



CTLs Newsletter

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From the Executive Director
By Laurie Mahaffey

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Texas Library Association Annual Conference in April in Austin

The Texas Library Association's Annual Conference will be April 14-17 in Austin this year. The conference will be held at the Austin Convention Center in downtown Austin. To register, go to the TLA website at www.txla.org. CTLs, Inc. will again be sharing a booth with the Tocker Foundation. This year, the Tocker Foundation will be using the TAME Science Trailer as a backdrop. Come by the exhibit hall and see us!

The conference features several pre-conferences on Tuesday, and an Exhibits Reception (complete with refreshments) will be Tuesday evening. The general sessions feature world-class speakers, and the networking opportunities are plentiful.



If you need continuing education hours for your Annual Report requirement, you can get in several sessions at the conference. The exhibit hall features hundreds of vendors of all kinds of library related products, from books to shelving to puppets. Austin is as close to the center of the state as the conference ever gets. We hope to see you there!

Meanwhile, At the Capitol

State Librarian Mark Smith reports that things are going well with the State Library's budget hearings at the capitol. We are encouraged by his news and hope that the exceptional items are funded. We also hope that all of you are talking with your legislators and stressing the importance of libraries in your communities.

Every day, we see or hear about examples of libraries being the heart of their community. Do your legislators know this? Do they have a library card? Find out when they will be back in town and invite them to your library. They will come for a photo opportunity and food & drink. Perhaps they would enjoy watching a children's storytime or reading to the kids. Send us photos for our newsletter and website! Everyone appreciates free publicity. If your legislator mentions how money needs to be saved, be ready with how much of a return on investment (ROI) every dollar invested in the library creates. Libraries are the best bargain in town, and checking out a book is the ultimate in recycling.

News You Can Use

Katelyn Patterson

The Hashtag

I will be on a panel on Social Media and Marketing at TLA this year. I am so excited to be working on this. Libraries using social media is a topic that is constantly buzzing. But this makes sense because things are constantly changing. There is already a lot of information out there about best practices. And yet, the need for instruction is still there. I think a lot of this comes from the fact that what is best practice for one library isn't a best practice for another. No two libraries are alike. Their communities and patrons drive them towards their own tailor-made best practices. But it is helpful to hear how others use the technology. It inspires us to tweak their ideas a bit to best fit our own communities which then inspires someone else creating a beautiful and informative cycle. The focus of the panel will be on social media usage by libraries. But I wanted to point out here what a valuable professional tool it can be for us as librarians, too.

Are you on Twitter? [I am](#) though I have come and gone from the platform over the years. I have recently come back to it and discovered that it is my preferred professional social media platform. The people that follow me on Facebook just don't care about library usage or early literacy statistics like I do. For sharing and keeping up with these things, I turn to Twitter.

You can keep up with the latest in library trends and news from ALA ([@alalibrary](#)), TSLAC ([@TSLAC](#)), and TLA ([@txla](#)) and [all of the various associated accounts](#) such as roundtables, divisions, publications, etc. You can follow [libraries and organizations](#) to see how they are using the platform. You can follow industry leaders, authors, vendors, and publishers to be up-to-date on the latest industry talk. You can network with fellow librarians to hear about their professional interests. Not sure where to start? [Here is a great list](#) of about 5,000 libraries, librarians, and information professionals on Twitter.

The hashtag is another way to keep on top of the latest on Twitter. Can't make it to conference? Find out what the official hashtag is ([#txla15](#)) and attend virtually. There are also numerous library related weekly or monthly chats that take place on Twitter using hashtags. You simply search Twitter for the hashtag at the time of the chat to follow along. Those moderating the chat will ask questions (Q1, Q2, etc.). You can participate by tweeting your answer (A1, A2, etc.) or you can simply watch and learn as others participate. It is a great way to get ideas and find new individuals to follow with similar interests.

Here are just a few of the regular chats I know of:

[#txlchat](#) - Every Tuesday at 8pm Central, lasts 30 minutes

Texas librarians (but not limited to) come together to share resources, collaborate, and make connections.

[#libchat](#) - Every Wednesday from 8-9:30pm Eastern

Books, libraries, and technology

[#inaljchat](#), [@inaljchat](#) - Every Monday at 9-10pm Eastern

I Need A Library Job- Information Professionals working to help find & share jobs & job hunting advice

[#alscchat](#), [@alscblog](#) - Every Thursday, 9pm Eastern

Conducted by the Association for Library Services to Children so covers a wide range of youth services topics

Hack Library School did a [nice job of compiling others](#) that might be of interest to librarians, archivists, and educators.

