

CTLS Newsletter

August 2011 No. 103

State Library to Eliminate System Funding in 2012

By Pat Tuohy

On June 22, State Librarian Peggy Rudd informed the eight Coordinators and 2 Executive Directors of the Texas Library Systems as well as the Major Resource Center Library Directors that the Texas State Library would no longer fund the operations of the 10 library systems and the TANG program as of September 1, 2012. This devastating blow to library development in the state was taken in response to cuts to state and federal funding for the next biennium. The Library & Archives Commission took the largest overall cut of any of the state agencies – 64%. The library program at TSL took an 88% cut. These reductions wiped out several essential state funded initiatives such as Loan Star Libraries and the K-12 database program, and severely crippled the TexShare databases offered to libraries around the state. Funding for federally supported programs like Systems, TANG, Interlibrary Loan, Tex-Share databases, and LSTA competitive grants are indirectly impacted by the State Library's inability to maintain effort to qualify for IMLS dollars.

This announcement has sown confusion and dismay around the state as public librarians have come to understand the implications of this action on their libraries. It is likely that 7 of the 10 regional systems will go out of business on or before August 31, 2012. The South Texas Library System in Corpus Christi has announced that it will cease operations on December 31, 2011. The other systems slated to close by August 31, 2012 are: Alamo Area at San Antonio Public, Big Country at Abilene Public Library, Houston Area at the Houston Public Library, Northeast Texas at Garland Public Library, Texas Trans Pecos at El Paso Public Library, and the West Texas Library System at the Lubbock Public Library. The plans of the Texas Panhandle, now the Harrington Consortium, have not been announced.

The two library systems NOT closing their doors are the Central Texas Library System, Inc. and the North Texas Library Partners in Ft. Worth. As nonprofit corporations, these library systems will continue to operate as providers of services needed by their member libraries. The challenges both these corporations face are enormous, as are the opportunities.

The changes ahead for CTLS, Inc, are profound. With the support of the membership, Board of Directors, and Long Range Planning Committee, CTLS will meet the challenge posed by this dramatic reconfiguration. Come to the Membership Meeting in Cedar Park on September 23rd to hear the Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee lay out the road map for transforming CTLS from a grant funded entity to an entrepreneurial nonprofit organization. The Membership of CTLS will be asked yet again, to step up to the plate and hit the baseball out of the ball park. If any system can do this, it is ours.

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CTLS Board of Directors:

Peggy Gibson	<i>Chair</i>
Larry Ringer	<i>Vice Chair</i>
Lyle Thormann	<i>Secretary</i>
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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>

News You Can Use

By Laurie Mahaffey

New Texas/Genealogy/Reference Book

A retired social studies teacher in Comanche has compiled a new book: The World War II Fallen of Texas. Using sources such as the U. S. Army Microfiche Reference Casualty Rosters and the American Battle Monument Commission, Alfred Evans has put together this 2-volume set with names of over 22,000 men and women from Texas who lost their lives during World War II while on active duty. "Entries range in scope from name, rank, service, and serial number to expanded entries with unit, date of death, cemetery, grave location, and major awards."

This could be a fitting purchase using memorial money for your library's genealogy or reference collection. The price is \$79.95 plus \$10 for shipping and is available by mail from:

Alfred Evans
P. O. Box 242
Comanche TX 76442-0242

Texas libraries and county museums are requested to include a completed sales tax exemption form. My thanks to Margaret Waring of the Comanche Public Library for alerting me to this interesting book!

A Word from John Grisham

It's always enlightening to read what people say about libraries. Authors rarely say anything, possibly because they would prefer that readers purchase their books rather than check them out from a library.

John Grisham was interviewed by *Parade Magazine* in its July 10 issue. His family moved around a lot when he was growing up. "We could instantly judge the quality of life in any town by how many books you could check out of the library at a time. One library had a limit of two, and we thought that was disgraceful."

If you are limiting the number of books patrons can check out, ask yourself what message that sends. If you think it indicates limited resources, patrons may think instead that they are not trusted. Consider lifting your limit, or at least increasing it. Books and other library materials are for use, not to take up shelf space in the library. Trust your patrons; they will likely respond in kind.

