

# Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board

## Annual Report for 2022-23

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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, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dustin Duncan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dustin Duncan  
Minister of Education



*Dale Storie  
Chair, Multitype Library  
Board*

The Honourable Dustin Duncan  
Minister of 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, 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dale Storie', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dale Storie  
Chair, Multitype Library Board

# Board Overview

The Minister of Education appoints members of the Multitype Library Board as outlined in *The Libraries Co-operation Act, 1996*.

## 2022-23 Board Members

### *Information Providers*

**Tara Million**, Saskatoon; representing Indigenous library services (until February 1, 2023).

**Jeremy Mohr**, Manager, Reference and Outreach Services, Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, Regina; representing the archive community.

**Dale Storie**, Associate Dean (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. Dale Storie was appointed Board Chair in March 2022.

### *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.

**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.

### *Public Library Sector*

**James Hope Howard**, Library Director, Pahkisimon Nuyeʔáh 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 (until February 1, 2023).

### *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.

**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 (until February 1, 2023).

**Lois Smandych**, School Board Trustee, Good Spirit School Division, Yorkton; serving in the position of a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (beginning February 1, 2023).

### *Special Library Sector*

**Alan Kilpatrick**, Co-Director, Law Society of Saskatchewan, Legal Resources, 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 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 enhance capacity and services.

*The Libraries Co-operation Act, 1996* mandates the Provincial Library and Literacy Office (PLLO) and the 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.

### *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 2022-23

## 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, three-hour, multi-media course that provides introductory, foundational knowledge on truth and reconciliation. This is intended for Indigenous and non-Indigenous learners.

The Board purchased 300 seats with a two-year license that ran from December 22, 2020, to December 21, 2022. The course was offered to Saskatchewan library, trustee and archive staff.

Course participants represented the diverse multitype system.

### 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 and share best practices on topics relevant to Saskatchewan libraries. The 2022 Community Meeting was held virtually on October 27, 2022, with the theme “Mis-information literacy: strengthening critical thinking in the age of instant news.” Speakers presented information highlighting information literacy, digital literacy and understanding unconscious bias.

### Indigenous Subject Headings Project

With leadership from the Board, work continued on the collaborative project to develop modernized subject headings related to Indigenous Peoples that are more inclusive and culturally appropriate within a Saskatchewan context. The goal of this project is to work with Indigenous people and groups in Saskatchewan to determine what terms are preferred and then translate them into subject headings that can be used by all libraries in Saskatchewan, including public, post-secondary, school and special libraries.

The opening ceremony for the engagement phase of the project was held on October 12, 2022, at māmawêyatitân centre in Regina. The event began with a traditional pipe ceremony led by a kēhtê-ayak and a Michif prayer provided by a Métis Knowledge Keeper. Approximately 30 people came to learn more about the project and open the engagement phase of the project in a good way.

Indigenous library sector partners, as part of an outreach working group, helped guide engagements with Indigenous communities. Two rounds of engagements were facilitated to gather feedback and then evaluate preliminary subject headings with Indigenous Peoples. Both virtual and in-person formats were used.

A technical working group has met to examine how feedback from community engagements will be used to update subject headings and support the implementation of changes in the diverse libraries throughout the province. The PLLO provided facilitation and secretariat support for these groups, as well as coordinated the engagements.

## Library Toolshed

The Library Toolshed ([librarytoolshed.ca](http://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.

## 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 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.

## Saskatchewan Electronic Resources Partnership

The Saskatchewan Electronic Resources Partnership (SERP) is celebrating 25 years of cooperation. The program began in 1998 and it continues to be the flagship, and longest running, program of the Board. It reflects the Board's cooperative and collaborative nature. The success of the SERP program is due in large part to the more than 70 volunteers who have served on committees and subcommittees. These volunteers have helped the program evolve to meet the challenge of a swiftly changing digital world.

The SERP is a province-wide program in which participating libraries pool funds to purchase access to electronic information resources. Libraries participating in this cost-sharing program can access online resources they could not otherwise afford to subscribe to on their own. The SERP supports equitable access to electronic library resources for Saskatchewan residents, including those who live in urban, rural and remote areas. Through the SERP, libraries 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 nine public library systems, all PreK-12 schools, most post-secondary institutions and multiple special libraries. PLLO supports the administration and coordination of the program.

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. Today, 80 per cent of Saskatchewan people can access the high-quality, credible and authoritative information sources in the SERP collections. Library patrons and students have searched for information in the SERP collection over 27.7 million times and in the past five years people have read over 39.6 million newspaper and magazine articles in PressReader.

The SERP program is looking forward to renewing and expanding their collections to meet the changing needs of families and communities throughout Saskatchewan.

## 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 five webinars during 2022-23. Webinars were recorded and made available to the library and teaching communities. Webinars showcased:

- Auto Repair Source;
- Accessibility features in Gale databases;
- Digital resources available for Saskatchewan teachers (Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, Emma Stewart Resources Centre Library and PLLO);
- Literature Resource Center; and,
- Gale Health databases.

Webinar recordings may be viewed here:

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

Two short on-demand videos are also available on the Multitype Library Board website.



# For More Information

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

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