

Executive Director's Column

By Adam Wright, Executive Director, NTRLs.

December, 2008

Happy Holidays!

As I get older, it seems the Holidays come around quicker every year. In fact, everything moves quicker than it did in my younger years. It feels as if time is accelerating. Because of this, I am taking less for granted.

For example, my staff here at NTRLs. I cannot thank them enough for what they do for me on a daily basis. Each one is very passionate about helping libraries in north Texas and it shows in the end results. I may present a vision to them, but without my staff, it would only be a dream instead of a reality. Please take a moment to thank them during this holiday season for the work they do.

In much the same way, librarians are gifts to their communities. I have heard some wonderful stories in the last year of how libraries support their patrons.

- A man, at the youthful age of 90, went to a local library looking for assistance on contacting his family in another part of the county. A librarian showed him the wonder of web cams and he now sets up routine web conferences with his family through the library's public access computers. We are never too old to learn and the library provides a way for us to bridge the digital divide.
- A patron was searching for health related material to help a sick loved one. Through the efforts of the local reference librarian, the person was able to find some credible, authoritative health resources; both online and on the library shelves. We all know this information is readily available on the Internet somewhere, but it was only through the guidance of the librarian that she located reliable sources.
- Do you need to read the latest hot title? Did you check out the library's storytime hour? I have lost count of the number of librarians who have told me how many more patrons are coming into the library during these troubled economic times. People still want leisure and entertainment in harsh conditions. The library is a place people will flock when other options are too costly.
- During this last voting season, I had several librarians tell me that they had set up book displays/informational booths about the candidates. The public library is still the great equalizer when it comes to having access to information. What other country in the world bridges the information gap like we do through our libraries?

If you are librarian reading this column, please take a moment to pat yourself on the back and remember what a wonderful service you provide on a daily basis to your patrons. You are a true gift this holiday season!

Our theme this month is "Egovernment and Libraries?" Suzanne Sears, the head of the Government Documents section at the University of North Texas, has written a guest column on this subject. She was also kind enough to do our next installment of Librarian Live. Please do not forget to discuss the topic through our Forum.

Workshops

- **Choosing the Best Reference Sources**, 12/4/2008, Foard County Public Library, Crowell
- **Certified Library Computer Technologist Program**, 12/12/2008, System Office

Special Interest Groups & Conferences

- LibraryPresentationsNetwork SIG
 - 22 sessions, six of which included three showcase presentations each, took place at the first annual North Texas Conference for Library Program Planners and Presenters (LP3) on November 20, 2008 at the Lockheed Martin Recreation Area (LMRA). Confirmation of 38 exhibit spaces, including a 28' x 10' space in which Humanities Texas will displayed its Texas History traveling exhibit, meant that this conference had more exhibitors than any NTRLS conference to date. Design of the Exhibit Hall had to be revised to provide space for all of the exhibits plus room for attendees to walk among the exhibits. Refreshment tables were set up among the exhibit tables, rather than all on one wall, in order to further encourage attendees to walk through the exhibit hall. In all over 150 people attended the event.
 - Older listings have been purged from the online Library Presenters Directory so that all listings will be current when Program Planners consult it after the conference.

- Possible session leaders are already applying for the Second Annual LP3, scheduled for Thursday Nov. 12, 2009 at the LMRA, and potential exhibitors are already asking to be notified when exhibit registration begins for that conference.
- LibrarySupportersNetwork SIG
 - The Planning Committee met and jumped right into consideration of what had been planned to date, revising the plans to fit what the group sees as the needs of Library Supporters. This group's enthusiasm is contagious and exciting to accommodate.
 - Exhibitors are beginning to sign up, even before the SIG website is public.

Serving Patrons with Special Needs Program

- The name of this program has been changed to "Expanded Accessibility" since that title more correctly describes the purpose of the program.
- The Advisory Council for this group will meet online only since its members include several people who have special needs. The passion, knowledge level, experience and expertise of the Council's members were reflected strongly in the first online meeting, earlier this month. Having people with special needs among the group forces all of us to remember constantly that we must do things differently in order to be more inclusive of *all* people.
- Applications and guidelines for the funding assistance available to member libraries and their library partners have been drafted and are to be finalized and distributed by early December.
- The Low-Vision work station has been set up in the LFNT office and is available there to anyone who wants to try out the hardware and software when considering what to purchase. Library directors will be notified of the existence and availability of the station soon.

Consulting

Region 2

Graham – Collection Development for all populations

Region 3

Justin – New Director’s Orientation

Region 5

Richland Hills - Collection Utilization Consult

Region 6

Fort Worth Public Library – Summerglenn – staff development

IT Support Program

In Oct, Adam Beatty helped Paducah with all new workstations and a New Server install along with Configuration of Deep Freeze. He also helped Forest Hill reconfigure and setup their network from scratch, including rolling out deep Freeze and Content Watch for Internet filtering.

