will influence future interoperability) and potential partnerships. Some key findings include: only 42% of projects were using metadata standards and even fewer used subject headings. Funding, lack of equipment, inadequate training and complex copyright laws were the major obstacles preventing organizations undertaking digitization projects. Recommendations included: consulting the public to find out which projects will best meet their needs; creating a best practices framework to provide guidance for new projects; and forming a Saskatchewan Digital Alliance that could provide a support network for organizations involved in digitization and lead the development of digitization expertise, best practices, standards and interoperability. A full report on the Digitization Inventory Project is available at http://www.lib.sk.ca/staff/digitization/diginventory.pdf.

• Participated in the Saskatchewan Learning Exchange Committee and the Learning Sector Strategic Plan Steering Committee.

• Enhanced the Multitype Database Licensing Program (MDLP) as follows:

  o Saskatchewan citizen’s use of the magazine, journal and newspaper databases provided through MDLP increased by 18%. Citizens performed 2,007,060 searches within the databases.
Three new products were licensed by MDLP: Index to Canadian Legal Literature (new agreement with Thomson Carswell after Micromedia ProQuest replaced it with Canadian Research Index); Encyclopaedia Britannica (Encyclopaedia Britannica, Britannica Student Encyclopaedia and Britannica Elementary Encyclopaedia, as well as a dictionary, thesaurus, world atlas); BiblioBranchee & Newscan.com (daily-updated French content from Canadian French newspapers and television transcripts. Because of licensing restrictions, Newscan.com is available for special libraries and BiblioBranchee is available for the other sectors).

The Saskatchewan Health Information Resources Partnership, became a partner and will contribute financially to the program in 2006. This brings the total number of contributing partner libraries to 40, the highest level since the program was established.

The MDLP Committee worked with MDLP partner libraries to conduct a survey and evaluation of additional potential products for purchase. They identified two new products to recommend to partners for purchase: Auto Repair Reference Centre and Novelist. Global Books in Print was also considered, but the vendor was unable to provide pricing information.

MDLP organized training on Gale, Micromedia ProQuest, Wiley and EDU Reference products.

Communication with MDLP members and the broader library community was continued through the MDLP Communiqué and MDLP information on the Saskatchewan Libraries web site (www.lib.sk.ca/staff/dblicensing/index.html)

Key Results

- Involved archives, Aboriginal libraries, museums and other service providers in the Digitization Inventory Project. This built on these sectors’ involvement in the previous year's digitization forums held in Regina and Saskatoon.

- Sponsored a session at the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference called “Digital Canada: Toward a Common Information Infrastructure for Canada.”

Strategic Direction 3 – Connect libraries of all types to provide equitable access to and delivery of information.

Broaden the focus to include the way information is developed, organized and presented to the people of Saskatchewan

Networking technology enables multitype partners to collaborate with one another, share information and resources, and deliver information more effectively to patrons. The Board plays a leadership role in ensuring the way information is developed is appropriate, inclusive and easy for the public to find and use.

Performance Indicators

The partner's online services are interoperable, transparent to people, affordable, fast, current, and distant neutral.

Goal 1 – Work with the library community to develop policy that clearly articulates the intent and implications of “one stop” access.

Objective 1 – Initiate a high level discussion on how to weave together all the services ensuring easy access.

Objective 2 – Develop a strategy to establish basic standards to support interoperability of information systems and to ensure a common understanding of how to integrate technology standards across information providers.

Objective 3 – Research, evaluate, implement and assess the impact of alternate routes to information resources.

Goal 2 – Expand multitype projects to encompass archives, Aboriginal libraries, museums and other service providers.

Objective 1 – Sponsor a provincial conference.
Objective 4 – Organize and participate in a series of think tank/brainstorm sessions on e-information services and the use of appropriate technology.

Key Results

- Completed a Digitization Inventory Project to survey libraries, archives, museums and other types of information providers in Saskatchewan identifying the level of digitization activity in these institutions, as well as the challenges and opportunities relating to digitization and potential for a province-wide collaborative digitization strategy. Almost 100 Saskatchewan organizations participated in the inventory, including libraries, archives, museums, art galleries, local history societies, and other organizations. Information collected was compiled in a database, providing a rich source of information about the digitization landscape in Saskatchewan.

- Sponsored a session at the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference called “Digital Canada: Toward a Common Information Infrastructure for Canada.”

- As part of the libraries. online. promotion campaign, a Saskatchewan online library services and resources web portal, www.mylibrary.sk.ca was launched to provide Saskatchewan residents with “one stop” online library services.

