



CTLS Newsletter

September 2011 No. 104

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

By Pat Tuohy

The start of a new fiscal year is an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the past and to look ahead to the future. This is the 37th year that CTLS has provided services to libraries in central Texas. Our mission has been and continues to be strengthening libraries in central Texas so that your patrons get the best public library services possible. Over time we bought books for local collections, helped establish literacy programs, purchased the first personal computers for libraries, taught the basic skills of librarianship to staff and volunteers, paid for the first Internet connections in libraries, provided technical support, and consulted with and trained thousands of librarians, citizens, and elected officials on all matters related to libraries. In 2005, CTLS became a nonprofit corporation so that we could provide more flexibility in providing services to libraries. All of this has been done under the auspices of the Texas Library Systems Act.

CTLS is, again, on the brink of a new phase in our evolution as a regional cooperative system. This transformation is the direct result of the dramatic cuts the 82nd Legislature made to statewide library programs. For the past 3 months, library organizations all over the state have been analyzing and assessing the impact that these cuts will have on programs that directly help public, school, and academic libraries. Without a doubt, the cuts have been devastating. What this means for the 10 regional library systems (including CTLS) is that all grant funds that pay for the systems cease after August 2012.

The elimination of the systems will be felt all across the state. Of the 10 regional systems, 7 are making plans to terminate operations by August 31, 2012. One system, South Texas Library System in Corpus Christi, will close its doors on Dec 31, 2011. The two nonprofit library systems, CTLS and North Texas Library Partners, are working diligently to see that services to libraries continue beyond the close out date.

The loss of all state funding on Sept 1, 2012 will have a profound impact on what CTLS can provide to Central Texas libraries. The CTLS membership can perceive this funding cut as either a great opportunity or as notice from the State Library to close our doors forever. In the face of this challenge, the Board, Long Range Planning Committee, and supporters of CTLS have decided to forge ahead and create a new paradigm of service for our libraries.

This model will actively seek funding for CTLS programs from individuals, library support groups, foundations, corporations, and even governmental sources. We will work hard to preserve the best of what we have built even as we develop services that libraries need and will pay for. CTLS will continue to be an inclusive and proactive voice for libraries all across Texas.

Transforming CTLS from a grant dependent organization to a self sustaining nonprofit in one year is an enormous challenge. It will take the hard work of many individuals and the collective support of every CTLS member librarian, library supporter, and even patrons of member libraries. Leading this effort are the members of the Board of Directors, the Long Range Planning Committee, and an ad hoc transition team. We have prepared a resource development plan for the corporation which will guide our fundraising efforts. Present and past members of the Long Range Planning Committee are working on specific internal issues like Bylaws changes, Board recruitment, fee based services, membership fees, and revenue generating projects.

Continued on the next page...

IN THIS ISSUE:

**Looking Back,
Looking Ahead**
Page 1-2

DLC, By the Numbers
Page 2

Libraries for Democracy
Page 3

Youth Services News
Page 3-4

News You Can Use
Page 5

**CTLS Opens Its Doors to
Membership**
Page 6

TANG Tech Tips
Page 6-7

Tech Trends in Libraries
Page 7

**CTLS Calendar & Staff
Directory**
Page 8

CTLS Board of Directors:

Peggy Gibson	<i>Chair</i>
Larry Ringer	<i>Vice Chair</i>
Lyle Thormann	<i>Secretary</i>
Eileen Altmiller	<i>Treasurer</i>
Barbara Crossno	<i>At Large</i>
Curt Busk	<i>At Large</i>
Ruth Jennings	<i>At Large</i>
Dick Lavine	<i>At Large</i>
Lynne Holle	<i>At Large</i>

Continued from previous page...

The scope of this effort is wide and the time short. By September 1, 2012 gifts, donations, and grants from foundations or corporations must be in place for services to continue. On that date, all state support for CTLS and the other remaining regional systems will cease. The goal of the transition team and library supporters is to insure that there will be someone to answer your questions and provide basic services to CTLS member libraries.

The loyalty demonstrated by members from all sizes of libraries has been very gratifying and encouraging. With your continued support, the CTLS membership will meet the challenges presented by this sea change in funding and will move with confidence towards a self-sustaining future. Thank you for your participation and willingness to move ahead.

From the Front Desk...

DLC, By the Numbers

By Laura Perna



The Digital Literacy Corps program officially ends on August 31, 2011. While funding shortages prevent CTLS from continuing our large-scale collaborative effort, we are confident that the energy and relationships that DLC librarians, trainers, and supporters have established will continue.

