

Executive Director's Column

By Adam Wright, Executive Director, NTRLs.
July, 2008

Happy Fourth of July!

Our theme this month is an American tradition: The survey. I thought I would honor this theme by providing yet another survey.

1. Did you read the great [ntrl.org article](#) on surveys done by Alexis Sarkisian?
2. Did you listen to our [Librarian Live Episode](#) where Adam Wright interviews Maria Redburn about how the Bedford Public Library uses surveys?
3. Did you make a contribution to the online discussion concerning surveys?
4. Do you have plans to attend any of the following NTRLs CE events this month?
 - [Choosing the Best Reference Sources](#), 7/18/2008, Carnegie City County Library, Vernon
 - [Certified Library Computer Technologist Program - Midwestern](#), 7/25/2008, Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls
 - [Valuing Libraries](#), 7/25/2008, System Office
5. Do you have plans to take advantage of any of NTRLs consulting services this month?
 - Space Planning
 - Image Audit
 - Collection Development/Weeding
 - Technology
 - Planning

(Hint: Call Carolyn Davidson Brewer if you want to...)
6. Have you checked out the [consultant reports](#) written by outside experts specifically for ntrl.org?
7. Have you checked out the status of any of the Targeted Services projects that NTRLs offers to its membership?
 - [Overdrive](#)

- [North Texas Library Consortium \(Shared Integrated Library System\)](#)
 - [Libraries for Literacy](#)
8. Have you thought about starting a website through the [Plinkit](#) program?
 9. Have you filled out an application for [NTRLS @ Your Library](#)?
 10. Have you registered to attend the [Children and Youth Conference for Librarians on August 8](#)?
 11. Have you checked out the [photos](#) from TechNet 2008?
 12. Have you checked out the upcoming [Librarian's Marketplace](#) provided by the Library Foundation of North Texas?
 13. Have you checked out any of the other [great ntrls.org online tools](#)?

If you answered Yes to all these questions, then you are a seasoned ntrls.org user. If not, why not spend a little time exploring this wonderful resource.

Surveys are things you have to love to hate, but you cannot deny how important they are for collecting information. In the case of the column, surveys are also a wonderful way to advertise what you offer your community.

TSLAC Update

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) met last month and decided to ask the legislator for \$4 million in additional funds for the Systems program for FY2010 and FY2011. This request will come in the form of exceptional items, which are items that fall outside of the normal budget. The legislator will need to be convinced to fund these exceptional items. Why is this important for NTRLS?

1. It gives the Systems program \$2 million more a year for FY2010 and FY2011. This would allow the System to continue without interruption of its programs and services.
2. It will come in the form of state funds versus federal funds. We are 100% federally funded at the moment and this places some undue restrictions on us (such as not having the ability to write grants to community based organizations using System Grant resources)

If you would like to know how you can help, contact [Gloria Meraz](#) at TLA.