- Continued to maintain and update the Saskatchewan Libraries web site to electronically connect all types of libraries in the province.

- Continued to coordinate multitype participation in the visual recognition project. The visual recognition project uses remote patron authentication software to deliver tailored access to various e-library services provided by each library and allows for online recognition of the library providing the services.

Strategic Direction 4 – Promote participation in the multitype library system.

Promote an image of multitype partners that illustrates their changing and central role in access to information.

An emerging role for the Board is to create and promote a new image of multitype partners that illustrates their changing and central role in access to information. This means ensuring that Saskatchewan people are aware of the information services through multitype partners. It also means updating their image and reinforcing access to information as a democratic right.

Performance indicators

The multitype library system is used and valued by the people in Saskatchewan. Multitype partners are seen as the first stop to accessible, quality information.

Goal 1 – Develop, implement and evaluate a province-wide strategy to aggressively promote the multitype library system, libraries and other information providers.

Objective 1 – Adopt proactive, innovative approaches to promotion, targeting new audiences and using new mechanisms.

Objective 2 – Promote a new image of libraries and librarianship.

Objective 3 – Advance recommendations from the Report of the Multitype Public Relations Committee.

Objective 4 – Establish a monetary fund for Multitype Library Board promotion strategies.

- Delivery of a province-wide promotion campaign—libraries. online.—profiling the online resources and services of all libraries in Saskatchewan. All types of libraries had input into the design of the campaign including the creation of a common slogan, key messages, promotional products, and other common promotional resources that libraries province-wide can use. The Board partnered with both Saskatchewan Library Week and Saskatchewan Education Week to promote Saskatchewan’s online library services. Events included the
official launch of Saskatchewan Library Week, the launch of the Saskatchewan Libraries Gateway, the launch of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, among others. Over 1000 libraries participated. Usage of e-library services increased during and following the campaign.

- Continued to coordinate multitype participation in the visual recognition project. The visual recognition project uses remote patron authentication software to deliver tailored access to various e-library services provided by each library and allows for online recognition of the library providing the services.

- Launched www.mylibrary.sk.ca, a web portal to Saskatchewan online library services and resources as part of the libraries. online campaign, to provide Saskatchewan residents with “one stop” online library services.

- Maintained the Saskatchewan Libraries Careers section on the Saskatchewan Libraries web site. The Careers section promotes the field of librarianship and other careers available in libraries.

- Finalized the Working Together: Saskatchewan Libraries and other Information Providers discussion paper based on consultation with the multitype community. In addition to identifying issues, solutions and recommendations, this paper promotes the value of libraries in Saskatchewan by summarizing the contribution of different types of libraries and information providers. The discussion paper was sent to the Minister of Learning, followed by a wider distribution to stakeholders.

- Distributed the Multitype Library Board annual report and discussion paper to a variety of libraries, associations, and agencies across Saskatchewan and Canada.

- Continued education and awareness activities at the Annual General Meeting to promote the value of libraries and multitype co-operation.
Multitype Database Licensing Program

Background

In 2005, patrons of Saskatchewan libraries accessed the magazine, journal and newspaper databases 488,002 times. This means usage is up by 75,308 over 2004, or about an 18% increase. Users performed 2,007,670 searches within these databases. This works out to a per use cost of about $1, and $0.26 per search. The total value of the program was about $533,000 in 2005/06.

The Multitype Database Licensing Program (MDLP) is a province-wide program in which libraries pool funds to purchase access to electronic information resources – magazines, journals, newspapers, directories, reference books, and other information resources. Access is via the Internet through partner library web sites. The program provides access to almost 7,000 unique journal titles in full text.

In 2005/06, 40 libraries and all Prekindergarten to Grade 12 schools participated in the program. Participants included all 10 public library systems; all PreK to 12 schools through Saskatchewan Learning; the two university library systems, libraries on the four campuses of SIAST, and five small colleges; plus 20 special libraries, and the Provincial Library. Provincial Library takes responsibility for the administration and coordination of the program.

The MDLP program has significantly enhanced access to reliable electronic information resources for Saskatchewan residents through their Saskatchewan libraries. By pooling funds, the overall contribution needed by any one library is greatly reduced. The program allows all libraries to have access to extensive online resources that would otherwise be impossible for a small library to acquire. This program effectively extends access to all residents, the majority of whom live in small urban, rural or remote communities. The databases can be accessed from a user’s home computer. Through this program, libraries are helping close the digital divide and ensure that all citizens have equitable access to the authoritative, quality information that is so important to learning, work and leisure in a global, knowledge-based economy.

