

Texas Library Journal

VOLUME 89, NUMBER 3 • Fall 2013

*Declaration for
Libraries*



LIBRARY



SNAPSHOT



What happens in a single October day at your library?

DAY

In this issue:

*Banned Books Report,
Library Hero Awards,
Fighting Childhood
Obesity, Workforce
Development, TLA's Corporate Members*



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TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Membership in TLA is open to any individual or institution interested in Texas libraries.

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A directory of TLA membership is available in the "Members Only" section of the website.

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As I considered all the many challenges facing our state and nation today, I kept coming back to the importance of informed decision making – an act that relies on educational resources, open access to information, a spirit of discourse and discussion, and access to thinking and ideas. In short, I've been thinking about libraries and how they are needed more than ever.

This fall (and Library Snapshot Day) is a great opportunity to demonstrate to folks our ongoing value. I want to share with you some remarks I delivered this past Legislative Session on our Texas libraries. I absolutely affirm all of the sentiments shared with the Senate Finance Committee on February 5, 2013.

TESTIMONY

Libraries in our state face the challenge of sustaining their educational and support role for Texas citizens amidst revolutionary changes involving digitization in the information world. There's a lot of information, and the explosion and the number of creators are driving the greatest revolution in the generation and communication of knowledge since the advent of the printing press.

Information seekers have many ways of finding what they need, but they are often overwhelmed or – most importantly – misled by the provision of unfiltered and inaccurate information on the Internet.

Libraries and their relevant databases and collections are still needed and must sustain their leadership and historic mission of acquiring and making materials and resources accessible and useful to Texas citizens. The library must blend these new digital materials into our traditional collections so that knowledge can be comprehensively provided by today's integrated libraries.

Funds requested by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission for exceptional items for information partnership grants and shared digital content include support for TexShare



and e-content databases. These funds are necessary.

Access to these reliable and authoritative databases is particularly needed in our k-12 schools. These resources are used by libraries across the state and by all types of libraries; but I want to be sure we remember that they are particularly important in our rural areas, where citizens depend greatly on their availability.

Yes, all of our libraries must redefine our roles in the information age, but libraries can contribute in ways big and small to the financial as well as educational good of Texas. The state's public libraries produce, for example, more than \$2.24 billion in local economic activity and services by providing books, access to public computers and the Internet, places for people to apply for jobs, and educational programs.

Again, this is an even greater challenge in rural parts of the state where the infrastructure in those communities may not be available to provide the robust connectivity and access to diverse educational resources that students need to achieve success in their education, careers, and ultimate business endeavors.

I ask you today for your continued support to ensure that Texas libraries are able to continue their support for the success and dreams of our citizens.



Watch for postings to our Pinterest account, **Pin2Tla**, and Twitter, **@TXLA**, where we'll be spreading the word about **#coolstuff** going on in Texas libraries.

TLA wants to know what's cool (and HOT!) at your library.

- What programs or services receive high marks from your users?
- Do you create cool videos that capture your school pride, help freshman find their way around, or show your library's presence in your community?
- Is there a unique project you'd like to share?

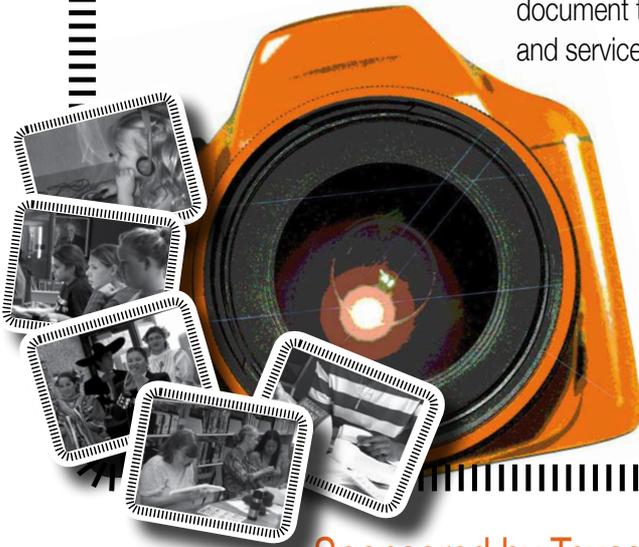
Submit your Cool Stuff photos and a brief caption to CoolStuff@txla.org. If possible, please try to align your photos with our 2014 conference tracks: leadership, empowerment, advocacy, and diversity.