Below are a few quick stats about the DLC. For more details, keep an eye out for the next issue of the Texas Library Journal (87:3 Fall 2011)!

Participating locations (libraries + branches): 35
Classes held: 220
Patrons served: +1,000
Patrons who found work after taking classes: 8 (and counting!)

A Few Words in Closing

As the summer winds down (according to the calendar, if not the thermometer), so too does my run at CTLS. After two years here, serving as administrative support, Digital Literacy Corps coordinator, and resident punster, the time has come to tip my hat and wish everyone a fond farewell. My time at CTLS was relatively short, but I've learned a few things about public libraries and their patrons:

- It doesn't matter if the pages are torn, smudged, or falling out- folks will read a Large Print Western!
- A card catalog drawer is also the perfect size and shape for storing a cache of chocolate.
- Sometimes, a paddle boat is better than an ocean liner. Libraries in small towns may not have the funding, facilities, and other perks that those in big cities enjoy; but they're also free of many restrictions. Programming, collaborations, and new initiatives can really take off without bureaucracy and other governmental structures to bog them down.

I'm going to miss CTLS terribly- visiting all of your libraries, gabbing and laughing with other CTLS staff, working on an amazing project like the DLC- but I'm also looking forward to what's ahead. In September, I'm proud to be joining another Austin non-profit: the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities. I worked at CTD a couple years ago, and I helped establish Pen 2 Paper (<http://ctowd.org/pen2paper.html>), a disability-focused creative writing competition that is, as far as I know, the only one of its kind in Texas. I'm thrilled to work on this effort once more, and I would love for you to contact me if your library might like to get involved (or for any other reason!) at lperna@cotwd.org.

It's been fun, everyone! I hope that our paths cross again.

Libraries For Democracy

News Release

Starting July 4, 2011, libraries and the general public now have a new information resource with the mission of forging a stronger American democracy by helping citizens to be better-informed and more civically active. The resource is the website **Libraries For Democracy (LFD)**, www.LibrariesForDemocracy.com. **LFD** was created by two Texas public librarians, Michael Baldwin and Adam Wright. **LFD** is a membership website for libraries and librarians. It allows member librarians to gain access to and provide content for democracy and social issues programming for libraries.

LFD is also a free information site for the public. It provides news stories and links to democracy/social issues-related information resources that have been vetted by **LFD** as providing relevant, useful information. **LFD** will also provide interactive content such as a survey question of the week on an important current issue. Responders to the survey will have their answers and comments made available to their state and federal elected officials as indicated by the responders' zip codes. The website also features tools for users to locate their elected representatives and makes it easy to contact them and to follow their legislative actions.

Another interactive **LFD** feature is Help Yourself! By following simple step-by-step instructions, users will be able to quickly do something that will save them time, money, or frustration. For example, the first Help Yourself item is how to sign up for the federal Telemarketing Don't Call List. **LFD** makes it simple to do it quickly and without hassle. These Help Yourself items will be archived for later access as well.

The **LFD** website will feature a Graph of the Week that presents important social data in the form of an easy to understand graph with commentary by professional social scientists. Interactive games, graphics, and puzzles that relate information on democracy and social issues will also be featured on the **LFD** website. These are just some of the innovative features that **LFD** hopes will make the website interesting and useful to the public.

Anyone can join **LFD** for only \$25 per year. During the first year, a lifetime membership is available for only \$100. Libraries and organizations can join for \$25 -- \$100, depending on population served. A Library member will receive a certificate declaring it an American Democracy Center, an icon link to the **LFD** website, freebies and discounts on products and services, and access to exclusive professional information resources.

The aim of librarian memberships in **LFD** is to create a network of thousands of librarians who will supply information and ideas to each other. **LFD** will organize the information and make it available to members. **LFD** will provide encouragement for librarians to create democracy/social issues-related programming in their libraries. Any type of library and librarian can become an **LFD** member. Because they've just gotten started and there's just the two staff members, our website is still a little rough around the edges and is definitely a work in progress. Please consider joining **LFD** and help us grow into a powerful service to libraries and to American democracy.

Michael Baldwin and Adam Wright are the founding partners of **LFD**. Wright is Executive Director of North Texas Library Partners and an expert in IT security. Baldwin is Director of the Benbrook Texas Public Library, and is also a former teacher of American Government. He has published several professional articles advocating that libraries should become democracy centers and should make it one of their primary roles to inform the public for responsible citizenship and civic engagement. That is what **Libraries For Democracy** hopes to accomplish.

Don't forget the next circuit rotation!