The goals of the Multitype Database Licensing Program are:
• to increase the amount of authoritative information available to library users;
• to ensure equitable access to information resources;
• to make these resources accessible in every type of library province-wide;
• to pay for access to these resources only once; and
• to maximize the buying capacity of all libraries through cost-sharing.

Highlights of 2005-2006

1. New Products and New Vendors

BiblioBranchée & Newscan.com. The MDLP signed an agreement with CEDROM to subscribe to BiblioBranchée and Newscan.com. Both products provide daily-updated French content from Canadian French newspapers and television transcripts. The MDLP licensed BiblioBranchée for public libraries, post-secondary education libraries and schools, and licensed Newscan.com for special libraries in the province since CEDROM does not have permission from publishers to provide BiblioBranchée to special libraries.

Index to Canadian Legal Literature. In 2004, Micromedia ProQuest lost its rights to the Index to Canadian Legal Literature (ICLL). They provided the Canadian Research Index to the MDLP as a replacement product. However, partner libraries were still interested in subscribing to ICLL. In 2005, the MDLP negotiated a license for ICLL from Thomson Carswell, the new publisher of the database.

Encyclopaedia Britannica. The MDLP signed a two-year license with EDU Reference Publisher Direct Inc., the Canadian partner of Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc., for Britannica Online. The license provides access to three encyclopaedias—Encyclopaedia Britannica, Britannica Student Encyclopaedia, and Britannica Elementary Encyclopaedia, as well as a Dictionary, Thesaurus, World Atlas, and other multimedia files for all residents in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan Learning was particularly interested in ensuring access to an encyclopaedia product for all students.
2. September General Meeting

The MDLP held a general meeting on September 29, 2005 in Craik to review MDLP’s current processes and to plan the strategy for 2006/07. Fifty people attended the meeting, representing public, post-secondary education, school and special libraries.

The meeting provided presentations on the history of MDLP, the annual cycle, consensus decision-making principles, statistics for each participating library per database, as well as research on database contribution methods in Canada including the MDLP itself.

All participants discussed the MDLP annual cycle, the contribution method, and strategic planning for 2006/07. Recommendations from the General Meeting include:

• Have a February Annual General Meeting (AGM) and late August General Meeting every year.
• Use the February AGM to make product purchasing and financial contribution decisions and for partner libraries to brainstorm products for the following year.
• Implement two stages of testing for new products: an initial screening and testing by library staff in April, and a second round of testing in the fall.
• Present information about potential purchases at an August General Meeting. Include ballpark costs to partner libraries to help them prepare for the final decision at the February AGM and to prepare budget submissions where applicable.
• Set up a sub-committee to study a better model to solve the issue related to the current contribution method.
• Have an annual review of current products.

The new process will begin with the 2006 February General Meeting.

3. New Partners

In 2005, the Saskatchewan Health Information Resources Partnership, became a partner and will contribute financially to the program in 2006. This brings the total number of contributing partner libraries to 40, the highest level since the program was established.

4. Evaluation of New Databases

In November and December 2005, the Multitype Database Licensing Program (MDLP) conducted a comprehensive testing and evaluation of new products in auto mechanics, genealogy, Books in Print and Novelist. The purpose of this evaluation was to identify the usefulness of these databases for member libraries, especially public libraries, and to determine the potential for purchase for 2006/07.

All partner libraries were invited to participate in the testing. Evaluation forms were collected by the sector representatives, who compiled the responses for their sector. Results were reviewed by the MDLP committee and two new products were identified to add to the recommended product list for 2005/06: Auto Repair Reference Center and Novelist. Global Books in Print will not be considered this round because the vendor – R.R. Bowker – was unable to provide pricing information.

5. Training

In 2005 Gale, Micromedia ProQuest, Wiley and EDU Reference came to Saskatchewan to provide database training on their products.

Micromedia ProQuest provided training to all Wheatland Regional Library staff in Saskatoon on April 20 and to Regina Public Library staff on December 12 and 13. There were 104 participants at both sessions.

Gale training sessions were held from April 19 to 22 in Regina, Moose Jaw and Saskatoon with 79 participants. Wiley InterScience provided training on The Cochrane Library in April 2005. Sessions were held in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, and Saskatoon from April 19 to 21 with 72 people in attendance.

6. www.mylibrary.sk.ca and libraries. online.

