

**SUBJECT:** Library 2020 Update

***Library 2020 Vision:***

*British Columbia libraries: working together to provide seamless support to British Columbians at every stage of life, learning and career*

On October 22, 2007, over 150 leaders from public, post-secondary, school, health, legal and special libraries, and affiliated organizations participated in the BC Library 2020 Symposium to discuss and envision a future for BC libraries. This historic event engaged participants as they discussed opportunities for integrating services and structures that meet user needs, and reflected on societal trends, case studies, and technological advances that create possibilities for increased collaboration for the provision of library services.

In an effort to move forward the many ideas that were shared at the symposium, a representative Interim Steering Committee is developing a strategy.

The success of BC Library 2020 depends on the continued support and energy generated from the stakeholders across all sectors represented at the symposium. With this mind, one of the first tasks of the committee was to draft a vision document for review and feedback from community stakeholders in the spring. Communication, engagement, and consultation with its library constituents are key to the ongoing success of this initiative. To view the draft vision document, go to:

<http://library2020.bclibrary.ca/next-steps>. If you have feedback on the draft vision, please contact a member of the Interim Steering Committee, whose contact information is listed at this same location.

The current work of the committee is focused on establishing a stakeholder consultation process to finalize the vision and collaborative initiatives, develop a business case, and identify and recommend an appropriate governance model.

The Committee has recently hired a contractor, Marleen Morris & Associates, to consult with stakeholders and formulate a business case, which will articulate the opportunities, benefits and requirements of a successful Library 2020 initiative. It is anticipated that this case will also enable the committee to determine an initial, and then a sustainable, level of funding to allow joint projects between various library types to move forward over time in British Columbia. It's anticipated that the contractor will complete deliverables in spring 2009.

A Governance Sub-Committee has been formed to research governance models in an effort to identify one that will work across sectors and ensure appropriate representation and participation of stakeholder groups. It is anticipated that the governance model will identify membership criteria, accountability, decision making principles, etc. It remains a priority that the Library 2020 model appeals to the grassroots efforts that have been so successful through the years across BC and which form the backbone of the initiative.

A major milestone for collaboration was achieved in August with the launch of the Multi-Sector Bundle, which provides access to a suite of databases for all citizens of British Columbia. This provincially supported initiative was negotiated by ERAC for school libraries, PLSB for public libraries and BC ELN for post-secondary libraries.

The Interim Steering Committee will continue meeting through the fall with a goal of identifying governance models and a new Steering Committee structure, and using the business case to garner widespread support and excitement for increased collaboration.

If you have questions on the Library 2020 initiative, please contact a member of the Interim Steering Committee, whose contact information is listed at: <http://library2020.bclibrary.ca/next-steps>.