

CTLS Newsletter

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Summer CTLS Membership Drive by Pat Tuohy

The Summer CTLS Membership Drive is heating up in libraries across the state. As of July 9th, 40 libraries have pledged to join CTLS in FY 2013. Over a third of the current CTLS Membership has signed up and 12 libraries from the AALS, HALS and STLS systems have also joined our ranks.

If you have not committed to CTLS yet, please consider doing so now. By joining CTLS you will stay linked with your friends and colleagues in Central Texas. You will be able to receive services and programs that keep you up on trends in libraries across the state and the nation. With money in short supply, CTLS offers ways to stay connected to and learn from your peers all across the state. This is done with on-site networking meetings, electronic discussion groups, collaborative grant opportunities, telephone consulting, on-site continuing education events, and discounts on goods and services.

The consulting services CTLS offers can help you stay legal, run your library more efficiently, and manage your operation more effectively. We provide resources to library staff on ways to work with youth from infants to teens. CTLS staff provides one-on-one coaching on collections, programming, Summer Reading, state report preparation, volunteers, and more. Our experienced staff is approachable and personable, and can make site visits.

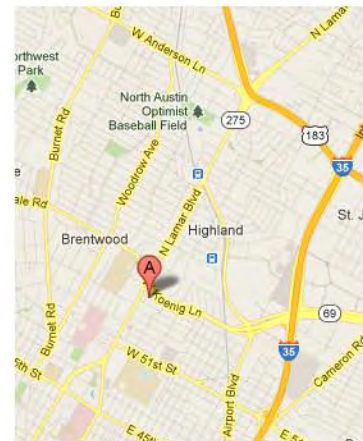
For Fiscal 2013 we are planning a wide range of practical, useful workshops that target the needs of library staff in all sizes of libraries. Lifelong Learning is more than a slogan for your patrons; it is an ever present need of library staff across the state. Staying current or learning basic library skills for the first time present challenges to every administrator who must find the training needed by staff at each stage of their development. CTLS will customize training to meet this need. To find out more contact me at pat.tuohy@ctls.net.

"Lifelong Learning is more than just a slogan for your patrons; it's an ever-present need for library staff across the state."

CTLS Gets a New Home!

On June 28th, the CTLS offices moved from our quarters on West 41st Street to a new location on North Lamar Blvd. in central Austin. The new office offers a winning combination of quick access to major highways, a huge used books store near by, and sustainable overhead costs. The new location is 5555 North Lamar, Suite L115 Austin, 78751. Come by and visit us at our new place.

As with any move, some unforeseen obstacles developed at the last minute that thwarted our plans for a smooth move. The primary difficulty has been with the changeover of telecom providers and the portability of our phone numbers. Zak has been working diligently on resolving the mistakes and miscommunications between AT&T and TimeWarner to get the CTLS phones back up and running. I hope by the time you read this article, all the difficulties will be resolved and the phones are ringing off the hook.

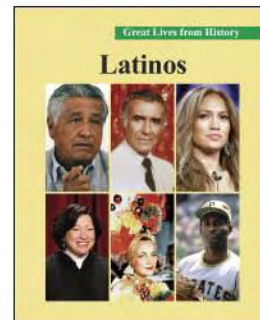


News You Can Use

by Laurie Mahaffey

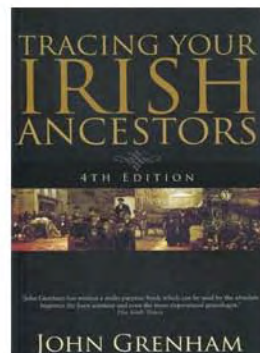
NEW REFERENCE BOOK WORTH BUYING

With so much information on the internet, it is difficult to find reference books that libraries should buy. The three-volume *Great Lives from History: Latinos* is one of those books. Edited by Carmen Tafolla and Martha Cotera, the work is published by Salem Press and is \$395. The June Booklist review states that it "is an excellent resource for school, public, and academic libraries because it includes a broad range of people working in a variety of areas. Free online access to the encyclopedia is included with purchase."



GENEALOGY MUST-HAVE

John Grenham, associated with the Irish Times Ancestors website, has produced the fourth edition of *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: The Complete Guide*. Published by the Genealogical Publishing Company, the book is an improvement over earlier editions because it includes "a guide on how to find and use key sites during various points of research..." and an index. It is thick (608 pages), comes in paperback for \$37.95, and was reviewed in the June 1 Library Journal.



WILLIE NELSON'S NEW BOOK

Willie Nelson has teamed with Kinky Friedman to write *The Troublemaker: a Story of Faith, Redemption, and Staying True to Your Deepest Beliefs*. It's hard to know what to expect from this pairing, but the publisher is doing a 125,000 copy first printing. Published by Morrow and priced at \$22.99, the book won't be out until November. The Booklist review alludes to Christmas 1971, when Willie was facing a career crisis and his home burned down. It is billed as "A memoir-cum-inspirational tale that's right for the holidays..."



