

# Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board



## Annual Report for 2017-18



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This annual report is also available in electronic format at <http://publications.gov.sk.ca>.



# Letters of Transmittal



*Gordon S. Wyant, Q.C.  
Minister of Education*

His Honour, the Honourable W. Thomas Molloy  
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon S. Wyant". The signature is stylized with several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gordon S. Wyant, Q.C.  
Minister of Education



*Jennifer Shrubsole, Chair,  
Multitype Library Board*

The Honourable Gordon S. Wyant, Q.C.  
Minister of Education

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Shrubsole". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Shrubsole  
Chair, Multitype Library Board

# Board Overview

## Board Members

The Minister of Education, responsible for libraries, appoints members of the Multitype Library Board (MLB) as outlined in *The Libraries Co-operation Act* (the Act).

## 2017-18 Board Members

Jennifer Shrubsole continued to lead the Board as Chair during her final year on the Board. Ms. Shrubsole was instrumental in leading the development of a work plan that will guide the Board through 2018-19.

### ***Information Providers***

Marilyn Belhumeur, Librarian, Gabriel Dumont Institute, Regina — representing Indigenous libraries.

Tim Hutchinson, Archivist, University Archives & Special Collections, University of Saskatchewan Library, Saskatoon — representing the archive community.

Colleen Murphy, Associate University Librarian, University of Regina, Regina — serving in the position of a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA).

### ***Post-Secondary Education Library Sector***

Rian Misfeldt, Director, Library & Testing Services, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Regina — serving in the position of library director from a post-secondary library or post-secondary library system.

Jennifer Shrubsole, (until March 14, 2018), Library Teaching and Learning Coordinator, Saskatchewan Polytechnic Library, Moose Jaw Campus, Moose Jaw —

serving in the position of one other person employed by a post-secondary library in any capacity.

William Sgrazutti, (beginning March 14, 2018), Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, University of Regina, Regina — serving in the position of one other person employed by a post-secondary library in any capacity.

### ***Public Library Sector***

James Hope Howard, Director, Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System, La Ronge — serving in the position of a library director from a public library or public library system.

Sandra MacArthur, Wheatland Regional Library, Osler — serving in the position of a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association.

### ***School Library Sector***

Charlotte Raine, Library Learning Coach, Good Spirit School Division, Langenburg — serving in the position of a library director from a school library or school library system.

Giselle Wilson, (beginning March 14, 2018), School Board Trustee, Prairie South School Division — serving in the position of a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA).

### ***Special Library Sector***

Melissa Bennett, (until March 14, 2018), Legislative Librarian, Saskatchewan Legislative Library, Regina — serving in the position of a library director from a special library or special library system.

Melanie Hodges Neufeld, (beginning March 14, 2018), Law Society of Saskatchewan Libraries, Regina — serving in the position of a library director from a special library or special library system.

Suzy Bear, (until March 14, 2018), Librarian, Prince Albert Parkland Health Region, Prince Albert — serving in the position of one other person employed by a special library in any capacity.

Nancy Young, (beginning March 14, 2018), Librarian, Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association, Regina — serving in the position of one other person employed by a special library in any capacity.

### ***Provincial Library***

Alison Hopkins, Provincial Librarian, Regina.

### ***Board Secretariat***

Regan Gunningham, Multitype Library Services  
Coordinator, Provincial Library and Literacy Office, Regina.

# MLB Overview

## Mandate and Role

The Multitype Library Board (MLB) was established by *The Libraries Co-operation Act* in 1996 (the Act). Its mandate is to advise and make recommendations to the Minister on the development of the multitype library system and to facilitate the co-operative development of the multitype library system in Saskatchewan. The Board provides 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.

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.

## Partners

The partners in the multitype library system include:

- the public, school, post-secondary and special library sectors;
- the Provincial Library and Literacy Office (PLLO), which has traditionally played a coordination role in the Saskatchewan library community; and,
- other information providers, such as archives, museums and Indigenous libraries.

Each partner has a unique role, mandate and client group that it serves. Partners vary in size, structure, governance, facilities, resources, functions and related government ministries. Dialogue facilitated by the MLB can help the partners to understand the nature of their differences as well as their similarities to co-operate more effectively.

## Information Providers

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

## Post-secondary Education Libraries

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

## Provincial Library

The Act mandates the Provincial Library to act as secretariat to the MLB and to support the multitype library system through such activities as research, planning, program support and the establishment of policies and procedures.

## 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 services in over 300 branch libraries across Saskatchewan through seven regional library systems, a federated library system in the north and three municipal libraries in the cities of Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon.