The circuit rotation takes place on Friday September 2nd. If you haven't gotten your books by September 10th (we do have a long weekend that could affect the mail), please call me immediately so we can start tracking down your books! Thank you!

Youth Services News

By Kim Lehman

Coming to a Library Near You

Banned Books Week

Sept. 24- Oct. 1

Post videos (no longer than two minutes) reading excerpts of your favorite banned book. Alternatively, videos of up to three minutes can be submitted giving eyewitness accounts of local challenges. (A list of banned literary classics can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/kwxwdz>). Libraries are encouraged to film their patrons and upload the videos as part of their Banned Books Week celebration. For details go to bannedbooksweek.org.

Teen Read Week

Oct. 16-22

Teen Read Week encourages you to [Picture It @ Your Library](#) .

Everything you need can be found on the YALSA website <http://tinyurl.com/6ao6elg>.



National Friends of Libraries Week

October 16-22

National Family Literacy Day

November 1

Turn off your TV; pick up a good book.

Free Promotional Tools for Library Card Sign-up Month

September is Library Card Sign-up Month - a time to remind parents and children that a library card is the most important school supply of all. American Library Association has free print, digital and audio PSA's for you to use. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/25nxm5t>.

Teen Brains

At a keynote address recently, the presenter made a joke by saying that one teenager has a brain, two teens have half a brain and three teens are totally out of their minds. Those who were fortunate enough to attend the workshop, Giving a Fish a Bath: The Untold Story of the Adolescent Mind, left with valuable information about the teen brain. The knowledgeable Frank Kros filled our brains with a greater understanding of how teen brains develop and function. If you would like to subscribe to the Upside Down Organization's free e-newsletter, BRAINwaves, go to www.upsidedownorganization.org. Here are a few highlights from the workshop.

- Importance of Sleep
 - 80% of learning happens while you sleep.
 - Teens need 9.25 hours of sleep.
- Learning
 - Punishment is not the best way to work with teens. If adults react to a teen, the teen has the power, "Look what I can do!"
 - The more you learn, the more you CAN learn.
 - Every teaching moment should include these two things:
 - How does this relate to what you already know?
 - How might you use this in the future?
 - Praise youth for their perseverance and efforts instead of telling them they are smart or talented. Learning perseverance, effort and strategies builds internal motivation that is beneficial throughout life. For more information about this subject read [Mindset: The New Psychology of Success](#) by [Carol S. Dweck](#).

Suggested Reading

How the Brain Learns by David Sousa

Why Do They Act That Way? By David Walsh

The Childhood Roots of Adult Happiness by Edward M. Hallowell

Different Brains, Different Learners by Eric Jensen

Teaching With the Brain in Mind by Eric Jensen

Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain by John J. Ratey

Secrets of the Teenage Brain: Research-Based Strategies for Reaching and Teaching Today's Adolescents by Sheryl Feinstein

Inside the Teen Brain (PBS) – free to view the program online.

Continued from previous page...

Holiday Books

Autumn is the time for holiday celebrations and if we're lucky, cooler, wet weather. If you would like to view the webinar *Holiday Books for Children* and find the complete bibliography go the CTLS website, www.ctls.net. Here are a few recent books to get you into the holiday spirit.

Halloween

Pumpkin Cat by [Anne Mortimer](#)

Bone Dog by [Eric Rohmann](#)

Pumpkin Trouble by [Jan Thomas](#)

The House That Witchy Built by [Dianne De Las Casas](#)

Night of the Pumpkinheads by [Michael J. Rosen](#)

Half-Minute Horrors by [Susan Rich](#)

Thanksgiving

Diary of a Pet Turkey by [Joanne Ingis](#), [Binny](#)

Balloons over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade by [Melissa Sweet](#)

Christmas

Duck & Goose, It's Time for Christmas by Tad Hills

A Bad Kitty Christmas by Nick Bruel

Llama Llama Holiday Drama by [Anna Dewdney](#)

Home for Christmas by Jan Brett

The Story of Christmas by [Pamela Dalton](#)

The Night Before Christmas by [Clement Clarke](#)

[Moore](#), [Charles Santore](#) (Illustrator)

Hanukkah

The Hanukkah Hop! By [Erica Silverman](#)

The Golem's Latkes by [Eric A. Kimmel](#)

The Story of Hanukkah by [David A. Adler](#)

Harvest of Light by [Allison Ofanansky](#)

Kwanzaa

A Stork in a Baobab Tree: An African 12 Days of Christmas by Frances Lincoln

Li'l Rabbit's Kwanzaa by Donna Washington

News You Can Use

By Laurie Mahaffey

Books for End-Of-Summer Reading

Patrons love true crime books, and four new books about true crime in Texas were favorably reviewed by Mike Cox in the July 31 "Austin American Statesman". *The Crime Buff's Guide to Outlaw Texas* by Ron Franscell discusses many cases, among them an East Texas lawman who poisoned his wife and was hanged. It was the first case of a former sheriff's deputy being brought to justice for his crime. Globe Pequot published this book, which sells for \$16.95.

