

## **Executive Director's Column**

By Adam Wright, Executive Director, North Texas Library Partners.  
February 2009

Happy February!

February is Love Your Library month!

My beautiful wife pointed this out to me last week (Most likely, it was also a hint about the upcoming holiday on the 14<sup>th</sup>!) and I thought it would be appropriate for me to tell you why I love our libraries.

Source: TLA's PR Toolkit. 65 Reasons to Love your Library. <http://www.tsla.org/html/reasons/index.htm>. I selected my favorites.

- Use the library's computers free of charge.
- Check out the latest bestsellers.
- Enjoy story time with your child.
- Participate in a book club.
- Enjoy book talks for teens or adults.
- Teach someone how to read.
- Catch up on the classics.
- Read the latest comic books before they become movies.
- Use easy access website to find links to free subscriptions to online resources and databases.
- Check your e-mail with free Internet access.
- Check out a couple of great books on tape that the whole family can enjoy on the drive to Grandma's and other distant places.

So there you have it, some good reasons for us all to love our libraries. You have probably learned something about me by examining which reasons I selected from the 65 provided in the toolkit. You know that I am a techie that loves to read, do things with my kids and help others. I recommend you take a look at the 65 reasons and share with others which ones you selected. Sounds like a great staff development activity to me. If librarians ever create a social networking site for themselves, this could be one of the items on the profile.

I am sure you will love our theme this month which revolves around Teen Advisory Boards. We have a wonderful feature article written by Linda Evers, Youth Services Director of the Watauga Public Library about her library's TAB. Nell Callison interviewed Cecilia Hurt Barham, director of the Decatur Public Library, and two of her youth advisory board members, Christine Evars and Staci Downe, about her TAB for Librarian Live.

## **Interlibrary Loan Taskforce**

On January 16, 2009, I attended a meeting of the Interlibrary Loan Taskforce. Last fall,

the taskforce attended several presentations about what other states are doing for their interlibrary loan programs. As a reminder, the taskforce is reviewing the recent TSLAC Interlibrary Loan Study and making recommendations on how to evolve Texas' ILL system. The other state demos were discussed at length at the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> as was the three study's models under current consideration. By the end of the day, the taskforce decided to not recommend any of the study's models and instead create a hybrid one. This hybrid model will be based on a current ILL implementation with modifications to better fit the unique needs of Texas. The taskforce created three subcommittees. One group was directed to design a preliminary draft of the hybrid model and report back to the taskforce as a whole. Another group will consider the best courier service for Texas while the third one will explore how the taskforce can communicate with stakeholders about the whole process. As it stands right now, a pilot project will begin in January 2010 after going out for bid around July 2009. We hope to have a good preliminary draft to release to the library community before June 1<sup>st</sup>. I am chair of both the taskforce and the hybrid model design subcommittee. If you have any feedback for me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## February Workshops

Please register for these workshops at <http://www.ntrls2.org/default.asp?action=article&ID=160>.

- **Safety Issues in the Library**, 2/4/2009, Wichita Falls Public Library
- **Time Twistin' TTR.09 (Summer Reading - Teens)**, 2/18/2009, Wichita Falls Public Library
- **TRC 2009 - Libraries: Deep in the Heart of Texas! (Summer Reading - Children)**, 2/18/2009, Wichita Falls Public Library
- **Time Twistin' TTR.09 (Summer Reading - Teens)**, 2/19/2009, Colleyville Public Library
- **TRC 2009 - Libraries: Deep in the Heart of Texas! (Summer Reading - Children)**, 2/19/2009, Colleyville Public Library
- **Time Twistin' TTR.09 (Summer Reading - Teens)**, 2/20/2009, Mansfield Public Library
- **TRC 2009 - Libraries: Deep in the Heart of Texas! (Summer Reading - Children)**, 2/20/2009, Mansfield Public Library
- **Certified Library Computer Technologist Program**, 2/27/2009, System Office

## Special Interest Groups & Conferences

- LibrarySupportersNetwork SIG
  - Nearly 140 people registered online for the conference. The actual

attendance promises to be greater than that since several of the people who constantly talked about planning to attend hadn't registered in advance.

- This conference included a concept that hadn't been used at any of the previous conferences – that of having Table Talk Topics set up to encourage lunch discussions facilitated by a person who had related experience and knowledge.
- Another new concept applied to this conference was that of using postcards to help promote it. (Carolyn & Judy's suggestion) It was obvious to us that the postcards had an immediate, positive effect on registration.
- The keynote speaker was from Boerne, a session leader was from New Braunfels, and attendees came from as far East as Wells (near Lufkin) and New Waverly (near Huntsville) and as far west as Snyder (between Lubbock and Abilene), but the majority came from the NTLP and NETLS areas.
- LibraryTechnologyNetwork SIG

The 2008 and 2009 TechNet Planning Committees met jointly to review last year's event and to consider changes and improvements for and begin planning TechNet 2009.