## ***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 actively involving students in the location, evaluation and use of information, ideas and resources.

## ***Special Libraries***

The role and mandate of special libraries are 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.

# Progress in 2017-18

The MLB held three meetings in 2017-18. The MLB used this meeting time to develop a work plan and discuss issues of importance to the multitype community, such as the Multitype Database Licensing Program (MDLP) program review, professional development funding opportunities and the Saskatchewan Digital Alliance (SDA) stakeholder meeting.

## Ongoing Programs

### Library Toolshed

The Library Toolshed (<https://librarytoolshed.ca/>) is a joint initiative of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan libraries. It provides a space for library staff to share, download and comment on library training, programming and promotional resources. All of the materials in the repository are shared using a Creative Commons licence, which allows library staff to re-purpose any of the content.

### Saskatchewan Digital Alliance

The SDA is a cross-sector, co-operative body that exists to promote and facilitate the development of digital collections in Saskatchewan. The SDA committee was established by the MLB to develop a locus of knowledge and support that enables the public to locate and utilize Saskatchewan knowledge and information created through co-operative Saskatchewan digitization initiatives. The group selected a new Chair, Tim Hutchison, to lead the committee during 2018-19.

The SDA held a stakeholder meeting on October 11, 2017, and invited Saskatchewan organizations interested in digitization projects. The meeting included attendees from archives, museums and libraries. The stakeholders recommended that the SDA:

- reach out to the Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists and the Museums Association of Saskatchewan to establish a formal connection with representation on the SDA committee;
- review and revise the current terms of reference to ensure that the SDA has objectives that can be realized independent of ongoing funding;
- start further planning and discussion to prioritize and undertake new SDA activities; and,
- renew recruitment and explore other membership possibilities, e.g. public libraries, and The Consortium of Academic and Special Libraries of Saskatchewan (CASLS).

Stakeholders also developed a list of new initiatives to explore. The SDA committee should:

- compile guidelines and standards for digitization and related best practices;
- develop options and cost models for shared repository services;
- partner with organizations to apply for grants outside of SDA; and,
- facilitate information sharing about local digitization initiatives.

## Community Meeting

The MLB typically hosts a professional development and networking opportunity for the Saskatchewan multitype community. For many years the MLB held a community meeting in conjunction with the MDLP Annual General Meeting (AGM). The MLB decided to forgo its community meeting in 2017 to show their support for the MDLP by allowing partners additional time to discuss the current and future state of the program.

Board members recognized that the program was at a critical junction following the 2017 provincial budget reduction of public library funding. Although the budget reduction was later rescinded, the additional time was needed to discuss the need for an external program

review and determine the scope of the review.

The community meeting is a vital multitype event and it will return in 2018-19.

## Multitype Database Licensing Program

The MDLP is the longest-running program of the Board. The MDLP is a province-wide program in which libraries pool funds to purchase access to electronic information resources (see Appendix A for a list of partners). Libraries participating in this bulk purchasing and cost sharing program are able to access online resources they could not otherwise afford to subscribe to on their own.

The MDLP supports equitable access to online library resources for Saskatchewan residents, including those who live in small urban, rural and remote areas. Through the MDLP, libraries are helping to close the digital divide, and are working to ensure that all citizens have access to reputable information, a necessity for education, work and leisure in a global, knowledge-based economy.

A longtime partner of the program, Saskatoon Public Library, chose to end their MDLP membership as of June 30, 2017. For the first time, the MDLP was no longer available to all public library patrons across the province. The Ministry of Government Relations also indicated that they would leave the program as of June 30, 2017.

## MDLP Collection Highlights

The MDLP Core Collection was unchanged and the financial contribution rates also remained unchanged in 2017-18. The overall cost of the program decreased because the cost of each database was renegotiated when Saskatoon Public Library and the Ministry of Government Relations indicated that they would leave the program.

\$537,315.25 was the total cost of the MDLP Core Collection and the total MDLP Core Revenue from partner libraries was \$513,084 for 2017-18. \$24,231.25 was covered by a program contingency fund.

In 2017, the MDLP Core Collection provided full-text access to:

- 4,865 unique journal/magazine titles from subscription databases;
- 7,000 newspaper titles through PressReader;
- 69,014 unique open access journal/magazine titles; and,
- 416,882 unique open access book titles.

