

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Systems Proposal

The respective systems staffs at Regina and Saskatoon public libraries continue to work on the possibility of a jointly issued RFP (Request for Proposals) for an ILS (Integrated Library System). I've reported on this at an earlier meeting but there have been a few developments in recent weeks.

RPL was tentatively scheduled to move to a significantly upgraded version of its current ILS in 2008. The company that produces RPL's ILS, SirsiDynix, has recently announced that it has discontinued development of the product that RPL currently has and no upgrade will be possible. All libraries currently on the product are being encouraged to look at the new "Rome" system – a hybrid system that blends the major software packages of Sirsi and Dynix from before the corporate merger. While this development is somewhat inconvenient, it is not a serious problem and, in fact, reinforces the decision to pursue a joint RFP process with Saskatoon.

Also, at a recent meeting of the province's public library Directors and Board Chairs, Saskatoon and Regina were able to report to the rural systems that the joint process was, so far, looking very positive. While it is too early to tell, it is possible that some of the regional systems will be interested in joining the Saskatoon/Regina project if it proceeds.

Staff Conference

The 2007 RPL Staff Conference is scheduled to take place on Monday, October 22nd. Once again, Board members are welcome to attend the entire conference but will be specifically invited to join the staff for lunch. As one of the Library's primary staff training and development events in the year, it is important to ensure that as many staff as possible attend and, to that end, in past years the Library has been closed for the Staff Conference. I ask that the Board approve the closure of the Library on October 22nd to facilitate full participation of the staff.

Programs & Services Review

Jeanne Goodrich, consultant for the Programs & Services Review, was in Regina recently to deliver a staff development presentation that gave staff and a few invited guests a peek at the future. Using a series of comparisons to other public libraries on the continent, Ms Goodrich provided attendees with a glimpse of what the end of the Programs & Services Review can look like.