Do you follow chats on Twitter? If there is one I haven't mentioned, please let [me](#) know about it!

Youth News

Kim Lehman

Resources for the Summer

(Gleaned from the Collaborative Summer Library Program Teen Manual.)

Websites

Buzzle. [Indoor Obstacle Course](#).

This website has ideas for creating an obstacle course indoors.

Buzzle. [Obstacle Course Ideas](#).

This website has additional obstacle course ideas.

Marvel. [Create Your Own Superhero](#).

Superhero avatar creator.

Masketeers. [Free Printable Superhero Masks](#).

Printable masks.

Donna Young. [Printable Comic Strip Templates](#).

Printable comic strip layouts.

Books

Fish, Andy. *How to Draw Superheroes*. Chartwell Books, 2011. 224 p. (978-0785827184, spiral bdg.) Adult. Provides instructions on drawing comic book heroes (including costumes), shows readers how to use perspective, and discusses tools and materials.

Lee, Stan and John Buscema. *How to Draw Comics the Marvel Way*. Touchstone, 1984. 192 p. (978-0671530778, pap.) Adult. Provides instruction on the techniques used to illustrate comic book stories, using as examples such Mighty Marvel heroes as Thor, The Silver Surfer, Spider-Man, and The Hulk.



Musical Periodic Table

Listen to the Periodic Table sung to the 2-minute-43-second Infernal Galop from Offenbach's Orpheus in the Underworld, better known as the can-can.

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=724841727564968>

GeekBus

Looking for a very cool STEM resource for your community?

The [GeekBus](#) is a mobile makerspace out of San Antonio that travels to schools or other organizations to provide STEM educational experiences in central Texas classrooms. Inside the Geekbus, you will find 3D printers, robotics, electronics, and maker materials for hands on exploring.

More information at <http://www.geekbus.com/>



Leong, Tim. *Super Graphic: A Visual Guide to the Comic Book Universe*. Chronicle Books, 2013. 196 p. (978-1452113883, pap.) Adult. A look at the intricate and sometimes contradictory storylines that weave their way through comic books. Shares advice for navigating the pages of some of the most popular, longest-running, and best-loved comics and graphic novels out there.

Snider, Brandon T. *DC Comics: The Ultimate Character Guide*. DK Children, 2011. 208 p. (978-0756682613) Gr. 3–12. An alphabetical guide to DC heroes and villains.

Shoppers Corner

Sammie Simpson

This month's article, *Tips and Sample RFPs for Your Library*, is brought to you from our wonderful friends at Techsoup.org.

TIPS AND SAMPLE RFPs FOR YOUR LIBRARY

Selecting the right technology service or vendor can be challenging and costly. Fortunately, you don't have to do it unprepared. Use the resources below to learn about the request for proposal (RFP) process and to find examples of RFPs that show what other organizations have done. Once you've selected a vendor to help you implement the plans in your RFP, view additional resources on how to manage and work with them in the article [Managing a Consultant](#).

Tips and Techniques

[An Overview of the RFP Process](#): Read some basic considerations for each phase of the RFP process in this updated article from TechSoup.

[RFPs: 3 Lessons for Organizations Issuing Them](#): In this blog post from a nonprofit organization, follow them through the steps they included in their RFP for a website project.

[How to Write the Best RFPs](#): Read tips on how to write a great RFP in this guide that covers the basic criteria to cover when outlining your next nonprofit or charity project.

[Personals for Professionals: How to Write a Website RFP](#): In this webinar presented during the 2010 Nonprofit Technology Conference, two tech professionals walk through the steps for writing the perfect RFP for a website redesign project. Sign-in required to view this recording.

Sample RFPs

[Nonprofit Org Web Overhaul: A Sample RFP](#): In this template for nonprofit organizations and charities seeking a new website, get a full draft of how your project RFP could look.

[Thinking About a New Phone System? Sample RFP](#): TechSoup forum host and nonprofit tech consultant Chris Shipley shared this successful RFP for an organization's new phone system.

[Client Management Software: A Sample RFP](#): When [Total Action Against Poverty](#) decided it needed a client management software system, this is the RFP they sent to vendors.

[Network Assessment and Upgrade: A Sample RFP](#): To help clients in their RFP development process, [NPower Oregon](#) provides this sample as a starting point.

[Web Building: A Sample RFP](#): Considering hiring a firm to build your website? Use this sample from [NPower Seattle](#) as a guide for putting together a solid RFP.