## MDLP Usage Highlights

- Magazine, journal, newspaper, eBook and reference database sessions<sup>1</sup> in 2017 decreased 13 per cent from the previous year. The session cost per use is .86 cents.
- Magazine, journal, eBook and reference database searches<sup>2</sup> in 2017 decreased 11 per cent from the previous year. The search cost per use is .64 cents<sup>3</sup>.
- Full-text magazine/journal articles, documents and media retrieved<sup>4</sup> in 2017 increased 12.9 per cent from the previous year. The full-text cost per use is .60 cents<sup>5</sup>.
- 302,898 newspaper issues from PressReader were read<sup>6</sup> in 2017, a 16.5 per cent increase from 2016. The cost per issue read is .34 cents.

## MDLP Review

Over the past few years, tension between partners arose due to differing opinions about the relevance of the program collection. In 2016-17, a committee was formed to determine if a formal evaluation of the program was needed. Partners agreed to hire a consultant to review the program at the AGM in May 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> *Session* means the number of times a user entered, connected or logged on to one of the databases/interfaces to begin searching.

<sup>2</sup> *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 as one search.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes both data and cost from *PressReader*, *ProQuest 360* and *Repère* databases.

<sup>4</sup> *Full-text article retrieval* means a full-text article or document/media is viewed, downloaded or otherwise supplied to the user.

<sup>5</sup> Excludes both data and cost from *PressReader*, *ProQuest 360*, *Canadian Research Index* and *Repère* databases.

<sup>6</sup> *Issues read* means the number of publications consumed from both the *PressReader* app and the website. In order to have an issue recorded as read, the issue needs to be fully downloaded.



A Steering Committee was established in May to hire a consultant and to oversee the review. The MDLP Review Steering Committee (the Committee) consists of 10 members that represent the four library sectors, one member representing an administrative organization to oversee the Request for Proposal process, and one member representing the Ministry of Education.

The Committee selected Praxis Consulting in August 2017 to review the program. Their review methodology included a participatory approach to the evaluation by involving the Committee. The Committee helped to develop a logic model and provided feedback on key evaluation questions.

Praxis Consulting collected and reviewed several data sources to determine their report findings. The data examined included:

- a review of program records and legislation;
- an online partner survey and focus group sessions;
- interviews with key stakeholders, such as the MLB Chair, Saskatoon Public Library CEO, Provincial Library and Literacy Office (PLLO) staff that administer the program, and the Provincial Librarian; and,
- an environmental scan of other provincial, national and international consortiums.

The Committee received a final written report in March 2018 that included key findings and several

recommendations regarding the governance structure, program communication and assessment, collection management and the development of a transparent funding formula.

The Committee will present the report findings and recommendations to program partners at the April 2018 MDLP AGM.

## Webinar Series

The MDLP webinar series launched in 2015 and it continued in 2017-18 with new sessions. PLLO staff and database vendor trainers presented five webinars. The webinars showcased are:

- *Gale PowerSearch*
- *EBSCO eBooks*
- *AutoMate*
- *General Reference Center Gold*
- *Student Edition*

Over 150 participants registered for these webinars and the archived recordings received more than 1,400 page views. Webinar recordings may be viewed on the:

- Library Toolshed repository: <https://librarytoolshed.ca>; and,
- MLB website: <http://sils.sk.ca/campusguides.com/MDLP/core>.

# For More Information

Information on the MLB is available at <http://sils.sk.ca/campusguides.com>.

Contact the Board's secretariat:  
Provincial Library and Literacy Office  
409A Park Street  
REGINA SK S4N 5B2

Tel: 306-787-2976  
Fax: 306-787-2029

# Appendix A: MDLP Partners (Financial Contributors)

## Post-Secondary Education Libraries

- Briercrest Family of Schools, Archibald Library
- Gabriel Dumont Institute Library
- RCMP Learning Resource Centre
- Saskatchewan Polytechnic Library
- St. Peter's Abbey and College Library
- University of Regina, Dr. John Archer Library
- University of Saskatchewan, University Library

## Provincial Library and Literacy Office

### Public Libraries

- Chinook Regional Library
- Lakeland Library Region
- Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System
- Palliser Regional Library
- Parkland Regional Library
- Regina Public Library
- Saskatoon Public Library
- Southeast Regional Library
- Wapiti Regional Library
- Wheatland Regional Library

### School Libraries

- All Kindergarten to Grade 12 school divisions through the Ministry of Education and First Nation schools in Saskatchewan

## Special Libraries

- Law Society of Saskatchewan Library
- Ministry of Health, Policy and Planning
- Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
- Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, Health Sciences Library
- Resource Centre for Sport, Culture and Recreation
- Saskatchewan Legislative Library
- Saskatchewan Research Council, Information Services
- Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, Stewart Resources Centre
- Saskatoon Health Region
- SaskCentral