Texas Library Snapshot Day!

What happens in a single day at your library?

October 31

(or **ANY DAY** in the month)



Library Snapshot Day provides an easy means to collect statistics, photos, and stories to help our public and stakeholders document the broad range of resources and services available through libraries.

To keep data collection simple and consistent across the state, access the ready-to-use templates at

www.texaslibrarysnapshotday.org/

Sponsored by Texas Library Association

October is just around the corner, and libraries have a lot to celebrate! Our annual Library Snapshot Day celebration is officially scheduled for October 31, but libraries can select any day in October as their Snapshot Day. This event offers libraries a framework for promoting services, inviting the public and media to the library, and capturing important information that can be used in advocacy and promotional materials.

Don't forget TLA's Facebook page for posting your activities and contacting your social media groups to help support libraries. This is also a great time for bringing legislators to the library, highlighting library resources, and getting folks to sign ALA's Declaration on Libraries (see below).

Happy fall! Let's make this season count in our efforts to promote libraries!

Sign the Declaration!

THE TLA COUNCIL PASSED A RESOLUTION AT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY ON JULY 10 (2013) IN SUPPORT OF THE

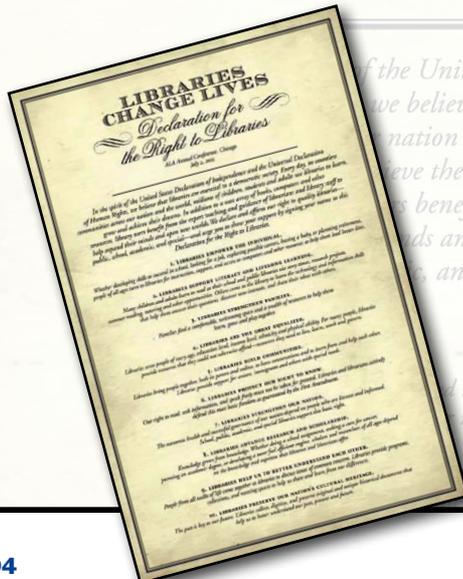
Declaration for the Right to Libraries

— AN INITIATIVE OF ALA PRESIDENT BARBARA STRIPLING

TLA is now actively collecting signatures from librarians and library supporters in Texas and is encouraging a signing in every library in the state.

Signature sheets will be at Fall District Meetings and an electronic form is on www.txla.org to accept additional names.

Join your colleagues in building momentum for a presentation to “hand over” the Texas signatures at Annual Conference in San Antonio next April 10. ALA President Barbara Stripling will be present to receive the signature pages from TLA President Yvonne Chandler.



TLA Resources:
www.txla.org/library-rights

I had the great pleasure of visiting the Marfa Public Library recently. For the uninitiated, Marfa is in the Texas Trans Pecos area and north of Big Bend National Park. Marfa is a thriving community of 2121 people. Artists, retirees, and all manner of unique people – many of whom made the decision to move to Marfa from far away places – have established a cultural mecca out in deep West Texas.

It was therefore not surprising to me to find that the library was a lively focal point in the community, with busy computers, colorful and informative displays, and an impressive list of programs. The assistant director, Mandy Tilley, filled me in on the expansion soon to take place with grant funds. Already a good size for its small community, the Marfa Public Library serves clearly not just as a source of information and culture; it is also a source of pride – one supported in funds, volunteer time, and good will from the community.

Libraries of all types show their success. Libraries that provide content desired by users, offer programs of interest, and strive to address the needs of their school, university, or local population brim with activity. People make their way to them, use them, and support them.

Many factors affect the ultimate budget of any given institution, but libraries that are loved – valued – have ready and committed allies in the fight for funding. The real sign of a library's viability is not the number at the bottom of a spreadsheet; it is the number of people benefitting from the library. Serve people adequately, you get a supporter. Serve people well, you get an advocate.