[Wiring an Office: A Sample RFP](#): See what one EMCF grantee included in its RFP for a contractor to install data, voice, and video wiring in its new office. Courtesy of [NPower NY](#). (363 KB PDF)

[1 Mississippi Website Redesign](#): Learn how this campaign builds a constituency of people throughout the ten River states who are ready and willing to proactively protect the Mississippi River.

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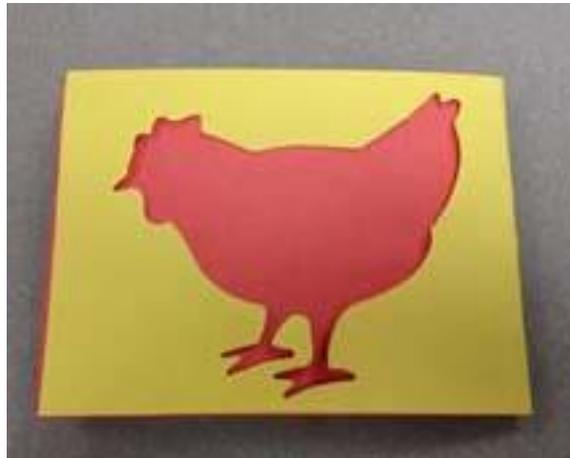
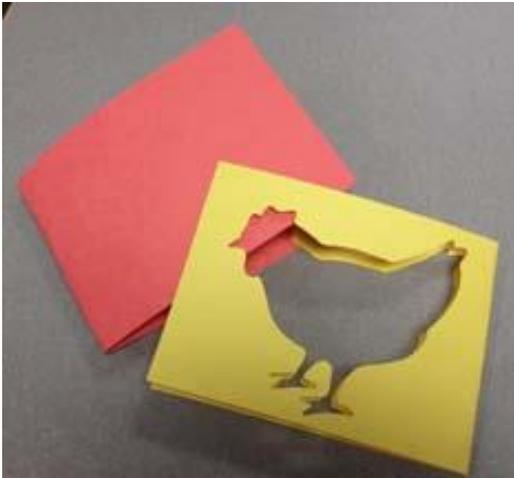
Thanks again to techsoup.org for this article. To view online, visit www.techsoup.org/support/articles-and-how-tos/rfp-library.



Library Spotlight

Livingston Public Library

The staff at the Livingston Memorial Library is enjoying their new library. Nita Kuehn, library clerk in charge of youth programs, is really enjoying her new activity room complete with many drawers and cabinets to store craft supplies. Being the amazingly organized person she is, Nita shared how she is using the die cut machine. Not only is she saving the shapes but she is saving and using the used paper for crafts as well. Thank you for sharing your ideas with us Nita!



Make cards by glueing the out-line of a die cut onto a folded sheet of paper.



Cut out letters are organized in plastic sleeves along with the outlines Nita uses as stencils.

Nita used plastic sleeves to store the die cut outlines.

If you have a story to share, please send it to Laurie or Kim at CTLS. We'd love to spotlight you!

What's Happening

Let us know what you are doing at your library!

New Director at the Hutto Public Library

Paula Waak will become the director of the Hutto Public Library on March 30. Congratulations, Paula! Paula is leaving the John Ed Keeter Saginaw Public Library to move closer to Austin. Paula recently received an award from the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce for being the Public Servant of the Year. We are proud of Paula, but not a bit surprised!

Author Event Collaboration

The Lago Vista Community Library and the Jonestown Community Library collaborated on the second North Shore Book Festival on Saturday, February 21.

Many prominent authors attended, including Mike Blakely and W. C. Jameson. Attendance was wonderful and old friendships were renewed while lots of learning happened.

Former CTLS Board Chair Peggy Gibson was one of the organizers.

Southeast Texas Library Group

The Southeast Texas Library group will meet on Wednesday, March 11 at the Groves Public Library. If you are part of a small group that gathers regularly for meetings, please let us know! We'd love to attend and visit with library staff & supporters.



Lago Vista Community Library Children's Area

CTLS Calendar of Events

Workshops: Technology for the Future Without Going Broke

- March 17 Amarillo Public Library (courtesy of the Harrington Library Consortium)
- March 24 Llano County Library
- March 26 The Colony Public Library
- March 27 Smithville Public Library



More CTLS Events and Meetings

- March 20 CTLS board meeting, Bastrop Public Library
- March 27 Summer Reading Program Workshop, Fort Stockton Library
- April 14-17 TLA Conference in Austin
- May 25 CTLS office closed for Memorial Day

Register at
[http://
www.eventbrite.com/o/ctls-
inc-58656743](http://www.eventbrite.com/o/ctls-inc-58656743)

or go to
www.ctls.net.

CTLS, Inc. Connecting Texas Libraries Statewide

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