Good Idea from the Library Districts Meeting

Forest Hills, a library district in the Fort Worth area, has a population of around 13,000. They have recently started a community garden on the land around the library which has turned into an intergenerational project. The older folks come to water and tend in the morning when it is cool; the kids come to pick the produce in the afternoon. They grow peas, beans, watermelon, and peanuts, crops that don't need a lot of pampering.

The library's community garden has encouraged their city to allow vacant land to be used for individual garden plots. With a waiting list for the plots, any excess produce goes to the local food bank. At a nearby school, the library's children's librarian does story times on nutritious food during the summer meal times. The children make a "friendship salad" with different vegetables mixed together.

Don't forget the next circuit rotation!

The next rotation of the CTLS Large Print circuit books is Friday, September 2nd! Please collect your books in plenty of time to send them before or on that date. Please don't send your books late or when you get your new books. This backs everyone up. We are glad to have been able to purchase new books for the Circuit collections, so be looking for those in the mail as we get them.

Last Words

By Jennifer "Crazy Legs" Patterson

August is my last month as an employee of CTLS, Inc. and my retirement completes 40 years of librarianship. My work as a librarian has, at some points, been the only thing that sustained me – the only thing that got me up in the morning and got me dressed. I would not trade this profession for any other – I got to share my love of books and information with others, and got paid to do that. I've had unlimited access to books without having to pay for them. I got to read whatever I wanted to read and was able to find out what I might want to read!

I've been almost every kind of librarian – at Houston Public Library, Episcopal High School, HAM/TMC Medical Library, at Texas State Library, at Austin Public Library, and finally at CTLS. I was able to start a business, Freelance Research Service, and build it up to about 20 employees. I learned to be a trainer, a consultant and a facilitator. I started a book club, managed a branch library, organized conferences and events, and learned what it's like to be a caterer!

I believe in change and innovation. I know that people are basically doing the best they can with the resources they have available to them. I know that service to others gives me a reason for being, when I have no other. So thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve and thank you for your friendship. My home email is jenpatterson@austin.rr.com and you can find me on Facebook. Please stay in touch...

Youth Services News

By Kim Lehman

An Introductory Greeting!

As you know, our beloved Suzan Nyfeler is now a youth librarian for the Austin Public Library. We wish her the best in her new position.

I am honored to be the new Youth Services Specialist for CTLS. I have over 30 years of experience working with youth in a number of settings including libraries, schools, child care centers, Sunday schools and museums. A significant amount of that experience, 20 years of it, was with Youth Services at the Austin Public Library. I have taught kindergarten in rural Kentucky and have recently been a freelance performer and educator presenting workshops in nine of the ten Texas Regional Library Systems.

On a personal note, I am a beekeeper and write for a national beekeeping magazine. Other interests include gardening, herbs, art (I just learned how to weld), music, and collecting stuff. I have over 150 instruments, boxes of puppets, and 421 hats. To see some of those hats go to <http://tinyurl.com/3wgurp4> or do a search on YouTube for "400 Hats in 2 minutes".

I am fortunate to know many of you already. I admire your resourcefulness, dedication, and tremendous energy. You are jewels in your community. For those of you I have not had the good fortune to meet, I look forward to working with you and your community in the future to inspire the youth of central Texas to become lifelong learners and lovers of literature and libraries. Say that ten times!

Summer Reading Program

Congratulations on completing another Summer Reading Program! I hope you have an opportunity to put your feet up a bit before the fall schedule kicks in. I'm sure many of you had successful kick offs and closing celebrations. Dr. Eugene Clark Library in Lockhart had a highly successful kick off complete with large trucks from other city departments and interesting hot rods from community members. Children were given a card to be stamped at each activity. Once completed the children were able to turn them in for a prize.

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Potter Mania

There were 10,000 midnight screenings on July 15, the opening day of the last film in the Harry Potter series "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2". Harry Potter Mania is coming to an end or is it? Wait. But there's more. J.K. Rowling is rolling out a free website called Pottermore. It is important to Rowling to keep an emphasis on reading and the "literary experience" so it is not so much of a graphic game as it is a kind of digitized pop-up book. User contributions, including artwork, will be encouraged.

