

Executive Director's Column

By Adam Wright, Executive Director, North Texas Library Partners

October 2009

Happy October!

This month we are featuring book clubs and how you can enhance them to keep them fresh and alive. Our podcast features LG Swift and Laura De La Taz from the Fort Worth Library. Our guest article is written by Kate Pullen, from Spain, giving our website its first taste of international flavor.

For my part, I have one question for libraries: Have you looked at the ebook market lately? As the readers of my columns know, I have recently gotten an Iphone. One of the first apps I downloaded was the Kindle for the Iphone. I had heard a lot about the Kindle and wanted to discover for myself if it was worth the press written about it. I was surprised by how easy it was to read on the little screen. It really did not take away anything from the reading experience and it was very simple to discover and acquire a copy of a book that I wanted to read.

Of course, being a librarian, I decided to do some research on the whole ebook sector. As with any other tech industry, there are various formats for ebook readers. Some of these formats are proprietary (can only be read by one ebook reader) and open formats (can be read by multiple ebook readers). Here are the most common ebook file formats with the readers that support them (as found on Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_e-book_formats, and confirmed with Mobipocket wiki at http://wiki.mobileread.com/wiki/E-book_Reader_Matrix):

Features

Format	Filename Extension(s)	DRM Support	Image Support	Word wrap Support	Open standard	Embedded Annotation Support
Plain text	.txt	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
HTML	.html	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
EPUB (IDPF)	.epub	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?
Amazon Kindle	.azw	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	?
Tome Raider	.tr2, .tr3	?	?	?	No	?
Arghos Diffusion	.arg	Yes	Yes	?	No	?
Portable	.pdf	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

Document Format					
PostScript	.ps	No	Yes	No	Yes
Mobipocket	.prc, .mobi	?	Yes	Yes	Yes

Supporting Hardware

Reader	plain text	html	Kindle	Open Electronic Package	Tome Raider	PDF	Post Script	ePub
Amazon Kindle	Yes	?	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Kindle 2	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Kindle DX	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Sony Reader (all models)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes

With my wife and I, we have discovered that you can convert pdf and word documents to epub format which most ebook readers can read. For example, we use the Stanza Desktop program to convert our files to epub and then share it out with ebook reader app on our Iphones. The conversion is not always smooth and some files are not readable so you might need to use different conversion software to do the work for you. My wife and I also use MobiPocket Ebook Creator to do the conversions. We have tried a website epub2go, but it crashed everytime we attempted to convert the file. We have another ebook server that will also convert to epub and then share them out through a webserver.

The ebook industry is maturing and evolving very quickly. Recently, Sony released a new reader that works with Overdrive. They made a point of informing the world that patrons can now download ebooks from their local library (<http://www.overdrive.com/aboutus/getArticle.aspx?newsArticleID=20090812>). You do need an Overdrive subscription for this to work, but the introduction of an ebook reader with such promise says to me that ebooks have finally arrived. I believe more patrons will be asking for books in this format.

Now for some of the things happening around the System.

October Workshops

Register for these workshops at <http://www.ntrls.org/ce/>. If the course is full, let us know if you want to be put on a waiting list.

- **Working Well with Others: Communication, Negotiation and Mediation, 10/2/2009**, Fort Worth Public Library - Shamblee Branch
- **True Colors, 10/14/2009**, Lewisville Public Library
- **Plinkit Basics (Register at TSLAC link on flyer), 10/29/2009**, NTRLS Office
- **Spanish for Library Staff, 10/31/2009**, Online

Consulting

Here are some consulting activities that took place in September.

Consulting:

Region 3

New Director Orientation - Roanoke

Region 4

Consulted with Saginaw Boosters

Region 5

New Director Orientation - Forest Hill

Accessibility Fair for Hurst/Bedford

Region 6

Consult with Azle on Friends group

Region 7

Other:

- Consulted with Dish about library - collection, policies and standards
- 211 Training in Arlington for toolkit development
- Relocation Committee
- Supporters Conference Committee
- Attended Adult Programming Meeting in Richardson
- Presented 2 workshops on using Evergreen ILS

Website and Internet Support for NTRLS Programs and Services

- " Regular updates to NTRLS.org website
- " Website and other technology support for CYC and LP3 conferences
- " Administration for NTRLS-supported listservs
- " Completed web application for Consortium Pricing Project

Plinkit

- " Support for existing Plinkit projects at 4 libraries

General

- " Technical and administrative support for North Texas Library Consortium project
- " Support for Librarian Live project
- " Regular updates to Overdrive barcodes for participating libraries