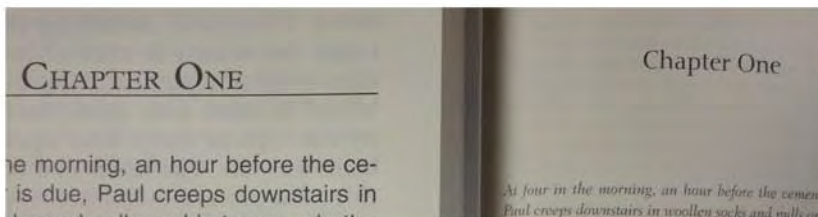
Summer Weeding

Yes, summer weeding (not reading) is always in fashion! As those books that go out in armloads come back in, look them over carefully to see if they need cleaning, mending, or replacement.

Some books "self-weed," that is, they fall apart and have to be replaced long before their copyright date would indicate time for removal. When you have slack time (possibly not until August!), examine your collection for books that need new Mylar covers over the dust jackets. Preliminary weeding using the CREW manual might be a good task for summer volunteers. It would help your library get started on a weeding project and make your shelves look more inviting at the same time. Remember that the director always has the last word on withdrawals, unless the decision has been delegated to other staff.

Free Large Print Book Circuit to End August 1

After 33 years of continuous operation, the CTLS Large Print Circuit is ending as a free service to public libraries in Central Texas. The 55 member locations now participating in this program will send back their packets to the new CTLS office by August 10. With the elimination of all State Library support for the regional systems, this service becomes one of many that will no longer be available to public libraries without charge. The Large Print Packets will continue as a subscription service after September 1 to only those libraries that join CTLS in 2013 and select this service as an option. If you want to find out more about continuing this service in your library, contact Laurie Mahaffey at laurie.mahaffey@ctls.net for more information.



Tech Q&A: Shopping for Gear

by Zak Rousel

Where do you shop for new tech gear and software?

Amazon, Ebay, Newegg, Tiger Direct, Bestbuy, Fry's, CDW, SHI, Tech Soup, Office supply stores, Walmart, Radio Shack.

Where do you shop for new desktop computers?

Dell, HP, Lenovo, Tiger Direct

Where do you shop for refurbished computers and accessories?

Dell Outlet, Discount Electronics (actual stores in Austin or website)

What do you look for in a regular desktop computer?

Fast processor but not the fastest available. 4gb of ram, nice case, dvd burner, Windows 7 Pro OS, 3 year warranty. Hard drive size does not matter because external drives are cheap. Price \$500 and up

What do you look for in a monitor?

Size, built in accessories such as usb hub and speakers, LED or LCD, Prices \$100+

What kind of keyboard and mouse do you prefer?

Logitech or Microsoft

What do you look for in laptop?

Screen size (14" for portable laptop, 15-17" for desktop replacement), screen resolution (higher is better), weight (lighter is better), battery life (longer is better), Windows 7 Pro OS. 3 year warranty. Hard drive size does not matter because external drives are cheap. Brands to look for Dell, HP, Toshiba, Sony, Lenovo. Prices \$600+

What kind of flash drive do you recommend?

Usb 3.0 with at least 32GB of space. Brands to look for: Patriot, Corsair, Kingston, Lexar. Prices are approximately \$1 per GB

What kind of external hard drive do you recommend?

USB 2.0 or 3.0 with at least 1TB of free space. I prefer drives that do not require an external power supply such as Seagate Free Agent. Other brands to look for are Western Digital, Buffalo, Toshiba. Prices are \$100+

What kind of wireless router do you like? (for office or smaller library use)

Wireless N router such as Netgear WNDR3800 Dlink and Linksys also make nice wireless routers. Prices are \$100+

What type of switch should I buy?

A Gigabit switch with 25% more ports than you currently need. Brands to look for are Tplink, Netgear, Dlink, Linksys. Prices are approximately \$5+ per port



What kind of scanners do you like?

Canon or Epson. Some models have the ability to scan slides or film. Prices \$60+

What should I look for when shopping for a printer?

B&W or Color, Duplex function, pages per minute, cost per page, built in copy, fax, scan capability. Laser or inkjet. Brands to look for HP, Epson, Canon, Dell.

What kind of tablet would you recommend?

Apple Ipad, Kindle Fire, Samsung Galaxy Tab, Asus Transformer Prime

What kind of e-readers do you recommend?

Kindle and Nook

What antivirus software do you like?

Symantec, Trend micro, Eset, McAfee, Avast, AVG all make good software. Microsoft Security Essentials is free for 10 or less computers.

