

## **Executive Director's Column**

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

Happy May!

Did you know that one out of every five individuals in Tarrant County cannot read above the fourth grade level? Nationwide, we have about 14 percent of our population that cannot read or write at an elementary school level. Should libraries play an active role in helping reduce these startling numbers? One would think so, but some individuals in the library community have given up on literacy. Here is why.

1. There is a communications issue between literacy instruction community groups and public libraries when it comes to offering literacy programs. Many literacy providers do not understand the library industry and many librarians are not well versed in the verbiage used by literacy experts. In discussions with other libraries, this unfulfilled need for a translator is a barrier to libraries partnering with literacy instruction groups to provide literacy programs in the library. Through its Libraries for Literacy program, NTLP plays a key role in bridging this divide by translating the literacy terminology into a language understood by the typical librarian, and providing insight to the library community for the literacy instruction providers. In addition, NTLP hopes to better educate librarians on this language by offering some online workshops through its Libraries for Literacy website (<http://www.libraries4literacy.org>).
2. Libraries are lacking sufficient resources to offer literacy programs, both in personnel and literacy instruction materials. One way around this barrier is through available online literacy instruction tools. Through the Libraries for Literacy website, NTLP plans to create linkages between libraries offering literacy services to their patrons. The website will support and facilitate literacy efforts in all libraries wishing to provide literacy services.
3. If libraries do offer literacy services to the public, they lack the expertise to make its community aware of the services. NTLP has provided a solution to this issue by assisting the libraries with advice on how to do outreach to the sectors needing literacy instruction. This advice is given through NTLP staff and through the Libraries for Literacy toolkit ([http://www.ntrls.org/libraries\\_for\\_literacy/LiteracyToolkit2.pdf](http://www.ntrls.org/libraries_for_literacy/LiteracyToolkit2.pdf)) designed to help with all aspects of creating a literacy instruction program.

Our Libraries for Literacy program is still in its infant stages, but the advisory council that oversees its implementation is working diligently to lay the foundation for a program that will allow libraries to more easily offer literacy instruction

services. The council has already offered two grant programs for libraries that will help supplement existing programs. Our next goal is to offer something for libraries to begin new endeavors.

At the same time, I am hoping librarians will realize the important role their libraries can play in literacy efforts and begin to work with their cities, counties and partner community organizations to give literacy another chance in the library. It is only by coming together that we can combat a problem that should not even exist in our world today.

Please be sure to check out the website this month as we do focus on literacy. The Arlington Public Library staff has come through for us. Norma Zuniga has been kind enough to write an article for us, while Yoko Matsumoto consented to being interviewed for our Librarian Live episode,

Now here is some news and events from NTLP.

### **May Workshops**

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

- TechNet 2009 - North Texas Conference on Library Technology, 5/7/2009, Lockheed Martin Recreation Area
- Collection Analysis, 5/20/2009, Decatur Public Library
- Collection Analysis, 5/21/2009, Kennedale Public Library

### **Consulting**

Here is who we visited last month.

Region 1 – Weeding and Collection Analysis for Electra

Region 2 – Master of Ceremonies of Wise County Texas Tellin' Event

Region 3 – Justin

Other meetings:

- Attended TLA
- Regional Meetings
- Met with The Learning Center
- Met with Tarrant Area Food Bank
- Supporters Conference Advisory Committee

### **O2U Projects Requested**

## O2U Projects Requested

Region 1  
None

Region 2  
Jacksboro 15 requests Posters, SRP material

Region 3

Aubrey Area Library	2 requests	Poster, Bookmarks
Carrollton Pub. Library	2 requests	Poster, Bookmarks
William T. Cozby Public Library, Coppell	2 requests	Poster, Bookmarks
Denton Public Library	2 requests	Poster, Bookmarks
Flower Mound Public Library	6 requests	Posters, Bookmarks
Frisco Public Library	2 requests	Poster, Bookmarks
Justin Community Library	2 requests	Poster, Bookmarks
Krum Public Library	4 requests	Poster, Bookmarks
Lake Cities Library Banner	3 requests	Poster, Bookmarks,
Lewisville Public Library	2 requests	Poster, Bookmarks
Little Elm Public Library	2 requests	Poster, Bookmarks
Pilot Point Community Library	2 requests	Poster, Bookmarks
Plano Public Library System	2 requests	Poster, Bookmarks
Betty Foster Public Library, Ponder	2 requests	Poster, Bookmarks
Roanoke Public Library	2 requests	Poster, Bookmarks
Sanger Public Library	2 requests	Poster, Bookmarks
The Colony Public Library	2 requests	Poster, Bookmarks

