

Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board

Annual Report for 2020-21

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Letters of Transmittal



*The Honourable
Dustin Duncan
Minister of Education*

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dustin Duncan'.

Dustin Duncan
Minister of Education



*James Hope Howard
Chair, Multitype Library
Board*

The Honourable Dustin Duncan
Minister, Education

Dear Minister:

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. H. Howard'.

James Hope Howard
Chair, Multitype Library Board

Board Overview

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

2020-21 Board Members

Information Providers

Tara Million, Saskatoon; representing Indigenous library services (starting May 20, 2020).

Marilyn Belhumeur, Librarian, Gabriel Dumont Institute Library, Regina; representing Indigenous library services (until May 20, 2020).

Jeremy Mohr, Manager, Reference and Outreach Services, Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, Regina; representing the archive community (starting May 20, 2020).

Tim Hutchinson, Head, University Archives & Special Collections, University of Saskatchewan Library, Saskatoon; representing the archive community (until May 20, 2020).

Dale Storie, Associate University Librarian, Content Management and Discovery, University of Regina Library, Regina; serving in the position of a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan Library Association.

Post-Secondary Education Library Sector

Abigail Durkee, Library Director, Briercrest College and Seminary, Caronport; serving in the position of library director from a post-secondary library or post-secondary library system (starting May 20, 2020).

Rian Misfeldt, Director, Library & Testing Services, Saskatchewan Polytechnic Library, Regina; serving in the position of library director from a post-secondary library or post-secondary library system (until May 20, 2020).

Ann Liang, Assistant Librarian, Edwards School of Business, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon; serving in the position of one other person employed by a post-secondary library in any capacity (starting May 20, 2020).

William Sgrazzutti, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, University of Regina Library, Regina; serving in the position of one other person employed by a post-secondary library in any capacity (until May 20, 2020).

Public Library Sector

James Hope Howard, Library Director, Pâhkisimón Nuyehâh Library System, La Ronge; serving in the position of a library director from a public library or public library system. James Hope Howard was appointed Board Chair in January 2018.

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

Kathryn Bell, Teacher-Librarian, Weyburn Comprehensive School, Weyburn; serving in the position of a library director from a school library or school library system (starting May 20, 2020).

Charlotte Raine, Curriculum Coordinator, Good Spirit School Division, Langenburg; serving in the position of a library director from a school library or school library system (until May 20, 2020).

Giselle Wilson, School Board Trustee, Prairie South School Division, Coronach; serving in the position of a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association.

Special Library Sector

Susan Baer, Manager, Library Services & Knowledge Management, Saskatchewan Health Authority, Regina; serving in the position of a library director from a special library or special library system.

(Vacant) serving in the position of one other person employed by a special library in any capacity.

Ministry of Education, Provincial Library and Literacy Office

Alison Hopkins, Provincial Librarian/Executive Director, Regina.

Board Secretariat

Teresa Wright Eastley, Multitype Library Services Coordinator, Regina.

Multitype Library Board Overview

Mandate and Role

The Multitype Library Board (the board) was established by *The Libraries Co-operation Act, 1996*. Its mandate is to advise and make recommendations to the Minister of Education on the development of the multitype library system and to facilitate the cooperative 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 cooperate to enhance their capacity and services.

The Libraries Co-operation Act mandates the Provincial Library and Literacy Office (PLLO), Ministry of Education, to act as secretariat to the board and to support the multitype library system through such activities as research, planning, program support and the establishment of policies and procedures.

In a multitype library system, the jurisdictional boundaries and separate administrative structures of libraries and information providers remain intact, while cooperative 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, Prekindergarten to Grade 12 (PreK-12) schools, post-secondary and special library sectors;
- the PLLO, which has traditionally played a coordination role in the Saskatchewan library community; and,
- other information providers, such as archives, museums and providers of Indigenous library services.

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 ministry. Dialogue facilitated by the board can help the partners to understand the nature of their differences as well as their similarities to cooperate 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 is 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.

Public Libraries

The role and mandate of public libraries is 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.

PreK-12 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 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.

Progress in 2020-21

Multitype Library Board Projects

4 Seasons of Reconciliation Professional Development

The board sponsored multitype library sector access to the professional development module of the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation, an online resource that responds to and honours the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*. 4 Seasons of Reconciliation is a self-paced multimedia course that provides a basic, foundational knowledge on truth and reconciliation for Indigenous and non-Indigenous learners. The 2.5-hour course is comprised of 10 modules that can be completed at the learner's own pace and there is a video library available for ongoing learning opportunities.

The board offered this professional development opportunity to Saskatchewan library and archive staff, as well as Saskatchewan public library trustees. There was no charge for approved learners as this cost was covered by PLLO.