### **Expanding Accessibility Program**

- The application for Phase 2: Removing Barriers was developed and has been submitted to TSLAC for review and critique before the final version is submitted for consideration by the Grant Committee.
- Staff and members of the Accessibility Advisory Council continue development of the Toolkit for Developing and Implementing Accessibility Fairs. The final item will be a living document posted online with live links.
- In preparation for providing a demonstration for our entire staff next month, two employees from the Texas Work Force Commission and the Information and Resources Coordinator for the East Seals Disabilities Employment Service Team visited our office to see how our Accessibility Work Station compares with those their agency makes available to its customers.

### **Consulting**

#### **Region 1**

Met with Terry Holbert of Electra to discuss Region 1 & 2 CE needs

#### **Region 2**

Collection Management - Jacksboro (two visits)

#### **Region 6**

Fort Worth Public – to help plan leadership staff development with branch managers

## On NTRLS.org

- kept NTRLS.org website current
- added pages for equipment available to check out from the System Office
- updated library database for Arlington, Newark and Springtown
- rewrote the awards nomination process

## Regional Conferences, SIGs and Listservs

- website support for the Library Supporters and TechNet conferences
- prepared a presentation for the Library Supporters conference
- attended planning meeting for TechNet Conference
- created NTLP-Announce listserv
- administrative work for Youth Services listserv

## Plinkit

- assisted with moving Mineral Wells Plinkit website to TSLAC's new server
- conducted Plinkit training for Venus
- assisted 8 libraries with Plinkit sites and other website-related issues

## General

- participated in meetings for Enhanced Accessibility program
- regular updates to Overdrive barcodes for participating libraries
- assisted Burleson with starting to use EZProxy for Overdrive
- attended meeting for North Texas Library Consortium (SILS)
- general tech support to NTRLS staff

## Specific Libraries & Regions Served by Technology Consultant

| <i>City</i>   | <i>Region</i> | <i>Project</i>     |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Arlington     | 5             | other              |
| Bowie         | 2             | Plinkit            |
| Burleson      | 7             | Overdrive          |
| Dublin        | 7             | Plinkit            |
| Justin        | 3             | Plinkit            |
| Keller        | 4             | Overdrive          |
| Krum          | 3             | Plinkit            |
| Lake Cities   | 3             | Plinkit, SILS      |
| Mineral Wells | 6             | Plinkit            |
| Newark        | 2             | other              |
| Saginaw       | 4             | Overdrive          |
| Sanger        | 3             | Plinkit            |
| Springtown    | 6             | Plinkit, other     |
| The Colony    | 3             | Overdrive, Plinkit |
| Wichita Falls | 1             | Overdrive          |
| Venus         | 7             | Plinkit            |

## **TSLAC Update**

### **Competitive Grant Applications**

I am working on three grant applications for TSLAC.

*System Competitive Grant* – This grant application targets the Shared Integrated Library System (SILS) project by providing continuing education and networking opportunities to libraries to learn about open source SILS. NTLP will be asking for \$60,000 to fund one position and several mini-grants for libraries wishing to join the SILS project. Multi-type libraries will be invited to join.

*Special Projects Grant* – This grant application will ask for just over \$70,000 to fund the second year of the three year Expanded Accessibility project. This project seeks to help libraries to make their libraries more accessible to the special needs sector.

*Cooperation Grant* – This grant will seek to create a Universal Literacy 2.0 for libraries in the NTLP geographic region. Universal Literacy is the concept of providing literacy instruction to everyone despite any learning difficulties. As part of this package, NTLP will establish a consortium to utilize online literacy tools as well as the more traditional literacy instructional methods. NTLP will seek \$75,000 to fund one position to oversee the Libraries for Literacy program and provide financial assistance to libraries wishing to subscribe to the online tools.

### **Plan of Service 2010**

The guidelines were released in Mid-January. NTLP will realize a decrease of nearly \$20,000 in its System Grant. The NTLP staff met in early December to discuss changes to service offerings in 2010. Preliminary discussion centered on assisting libraries with patrons looking for jobs and career advice. NTLP will attempt to hold workshops on this subject, create consortium pricing for job searching tools and create consulting toolkits for libraries to utilize. The more traditional services will remain the same.

### **Legislative Day 2009**

Texas Library Association's Legislative Day is February 24 and 25 in Austin. Please consult the TLA website, <http://www.txla.org>, for more information and registration details.