What antispyware software do you like?

Most of the antivirus software mentioned above also handle spyware but in the case of a spyware infection Windows Defender, Malware Bytes, and Spybot Search and Destroy come in handy.

I need to buy something now - can you help me?

Yes! Please call or email me to discuss further.

Youth Services News

by Kim Lehman

All Around Central Texas

We all need inspiration. Programs presented in other libraries can spark ideas that can be implemented in your community. Let's take a look at a few of the exciting events happening in Central Texas.



Wrath of Cons

The Austin Public Library is going wild this summer with Teen Conventions. It is the Wrath of Cons! YomiCon, Austin Public Library's annual Anime and Manga Convention for Teens, started the summer out with a bang. Over 800 teens descended on the Ruiz Branch Library. It was amazing! The youth librarians, along with library staff and community volunteers were there in full force. They had crafts, presenters, activities, manga exchange, anime viewings, prizes, a number of contests and tournaments and so much more. Teens had to register online in advance. This way the library was able to get a photo release as well. Even though this was a gigantic event, you may want to do something like this on a smaller scale in your community. To find out more about the event - including the schedule, photos, and some of the winners - go to the Austin Public Library website:

<http://library.austintexas.gov/youth-project/yomicon>

The other "con" events scheduled for this summer are:

RoboCon, 6/22 from 6-8:00 p.m. @Manchaca Branch

FracnfairyCon, 7/13 from 6-8:00 p.m. @University Hills Branch

ApocaCon, 7/27 from 6-8:00 p.m. @Yarborough Branch



Science in Schulenburg

This summer John Beebe along with the Rotary Club rallied together to present a science program in collaboration with the TAME Trailblazer visit. The Trailblazer is a traveling science exhibit with hands-on activities. A retired FBI agent talked about fingerprinting. They blew up a volcano using vinegar and baking soda. Each student got to experience centripetal force using a balloon and a penny. The kids loved the chemical reaction of combining glue and borax to make Gak.

How to Make Gak

There are many recipes for this carbon-based polymer, using Elmer's Glue and a borax solution. Mix up large quantities of the borax and water solution in a bottle ahead of time. Mix proportionate amounts of glue and water with the food coloring in another large bottle. Combine 2 parts glue mixture to one part borax solution in a paper cup. Stir with a wooden stick. Amazingly enough, the chemical reaction still works by just eyeballing the proportions. Stir, then remove the watery blob from the liquid and knead it for a few messy minutes until the blob starts to gel and peels off their fingers. Have some plastic bags ready for taking this home.



Lampasas Marketplace

The Lampasas Public Library is making items from old books and selling them as a fundraiser. Staff has made wreaths, jewelry and little stands for items like candles.

Flat Stanley on the Move in Florence

The Eula Hunt Beck Public Library in Florence has a Flat Stanley that travels around the town. The children get a clue from the staff at the front desk about his whereabouts. They have to find and return him to the library to get a prize. Charlotte Summers, the library director, then walks Flat Stan to another location. This way the children get to visit other city departments and local businesses. Yes, Florence is a very small community.





Libraries in the News

KXAN featured Lake Travis Community Library's Bow Wow Reading Program in their *Children take reading books to the dogs* segment.

The city cable channel in Waco did a great PR piece on the Chemistry Road Show with Jim Pennington and other science programs offered throughout the summer.

Buda Public Library has a You Tube Channel. They create instructional craft videos, and then post them to the library blog and Facebook page. They use a Canon PowerShot camera to do the filming. Check it out.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/budapubliclibrary?feature=mhee>

CTLS Calendar of Events

- July 13 Library Districts Meeting - Westbank Library, Laura Bush Branch
- July 15-18 TLA Annual Assembly - Austin, Hyatt Regency Hotel
- July 17 CTLS Board Meeting - Cedar Park Recreation Center
- July 18 & 19 ALA 2012 Virtual Conference - Cypress Campus & Highland Business Center, ACC
- August 21 CTLS Board Meeting - Austin Public Library, Yarborough Branch
- September 28 CTLS Fall Membership Meeting - Salado Civic Center

CTLS, Inc.

Connecting Texas Libraries Statewide

CTLS Staff Directory

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Katelyn Patterson, Office Coordinator	katelyn.patterson@ctls.net

CTLS Board of Directors

Peggy Gibson	Chair
Larry Ringer	Vice Chair
Lyle Thormann	Secretary
Eileen Altmiller	Treasurer
Barbara Crossno	At Large
Lynne Holle	At Large

Our office is located at 5555 North Lamar Blvd, Suite L-115, Austin, TX 78751. You can call us at (800)262-4431 or fax us at (512)583-0709. We look forward to hearing from you!