The Johnson-Sims Feud: Romeo and Juliet, West Texas Style, by Bill O'Neal, is the story of a teenage bride and her 24-year-old husband. "Juliet" shoots at "Romeo," but it is her brother who kills her husband. Teenage brides are not a new phenomenon in our state. University of North Texas Press published this \$24.95 book.

Another UNT publication is Chuck Parsons' *Captain John R. Hughes: Lone Star Ranger*. Cox states that Hughes and his men "were the inspiration for Zane Grey when he wrote his classic Western, *The Lone Star Ranger*." Note to self: check for the Zane Grey book in the Westerns section. The book is \$29.95.

The respectable city of Waco is the focus for *The Oldest Profession in Texas: Waco's Legal Red Light District*, by James Pylant and Sherri Knight. "...(M)ore than 1,200 women plied the ancient trade in Waco from 1869 to 1918..." Who knew? Jacobus Books published this book, which sells for \$22.95.

New Fiscal Year Begins

As CTLS begins the new state fiscal year, we are eager to help all of our libraries with consulting services. While we have two fewer staff members, we are delighted to have Kim Lehman doing children's and youth services. The rest of us continue in our roles. If there is anything with which we can help, please call or e-mail. Kim can help with the kinds of things Suzan did, and I will try to help with the things Jennifer did. Katelyn will be taking on Laura's role with Large Print and other office issues. Pat, Holly, and Kam are working on the same projects as before. We look forward to assisting you in the days ahead!

CTLS Opens Its Doors to Membership

We are very excited to announce that CTLS is opening its doors to Associate Members from all over the state. This category of membership allows libraries of all types, corporations, and individuals who are not eligible for regular membership in the State Library System to become a part of CTLS.

Membership fees are determined by the number of full time equivalent staff at a library. The pricing and other information can be found on our website, <http://www.ctls.net/join-ctls/>. If you are interested or have any questions regarding possible Associate Membership in CTLS, please do not hesitate to contact Executive Director Pat Tuohy (pat.tuohy@ctls.net).



TANG Tech Tips

By Holly Gordon

Describing the Digital Divide

I've come across a couple of good resources lately that explain why computers are important in public libraries. You all know why computer access is important to your patrons, but sometimes you need to convince funders and board members that working computers with adequate bandwidth are essential in your libraries.

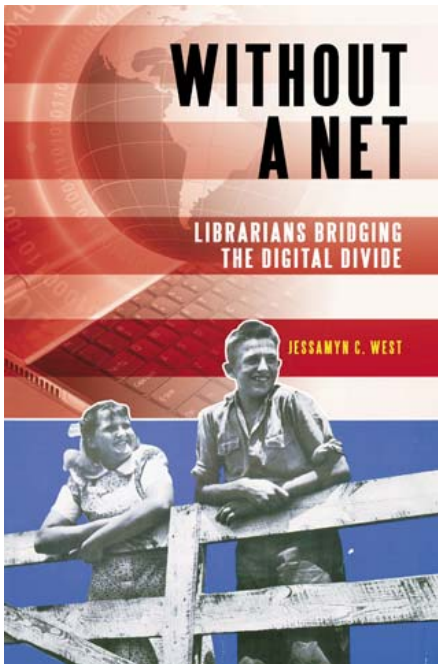
Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study 2010-2011 "assesses public access to computers, the Internet, and Internet-related services in U.S. public libraries, and the impact of library funding changes on connectivity, technology deployment, and sustainability...The report provides information that can help library directors and library IT staff benchmark and advocate for technology resources..." (Quoted from the following website)

Available here: http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2010_2011/index.cfm

Without a net : librarians bridging the digital divide by Jessamyn C. West

ISBN 978-1-59884-453-5

"Millions of Americans—35% of adults—live without broadband access at home. Perhaps more surprising, as of late 2009, 22% of adults still did not use the Internet at all...How can libraries close the gap?" (quoted from the back cover) Also check out resources at the author's website <http://www.librarian.net/digitaldivide/>



Get digitally organized

We are librarians, after all. We should be organized by profession, if not by nature. But many people capable of organizing a 50,000 item collection have difficulty organizing their own electronic data. This article has some simple tips:

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/four-simple-and-free-tips-to-organize-your-windows-experience/>

Basically, make folders in your e-mail, on your hard drive, on the shared drive. Anything you are not using today and plan to use in the future should be in a folder. If it is something you use often, put a shortcut to it on your desktop...but still put it in a folder. I have not tried the other 3 hints, which involve software, but I did get additional ideas from the comments.

