Annual Report
2023-24

SASKATCHEWAN MULTITYPE LIBRARY BOARD

Saskatchewan

Contents

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Letters of Transmittal

*The Honourable
Jeremy Cockrill
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, 2024.

Jeremy Cockrill
Minister of Education

*Dale Storie
Chair, Multitype Library
Board*

The Honourable Jeremy Cockrill
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, 2024.

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*.

2023-24 Board Members

Information Providers

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

Dale Storie, Associate Dean (Research), Dr. John Archer Library and Archives, University of Regina, 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.

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.

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.

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 2023-24

Multitype Library Board Projects

Indigenous Subject Headings Project

With leadership from the Board, work continued on the collaborative project to develop and release 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. This project is a response to the Canadian Federation of Library Association-Fédération Canadienne des associations de bibliothèques Call to Action 5 that "libraries should strive to decolonize access and classification."

During the prior year, Elders, kèhtê-ayk, Old Ones and many other members of Saskatchewan Indigenous communities shared their thoughts and experiences in two rounds of engagement sessions. A technical working group of Saskatchewan cataloguing staff from a range of libraries continued to work collaboratively in 2023-24 to update subject headings based on the feedback from community engagements.

A poster session titled "Learning for Indigenous Voices: Designing an Indigenous Subject Headings Project" was presented at the Saskatchewan Libraries conference, May 5, 2023 in Saskatoon. This provided an opportunity to share background information and a project update with the Saskatchewan library sector.

The closing ceremony for the engagement phase of the project was held on June 26, 2023 at Station 20 West in Saskatoon to acknowledge the contributions of Indigenous Peoples across the province to the project. A traditional pipe ceremony marked the beginning of the next phase of the project, to acknowledge the project's shift in focus towards implementation in libraries.

The work of the project was released on October 16, 2023 on the Board's website. Subject headings are provided in spreadsheet form, along with supporting resources for implementation for the many libraries in the province. Resources include an implementation guide to provide individual libraries with guidance on how to get started in their own catalogues, as well as a recorded webinar presented to the library sector on December 6, 2023.

This is an ongoing project and subject headings continue to be maintained. The PLLO provides secretariat support and coordination.

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) began in 1998 and it continues to be the flagship, and longest running, program of the Board. Participants of the program include nine public library systems, all PreK-12 schools, most post-secondary institutions and multiple special libraries. The libraries pool funds to purchase access to electronic information resources and PLLO supports the administration and coordination of the program.

The SERP supports equitable access to electronic library resources for Saskatchewan residents, including those who live in urban, rural and remote areas. Through this cost-sharing program, 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

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 40 million newspaper and magazine articles in PressReader. The Board recommended that funding be provided to license an online science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) resource, *Science Online* for three years (August 2023 – July 2026). This resource is available to all partners.

PLLO promotes the SERP program and provides in-person and remote training opportunities to participating libraries. This training is offered to provide practical usage and search techniques for educators and library staff, as well as refreshers for more experienced searchers. Program members can view five-minute videos that highlight resources in the SERP collection. Videos may be viewed at the Board website at https://mlb.libguides.com/SERP/training. Libraries may also request a program orientation and professional development sessions.

In April 2023, the SERP program adopted a new consensus decision-making process. This process is designed to strengthen relationships between libraries, lead to better decisions, and stabilize the program. The consensus process and SERP program reflect the Board's cooperative and collaborative nature.

For More Information

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

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