A province-wide promotion campaign entitled libraries. online. was implemented in the fall of 2005. The campaign was created to achieve the Multitype Library Board’s goal of developing, implementing and evaluating a province-wide strategy to aggressively promote the multitype library system, libraries and other information providers.
The campaign promoted e-library services, including on-line access to magazines, journals and other full-text information resources licensed by the MDLP.

Provincial Library and Saskatchewan Learning established an E-Library Promotion Implementation Working Group to work on the implementation of both the province-wide promotion campaign and local promotion activities of e-library services. Barbara Nelke represented the MDLP on the Working Group. The campaign was launched during the six-week period leading up to Saskatchewan Library Week 2005. The Working Group partnered with the Saskatchewan Library Week Committee and with Education Week in some of the province-wide events. An example of this three-way partnership was the official launch of the Encyclopedia Britannica at St. Edward School in Saskatoon. More than 1,000 promotion packages were distributed to all four library sectors. A web site (http://www.mylibrary.sk.ca) was established as a public-access portal to the e-library services on the various library web sites and a library staff portal to help libraries promote online library services.

**Strategic Initiatives for 2006**

The MDLP Committee is recommending the following initiatives in 2006/07:

1. **New Database Products**

   **Auto Repair Reference Center.** This database contains information on most major manufacturers of domestic and imported vehicles, with repair information for most vintage makes starting as far back as 1945.

   Database content includes approximately 25,000 vehicles covered from 1945 to present; over 100,000 factory drawings and step-by-step photographs; and over 65,000 technical service bulletins & recalls issued by the original equipment vehicle manufacturer.

   **Novelist.** This database is an online readers’ advisory service that helps librarians and readers find fiction books that might be similar to books they have read or topics in which they are interested. Currently, the database includes more than 130,000 fiction titles for all ages with subject and keyword access; more than 90,000 full text reviews and descriptions from Booklist, Library Journal, School Library Journal, Publishers Weekly and other resources. Novelist comes with NoveList K-8 free of charge. NoveList K-8 contains enhanced subject access for over 50,000 fiction titles aimed at the Kindergarten – Grade 8 population in public library children’s rooms. It also provides book talks for selected young adult and children’s titles.

2. **Long Term Strategic Planning**

   In 2006, the MDLP will start a new program cycle, which will include two general meetings each year with two stages of testing for new products. The February general meeting is still the time to make final decisions on product purchasing and financial contributions. It is also the time for partner libraries to introduce products and initiatives for the following year. The September General Meeting will present the information about potential purchases including cost estimates to partner libraries to help them prepare for financial decisions at the following February general meeting. Two stages of testing for new products will include an initial screening and testing by library staff in April and a second round of testing in the fall.

   There is also a need to review current licensed databases to ensure they still meet partners’ needs.

   In order to develop the long term strategy, the MDLP committee will have a full-day committee meeting in April. This meeting will look at creating a schedule and process for evaluating current products, licensing guidelines and a collection development policy for the program. The committee also intends to explore potential products for purchase, training, and promotion.

**Financial Contributors**

**Post-Secondary Education Libraries**

- Bethany College Library
- Briercrest Family of Schools, Archibald Library
- Central Pentecostal College, A. C. Schindel Library
- Gabriel Dumont Institute Library
- Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology, SIAST Libraries
- St. Peter’s Abbey and College Library
- University of Regina, Dr. John Archer Library
- University of Saskatchewan Library
Public Libraries
Chinook Regional Library
Lakeland Library Region
Pahkisimon Nuye?ah Library System
Palliser Regional Library
Parkland Regional Library
Regina Public Library
Saskatoon Public Library
Southeast Regional Library
Wapiti Regional Library
Wheatland Regional Library

Special Libraries
Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan, Resource Centre
Health Quality Council, Library
Law Society of Saskatchewan, Library
POS Pilot Plant Corporation, Information Services
Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute Library
Prairie Northern Wildlife Research Centre
Regina Qu’Appelle Health District, Health Sciences Library
Resource Centre for Sport, Culture and Recreation
Royal Canadian Mounted Police Training Academy, Learning Resource Centre
Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Relations Library
Saskatchewan Community Resources and Employment
Saskatchewan Forest Centre, Library
Saskatchewan Health Resource Centre
Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation, Resource Centre
Saskatchewan Labour Library
Saskatchewan Learning Resource Centre
(included in Saskatchewan Learning’s contribution)
Saskatchewan Legislative Library
Saskatchewan Provincial Auditor’s Office Library
Saskatchewan Research Council Information Services.
Saskatchewan Teacher’s Federation, Stewart Resource Centre