Continued from previous page...

Things to check before you call tech support

Here is a great article on things you can check when you are having tech problems: <http://webworkerdaily.com/2009/09/22/web-work-101-be-your-own-tech-support/>. You would be surprised how many times the solution I use is one of the 10 suggestions in this article. However, do be careful using the Internet to find an answer to a tech problem – make sure you are at a site you trust, and that the URL looks legitimate. Also check out these sites for more tech problem solving: <http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/5-sites-to-learn-how-to-repair-your-own-computer/> And these flowcharts are actually fun to work through: <http://fixingmycomputer.com/>

Choosing Laptops and Workstations

Besides the suggestions I listed here on the CTLS website here: <http://www.ctls.net/technology/tang-consulting/computer-buying-guides/>. Also take a look at this site <http://laptoping.com/category/dell-vostro>. **Notice the “Category” section, mid-way down the rightside of the page, and you can compare all kinds of laptops, not just Dell Vostro.

Tech Trends in Libraries

By Kam McEvoy

I was recently asked to talk about technology trends in libraries, and here were my main questions to decision-makers. Let me know what you think!

How are you reaching out to patrons using mobile devices? Through your catalog? Advertising events? Are you marketing the EBSCO/Gale apps for mobile phones that are free for them through TexShare?

How are you acquiring, aggregating, and promoting access to e-books, e-audiobooks, and public domain e-content? Some vendors and free options are: Open Library, OverDrive, EBSCO, reference and popular materials, HathiTrust, Google Books, Project Gutenberg. How are you making it easy for constituents to use these platforms?

Are you ready to accommodate patrons' devices? If you're not familiar with the devices, do you have a staff member or volunteer that can help patrons out? Or can they teach you so that you can help patrons out? We have many devices for checkout – just call us and we'll be happy to send them so you can get more comfortable with what your patrons are bringing in and what preferred device they expect the library to be able to interface with. Are you leveraging just-in-time marketing for your wonderful library events? Sometimes getting a flyer to someone a month in advance is great, but also letting them know through Facebook, Twitter, Foursquare or Gowalla, or even email that an event will start in 20 minutes will catch people at the right time to bring participants to the program.

What kind of community-specific materials do you have in your collection – one-of-a-kind materials that make you special? This could be a wonderful genealogy collection, lots of pictures and documents that chronicle the history of your town and its inhabitants, establishing a toy library for your kids, having an e-reader checkout program, etc. One library has a guitar collection that they check out to patrons, another has a seed sharing collection – like watermelon and tomato seeds, in addition to a community garden on library grounds. You can be really creative with this one and let your staff and volunteers' passions shine.

How can you help patrons tell their story? Maybe that would look like “digitize your old photos” day, or helping patrons build personal collections at monthly meetings, from scrapbooking to creative writing - personally generated materials.

Are you cultivating rock star librarians and rock star library advocates? Putting a human face on your institution. Social media outreach and personal interaction are key – see my last month's article.

Would cloud-computing solve some tech problems in your community? This model focuses on access versus ownership, like potentially having pay-per-click databases instead of yearly subscriptions – technology that is scale-able.

Problems:

Hard to compile all electronic resources in an easy way for patrons

Hard to accommodate all devices

Hard to plan for “public access computer” spaces

Getting vendors on board with what your patrons expect

CTLS Calendar of Events

September	1	Beginning of the New Fiscal Year
	5	Labor Day ~ CTLS Office Closed
	8-11	ARSL Meeting ~ Frisco, TX
	13	CTLS Board of Directors Meeting ~ Austin, TX
	23	Fall Membership Meeting ~ Cedar Park, TX
October	18	CTLS board of Directors Meeting ~ San Marcos, TX
	21	TLA District 3 Meeting ~ Austin, TX

Register for CTLS workshops and events online at www.ctls.net!

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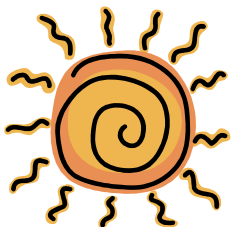
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The dawn of a new CTLS...