Libraries large and small, public and school, academic and special have cracked the code. Deliver a positive and needed value to those you serve, and you find that you have crossed the

distance from keeping the doors open to planning for an exciting future.

As the Texas library community once again prepares for Texas Library Snapshot Day, I urge you all to measure, document, and promote the wide usage of your library. From programs and reference questions to stories about how your library and library staff helped people achieve, your library performs impressive feats every single day. Capture a snapshot and help show those not yet in your corner the amazing services and positive energy your library brings to your campus or community.

One of the factors I mentioned earlier that influences budget allocations is, of course, promotion and awareness. You may be doing great things, but does your governing body or administration have a concrete sense of all the success your library facilitates? Do they know

how many kids you help get through school? Or how many people find jobs in part to the services and resources you provide?

Snapshot Day, autumn, the start of the school year, the start of a new fiscal year – wherever you find yourself – now is a great time to start documenting your success **and sharing it with leaders.**

At TLA, we also want to track and share your success, so please post your stories, photos, tips, and high-five moments at our Facebook page, our Cool Stuff Pinterest page, our Flickr account, or just send us a write-up of what you're doing. Don't forget that many of your activities and great staff may be eligible for TLA awards, so check out all the opportunities for you to shine a little more publicly.

We all should celebrate each other's successes and share in that achievement.



Mr. Smith Goes to Austin

I am so pleased to welcome Mark Smith back to Texas. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) voted unanimously on August 30 to offer Mark Smith the position of director and librarian, the agency's chief executive (also known as the Texas State Librarian).

Smith has a long and impressive history with libraries. He worked at the Texas State Library in the 1990s overseeing the Regional Library Systems program before his tenure as communications director for the Texas Library Association. As a former editor of *TLJ*, Smith has long considered and addressed the questions and issues facing the library and information services community in Texas. He leaves his current position overseeing libraries in California and Oregon and begins his tenure as our state's top library official on November 1.

Smith comes to Texas at a critical time in the development of libraries, archives, and records services at the agency and throughout information service organizations statewide. The coming year will see the development of the TSLAC's strategic plan and preparations for the 84th Legislature which convenes in January 2015.

"The commission conducted a nationwide search for this very important position," said TSLAC Chairman Michael C. Waters of Dallas. "We had an accomplished and impressive pool of applicants, and we're excited and proud to welcome Mark Smith into service for the State of Texas."

Indeed, the library community extends its best wishes and heartiest welcome to Mark Smith. TLA is ready to partner with the agency for continued success and growth.

BANNED BOOKS REPORT

A Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas

Our Mission is to defend authors' freedom of speech. We passionately uphold that banning books from our schools' classrooms and libraries threatens our First Amendment right to freedom of expression, speech, and ideas.

— THE ACLU OF TEXAS

The 17th Annual Banned Books Report, 2012-2013, highlights books that were challenged, restricted, or banned from 781 Texas school districts in Texas.

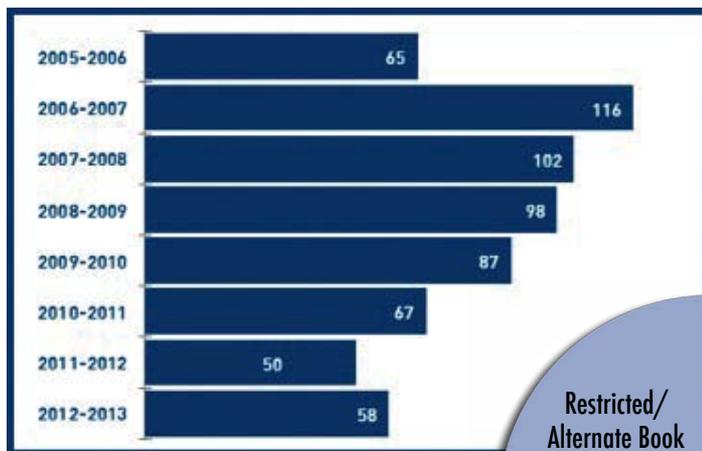
Free People Read Freely

This is our 17th annual banned books report. This year's report, which accounts for about 63 percent of the total school districts in Texas, demonstrates there is some good news on the book banning front. The number of books being banned continues to decline each year since we first started this report. Based on responses to an open records request, only 10 books were banned in Texas in the 2012-2013 school year.

