

## **Executive Director's Column**

By Adam Wright, Executive Director, North Texas Library Partners  
August 2009

Happy August!

This month our theme is Green Libraries. Beth Avery, Head of Research and Instructional Services, University of North Texas Libraries, wrote an article explaining how a library can go green without major reconstruction. Carolyn Davidson Brewer, NTLN Assistant Director, was interviewed about simple ideas and trends for going green in the library.

When thinking about this month's theme, I began to ponder how this will affect libraries. After all, books are made of paper. Does this mean that libraries will need to eliminate copies of books to be truly green? I really do not have an answer to the question. However, I can visualize a public library without paper copies of books.

New book purchases will no longer be made in print format. Instead, libraries will purchase new items in the ebook format and make these available to patrons. In the past, people have not migrated to ebooks because it was more convenient to do it the "old-fashioned" way. As you know, ebooks have become more popular in recent months due to the emergence of the Amazon Kindle. It is very easy to download books to the Kindle and the cost involved is reasonable compared to the printed book. I am sure it won't be long before patrons begin to ask librarians whether a library book is available in digital format.

Books will still be in the library, but will serve in an archival role versus a recreational/educational one. In my opinion, libraries will serve as archives of knowledge not yet digitized. Libraries will be the repositories of the unique knowledge that can only be found in a bound volume. Special collections will be the norm versus the exception.

Libraries will utilize the sudden availability of space to fit their new role as being community gathering place. For children, the increased space means more room to move during story times and other youth-oriented activities. For adults, it will be a place to network and meet others in the community.

Libraries will continue to be the place where the playing field is leveled for underserved sectors of our communities. Some of the new space will be used to house more computer workstations where people who do not have access to the Internet will flock to find information. The ability of libraries to bridge the digital divide will become an even more important role.

The investments made in tracking the library collection will be focused in other areas of the library. Integrated Library Systems will no longer be mission critical

to the library as archival collections can be tracked with much lesser packages. Maintenance costs of this software will go down. RFID investments will no longer have to be budgeted. All these funds can be diverted to other newer service offerings of the library and hopefully benefit staff with more hours.

Of course, there are many other things a library can do to be green than eliminate paper books. (Read Beth's article). However, I found this to be an interesting exercise to go through. What would the library of the future be without books? This is a question you should ask yourself.

Now for some things going on around the System...

### **August Workshops**

Register for these workshops at <http://www.ntrls.org/ce/>.

- Long Range Planning for Your Library, 8/7/2009, Decatur Public Library
- 2009 Children and Youth Conference for North Texas Libraries (CYC 2009), 8/13/2009, Lockheed Martin Recreation Area
- Long Range Planning for Your Library, 8/18/2009, Benbrook Public Library

### **Consulting**

Collection Analysis – Azle Public Library  
Assisted Gordon Public Library with resources for 501(c)3

### **Website and Internet Support for NTRLS Programs and Services**

- Regular updates to NTRLS.org website.
- Website and other technology support for CYC, Technet, LP3 and Supporters' conferences.
- Administration for NTRLS-supported listservs.
- Implemented new website features for Librarians' Marketplace.
- Completed web application to receive applications for volunteer program.
- Began work on web application for a consultants' directory.
- New web pages listing links to accessibility resources and program planning resources.

### **Plinkit**

- Support for existing Plinkit projects at 6 libraries.

**General**

- Technical and administrative support for North Texas Library Consortium project.
- Logistical support for North Texas Library Consortium training event.
- Administrative support for North Texas 23 project.
- Regular updates to Overdrive barcodes for participating libraries.
- Responded to technology questions from Lake Cities and Alvarado.

**Libraries Served by the Technology Consultant**

<i>City</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Project</i>
			Mineral Wells	6	NTLC
Alvarado	7	NTLC, other	Ponder	3	NTLC
Aubrey	3	NTLC	Roanoke	3	NTLC
Bridgeport	2	NTLC	Saginaw	4	Overdrive, NTLC
Burkburnett	1	Plinkit	Sanger	3	NTLC
Burleson	7	Overdrive	Southlake		NTLC
Crowley	5	NTLC	Springtown	6	Plinkit
Decatur	2	NTLC	The Colony	3	Plinkit, Overdrive
Jacksboro		Plinkit	Wichita Falls	1	Overdrive
Kennedale	5	NTLC			
Keller	4	Overdrive			
Krum	3	Plinkit, NTLC			
Lake Cities	3	Plinkit, NTLC, other			

**Texas Broadband Taskforce**

I was honored to serve as the Texas Library Association's representative on the Texas Broadband Taskforce. We met in mid-July to discuss the billions of dollars in stimulus funds now available for broadband and in support of broadband. Nothing was decided at the meeting as it was more of information gathering exercise. If you are interested in applying for the funding, my recommendation is to talk to others in your community interested in getting the funds. Points are awarded to applications if they partner with "anchor institutions" including libraries. For more information on this topic, I recommend the ALA website located at

<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/knowstimulus/index.cfm>.

### **TSLAC News**

I am happy to report that the Texas State Library and Archives Commission approved the funding of two grant applications for NTLP at their August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. NTLP received a grant in the amount of \$75,000 for its Libraries for Literacy program. The grant funds will fund a Libraries for Literacy Coordinator position, who will focus on building online tools for literacy programs. These tools will be made available through the Libraries for Literacy website, <http://www.libraries4literacy.org>. NTLP also received a second year grant in the amount of \$75,000 to continue our work in assisting libraries reaching out to their sectors with special needs. These grant programs will start in September 2009. Our System Operation Grant and TANG Grants were also approved at this meeting as well as guidelines for the new negotiated System grant.

### **Accessibility Project**

NTLP will work with nine library partners to hold Accessibility pilot projects in August. These pilot projects will feature accessibility tools for patrons with special needs. The libraries will keep track of who uses the tools and survey them for information on what else the library can do to eliminate barriers to serving those with special needs. NTLP will also work with Easter Seals to provide a two-hour demonstration on an accessibility computer workstation in all of the partner libraries. Surveys will be given out at these demonstrations as well.

### **Children and Youth Conference for Librarians 2009**

The third annual Children and Youth Conference will be held on August 13, 2009 at the Lockheed Recreation Center in Fort Worth. This event was the first regional conference hosted by NTLP and will feature continuing education events on assisting children and youth. Jesse Ephraim, director the Roanoke Public Library, will be giving the keynote, "Props Get Their Attention ...No Matter What Their Age." You can register for the conference at <http://www.ntrls.org/ce/>.