School Libraries
All school divisions through Saskatchewan Learning, on behalf of all PreK-12 school libraries in Saskatchewan (as of January 1, 2006 there are 28 school divisions in Saskatchewan)

Provincial Library
Current Products Licensed – Listed by Vendor

Thomson Gale
Business and Company Resource Center
Business Index ASAP
CPI.Q (Canadian Periodicals)
Discovering Collection
Expanded Academic ASAP
General Business File ASAP
General Reference Center
General Reference Center Gold
Health and Wellness Resource Center
Health Reference Center Academic
InfoTrac OneFile
Junior Edition
Kids InfoBits
LegalTrac
Literature Resource Center
Student Edition

Micromedia ProQuest
Canada Info Desk, includes:
Associations Canada
Canadian Almanac & Directory
Canadian Environmental Directory
Directory of Libraries in Canada
Financial Services Canada
Governments Canada
Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies
Canadian Newsstand Prairies (includes
Saskatchewan weeklies)
Canadian Research Index
CBCA (includes CBCA Business, Current Events,
Education, and Reference)

Wiley InterScience
The Cochrane Library

Services documentaires multimedia
Repère

Encyclopedia Britannica Inc.
Encyclopedia Britannica Online

CEDROM-SNi
BiblioBranchée/Newscan.com

Thomson Carswell
Index to Canadian Legal Literature
The Multitype Library Board established a committee to administer the Multitype Database Licensing Program (MDLP) consisting of at least two representatives from each library sector. Committee members are responsible for consulting with their sector regarding development of the program and bringing their sector's concerns to the committee table. Committee members evaluate information databases, coordinate financial contributions from their sector, and make recommendations to partner libraries about what products to fund. In addition they make decisions about how to implement the strategic directions set by the annual meeting and coordinate input from partner libraries.

Committee recommendations are provided to the Multitype Library Board and to its annual meeting, which establishes the broad strategic directions; approves a purchasing/renewal strategy for the upcoming year; and recommends financial commitments to seek from partner libraries.

Provincial Library negotiates license agreements with vendors to acquire province-wide licenses on behalf of the program; coordinates partner funding; establishes database access through IP address and remote patron authentication methods; resolves access problems; and provides secretariat support to the MDLP committee.

2005/06 Committee Members

**Post-secondary Education Libraries**
Regan Balfour, SIAST Woodland Campus
Diana Kichuk, University of Saskatchewan Library
Barbara Nelke, University of Regina Library

**School Libraries**
Joanne Beltramini, Regina Catholic Schools
Delee Cameron and Judy Nicholson,
Saskatchewan Learning

**Special Libraries**
Mary Chipanshi, Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region, Health Resource Center
Pat Kolesar and Jane Blackett, Saskatchewan Legislative Library
Charlene Kramer, Saskatchewan Learning Resource Centre
Bev Patenaude, POS Pilot Plant Corporation

**Public Libraries**
Patricia Caldwell, Saskatoon Public Library
Alex Juorio, John M. Cuelenaere Public Library
Rosemary Oddie, Regina Public Library
James Richards, Southeast Regional Library

**Provincial Library**
Amy Rankin and Jack Ma, Provincial Library
**MDLP Usage Statistics**

**Access** means the number of times a user entered, or logged on to one of the databases/interfaces to begin searching.

**Browse** means selecting and following specific links in a directory or pages to retrieve information.

**Search** means a specific query submitted through a search form to one database. If several databases are selected within a single search interface, each database counts one search.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Access</th>
<th>Search</th>
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<th>Search</th>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>294,583</td>
<td>926,623</td>
<td>309,217</td>
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<td>737,956</td>
<td>172,720</td>
<td>1,121,779</td>
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**Total Number of Accesses and Searches**

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<td>Index to Canadian Legal Literature</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>973</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEDROM</td>
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Total Usage of Serials Solutions

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</thead>
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<td>1,377</td>
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<tr>
<td>Browse</td>
<td>2,230</td>
<td>681</td>
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<tr>
<td>Click Through</td>
<td>3,879</td>
<td>441</td>
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</table>

Notes:
Services documentaries multimédia – could not provide any usage information for Repére.

Neither Britannica Online nor Index to Canadian Legal Literature can provide login information. CEDROM can provide login information but not the number of searches for each library.

Use of Serials Solutions E-Journal Portal and Federated Searching at some libraries may affect the total number of searches.