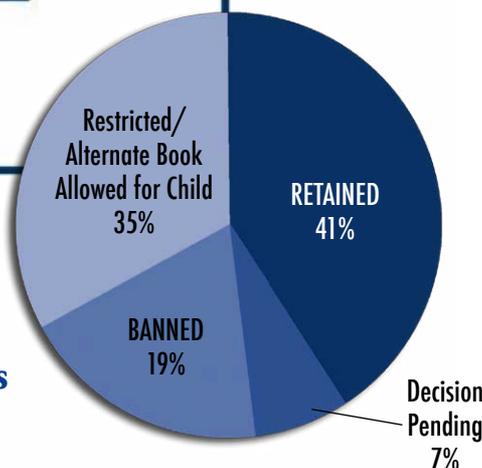
Pflugerville ISD led the way with most the challenges in the 2012-2013 school year but retained all 13 books at their schools. These challenges came from elementary and high school grade levels. Clear Creek ISD took the lead in banning: two of the three books challenged were removed from middle and elementary library shelves and reassigned to high schools.

Challenged Books

Number of books challenged per school year in Texas

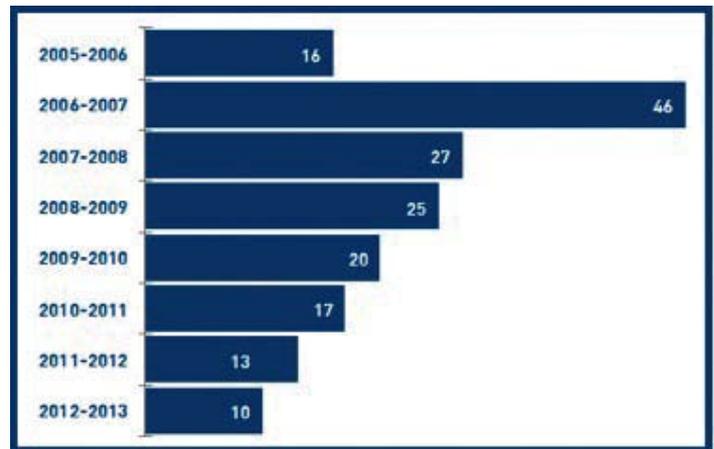


Outcome of Attempted Challenges

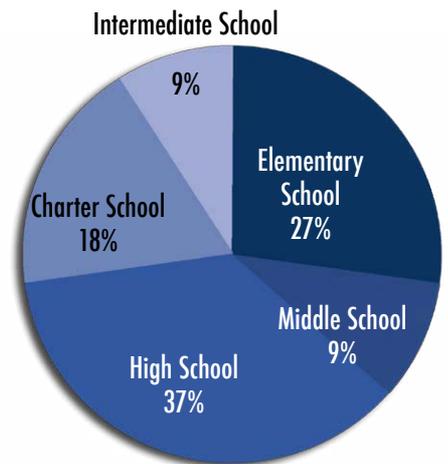


Banned Books

Number of books banned per school year in Texas



Banned Books by School Type



LIST OF BANNED BOOKS

Books removed from library shelves or class reading lists.

Paintings from the Cave, Gary Paulsen

Talking in the Dark: A Poetry Memoir, Billy Merrell

Fade: Book 2 of Wake Trilogy, Lisa McMann

Ransom My Heart, Princess of Genovia
Mia Thermopolis

World War Z, Max Brooks

Smile of a Dolphin, Ed. Marc Bekoff

Amy and Roger Epic Detour, Morgan Matson

The Olympics: Smitty II, Bill Gutman

The Lottery, Shirley Jackson

Zombies vs. Unicorns, Holly Black

RESTRICTED BOOKS

Books restricted to readers based on age, reading level, parental permission, etc.

