



CTLS Newsletter

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From the Executive Director

By Laurie Mahaffey

IN THIS ISSUE:

News from ED-pg 1

News You Can Use - pg 2-4

Youth News - pg 5-6

Shoppers Corner-pg7-8

Happenings - pg 9

Calendar - pg 10



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What's New at CTLS

After a year of many changes, I am pleased to say: not much! We have a stable staff, we're still in the same place we've been for the past 3 years (with no plans to move), and we are awaiting word on a couple of grants. The summer looks to be a time of catching up, since most of you will be doing the Summer Reading Program at your libraries. Very few of you call during the summer, and that's fine! We know you are busy and are happy that you are.

CTLS' Long Range Planning Committee has been working away on a new Long Range Plan. The old Long Range Plan was written when CTLS was still funded by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, so it was time for updating. I have also been working on updating the Employee Manual (completed!) and the Financial Management Plan (almost done!), so all of our "rules to live by" will be updated soon.

We are available for site visits, so if you'd like for one of us to come to your library this summer (or any time!), just call or e-mail. We love to go to libraries because it helps us give better advice when we know the physical situation in which you work. I have also found that many of you hold your questions until we are in your library. Somehow, it seems more appropriate to ask those questions when we are there visiting than by e-mail or telephone.

Toward the end of the summer, we will begin sending out information for renewing membership. The rates will not change. We want to be responsive to your needs for billing, so if you want to pay in this fiscal year for the next fiscal year, we can adjust accordingly.

Have a delightful summer!



News You Can Use

By Paul Waak

A Different Kind of Survey

About this time each year we ask our members about what we should do in the next year. This year's survey is a little different and incorporates what we learned in the recent Harwood Labs provided by the State Library. Instead of simply asking what you want from us, we are instead asking about the people you serve and how their issues affect your library. Our hope is to go beyond support for basic operations and develop programs that support the relevancy of libraries.

The first three questions are about your community because we want to understand the environment in which you work better. The following two questions are about your relationship with your community. The two remaining questions directly aid us with program development. We want to know for which library you are answering so we can look for regional trends. This leads to the last question. As we develop partnerships with other organizations, we are occasionally asked for concrete examples of the needs we describe. We would like to know how much confidentiality you want us to maintain with your response. We anticipate that total time to complete the survey will be 50 minutes, depending on how quickly you write.

The survey questions are listed below for your convenience. Please look through them before answering the survey online. This will help you spend less time on the survey itself. The survey is on SurveyGizmo at <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2176967/CTLS-2016-Planning> or at <http://goo.gl/1ajLHS> for short.

1. What kind of city/county/community do you want your library to be a part of? What is your aspiration for your community? This is about hopes and dreams so a vague answer is ok.
2. What are the 2 or 3 most important issues facing your city/county/community? Which one has the most impact on the library?
3. What are your concerns about these issues and why?
4. How do these issues affect you and the library?
5. What would help improve the situation? Do not limit yourself to things you expect from CTLS. Go with the big picture and let us know about things that could help your community and your place within your community.
6. What is the name of your library?
7. How may we share your answers in our discussions with partners and potential partners? Choose One.
 - No secrets here; let anyone know what I said
 - You may draw upon what I said, but please do not link it back to my library specifically.
 - Please keep this confidential.

Thank you.



News You Can Use Cont...

After the Harwood Public Innovators Lab

Attending the Harwood Public Innovators Lab was a difficult commitment of my time. It was also absolutely worth the commitment. It was a lot to take in and, after a few days to let it rattle around in my head, I have four takeaways.

- A sustainably united community requires an “outward focus,” an institutionalized concern for finding and addressing the needs all of the subgroups within the whole.
- Sustainable change within a community is slow because it takes time for people to listen to each other, trust each other with common concerns, and find ways to meet their own core concerns while leaving room for the core concerns of others.
- Every community is working through its own stage of consensus building.
- The subgroups are linked through “bridge” organizations who exist for the purpose of connecting and uniting the subgroups.

What does this mean for a library director who moves into a new community? An outward focus helps the library be an inclusive institution while informing the new director about the factions within the community. The community probably does not have a consensus about what is expected of the library or the director, and the differing expectations are likely to interfere with each other. In some cases city or county management may be one of the conflicting subgroups. The resolution of these conflicts requires the library to become one of the bridging organizations and is a very slow process, often requiring years to work out. The process of an outward focus helps the new librarian through these years by identifying the core concerns of each subgroup as well as the concerns the subgroups have in common. Understanding these concerns is a key to a successful career at the library.

The Harwood Labs were attended by people from every aspect of libraries: every level of staff as well as library supporters. I saw many CTLS members and several TSLAC personnel. If you have questions about the outward focus as a process, just ask and you will get answers.