Region 4  
Saginaw & Teen 2 requests Flyers for SRP: Children

Region 5

Birdville ISD	5 requests	Books
Haltom City Brochure	3 requests	SRP Flyers, Poster,

Region 6  
Fort Worth 4 requests SRP and Teen Flyer, Banner, Poster

Region 7  
None

Texas Workforce, Tarrant County 1 request Poster for libraries

**34 Requests completed.**  
**8,688 Materials distributed**

These are the request filled through our Outreach to the Underserved program.  
For more information on this program, please visit our website at  
<http://www.ntrls2.org/default.asp?action=article&ID=245>.

## **Special Interest Groups & Conferences**

- **LibraryTechNetwork SIG**
  - Plans are complete for TechNet 2009. The 175+ people registered represent many libraries which haven't been represented at previous NTLP conferences. There's a good mix of public, academic, school and special libraries as well as several non-library entities. For the first time, we have out-of-state (OU) facilities represented, too.
  - This year's conference will include a Technology Petting Zoo, providing an opportunity for attendees to try-out gadgets and software on their own. Among the items to be included are the Wii, special glasses for individual viewing of/listening to videos, various assistive technology gadgets and software, a camcorder set up to enable communication with the exhibitor who is sharing it, and several other items.
  - One session of this conference will announce North Texas 23, an online Learning 2.0 experience for all librarians in the 20-county area of North Texas Library Partners and for all TechNet 2009 attendees. 23 Things is a great opportunity to play with all kinds of new Web 2.0 tools. North Texas 23 begins May 11, 2009, and ends in August. <http://northtexas23.blogspot.com/> .
- **LibrarySupportersNetwork SIG**
  - 2010 Conference Planning Committee met April 20 and discussed possible sessions for next year's conference. Members are to submit, by May 15, at least 3 topics and/or speakers – from those discussed or personal experience – as recommendations for that conference.

## **Expanding Accessibility Program**

- Program Coordinator dona weisman provided a 30-minute demonstration of NTLP's Accessibility workstation as part of Fort Worth Public Library's staff development day at Scott Theater April 24.
- An all-day NTRLS workshop entitled [Special Needs, Special Programs?](#) was presented by Accessibility Advisory Council Member Mary Jo Venetis April 16 at the NTLP office.
- An NTLP-developed spreadsheet containing contact information of Accessibility Service Providers and Product Vendors is available at <http://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=p0IyVKxfCTn5YHY-Lb90WGg&hl=en> and is to be regularly updated, corrected and/or expanded by NTLP staff and members of NTLP's Accessibility Advisory Council. This information should help Accessibility Fair planners to identify potential partners/exhibitors for their fairs.

## **Website and Internet Support for NTRLS Programs and Services**

- Regular updates to NTRLS.org website

- New website page with links to workshop evaluations
- New website feature to allow registration and online payment for meetings
- New website tool for administration of workshop information
- Website support for TechNet special interest group and conference
- Administration for NTRLS-supported listservs

**Plinkit**

- New Plinkit sites are under development for Electra, Burkburnett, Pilot Point and the North Texas Library Consortium
- Provided support for existing Plinkit projects at 15 libraries

**General**

- Regular updates to Overdrive barcodes for participating libraries
- Provided support for North Texas Library Consortium project

**Libraries Served by the Technology Consultant**

<i>City</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Project</i>
Aledo	6	Plinkit
Alvarado	7	NTLC
Aubrey	3	NTLC
Bridgeport	2	NTLC
Benbrook	6	Plinkit, other
Bowie	2	Plinkit
Burkburnett	1	Plinkit
Burleson	7	Overdrive
Crowley	5	NTLC
Decatur	2	NTLC
Dublin	7	Plinkit
Electra	1	Plinkit
Granbury	7	other
Jacksboro	2	other
Justin	3	Plinkit
Kennedale	5	Plinkit, NTLC

<i>City</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Project</i>
Keller	4	Overdrive
Krum	3	Plinkit, NTLC
Lake Cities	3	Plinkit, NTLC
Mineral Wells	6	Plinkit, NTLC
Newark	2	Plinkit
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