Community Meeting

The board periodically hosts a meeting of members of the Saskatchewan library and information provider sector communities. These meetings provide an opportunity to inform the multitype community of the work of the Board, provide information on topics relevant to Saskatchewan libraries and share best practices. During 2020-21, members of the board planned and organized a meeting, to be held virtually in April 2021, to highlight equity, diversity and inclusion in libraries and information institutions. With the theme of "Reaching Out to Diverse Populations: The Diverse Stories of Saskatchewan," this meeting has the goal of providing better understanding of the challenges and experiences of people coming into our library spaces.

Indigenous Subject Headings Project

Under the leadership of the Multitype Library Board, work has begun on a collaborative project to develop modernized subject headings related to Indigenous peoples for use in cataloguing in Saskatchewan libraries. The goal of the project is to develop a vocabulary that can replace the outdated subject headings that are in common use in many library catalogues with subject headings that are more inclusive and culturally appropriate within a Saskatchewan context. A working group met virtually throughout 2020-21 to examine this issue. Work has included creating a project charter, discussion of goals, identification of resources and a jurisdictional scan of similar Canadian projects.

Library Toolshed

The Library Toolshed (librarytoolshed.ca) is a joint initiative between Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan libraries. It provides a space for library staff to share, download and comment on library training, programming and promotion resources. All of the materials in the repository are shared using a Creative Commons license which allows library staff to repurpose any of the content. Over 90 new resources were added in 2020-21. Some new resources are focused on inclusion, virtual library programming and library pandemic response, including library closure and reopening.

Saskatchewan Electronic Resources Partnership

The Saskatchewan Electronic Resources Partnership (SERP) is the longest running program of the board. It is a provincewide program in which participating libraries pool funds to purchase access to electronic information resources. Libraries participating in this group-purchasing and cost-sharing program are able to access online resources they could not otherwise afford to subscribe to on their own. SERP was renamed in November 2019 and used to be called the Multitype Database Licensing Program. The SERP supports equitable access to electronic library resources for Saskatchewan residents, including those who live in small urban, rural and remote areas. Through the SERP, libraries are working to ensure that all citizens have access to reputable information, which is a necessity for education, work and leisure in a global, knowledge-based economy.

Participants of the program include 10 public library systems, all PreK-12 schools, most post-secondary institutions and multiple special libraries. PLLO supports the administration and coordination of the program.

SERP Planning and Development Committee

The Planning and Development Committee (the committee) was implemented to: create standards for participation; select and evaluate new products; and coordinate sector participation and funding. The committee manages the program on behalf of partners in order to ensure proper governance, accountability, relevance and financial sustainability in the long term. It is composed of two representatives from each of the three main library sectors and from the Ministry of Education. During 2020-21, the committee reviewed two of the databases in the collection and examined alternative partner contribution models.

SERP Collection Highlights

The SERP includes the Core Collection, composed of databases that can be accessed by all partners, as well as the Supplemental Collection, which includes databases to which only a subsection of partners subscribes. This year, Gale in Context: Middle School was added to the Core Collection.

SERP Usage Highlights

The pandemic affected SERP member electronic resource usage in 2020, particularly in April, May and June. The public library sector usage increased for several products while PreK-12 school usage noticeably declined.

The pandemic had a significant effect on PressReader and Britannica usage in 2020. The number of Britannica searches and documents/media viewed dropped 24 per cent due to decreased use in the school and post-secondary sectors. PressReader issues read decreased in the post-secondary and special library sectors, but the number of articles read increased significantly (77 per cent). This increase can be attributed to all sectors, but the largest increase was in the public library and school sectors.

Saskatchewan Digital Alliance

The Saskatchewan Digital Alliance (SDA) is a cross-sector, cooperative body that exists to promote and facilitate the development of digital collections in Saskatchewan. The SDA was established by the Multitype Library Board to develop a base of knowledge and support that enables the public to locate and utilize Saskatchewan knowledge and information through cooperative Saskatchewan digitization initiatives.

Webinar Series

The annual series of webinars, launched in 2015 to highlight the features and content of online information resources, continues to be popular. This training is offered to provide database orientation for new users, practical usage and search techniques for educators and library staff, as well as refreshers for more experienced searchers.

PLLO presented eight webinars during 2020-21. Webinars were recorded and made available to the library and teaching communities. There was a fivefold increase in interest in webinars compared to 2019-20. More than 500 participants registered for webinars that showcased:

- Canadian Major Dailies
- Explore History Portal
- Gale In Context: Elementary
- Gale In Context: Middle School
- General OneFile
- K-12 EBSCO Resources
- K-12 Resources and the STF
- PLLO Multilingual Collection

Webinar recordings may be viewed here:

- Library Toolshed repository <https://librarytoolshed.ca>; and,
- Multitype Library Board website <https://mlb.libguides.com/SERP/training>

For More Information

Information on Multitype Library Board is available at <https://mlb.libguides.com/mlb/index>.

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