

CTLS Newsletter

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The State Budget Crisis and Public Libraries

By Pat Tuohy



News of Texas' budgetary shortfall and the Legislature's response to that shortfall has grabbed the attention of librarians all over the state. Librarians and patrons alike in all types of libraries are shocked and dismayed by the proposed FY 2012 & 2013 budget as set forth in House Bill 1. The proposed Appropriations Act would undercut a generation of programs we built that expand and improve access to information for all Texans. The cuts go deep and, if enacted, will dramatically affect library users in all types of libraries in Texas. Among the most drastic cuts are:

- *Elimination of all Loan Star Library grants to every public library in the state.* 539 public libraries will get no state aid in FY 2012 which starts September 1, 2011. The public will be directly affected by the elimination of this direct aid to local libraries.
- *Elimination of all state funding for TexShare databases.* This will hit our college and university libraries (*and our collage students*) the hardest, since they rely so heavily on this resource.
- *Elimination of state funding for K – 12 databases.* For many school districts across the state, this is the only way our school children will have access to authoritative electronic resources in their school libraries and classrooms.

Another consequence of eliminating State funding for database programs is the loss of federal funding for other programs the State Library administers. Just like any CTLS System member, the State of Texas is required to maintain its funding (*maintenance of effort*) at a certain level to get all the federal LSTA money it is entitled to receive. If the State does not spend enough State money, it will lose some or most of its federal money. This federal money pays for a number of key programs that public libraries rely on each year. Those programs include Interlibrary Loan, Texas Library Systems, CTLS and the Technical Assistance Negotiated Grant (TANG) programs. By eliminating state funds for library programs, the proposed state budget results in drastic cuts in federal money flowing to the State Library.

This is grim news all the way around. In the past 2 weeks, I have talked to many CTLS librarians who cannot believe that such a proposal is under serious consideration by the Legislature. The grief, outrage, anger, and resolve expressed by more than 20 individuals with whom I have spoken are palpable. The question asked over and over again is "what can I do to see this does not happen?"

The first thing that you need to know is that you are not alone in your concerns. The Texas Library Association is providing facts, figures, contacts, addresses, referrals, and support for the legions of Texas library supporters and librarians who know and care about these essential library programs.

As a voter and constituent in a legislative and senatorial district, you have the right to express your opinions to your elected representatives. Educating your representatives and their staffs about the critical support that the State provides to every library user in Texas is imperative. Educating your local officials on the impact that these cuts will have on the city or county budget is also important.

Finally, it is very helpful to talk this over with your colleagues around the region and to share ideas about what you can do to educate our lawmakers. You can do this at the five CTLS Regional Meetings scheduled for later this month in 4 locations or in an online meeting in March. For more information and to register, please visit www.CTLS.net.

IN THIS ISSUE:

State Budget Crisis & Public Libraries

Page 1

News You Can Use

Page 2

What's Happening Around the System

Page 2

TLA Talking Points

Page 3

TANG Tech Tips

Page 4

Note from Peggy Gibson

Page 4

FOCTLs Sponsors Staff Development

Page 5

CTLS Calendar & Staff Directory

Page 5



CTLS Board of Directors:

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Curt Busk	At Large
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News You Can Use: CTLS Service Awards Announced

By Laurie Mahaffey

The CTLS Service Awards for fiscal year 2010 were announced at the Winter Membership Meeting on Friday, January 28, 2011 at the Harris Community Center in Belton. The Awards Committee was represented by Chair Margaret Handrow of Copperas Cove. Additional members of the committee this year were: Linda Coker, San Marcos Public Library Lay Representative; Larry Koeninger, Director of the Bryan+College Station Public Library; and Morgan McMillian, Director of the Lake Travis Community Library District. The committee appreciates all the nominations sent in by member libraries.

