

## **Executive Director's Column**

By Adam Wright, Executive Director, NTRLs.

December 2007

Welcome to the first installment of my monthly column. In this column, I will update you on what is happening at the System office and make an attempt to tie into our monthly website theme.

This month our theme is leadership. We have a fantastic article written by Carolyn Davidson, Assistant Director at NTRLs, about leadership in the libraryland. Gleniece Robinson, Fort Worth Public Library's Director, is heavily quoted in the article and she has wonderful insight on the subject. Nell Callison interviewed Alexis Sarkisian about leadership for our Librarian Live! Episode, which is very informative and entertaining.

Leadership to me is about having a vision and being able to communicate this vision to key stakeholders so they can adopt it as their own. Once this vision is embraced, a leader surrounds himself, or herself, with the right people and gives them the support they need to succeed. A leader will always do a share of the work, but be wise enough to get out of people's way when it is required. Finally, I believe a good leader has to be compassionate and understanding, and listen to the advice of others. A leader does not always have to be right!

We have been busy here at the System office. Here are just a few of the things we are working on for you.

### **Workshops**

NTRLs held the following workshops.

- September 20th and 21st – Using Music in Storytimes
- September 28th – Practical Guide to Fantasy Webinar
- October 4th – Literacy
- October 12th – Working with Performers presented by dona
- October 19th – Certified Computer Technologist Program
- November 9th – Certified Computer Technologist Program
  
- November 15th – Performers Fair and Showcase  
Staff tweaked a concept which was new last year and offered a Performers Fair and Showcase that was half as long but had as many showcase presentations as last year's all-day event.
  
- November 29th – Leadership: What You Don't Know May Limit You
- November 30th – Survey Design
- Online – All 28 LE@D courses open.
- Rooting Around With Genealogy – Online Workshop with Diane Kovacs.

### ***December Workshops***

- Disaster Planning for Your Library, 12/6/2007, Colleyville Public Library
- Certified Library Computer Technologist Program, 12/7/2007, System Office
- Dirty Rotten Numbers: How to Use Numbers to Prove Effectiveness, 12/11/2007,
- Plinkit, 12/14/2007, System Office
- Choosing the Best Reference Sources, 12/18/2007, Denton Public Library, North Branch
- Creating Access Points: Cataloging Basics and Beyond, 12/19/2007, Wichita Falls Public Library
- Rooting Around with Genealogy, 12/31/2007, online

### **Consulting**

NTRLs has made the following consultant visits. We are working towards getting some pricing on reports for NTRLs libraries and working on a plan to visit our western libraries in the Spring.

- September 19th – Mineral Wells – Space Planning Consult
- September 25th – UNT Image Audit Consult
- September 28th – Image Audit Report and consult with Irving ISD Library Coordinator
- October 1st – Space Planning with Krum Public
- October 2nd – UNT Image Audit Follow – Up
- October 8th – Denton ISD – Image Audit
- October 16th – Met with Mansfield staff and Friends
- October 17th – Presented overview of Library 2.0 to Bedford Library Advisory Board
- October 18th – Met with Lake Worth for space planning for new library
- November 5th – Weeding with Mineral Wells
- November 7th – Weeding with Nocona
- November 8th – Jacksboro and funding
- November 9th – three Image Audits for Arlington ISD
- November 13th – Mansfield Friends Consult and Training

### **Shared Integrated Library System (SILS)**

SILS is a project undertaken by NTRLs and several of its member libraries for the purpose of creating one automation system to enable NTRLs member libraries to share resources more easily. Participating libraries include:

- Alvarado Public Library
- Aubrey Public Library
- Boyce Ditto Public Library

- Bridgeport Public Library
- Crowley Public Library
- Decatur Public Library
- Frisco Public Library
- Haltom City Public Library
- Hood County Public Library
- John Ed Keeter Public Library of Saginaw
- Kennedale Public Library
- Lake Cities Library
- Mansfield Public Library
- Roanoke Public Library
- Rowlett Public Library
- Tyler Public Library

The consortium plans on releasing an official Request for Quotation to get some concrete numbers. These numbers will be used to create a cost benefit analysis tool to use in justification efforts. Our goal is to have SILS in place by January 2009.

### **Friends Round-Up**

NTRLS tried a new concept this year, arranging for members of library friends groups to meet and share with as well as learn from one another at a system-sponsored event referred to as the Library Friends Round-Up. Early registration indicated that at least 15% of the libraries in our system would be participating, but last minute cancellations resulted in participation by only about 10% of the libraries. Those who participated, however, evaluated the event highly. Most expressed interest in repeating the experience next year.

### **Transforming Texas Libraries**

I was invited to be one of 100 participants in the Transforming Texas Libraries. This event will bring together stakeholders from around the state to work together to build a future vision for Texas Libraries. It is being cosponsored by the Texas Library Association and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The project's hope is that Texas will have a unified vision that has had input from all sectors of the library community. This ties directly into our website theme!

### **Public Library Administrators of North Texas (PLANT)**

I was elected President of the Public Library Administrators of North Texas (PLANT). I will serve from January 2008 to December 2008. My tasks will include coordinating meetings and the annual PLANT conference. It was quite an honor to be elected. Thanks to everyone!!!

### **Libraries for Literacy**

NTRLS received prior approval to apply for grants to fund a System-wide literacy program. After the needs assessment is completed, NTRLS will seek out literacy instruction partners to hold classes in each of its member libraries wanting to host such

classes. Once enough partners are located, grants will be written for the various foundations sponsoring literacy endeavors. It is our hope to pay part of the salaries and benefits of two staff members to work on this project. It is also hoped that funds can be acquired to pay for caregivers to watch the children of literacy students attending the classes. Finally, if needed, we hope to get funds to pay the literacy instructors.

### **Read, Enjoy and Discuss (R.E.A.D)**

NTRLS received prior approval from TSL to write grants for funds to assist libraries to begin, and support, book discussion groups. Read, Enjoy, and Discuss (R.E.A.D) will utilize Bookswim's Clubs program to support the book clubs. Bookswim is vendor who rents out books in a similar fashion to the way Netflix rents out DVDs. Bookswim's clubs program provides books to book clubs on a monthly basis. Once the book club is done with the books, they can send the books back to Bookswim, or purchase the book from Bookswim, who will return some of the proceeds back to the library. NTRLS plans to apply for a Tocker grant to pay for the Bookswim service to help the smallest libraries. Larger libraries can still participate, but will need to utilize local funds to participate.

### **NTRLS @ Your Library**

Boyce Ditto Public Library in Mineral Wells was chosen as the first recipient of NTRLS@ Your Library. On December 12<sup>th</sup>, NTRLS staff will travel to Mineral Wells to assist staff in rearranging their library furniture and shelving to make better use of available space.

On a final note, December 20<sup>th</sup> will be my one year anniversary as being the man in charge. I was officially hired as Executive Director on February 13<sup>th</sup>, but became Interim director on the 20<sup>th</sup>. This has been a quick year and wonderful year. Here is hoping the remaining years out like this first one.

One other final note: December 20<sup>th</sup> is also my tenth wedding anniversary. The best ten years of my life without a doubt. Love you Honey!!!!