

Annual Report

2024-25

Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board

Letters of Transmittal



The Honourable
Everett Hindley
Minister of Education

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

I respectfully submit the Annual Report for the Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.

Everett Hindley
Minister of Education



Abigail Durkee
Chair, Multitype Library
Board

The Honourable Everett Hindley
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, 2025.

Abigail Durkee
Chair, Multitype Library Board

Board Overview

Mandate and Role

The Multitype Library Board (the Board) was established by *The Libraries Co-operation Act, 1996* (the Act). 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 Act 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.

Prekindergarten to Grade 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.

2024-25 Board Members

Information Providers

Jeremy Mohr, Director, Archival 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 (until March 3, 2025)

Amy Rankin, Manager, Resource Centre at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Depot Division, Regina; serving in the position of a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan Library Association (beginning March 3, 2025).

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. Abigail Durkee was appointed Board Chair in November 2023.

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 Nuyeqáh Library System, La Ronge; serving in the position of a library director from a public library or public library system (until March 3, 2025).

Kimberley Hintz, Executive Director, Branch Libraries, Regina Public Library, Regina; as a person who is employed by a public library system (beginning March 3, 2025).

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.

Progress in 2024-25

Multitype Library Board Projects

The PLLO supports the administration and coordination of each Board project.

Saskatchewan Indigenous Subject Headings (SKISH) Project

With leadership from the Board, work continued on the province-wide 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 the SKISH project is to work with Indigenous people and groups in Saskatchewan to determine what terms are preferred and then develop subject headings that can be used by all libraries in Saskatchewan, including public, post-secondary, school and special libraries. This project is in 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.”

The SKISH project includes a Technical Advisory Group which consists primarily of cataloguing experts. Throughout 2024-25, Technical Advisory Group focused on:

- interpreting and organizing data gathered during engagement sessions in 2022-23.
- promoting the work of the SKISH project by delivering a panel presentation at the 2024 Saskatchewan Libraries Conference.
- their commitment to continuing engagement with the Indigenous community by holding two community review sessions in March 2025. There was an in-person community meeting in Regina on March 4, 2025 and an online meeting on March 25, 2025.

Thanks are extended to the Technical Advisory Group for their hard work on this project, as well as to community members for sharing their knowledge and experience.

The work of this ongoing project is available 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, and a brief video, *Saskatchewan Indigenous Subject Headings Learning From Indigenous Voices*, which provides an overview of the project.

Saskatchewan Electronic Resources Partnership

The Saskatchewan Electronic Resources Partnership (SERP) began in 1998, and it continues to be the longest running program of the Board. 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

Participants of the program include the PLLO, eight public library systems, all PreK-12 schools, eight post-secondary institutions and seven special libraries. These libraries pool funds to purchase access to 20 research databases and online newspapers.

The 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. Program members can view 5-minute videos that highlight resources in the SERP collection. Videos may be viewed at the Board website at <https://mlb.libguides.com/SERP/training>.

Science Online

With support from the Multitype Library Board, *Science Online* was licensed for all partners in the SERP program until July 31, 2026. *Science Online* is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) resource which facilitates research and discovery. Database searchers will find content in core science areas from reference e-books in addition to videos, timelines and experiments.

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.

For More Information

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

Contact the Board's secretariat:

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