The **Friends Project of the Year** Award went to the San Marcos Public Library Friends for their weekly Storytime outreach at child care centers all over town. This outreach helps the children of San Marcos to be ready to read and listen when starting school. The volunteers deliver baskets of 10 carefully chosen books to participating teachers every week. Over the years, the total attendance has topped 51,000; the Friends have delivered and read 57,000 books, and have presented 4,097 first-class storytimes to the kids.

The **Librarian of the Year** was awarded to Theresa (Tessy) Crawford of the Bremond Public Library. "Her enthusiasm and encouragement led to record numbers of children's books being checked out and read this summer." She put "her own time and heart" into the development of the Summer Reading Program, enlisting middle school children to help. The success of SRP continued through the year with a well-attended weekly children's program. Tessy "works passionately" on both immediate and long-term goals of the library, including plans for a larger building. She has also developed creative fundraising events, successful both in attendance and revenues for the library.

The Award for the **Board Member of the Year** went to Faye Washington of the East Travis Gateway Library District. Faye was a Friend of the Elroy Library before the East Travis Gateway Library District was formed. She served on the library district board and volunteered to get a second library going in a location 10 miles from the original Elroy Library. Faye accomplished this by finding a building which could house a restaurant and a library; the proceeds of the rent help to fund the library's operation. The second facility opened this spring and is becoming popular with residents.

The **Youth Library Volunteer of the Year** Award went to Sophia Crossman of the Killeen City Library System. Sophia has been volunteering at the library for 8 to 10 hours per week since July 2009. She shelves, shelf-reads, and prepares uncataloged paperbacks for circulation. She steps in to assist the staff so that they can help patrons. She even helped staff a table at the city's GIS Day, promoting geographic awareness to middle school students and the public. Sophia can perform any task she is given, and "we have come to think of her as staff."

Congratulations to these outstanding people!

What's Happening Around the System...

By Katelyn Patterson

- **Gibbs Memorial Library** received a 2-to-1 grant, a total of \$1,409, from the Libri Foundation, Books for Children.
- **Lake Travis Community Library** was recently awarded a \$500 mini-grant from the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation to fund the ABC's of Cooking, a program for 5 to 10 year olds that teaches lessons about healthy eating habits and nutrition. Congrats!
- **Lampasas** recently hosted their first *Local Author's Fest*. Twelve authors were there to speak & sell their books. There were mysteries, children's books, local histories, photography, self-help, westerns & many novels to discuss, browse & buy. A new annual event has been born!
- The **School of Information at The University of Texas at Austin** has received \$800,000 from the estate of Thais Bullard, a longtime Austin resident and visiting fellow at the school in the 1990s. The gift will be used to establish the Professor Fred M. Bullard Endowed Graduate Fellowship and Student Research Fund, one of the most significant student endowments at a Library and Information Science program in the United States.
- The Library of Congress is hitting the road! On Friday-Saturday, February 11-12, the **Waco-McLennan County Library** will host the Gateway to Knowledge Traveling Exhibit from the Library of Congress at the West Waco Library & Genealogy Center, 5301 Bosque Blvd. The exhibit will be open each day from 10am-6pm.
- **Kyle Community Library** has named Acting Director Connie Brooks as Director. Congratulations!

Brag HERE!

Just contact Katelyn Patterson at katelyn.patterson@ctls.net

We will include as much as we can fit in each newsletter.

TLA's Talking Points for Public Libraries

By Kam McEvoy

Don't forget to use TLA as a resource for talking points (and tips on whom to tell) about the value of your library. This is from *Save our Texas Libraries*: http://www.txla.org/local-talking-points?quicktabs_groups=tab1#quicktabs-groups



