

Executive Director's Column

By Adam Wright, Executive Director, NTRLS.

June, 2008

Happy June!

Our theme this month is on Staff Development with a subtheme of "How Do I Stay on Top of Trends." Helene Blowers, Director of Digital Strategy at the Columbus Metropolitan Library, is our guest columnist. She has written a nice short piece on Learning 2.0. Helene is also holding a workshop on the same topic at the Haltom City Public Library on June 19. I encourage you to read her column and attend her workshop to learn how to implement a Learning 2.0 program in your library. We also have a podcast on staff development where I interview NTRLS' Continuing Education gurus, Carolyn Davidson and dona weisman, about NTRLS endeavors in this area.

Since I have been NTRLS Executive Director, I have pushed staff development as a high priority. I truly believe it refreshes the soul to learn something new. It also gives you inspiration to attempt new things. For example, we are currently going through a 29 step program, inspired by Helene's Learning 2.0, to learn about the latest web 2.0 tools. Each staff member is given 29 tasks to accomplish over a six week period. The staff has to create blogs and wikis. They have to upload photos to Flickr and check out videos on YouTube. Although I am sure most of my staff had already been introduced to many of these technologies, the 29 steps allow them to use their creativity and have some fun learning some new tools.

Here at NTRLS, we plan to continue to offer a wide breadth of continuing education services to our membership. In the upcoming summer, we will have several workshops and two regional conferences. In FY2009, we will continue to offer face-to-face workshops as well as some additional online endeavors. In 2009, we will also offer four regional themed conferences. These conferences will be administered and organized by a steering committee of volunteers from our Special Interest Groups. The NTRLS Special Interest Groups, or SIGs for short, are another new venture for us. In collaboration with TLA's District 7, the System will provide the infrastructure for groups of individuals to gather together on a regular basis to discuss topics of interest. Our first four SIGs will be Children and Youth Librarians, Techie Librarians, Library Programmers and Providers, and Library Supporters. It is our hope that we can inspire each of our librarians with an "ah-ha" moment and go back to their everyday work lives with some new possibilities.

June Workshops

Here is what we are offering in June. Please go to <http://www.ntrls.org> for registration.

- [Beyond Boolean: Effective Web Reference](#), 6/1/2008, online
- [TechNet 2008](#), 6/12/2008, Lockheed Martin Recreation Area

- [Learning 2.0: Helping Staff Explore New Technologies](#), 6/19/2008, Haltom City Public Library
- [Leadership Etiquette for Librarians](#), 6/24/2008, Walsh Library, Tarrant County College, NW Campus
- [Leadership Etiquette for Librarians](#), 6/25/2008, Benbrook Public Library

TechNet 2008

We are holding our first ever Technology conference on Thursday, June 12th. We are calling it TechNet 2008. This conference is our second regional themed conference and it will deal directly with technology in libraries. For more information, please go to the conference website at <http://www.technet2008.com>.

Shared Integrated Library System (SILS)

Cleburne Public Library has decided to wait to join the consortium until after Phase 1 is completed, which has a target date of August 2009. Everman Public Library has decided to join Phase 1 of the project. The consortium is applying for two additional grants in June as well as beginning work on the upcoming Request for Proposal to be released in August.

NTRLS @ Your Library

We selected the Watauga Public Library as our next onsite project. We did have to move the date to Wednesday, June 18th as we will be busy on June 11th getting ready for TechNet.

Plinkit

Several more libraries have signed up to have websites built on the Plinkit platform. There is a total of 10 active projects. Springtown and Dublin sites are fully operational. Mineral Wells, Benbrook and Sanger are very close to being launched. The Colony is very close to launch, pending city approval. Three other sites (Henrietta, Venus, and Aledo) are in process, each library working at its own pace. One new library (Bowie) is planning to start work on a new site this month. Benbrook District Library staff went through Plinkit training.

Overdrive Consortium

The website went live on May 19 with over 200 items available for checkout. It is available at <http://www.myaudiolib.org> and the consortium is calling the website Audio on the Go. NTRLS will continue to facilitate the selection of material for the website and act as technical contact for certain aspects of the project.

TSLAC Update

ILL Taskforce

I am currently co-chair of a taskforce to reexamine Interlibrary Loan in Texas and develop a new model. Please be aware that I might be calling you asking for input.

Systems Coordinator Retreat

Carolyn Davidson Brewer and I attended a two day meeting in New Braunfels. At this meeting, Texas State Library staff oriented System staff on the upcoming changes to the Systems program. In essence, Systems will no longer be allowed to offer any program or services that do not directly address the Five-Year LSTA Plan goals. This change will be immediate although it will not be enforced until FY2010. Due to these changes, all aspects of planning and reporting will see significant changes in 2010. The Plan of Service Guidelines will be changed as will the reporting requirements for System programs. Everything will be centered around outcomes and evaluated based on how closely Systems fulfill these outcomes.