Beginning July 31 (Harry Potter's Birthday), one million fans can compete in an online challenge for early access to the site. Pottermore will be available to everyone on October 1, 2011. You can sign up to get announcements at <http://www.pottermore.com/>

Program Idea

Plan a program where kids create original artwork of mythical creatures, rooms in Hogwarts, or other Harry inspirations (maybe even hairy inspirations). Submit the artwork to the Pottermore website.

Great Web Sites for Kids

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association, has added more recommended websites to Great Web Sites for Kids (www.ala.org/greatsites), its online resource containing hundreds of links to exceptional websites for children.

The newly added sites are:

Education.com - www.education.com/

Fact Finder Kids Corner - <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/kids/kids.html>

Indy Kids! - <http://indykids.net/main/>

Inspire My Kids - <http://inspiremykids.com/>

Weather Channel Kids - www.theweatherchannelkids.com/

Kid Dinners Zis Boom Bah - www.zisboombah.com/

GoGo News - www.gogonews.com/

My Young Child - <http://myyoungchild.org/>

Neil Gaiman's MouseCircus - www.mousecircus.com/

Peace Corps for Kids - www.peacecorps.gov/kids

Pigeon Presents! - www.pigeonpresents.com

Science of Baseball - www.exploratorium.edu/baseball/index.html

Teaching Books - www.teachingbooks.net/crc.cgi?id=5

Study Jams - <http://studyjams.scholastic.com/studyjams/index.htm>

Laura Jernigan: Girl on a Whaleship - www.girlonawhaleship.org/

Youngzine - www.youngzine.com/

Great Web Sites for Kids (GWS) features links to websites of interest to children 14 years of age and younger, organized into diverse subject headings such as dinosaurs, authors, illustrators, games, entertainment, U.S. history, astronomy, space, and music. There is also a special section with sites of interest to parents, caregivers and teachers. Each site entry includes a brief annotation and a grade-level rating.

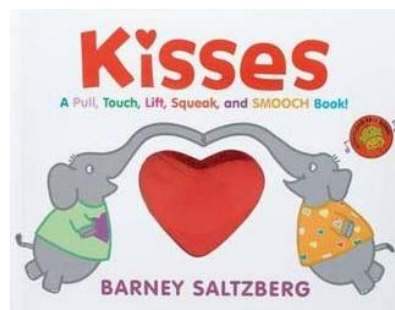
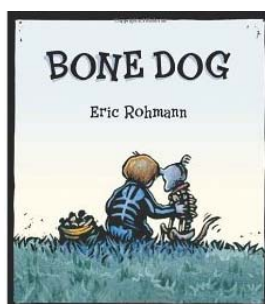
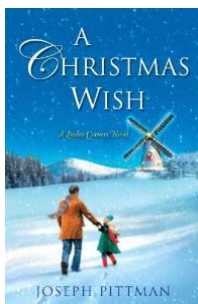
The complete listing of great sites with annotations and selection criteria can be found at www.ala.org/greatsites.

Free Webinars

Children's Books for the Holidays

Thursday, August 18, 10:00 – 11:00 am.

Join us for this live, hour-long, CTLS webinar. Get ready for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. Look at new children's holiday books for your library. CE credit will be given. To register go to <http://tinyurl.com/3cczw8k>.



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Ready to Read Sneak Peek Webinar

Presenters:

Dr. Susan B. Neuman, professor in educational studies, University of Michigan School of Education; Clara Bohrer, director, West Bloomfield Township (Mich.) Public Library; Elaine Meyers, independent library consultant, Kings Ferry, N.Y.

This hour-long webinar provides a review of the early literacy research that led to the development of the Every Child Ready to Read® @ your library® (ECRR) 2nd Edition; an overview of the toolkit's components; and an opportunity for participants to ask questions. <http://tinyurl.com/3cfff18>.

