

Executive Director's Column

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

Happy June!

This month we are featuring Book Clubs on our website. Lesley Daly, Director of the Wichita Falls Public Library, is our guest on Librarian Live, where she discusses her unique Book Club in a Bag program. Our guest columnist this month is Paula Highfill, Friends of the Mansfield Public Library President & Mansfield Reads! Chair, who writes about her successful Mansfield Reads! program.

Book clubs are fun! I adore discussing books with others as do most book lovers I know. Even my two children, 8 and 10, enjoy discussing books with me. We all three read the series, Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney. I was the last one to read the series and at supper each night, the first question I received was "what is the last part you read." My kids were turned on to the series because everyone at their school discussed all the funny parts. (The series is actually quite good and funny! I recommend it for everyone). The excitement books create has not gone away, even for our younger generations. The thrill of a good book is what drives our book clubs, and it is why books are still so important in our everyday lives. The best books help define our world and sharing our impressions of a book with others is all part of the enjoyment.

We are lucky today that there are many virtual options for book clubs to help us partake in this favorite pastime. Here are a few of my favorites.

Library Thing (<http://www.librarything.com>) – This is a wonderful social networking site for book lovers. You can catalog your whole book collection using their utilities and then find friends based on who owns similar books. They currently have thirty-nine million books with over 700,000 users.

Good Reads (<http://www.goodreads.com>) – This is another social networking site for book lovers that also allows you to list your books. Each of the social networking sites have groups, which includes book discussion activities. I also find Good Reads has an attractive layout and the book reviews provided by members are priceless when you are evaluating what to read next.

DearReader.com (<http://www.dearreader.com>) – This site will email you snippets of a book so you can get a taste of it before checking out the copy. You have to go through a library that has purchased the service, but it is at no cost. It is a time saver if you are trying to find the next great read.

Book Glutton (<http://www.blookglutton.com>) – This social networking site for book lovers takes it to the next level by allowing book clubs to read the books online

together and comment on them in a chat room or notes section. I think it would be a great tool for library to use for its own book clubs.

Now here are some news and events from NTLP.

June Workshops

Register for these workshops at <http://www.ntrls.org/ce/>.

- e-government: it impacts us all!, 6/18/2009, Denton Public Library - North Branch
- e-government: it impacts us all!, 6/19/2009, Fort Worth Library - Central Branch

Consulting

Here is who we visited last month.

Region 2

Chico - old Windows 2000 server was replaced with a brand new Windows 2003 R2 server

Region 3

Justin – Worked with Library Friends.

Region 6

Azle – Collection Analysis
Benbrook – Libraries of the Future
Trinity Academy - Weatherford

Region 7

Joshua - Collection Usage Expansion

Other meetings

Met per phone with Washington State Library Consortium to discuss System programs and services.

The Learning Center – Fort Worth
North Texas Literacy Coalition – Irving
Library Support Staff – Coppell
CE Committee Meeting – in Decatur

TLA Planning – phone meeting
 Overdrive – Benbrook
 Services Planning – NTRLS Office
 NTRLS Bylaws Committee – NTRLS Office

O2U Projects Requested

Region 1

Henrietta 1 request Newsletter

Region 2

Bowie 1 request SRP flyer
 Jacksboro 15 requests Posters,
 SRP material

Region 3

Aubrey Area Library 1 requests Bookmarks
 Carrollton Pub. Library 1 requests Bookmarks
 William T. Cozby Public Library, Coppell 1 requests Bookmarks
 Denton Public Library 1 requests Bookmarks
 Flower Mound Public Library 5 requests Bookmarks,
 posters
 Frisco Public Library 1 requests Bookmarks
 Justin Community Library 1 requests Bookmarks
 Krum Public Library 2 requests Bookmarks,
 SRP flyer & poster
 Lake Cities Library 1 requests Bookmarks,
 Banner
 Lewisville Public Library 1 requests Bookmarks
 Little Elm Public Library 1 requests Bookmarks
 Pilot Point Community Library 1 requests Bookmarks
 Plano Public Library System 1 requests Bookmarks
 Betty Foster Public Library, Ponder 1 requests Bookmarks
 Roanoke Public Library 1 requests Bookmarks
 Sanger Public Library 1 requests Bookmarks
 The Colony Public Library 1 requests Bookmarks