News You Can Use

Katelyn Patterson

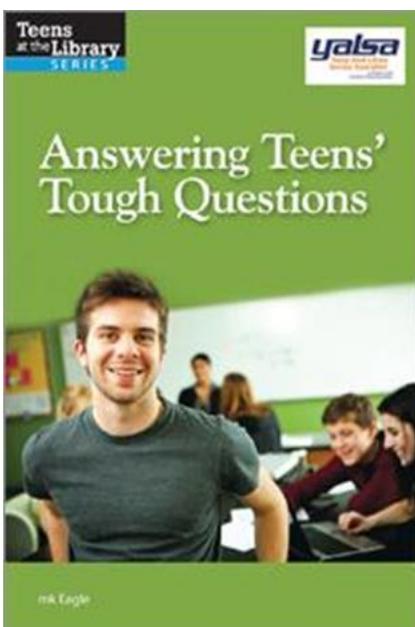
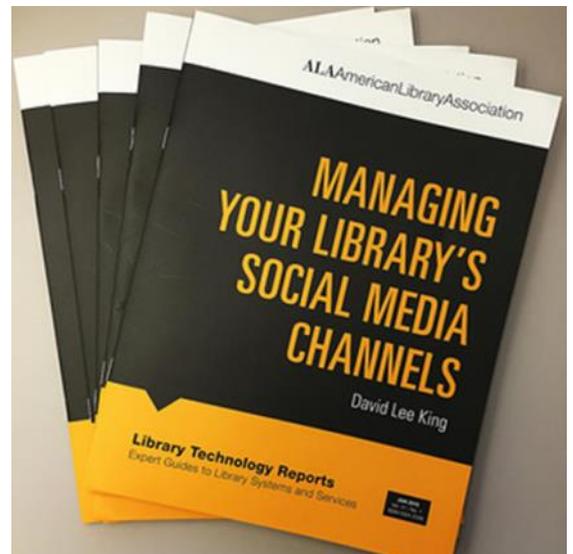
CTLS Professional Collection

Do you use the CTLS Professional Collection?
Here are some new titles to check out!

I have recently spent a lot of time poring through some of the materials in our Professional Collection. I just want to remind everyone what a wonderful resource it is! You can access our catalog here: <https://ctls.biblionix.com/catalog/>. If you have an account, log in using your account number and your password which is the main phone number for your library. If you don't have an account, all you have to do is shoot us an email and we will set one up for you!

Check out the wonderful materials we have! See something you like, let us know and we can send it out to you! If you know of a material you would like access to, but we don't have it, let us know. If we have budget money available, we will try to get it for you.

I did a presentation on Marketing Library Services using Social Media at TLA in April. This is a topic that is constantly changing very quickly and we didn't have any really up-to-date materials on libraries using social media. I purchased David Lee King's Library Technology Report called Managing Your Library's Social Media Channels as a resource and have just added it to the Professional Collection! This is very useful if you are trying to figure out how to successfully manage multiple social media platforms for your library.



While building a workshop about providing excellent customer service in a public library, I was asked about resources for helping a troubled teen. I became consumed with finding good resources for this librarian. After all, getting them something useful could make a huge difference for this teen patron! I wasn't satisfied with many of the resources I came across. I thought we needed something to address this in our professional collection so I purchased YALSA's Answering Teens' Tough Questions.

This title can help you assist teens who struggle with homelessness, dating violence and abuse, drugs and alcohol, technology, mental and emotional issues, body image, and sexuality. It gives tips on spotting issues, creating open environments for information discovery, how to report problems, making partnerships with community support agencies, all while maintaining their privacy.

If you need assistance or advice on a specific topic, make sure to check out our Professional Collection for resources!

Youth News

Katelyn Patterson

Bots and Books Update

May closes out a *very* busy 3rd quarter for Bots & Books! Many libraries held camps during Spring Break and several had kick off events to tease their LEGO robotics kits for Summer Reading Program usage. Here are just a few of the wonderful images that are coming in!

The Smithville Public Library got some wonderful [newspaper coverage](#) of their Spring Break events!



Taylor Public Library patrons were lucky enough to have a big Maker Fair on March 17!

Youth News Cont...



Harker Heights had a big turnout at their Build A Bot event on March 16.



And the Corpus Christi Public Library is working with local Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts groups!

Texas Teen Book Festival Dates Announced!

Texas Teen Book Festival
Saturday, September 26, 2015
St. Edward's University.

TTBF is a unique opportunity to interact with acclaimed authors, and to learn about the art of writing. See you there! By the way, CTLS Member Jen Bigheart, from the Westbank Community Libraries, has been very involved with this event from the get go. Wow! It has really grown from an Austin event to a statewide attraction.

