

BCLTA

From: BCLTA [admin@bclta.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 03, 2008 10:50 AM
To: BCLTA-Liaisons (bclta-liaisons@interchange.ubc.ca); BCLTA - Library Board Chairs (lib-bd-chairs@interchange.ubc.ca)
Subject: BCLTA Endorses Multi-sector Database Licensing Initiative

To all BCLTA Members:

The BCLTA Board wishes to commend the Public Library Services Branch for its important work in securing provincial funding for a two-year Multi-sector Database Licensing Initiative demonstration project. As announced last week, this project will leverage existing sectoral spending for EBSCO and World Book products to bridge gaps in access and provide a comprehensive suite of databases for school, post-secondary and public library users. British Columbians will be able to access these databases – ranging from online encyclopedias, to specialized health, business and literary databases – from their schools, their public libraries, and even from their homes! The initiative is intended to be self-sustaining in the long term, with participating public libraries (and we hope this will be all public libraries in the province) saving 40% to 60% of the costs that licensing on their own would entail. Buy-in from all sectors will be crucial to success, and we strongly encourage BCLTA members to make sure their libraries are on board, and to talk to their colleagues on local school boards about joining the initiative as well.

As a key partner in the Library 2020 initiative – which seeks to provide seamless library support to British Columbians at every stage of life, learning and career – BCLTA supports this initiative as an excellent example of libraries working together for the benefit of all BC citizens. This is a perfect opportunity to show government the value of investing in collaborative initiatives and to foster stronger relationships, cooperation, and economies of scale among the library sectors.

Questions about the Multi-sector Database Licensing Initiative can be directed to Jacqueline van Dyk at the Public Library Services Branch.

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