- 94% of Texas voters agree that public libraries are a good value for tax dollars and 87% believe libraries deserve more funding.
- Libraries are part of the solution when a community is struggling economically. From free access to books and online resources for families to library business centers that help support entrepreneurship and retraining, libraries support lifelong learning.
- Libraries help bridge the divide between those who have access to information and those who do not. Families making less than \$15,000 annually are two to three times more likely to rely on library computers than those earning more than \$75,000.
- Libraries don't just offer the hardware, but also offer the expertise of librarians in helping teach people how to use the Internet and find the information they need quickly. While Google can give you 50,000 responses to your inquiry, your librarian can help you find the one answer you need.
- Nine in 10 Texas voters agree that, during economic hard times, public libraries provide important resources to families and job seekers.
- Texas Libraries educate the workforce and connect people with jobs.
- 73% help patrons complete online job applications
- 80% provide job resources
- 82% of Texas libraries offer homework resources
- 67% provide e-books
- Almost 40% of public libraries report they are the only source of access to computers and technology in their communities
- 87% of libraries offer public IT training
- For many small businesses, the library provides research resources and specially trained staff they could not otherwise afford.
- With library patrons that include afterschoolers, homeschoolers, distance learners, and researchers, public libraries offer a critical means for many to meet the requirements of formal education programs.
- Local public libraries form part of the state's network for the deployment of information. With state government relying increasingly on people accessing, filling out, and printing applications online, the burden of disseminating this information and helping people use technology to access state information falls to local public libraries.
- Communities and cities across the country are ranked by many measures—economic development, literacy, educational institutions, and health, for instance. Libraries are vital in helping local governments meet their own goals in these areas. Through programming, resources, and services, public libraries help cities and counties provide a stronger infrastructure to draw business and spur innovation.
- Public libraries are committed to providing equal access to valuable information resources for all residents. This access is required to thrive in today's information age.

Is it Good Enough?

A wise nugget from *My Start-up Life*, by Ben Casnocha (brought to me via thestartupdaily.com), especially in these times of budget cuts and prioritizing more than ever:

Envision being great in all that you do, but beware the law of diminishing returns. To be effective with limited resources you must learn when and where to accept the mediocre. If you labor to make every detail of your product or service flawless, you will accomplish a lot less than you could otherwise. **The Perfect is the Enemy of the Good.** Make the truly important stuff—your core offering—great, make the rest good enough.

Attend Legislative Day!



TLA's Legislative Day is a day of advocacy held once every two years in Austin. Legislative Day is a time for library supporters to gather in Austin and "talk up" libraries with visits to elected officials at the Capitol. Legislative Day is held during each state legislative session, and includes training and special briefings the evening before the full day of visits.

For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.txla.org/legislative-day>.

TANG Tech Tips:

PC and Printer Management & Scheduling Software

By Holly Gordon



Lately I have been getting many requests for information on software that can be used to schedule public computer time, to limit patron sessions to a set amount of time, and to manage print jobs and costs. Here is a list of the software being used by public libraries in CTLS.

- **Pre-Book**— <http://useful.com/products/useful-pre-book> by Useful, Pre-Book is a FREE open-source product. This product does not appear to include print management. Integration with your patron database (for authentication) is available for purchase. Also look at Useful Desktop (<http://useful.com/products/useful-desktop>), which is a much cheaper way to implement and support public computers (through virtualization and thin client).
- **PCReservation & LPT-1** – <http://www.envisionware.com/en/suite> by Envisionware. These products are used by many libraries. PC Reservation manages public computers, and LPT-1 manages print services. Patron authentication is via standards such as SIP, SIP2, to your library system's patron database (<http://www.envisionware.com/en/ilscompatibility>)
- **Cybrarian** – <http://www.cybrarian.com> This product includes many modules for public computers, such as time management and signup, print management, public computer lockdown (similar to Steady State and DeepFreeze), patron authentication with many library system databases (including Biblionix), and even internet filtering.
- **SignUp** – <http://www.pharos.com/signup/pharos-signup-LIB.html> by Pharos. This public computer management product includes patron authentication. Pharos also offers Uniprint, a print management product that includes a feature to assist patrons who want to print from their laptops, and need printer driver software downloads.
- **PCCop** – <http://www.cmsdignet.com> by CMSDignet. This public computer management product includes patron authentication (SIP and LDAP). CMSDignet also offers Dignet, a print management.
- **ActiveCommunities** – <http://www.activecommunities.com/technology-solutions/computer-reservations.htm>
- **ALPS** (Automated Library Patron Services) – <http://www.integratedtek.com/pc-print.php> by ITG (Integrated Technology Group). This product includes computer and print management, with includes patron authentication through many library system patron databases.
- **Cassie** – <http://www.librarica.com> by Librarica. The Cassie product includes computer and print management, with includes patron authentication through many library system patron databases. It also can include internet filtering, and they offer an option printing option for patron laptops using a library hotspot.