O2U Projects Requested

Region 3

Aubrey Area Library	2 requests
Carrollton Pub. Library	2 requests
William T. Cozby Public Library, Coppell	2 requests
Denton Public Library	2 requests
Flower Mound Public Library	6 requests
Frisco Public Library	2 requests
Justin Community Library	3 requests
Krum Public Library	2 requests
Lake Cities Library	2 requests
Lewisville Public Library	2 requests
Little Elm Public Library	2 requests
Pilot Point Community Library	2 requests
Plano Public Library System	2 requests
Betty Foster Public Library, Ponder	2 requests
Roanoke Public Library	2 requests
Sanger Public Library	2 requests
The Colony Public Library	2 requests

Region 4

Watauga 1 request

Region 5

Haltom City 3 requests

Mansfield 1 request

Richland Hills 1 request

Region 6

Benbrook 1 request

Fort Worth 1 requests

Watauga 1 request

7 requests completed.

2,248 Materials distributed

Regional Conferences, SIGs and Listservs

- Website support for the LP3 conference on www.LibraryPresentationsNetwork.com
- Continued work on Library Supporters and Library Technology special interest group websites
- Attended meeting for Library Supporters Conference; began preparing a presentation for the conference.
- Created a new listserv for TLA District 7 reference managers

Plinkit

- Assisted the Colony and Dublin with Plinkit sites
- Collaborated with TSLAC on development of new Plinkit template
- Hosted Plinkit workshop.
- Established new Plinkit projects for Aledo, Kennedale, Seymour, Lake Cities, Bowie, Jacksboro.
- Discussed Plinkit interest with Joshua, Stephenville, Haslet, Justin and Krum.

Specific Libraries & Regions Served by the Technology Consultant

<i>City</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Project</i>
Aledo	6	Plinkit
Alvarado	7	NT Library Consortium (SILS)
Aubrey	3	NT Library Consortium (SILS)
Benbrook	6	Overdrive
Bowie	2	Plinkit
Bridgeport	2	NT Library Consortium (SILS)
Crowley	5	NT Library Consortium (SILS)
Decatur	2	NT Library Consortium, other tech support
Dublin	7	Plinkit
Flower Mound	3	CE assistance
Haslet	4	Plinkit
Henrietta	1	other tech support
Jacksboro	2	Plinkit
Joshua	7	Plinkit
Justin	3	Plinkit
Keller	4	Overdrive
Kennedale	5	NT Library Consortium, Plinkit
Krum	3	NT Library Consortium, Plinkit
Lake Cities	3	NT Library Consortium, Plinkit, other tech support
Mineral Wells	6	NT Library Consortium (SILS)
Newark	2	other tech support
Ponder	3	NT Library Consortium (SILS)
Roanoke	3	NT Library Consortium (SILS)
Saginaw	4	NT Library Consortium, Overdrive, other tech support
Sanger	3	NT Library Consortium (SILS)
Seymour	1	Plinkit
Springtown	6	Plinkit
Stephenville	7	Plinkit
The Colony	3	Overdrive, Plinkit

Wichita Falls	1	Overdrive
Lancaster	NETLS	other tech support
TLA District 7	-	listserv assistance
TSLAC	-	Plinkit

Shared Integrated Library System (SILS)

NTLP's attorney finished reviewing the Equinox contract and drafting an agreement for each library to sign. This agreement will obligate each library to pay their cost share of the shared integrated library system. The project has a target date of late January to finish all legal matters with migration beginning in February.

Libraries for Literacy

The Libraries for Literacy council met on November 17 to review grant applications for the Libraries for Literacy Close the Book on Hunger grants. Only one application was received and the council decided to award a grant of \$2,458.44 to Jack C. Binion Elementary School Library in the Birdville ISD. The council decided to hold another grant period next March. It was also decided to develop a logo for the program that can be used on all future grants applications and marketing material. Adam Wright met with the North Texas Future Fund (NTFF) who shares a prime initiative of combating illiteracy. The two organizations discussed several ways to collaborate including a mobile computer lab to hold literacy classes. Grant applications will be written to acquire the mobile labs. The Arlington Public Library and Dallas Public library have expressed interest in working with the mobile computer labs.

TSLAC Update

Coordinator's Meeting

Adam Wright attended a coordinator's meeting in late October. At this meeting, the Plan of Service for FY2010 was discussed in detail as well as a statewide plan for continuing education registration. Some other business discussed included System Act Revisions and the TSLAC Competitive grants.