Great SRP Ideas

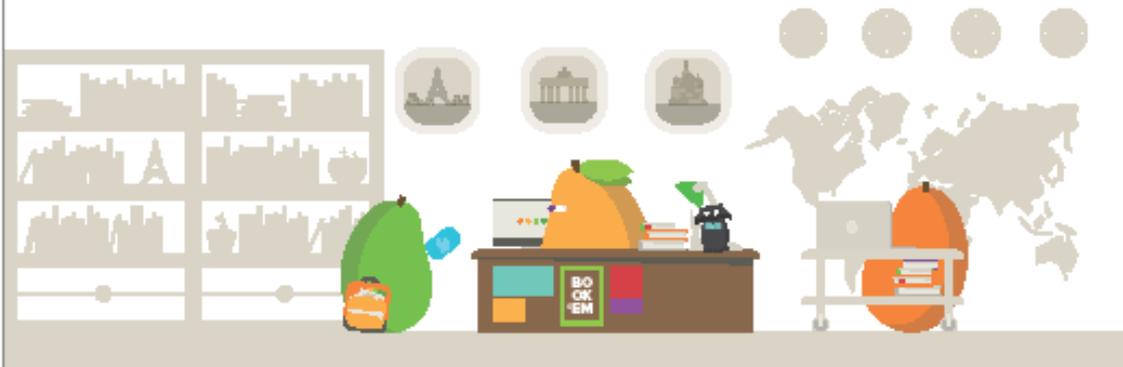
Check out this great article by Molly Wetta "Building Heroes: Program Ideas for Summer Reading 2015". She shares ideas about creating stories with interactive play, the science of super heroes, comic book inspired crafts and programs, and other teen resources.

[Click Here.](#)

Shoppers Corner Cont...

SPANISH FOR LIBRARIANS

Perfect for professional development.



TOPICS INCLUDE:

-  Obtaining a library card.
-  Helping at the reference desk.
-  Accessing resources.
-  Assisting with a job search.
-  Discussing library events.



Connect with your patrons in a common language.
Try the course for free at mangolanguages.com/libraries

What's Happening

Let us know what you are doing at your library!

Flood Damage Recovery in Libraries

Wimberley Village Library's Carolyn Manning was featured on television this weekend because her library is serving as a place where people can leave found photos for eventual recovery by their owners. WVL also hosted a photographs workshop with archival professionals from the University of Texas at Austin School of Information to help residents preserve photographs that have been damaged by the floods. We are proud of all of our libraries who are reaching out to serve their communities in this time of crisis.



Free Library Concert Series

The Midland Public Library and Library Foundation are teaming up with the Midland Odessa Symphony & Chorale to present 7 free concerts at local libraries between now and November. The initiative has been funded by a grant from the Arts Council of Midland.

The series includes concerts for both children and adults, and will feature a mix of each of the symphony's four chamber ensembles.

Family Place Libraries

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) sponsored 24 librarians from 12 Texas libraries to attend the Family Place Libraries™ training in Centereach, NY in May. Congratulations to the staff of the six CTLS libraries who went to New York for Family Place Library training. What a great opportunity!

Bertha Voyer Memorial Library, Honey Grove
Bryan+College Station Library
McAllen Public Library
Nueces County Library, Robstown
Pasadena Public Library
Wilson County Library, Floresville

The Family Place Libraries Mission

The mission of Family Place Libraries™ is to increase the capacity of libraries throughout the nation to recognize and realize their full potential as community hubs for healthy child and family development, parent and community involvement and lifelong learning beginning at birth.

Teens Create a Library Video

The teens at the Larry Ringer Library in College Station created a promotional library video with the help of Cindy Oser. What fun!

http://www.bcslibrary.org/?page_id=9846

The link is under the "sponsored by" logo.

The song "At the Library" by Bill Harley is a great addition to the video!

Thanks to Kendra Perkins for sharing!



Family Place Libraries™
Building Foundations for Early Learning



CTLS Calendar of Events

CTLS Events and Meetings

CTLS Calendar

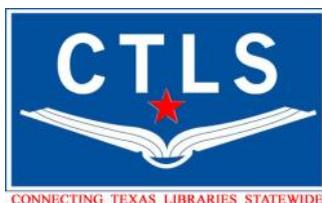
July 3	CTLS office closed for Independence Day
July 7—10	TLA Annual Assembly in Austin
July 10	Library Districts Meeting in Wells Branch
July 16	CTLS Board Meeting
Aug 21	CTLS Board meeting
September 25	Fall Membership Meeting, Temple



CTLS, Inc. *Connecting Texas Libraries Statewide*

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