Please contact Holly Gordon (holly.gordon@ctls.net) if you have corrections or additions to this list.

Note from CTLS Board of Directors Chair, Peggy Gibson

The Board of CTLS, Inc. would like to send a big thank you to retiring board member Muriel Jackson. Thanks for the service, the great advice and always cheerful attitude, Muriel. You will be missed by all of us. Muriel took us seriously when we said if we retire, we all have to find our own replacement and introduced us to Curt Busk from Wimberley. Curt was appointed to fill Muriel's position at our January Board Meeting in Belton. We are looking forward to getting to know Curt and have already warned him there is much to do. We were pleased to welcome new board member Lynne Holle of Schulenburg to her inaugural board meeting also.

Although filled with dire financial news, the membership meeting was a good one and some really good things were done. We were proud to honor some of our dedicated volunteers and the Librarian of the Year. We bid a fond, albeit sad, farewell to board member Betty Lowrance, thanking her for her many years of service. Betty will also be missed. We all have our work cut out for us in the next few months. We need to write, call and visit our representatives as much as possible to let them know what will be lost if all the proposed budget cuts take place. As Gloria Meraz from TLA said, "Get fired up! Let them know how we feel and convince our patrons to do the same."

Thank you all for your attendance and attention at the meeting. I look forward to seeing some of you at one of the Regional meetings.

FOCTLS Helps Sponsor Staff Development For your Library Staff

By Jennifer Patterson

In January, the Friends of CTLS (FOCTLS) met to discuss their funding goals for 2011. They decided to continue to provide up to 30 educational grants of up to \$50 each for CTLS members (staff, volunteers or board members) to attend any CTLS workshop. That means that FOCTLS is willing to help with gasoline and meal cost as well as the registration fee! So don't hesitate – register for a workshop! Grant requests are made via email. Workshop requests must be received one week prior to workshop date.

How the Workshop Grant Works: Please register and pay for desired System workshop through our website: www.CTLS.net. Then email the following information to foctls@ctlsinc.org :

- your name
- your email address
- your physical address
- your phone number
- the library with which you're affiliated
- your position at the library (director, library staff, volunteer, lay representative, board member)
- the CTLS workshop you'd like to attend
- a brief description of how this workshop will help your library services (no more than a paragraph)

Please forward your workshop email confirmation to foctls@ctlsinc.org to show proof of purchase. FOCTLS will review application and contact applicant. Successful applicants will receive a \$50 check within one week of the workshop.

FOCTLS will pay up to \$50 for an in-house workshop; The CTLS *Workshops on Request* program allows you to schedule training when it's convenient to you. Workshops can be limited to your staff or you may invite other libraries, board members, or volunteers. If you want to have a workshop at your library for your staff, FOCTLS would pay registration for 5 staff members for a half-day workshop. Please contact the staff presenters listed here to schedule your training. As many as 20 CTLS member libraries could request one of these workshops, with a minimum of 5 participants:

- **LEADERSHIP: Tools for Managing People** We will explore the values, mindset, and priorities which are required of a leader. Review the supervisor's key responsibilities and the tools which will help you apply what you learn. Minimum 5 participants, 5 hours CE credit. Presenter: Jennifer Patterson
- **Library Board Development:** Learn the responsibilities of board members, scope of services offered, advocacy, community involvement, plus the board's relationship with staff, local government, and the public. 2 hours CE credit. Presenter: Pat Tuohy.
- **Online History & Genealogy:** Help local historians and genealogists find useful information online with hands-on practice using local history sites and Heritage Quest, a census and local history database. Min. 5 participants, 2 hours CE credit. Presenter: Laurie Mahaffey.
- **Readers' Advisory for Adults:** Learn to ask questions which will help identify patrons' reading preferences; explore the various genres' appeal characteristics; and look at some useful websites for readers advisory. Minimum 5 participants, 3 hours CE credit. Presenter: Jennifer Patterson.
- **Ready to Read: Early Literacy @ Your Library:** Learn the five things that librarians, parents and early childhood educators can do to help young children get ready to read. This is a fun, hands-on workshop. Minimum 5 participants, 3 hours CE credit. Presenter: Suzan Nyfeler.
- **Reference 2.0:** Improve your reference skills and make better use of online reference resources. Minimum 5 participants, 3 hours CE credit. Presenter: Jennifer Patterson.
- **Strategies for Serving Diverse Customers:** Strengthen customer service skills and learn a communication model which will help you deal with difficult people at the library. Minimum 5 participants, 3 hours CE credit. Presenter: Jennifer Patterson.
- **Strut Your Stuff: Marketing Your Collection:** Market your collection to the whole community. Increase circulation through retail display, creative shelving techniques, and staff involvement. Minimum 5 participants, 3 hours CE credit. Presenter: Jennifer Patterson.
- **Teambuilding with the MBTI:** Positive work environments don't just happen—they require effort. Explore the dynamics of interpersonal communication using the Myers Briggs Type Indicator. Minimum 5 participants, 3 hours CE credit. Presenter: Jennifer Patterson.
- **Teen Genre Fiction:** What are the latest, best and most readable books for teens? Come away with great genre lists for teens and a new respect for this literary explosion! Minimum 5 participants, 3 hours CE credit. Presenter: Jennifer Patterson.
- **Weeding Your Adult Collection:** Are your shelves crowded or dingy? Do you want to weed, but need a little help getting started? Learn the CREW Method's basic rules for improving your library's collections. Minimum 3 participants, 3 hours CE credit. Presenter: Laurie Mahaffey.



FOCTLS will also give up to 3 grants (not to exceed \$500 each) for CTLS member library staff to attend TLA. This is a great opportunity for you or a coworker to enjoy the intellectual stimulation and fabulous fun of TLA 2011 in Austin!

Finally, FOCTLS is also helping staff our first CTLS, Inc. booth at TLA. We are going to show the members of TLA what a useful system we are with Third Thursdays, online resources, monthly newsletters, CTLS –L, a variety of CE opportunities, and new allies! If you are able to help in the CTLS booth, send a message to info@ctls.net.

CTLS Calendar of Events

February	11	Texas Reading Club workshop ~ Wells Branch
	14	Happy <3 Day!
	15-16	TLA Legislative Day ~ Austin, TX
	21	Presidents' Day ~ CTLS Office Closed
	24	CTLS Regional Meeting ~ West Waco
	25	CTLS Regional Meeting ~ Hearne
March	2	CTLS Regional Meeting ~ Online / Texas Independence Day
	3	CTLS Regional Meeting ~ Bastrop
	4	CTLS Regional Meeting ~ Bertram
	15	CTLS Board of Directors Meeting ~ Schulenburg
	17	3rd Thursday: Taking Your Reference Books Online ~ Online
	24	Customer Focus: Rethinking the User Experience ~ Austin

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

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Volunteer for the CTLS Booth at TLA

Going to TLA? Please volunteer to show off CTLS in our booth! For more information, contact the CTLS office at 512-583-0704 or info@ctls.net. Thank you!

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We love our member libraries!