Mixing In Math: Enhancing story times, crafts, displays, and family programs with math

Monday, August 22, 10:00 - 11:00am CDT

Learn how librarians are using MIXING IN MATH, a set of FREE materials in English and Spanish that add math to circle time, story times, displays, and crafts. At this webinar, we will share experiences using MIXING IN MATH activities, introduce you to the over 200 resources, and show you how they sprinkle a little math into what they already do: story times, family events, book displays, and summer reading programs. Come ready to explore shapes, sizes, and patterns in everyday life! To learn more, check the MIXING IN MATH website: <http://mixinginmath.terc.edu/>

For more information and to register for the Webinar, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/3thkkze>. In addition, the staff at Mixing in Math are able to offer this Webinar entirely in Spanish – provided there is enough interest. If you are able to participate in the English version but would prefer the Spanish version, please register for the English version at <http://tinyurl.com/3thkkze> and then email Naomi DiTullio at naomi.ditullio@tsl.state.tx.us to indicate your interest in a Spanish version. Or, if you are only willing/able to participate in a Spanish offering, simply email naomi.ditullio@tsl.state.tx.us and indicate that you are only willing or able to participate if the Webinar is provided in Spanish.

TANG Tech Tips

By Holly Gordon

Recycling

Last month I discussed how to “wipe” your old hard drives so that you can securely dispose of your old computers (<http://www.ctls.net/technology/tang-consulting/old-computers>). This month it is time to start finding safe ways to dispose of the hard drives and computers, and any other toxic electronic waste lying around the storage areas of your library. If you are in the Austin area, or are willing to bring your things to Austin, check out the city's Solid Waste Services webpage for locations of electronic recyclers: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/zerowaste_recycling_electronic_local.htm. Note that Best Buy is on this list. They have many drop-off spots for recycling outside the Austin area.

Speedup and Startup

A good, simple thing to check on ALL your computers is the startup folder. To see what programs start up every time you start the computer, go here:

Windows XP--Click Start > Programs > Startup

Windows 7--Click Start (the weird icon in the lower left corner of the desktop) > All Programs > Startup

If you see programs here that you don't need to start up when you start up the computer, right click on the program name and select “delete”. This doesn't delete the program, but makes it not part of the startup. If you are feeling really adventurous, you can also use CCleaner to see further details on programs that startup on their own. Be careful with this, of course – if you don't know what a program does, don't disable or delete it until you do more research.

Enabled	Key	Program	File
Yes	HKCU:Run	ctfmon.exe	C:\WINDOWS\system32\ctfmon.exe
Yes	HKCU:Run	swg	"C:\Program Files\Google\Google Toolbar\Notifier\GoogleToolbarNotifier.exe"
Yes	HKCU:Run	ISUSPM	"C:\Program Files\Common Files\InstallShield\UpdateService\ISUSPM.exe" -scheduler
Yes	HJ:Run	Jing	C:\Program Files\TechSmith\Jing\Jing.exe
Yes	HKLM:Run	SoundMAXPnP	C:\Program Files\Analog Devices\Core\mas4mpx.exe
Yes	HKLM:Run	ATIPTA	C:\Program Files\ATI Technologies\ATI Control Panel\atiptaxx.exe
Yes	HKLM:Run	DVDLauncher	"C:\Program Files\CyberLink\Power2Go\DVDLauncher.exe"
Yes	HKLM:Run	ccApp	"C:\Program Files\Common Files\Symantec Shared\ccApp.exe"
Yes	HKLM:Run	BluetoothAuthenticationAgent	rundll32.exe bthprops.cpl, BluetoothAuthenticationAgent
Yes	HKLM:Run	vptray	C:\PROGRAM-1\SYSTEM-1\WPTray.exe
Yes	HKLM:Run	NGTray	"C:\Program Files\Symantec\Ghost\ngtray.exe"
Yes	HKLM:Run	Reader Library Launcher	C:\Program Files\Sony\Reader\Data\bin\launcher\Reader Library Launcher.exe
Yes	HKLM:Run	Cobian Backup 10 Interface	"C:\Program Files\Cobian Backup 10\cbinterface.exe" -service
Yes	HKLM:Run	Spiceworks	C:\Program Files\Spiceworks\bin\spiceworks_silent.exe
Yes	HKLM:Run	THBelle.exe	"C:\program files\realplayer\update\realched.exe" -osboot
Yes	HKLM:Run	SunJavaUpdateSched	"C:\Program Files\Common Files\Java\Java Update\jusched.exe"
Yes	HKLM:Run	Adobe ARM	"C:\Program Files\Common Files\Adobe\ARM\1.0\AdobeARM.exe"
Yes	Startup:Common	APC UPS Status.Link	C:\Program Files\APC\APC PowerChute Personal Edition\Display.exe