The Hunger Games, Suzanne Collins
Indiana Jones and the Tomb of the Gods, Rob Williams
Been To Yesterdays: Poems of a Life, Lee Hopkins
The Lightning Thief, Rick Riordan

Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro
The Bell Jar, Sylvia Plath
Blubber, Judy Blume
Hide and Seek, Ida Vos
Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck
Speak, Laurie Halse Anderson
Liar, Liar, Gary Paulsen
Deadtime Stories: Grave Secrets, Annette & Gina Cascone

Big Momma Makes the World, Phyllis Root
The Collector, John Fowles
The People Could Fly: The Picture Book, Virginia Hamilton
To Kill A Mockingbird, Harper Lee
I Am J, Chris Beam
Say Cheese and Die, R.L. Stine
Draw Me A Star, Eric Carle

CHALLENGED BOOKS: BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bartlett ISD

School: Bartlett High School
Book: *The Hunger Games*, Suzanne Collins
Reason Cited: Offensive to religious sensitivities
Action Taken: Alternate book allowed (curriculum only)

Bastrop ISD

School: Cedar Creek Middle School
Book: *I Like Him, He Likes Her*, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Reason Cited: Mention of lesbian marriage
Action Taken: Retained

Belton ISD

School: Sparta Elementary
Book: *Indiana Jones and the Tomb of the Gods*, Rob Williams
Reason Cited: Profanity, other objectionable material
Action Taken: Use restricted
Note: Book moved to middle school library

Brazosport ISD

School: A.P. Beutal Elementary School
Book: *Paintings from the Cave*, Gary Paulsen
Reason Cited: Profanity; sexual content or nudity; politically, racially, or socially offensive
Action Taken: Banned

Clear Creek ISD

School: Gilmore Elementary
Book: *Talking in the Dark: A Poetry Memoir*, Billy Merrell
Reason Cited: Drugs or alcohol,

mature content inappropriate for elementary

Action Taken: Banned
Note: Reviews recommended 9th grade+ and the book was reassigned to high school

School: Whitcomb
Book: *Bionicle #8: Legends of Bara Magna*, Greg Farshtey
Reason Cited: Violence or horror
Action Taken: Retained

Note: Restricted to the individual child by parent request

School: Seabrook Intermediate
Book: *Fade: Book 2 of the Wake Trilogy*, Lisa McMann
Reason Cited: Profanity, public speaking
Action Taken: Banned
Note: Based on review (SLJ 9+), the whole trilogy was reassigned to high school.

Save the Date!

YALSA's Young Adult LITERATURE SYMPOSIUM Austin, Texas
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 —2012 participant

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Comal ISD

School: Garden Ridge Elementary
Book: *Draw Me A Star*, Eric Carle
Reason Cited: Sexual content or nudity
Action Taken: Content changed or deleted

School: Freiheit Elementary School
Book: *Say Cheese and Die*, R.L. Stine
Reason Cited: Violence or horror
Action Taken: Use restricted

School: Timberwood Park Elementary
Book: *The Ranger's Apprentice*, John Flanagan
Reason Cited: Profanity
Action Taken: Decision pending
Note: Parent did not follow through with her complaint specifying where the words "damn" and "hell" were located in the book

The Ehrhart School

School: The Ehrhart School
Book: *Ransom My Heart, Princess of Genovia*, Mia Thermopolis
Reason Cited: Sexual content or nudity
Action Taken: Banned

Elkhart ISD

School: Elkhart High School
Book: *A Bad Boy Can Be Good for a Girl*, Tanya Lee Stone
Reason Cited: Profanity, sexual content or nudity, drugs or alcohol
Action Taken: Retained
Note: The review committee found that the book met educational need and community standards

Flour Bluff ISD

School: Flour Bluff Intermediate
Book: Video Content – "Remembering September 11th"
Reason Cited: Politically, racially, or socially offensive
Action Taken: Decision pending
Note: Informal request at principal/teacher level; individual voiced concerns through national television media; video currently still in database

Frankston ISD

School: Frankston High School
Book: *World War Z*, Max Brooks
Reason Cited: Profanity, violence or horror

Action Taken: Banned
Note: After reviewing this book, the librarian felt it was inappropriate for the high school library

Grapevine-Colleyville ISD

School: Grapevine High School
Book: *I Am J*, Chris Beam
Reason Cited: (none given)
Action Taken: Use restricted
Note: Book title removed from summer reading list. Book remains in librarian's office for check out as requested (not on shelves).