Region 4

Bedford 1 request SRP flyer
 Saginaw 2 requests Flyers for
 SRP: Children & Teen

Region 5

Haltom City 2 requests Brochure,

poster Richland Hills	1 request	SRP Flyers
Region 6 Fort Worth bookmarks Mineral Wells Calendar	3 requests 1 request	Posters, SRP

Region 7

24 Requests completed.
4,313 Materials distributed

Special Interest Groups & Conferences

- LibraryTechNetwork SIG
TechNet 2009, the 2nd annual Technology Conference for North Texas Libraries, was attended by 188 representatives of all four library types, from Texas and even Oklahoma. The event included a keynote session, 18 break-out sessions, exhibits and a Technology Petting Zoo. That last activity, which provided an opportunity for attendees to try-out gadgets and software on their own, was very well received, and participants as well as exhibitors are encouraging us to make this a regular TechNet activity. One break-out session officially opened North Texas 23, an online Learning 2.0 experience designed specifically for all librarians in the 20-county area of North Texas Library Partners/TLA District 7. This activity is proving to be an excellent example of what can come of cooperation among the four types of libraries in our 20-county area. To date 210 people from all four types have registered and qualified to participate. Many others, who do not meet the qualification requirements, are on a waiting list and hoping to be allowed to participate after the firm June 1 registration deadline. At that time, TCU Science Librarian and North Texas 23 Coordinator Jeff Bond will be able to determine how many additional participants the 11-person Project Administrative Team will be able to accept. <http://northtexas23.blogspot.com/>
- LibraryYouthServicesNetwork SIG
Registration for CYC 2009, the 3rd annual Children and Youth Conference for North Texas Libraries, opened May 15. Nearly 30 people have registered, even though details of the conference have not yet been posted. The schedule for CYC 2009 is nearly complete, and most of the people invited to present sessions have agreed to do so. Promotional flyers and postcards will be distributed in early June.
- SIG Discussion Lists
Additional discussion list subscriptions have come in during the past month. Some we know to have been the result of word-of-mouth

promotion among peers; others we believe are the result of promotional activities related to TechNet 2009.

Expanding Accessibility Program

- We received funding assistance applications from Arlington Public Library System's central library and from Wichita Falls Public Library. The Accessibility Advisory Council approved full funding for both.
- TechNet 2009 included five sessions directly related to Universal Accessibility. In addition, both Easter Seals North Texas and Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic provided exhibits, staff and even items for the Technology Petting Zoo.

NTLP-TV

Adam has challenged our staff to produce videos for NTLP-TV. For example, dona weisman chose to do a series highlighting treasures in North Texas libraries – things that make those libraries worthy of being the destination for a road trip.

Website and Internet Support for NTRLS Programs and Services

- Regular updates to NTRLS.org website
- Website and other technology support for TechNet and CYC conferences.
- Administration for NTRLS-supported listservs.

Plinkit

- Provided support for existing Plinkit projects at 17 libraries
- Provided input to TSLAC concerning plans for next version of Plinkit
- Provided information about Plinkit to Forest Hill and Stephenville
- Provided in-person content management training to Pilot Point, Electra and Burkburnett

General

- Provided technical and administrative support for North Texas Library Consortium project
- Regular updates to Overdrive barcodes for participating libraries
- Assisted with preparation of Technology Plan document for e-Rate

Libraries Served by the Technology Consultant

<i>City</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Project</i>
Aledo	6	Plinkit	Krum	3	Plinkit, NTLC
Alvarado	7	NTLC	Lake Cities	3	Plinkit, NTLC
Aubrey	3	NTLC	Mineral	6	Plinkit, NTLC

Bridgeport	2	NTLC
Benbrook	6	Plinkit
Bowie	2	Plinkit
Burkburnett	1	Plinkit
Burleson	7	Overdrive
Crowley	5	NTLC
Decatur	2	NTLC
Dublin	7	Plinkit
Electra	1	Plinkit
Forest Hill		Plinkit
Justin	3	Plinkit, NTLC
Kennedale	5	Plinkit, NTLC
Keller	4	Overdrive

Wells		
Pilot Point	3	Plinkit
Ponder	3	NTLC
Roanoke	3	NTLC
Saginaw	4	Overdrive, NTLC
Sanger	3	Plinkit, NTLC
Springtown	6	Plinkit
The Colony	3	Plinkit, Overdrive
Wichita Falls	1	Overdrive
Venus	7	Plinkit
Seymour	1	Plinkit
Stephenville	7	Plinkit