And while you are on the MakeUseOf site, download this guide to speeding up Windows:

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/download-windows-speed-free-pc-tune-guide/>

What's Happening Around the System

By Katelyn Patterson

- The Cedar Park's media and communication department recently did a video for the library to apply for a Dell Grant. The video is also being broadcasted in the Cedar Park TV Channel 10. You can access the videos here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/CityofCedarPark?feature=mhum#p/a/u/0/dvn-4kmTMC8>, <http://www.cedarparktx.us/cp/li.aspx>
- We want to give a warm CTLS welcome to Cara Waits who has just started as Assistant Director for Library Services in Kyle. Congratulations and welcome to CTLS!
- A dedicated Liberty Hill patron represented his beloved library on his visit to Washington DC. He wore his library t-shirt and got photos in all the appropriate places!



Being a Rock Star Librarian

By Kam McEvoy



I recently attended an advocacy webinar at ALA's virtual conference (<http://www.learningtimes.net/ala11/>) presented by Andy Woodworth. He looked at advocacy through the metaphor of a rock concert – we need to have rock star librarians. First of all, what are the library's greatest hits? Books. But a rock star librarian finds balance between the old and new – between traditional materials and new formats that stay in sync with the mission of the library. You gotta have a new setlist every time to keep the audience (your patrons!) interested. So, why are you putting on the show? Are you trying to increase visibility and access to resources? Is it because you love helping people?

Whatever motivates you, show that passion to your patrons and they will respond to it. Becoming a rock star depends largely on creating something that resonates with people. A rock star doesn't build the venue – they fill it. So play to every seat in the house and get your collection to have a diverse, marketable appeal. Think of the library as a destination for patrons and a place to create connections. Sure, you could listen to Bruce Springsteen in the comfort of your home, but you go to the concert for a connection with Bruce and to feel like a part of a group that shares the live experience. The fans share Bruce's passion.



Bring the library experience to the forefront and act as a guide to the patron to move them emotionally – they don't want to go it alone. How do you connect with the audience? You don't have to build strong friendships with everybody. In fact, the weak friendships are more important because it vastly increases your social reach (think celebrities, and of course rock stars here). A rock star knows most of the patrons that come through the door, and a little trivia about them to build that emotional connection. And – a rock star needs a solid network of support in staffing, like roadies. So even if you're not up for the task of rock star, you can make your library shine by supporting your rock star library staff member. We can't use the institution to trump the individual when it comes to interactions at the library. The institution needs the help of the individual to put a face on the institution. Andy ended with a rephrasing of an AC/DC quote: "To those about to rock, I salute you!" Thanks, Andy, for these words of wisdom at a time when our visibility and connection to the community is crucial to our financial survival. Here's Andy's blog if you'd like to follow him: <http://agnosticmaybe.wordpress.com/>.

Picture downloaded from http://www.ryelibrary.org/index.php/programs_events/details/the_history_of_rock_concerts/

CTLS Calendar of Events

August	16	CTLS Board of Directors meeting ~ Austin, TX
	18	3rd Thursday: Children's Holiday Books ~ Online
	19	Long Range Planning Meeting ~ Georgetown, TX
	23, 25	Book Repair Workshops~ Hearne, TX & Harker Heights, TX
September	1	Beginning of the New Fiscal Year
	5	Labor Day ~ CTLS Office Closed
	8-11	ARSL Meeting ~ Frisco, TX
	23	Fall Membership Meeting ~ Cedar Park, TX

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

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Central Texas Library System

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«Renewal Year»

«Name»

«Library»

«Address»

«City State Zip»