Libraries Served by the Technology Consultant

<i>City</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Project</i>
Alvarado	7	NTLC	Mineral Wells	6	NTLC
Aubrey	3	NTLC	Ponder	3	NTLC
Benbrook	6	Overdrive	Roanoke	3	NTLC
Bridgeport	2	NTLC	Saginaw	4	Overdrive, NTLC
Burkburnett	1	Plinkit	Sanger	3	NTLC
Burleson	7	Overdrive	Southlake	4	NTLC
Crowley	5	NTLC	Springtown	6	Plinkit
Decatur	2	NTLC	The Colony	3	Overdrive
Dublin	7	Plinkit	Wichita Falls	1	Overdrive
Kennedale	5	NTLC			
Keller	4	Overdrive			

Consulting

- **Programming** – Helped several presenters determine ways to redesign or rethink their presentations in order to relate them to the 2010 TRC & TTR slogans

Special Interest Groups & Conferences

- Final results are in for North Texas 23: A Roundup of Web 2.0 Technology, with 122 of the 317, or nearly 40%, of the registered participants completing all 23 things. <http://northtexas23.blogspot.com/>

- LibraryPresentationsNetwork SIG <http://librarypresentationsnetwork.com>
Registration for **What's Age Got to Do with It? the 2nd annual Conference for Library Program Planners & Presenters (LP3 2009)** (Thurs. Nov. 12 at the Lockheed Martin Recreation Area) opened this month, and we're already at 25% of the potential capacity for attendees. Within days after exhibitors were notified that Exhibitor Registration was open, only half of the available exhibit space remains. A tentative schedule and list of session/speaker descriptions for the conference will be posted in early October.
- LibrarySupportersNetwork SIG <http://www.librarysupportersnetwork.com>
The committee planning **The Future of Libraries, the 2nd Annual North Texas Conference for Library Supporters** (Sat. Feb. 14, 2010, at the Lockheed Martin Recreation Area), met Sept. 30 to finalize session topics and speakers for that conference.

Expanding Accessibility Program

- The eight Pilot Project Libraries, Arlington (Central), Bedford, Colleyville, Fort Worth (Central), Hurst, Krum, Watauga and Wichita Falls, have received most, if not all, of the accessibility tools each ordered with funding assistance under this grant.
- Our Expanding Accessibility Coordinator spoke at a Krum City Council meeting this month, explaining that their 2.5 FTE/2400-square-foot library is the only public library in Denton county offering so many accessibility tools for its patrons. As a result, a related article appeared in the *Denton Record Chronicle* and the library's Accessibility Open House was highlighted in the *CEC SmartBrief*, an online newsletter for special education professionals published daily by the (national) Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).
<http://alquemie.smartbrief.com/alquemie/servlet/encodeServlet?issueid=F23A6CE9-A07B-4276-8B80-3DA29991BC24&sid=9a375f81-708d-44e5-a5f7-ca5c11478ab7>
- Our Expanding Accessibility Coordinator attended Krum Public Library's *Hearing & Vision Fair* Sat., Sept. 19, 2009, and our Assistant Director attended Bedford & Hurst Public Libraries's combined *Living with Low Vision Fair* that same day. Both were very well attended and well received.
- Upcoming Accessibility Fairs at other Pilot Project libraries include:
 - * Thurs. Oct. 8, 2009 Wichita Falls Public Library's *Audio, Vision & Mobility Fair*
 - * Sat. Oct. 10, 2009; 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Arlington Public Library System's *Low Vision/No Vision Fair*
 - * Sat. Oct. 17, 2009; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Watauga Public Library's *Everybody's Library*
 - * Sat. Jan. 23; 2010; 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Fort Worth Library's *Accessibility Tech Fair*
 - * 2010 date TBD at the Colleyville Public Library's *Accessibility Fair*

O2U Projects Requested**Region 1**

Electra	1 request	Graphic
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Region 3

Aubrey Area Library	1 request	Bookmarks
Carrollton Public Library	1 request	Bookmarks
Coppell	1 request	Bookmarks
Denton Public Library	1 request	Bookmarks
Flower Mound Public Library	1 request	Bookmarks
Frisco Public Library	1 request	Bookmarks
Justin Community Library	1 request	Bookmarks
Krum Public Library	1 request	Bookmarks
Lake Cities Library	1 request	Bookmarks
Lewisville Public Library	1 request	Bookmarks
Little Elm Public Library	1 request	Bookmarks
Pilot Point Community Library	1 request	Bookmarks
Plano Public Library System	1 request	Bookmarks
Ponder	1 request	Bookmarks
Roanoke Public Library	1 request	Bookmarks
Sanger Public Library	1 request	Bookmarks
The Colony Public Library	1 request	Bookmarks

Region 4

Saginaw	1 request	Brochure
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Region 5

Haltom City	8 requests	Misc
Mansfield	1 request	Bookmarks

Region 6

Mineral Wells	2 requests	Flyers
Benbrook	1 request	Bookmark
Fort Worth	1 request	Flyer

19 Requests completed**14,560 Materials distributed****Libraries for Literacy**

- Prepared and released the Libraries for Literacy Project Applications
- Received a request from the Dallas Future Society for Libraries for Literacy to be the designated charity at the 2010 FenCon