School: Colleyville Heritage High School
Book: *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Harper Lee
Reason Cited: Politically, racially, or socially offensive
Action Taken: Alternate book allowed (curriculum only)
Note: Student given an alternate assignment and worked in the library when class discussions were held.

School: Colleyville Elementary School
Book: *Bone (Series)*, Jeff Smith
Reason Cited: Violence or horror
Action Taken: Retained
Note: Did not meet district criteria for removal; parent given opportunity to mark child's library record card to prevent check out.

Hallsville ISD

School: North Elementary
Book: *The People Could Fly: The Picture Book*, Virginia Hamilton
Reason Cited: Violence or horror
Action Taken: Use restricted

School: North Elementary
Book: *Big Momma Makes the World*, Phyllis Root
Reason Cited: Offensive to religious sensitivities
Action Taken: Use restricted

Harper ISD

School: Harper Elementary
Book: *Deadtime Stories: Grave Secrets*, Annette & Gina Cascone
Reason Cited: Violence or horror
Action Taken: Use restricted

School: Harper Elementary
Book: *Liar, Liar*, Gary Paulsen
Reason Cited: Politically, racially, or socially offensive

Action Taken: Use restricted

School: Harper Middle School
Book: *Anima 1*, Natsumi Mukai
Reason Cited: Violence or horror
Action Taken: Retained

School: Harper High School
Book: *Smile of a Dolphin*, Ed. Marc Bekoff
Reason Cited: Sexual content or nudity
Action Taken: Banned

Ira ISD

School: Ira High School
Book: *Amy and Roger Epic Detour*, Morgan Matson
Reason Cited: Profanity, sexual content or nudity, violence or horror, offensive to religious sensitivities, drugs or alcohol
Action Taken: Banned

Junction ISD

School: Junction High School
Book: *Speak*, Laurie Halse Anderson
Reason Cited: Profanity, sexual content or nudity
Action Taken: Alternate book allowed (curriculum only)

Keller ISD

School: Friendship Elementary
Book: *More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*, Alvin Schwartz
Reason Cited: Violence or horror
Action Taken: Retained

School: Whitley Road Elementary
Book: *Bone: The Great Cow Race*, Jeff Smith
Reason Cited: Politically, racially, or socially offensive
Action Taken: Retained

Kemp ISD

School: Kemp High School
Book: *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck
Reason Cited: (none given)
Action Taken: Alternate book allowed (curriculum only)
Note: Parent felt story/plot was depressing; student was provided with another book to read.

La Porte ISD

School: Rizzuto Elementary; Lomax Elementary
Book: *Hide and Seek*, Ida Vos

Reason Cited: Sexual content or nudity

Action Taken: Use restricted

Note: The reconsideration committee voted to move the book to the junior high school libraries.

Lake Dallas ISD

School: Lake Dallas Elementary

Book: *Blubber*, Judy Blume

Reason Cited: Profanity

Action Taken: Use restricted

Note: 3rd grade parent challenged because of language; book was not in library, was in Guided Reading Room and now is marked for 5th grade only

School: Lake Dallas Elementary

Book: *The Olympics: Smitty II*, Bill Gutman

Reason Cited: Politically, racially, or socially offensive

Action Taken: Banned

Note: Book was moved to middle school

School: Lake Dallas Elementary

Book: *The Strange Case of Origama Yoda*, Tom Angelberger

Reason Cited: (none given)

Action Taken: Retained

Note: Page with “#?!**” standing for cuss words

Lamar CISD

School: Dickinson Elementary School

Book: *The Bad Kitty Christmas*, Nick Bruel

Reason Cited: Politically, racially, or socially offensive

Action Taken: Retained

Note: Parent's objection to the lesbian partners holding a child and that it is unsuitable for elementary school; the parent did not appeal the district's decision

Liberty-Eylau ISD

School: Liberty Eylau High School

Book: *Fade*, Lisa McMann

Reason Cited: Sexual content or nudity

Action Taken: Banned

North East ISD

School: Driskoll Middle School

Book: *The Lottery*, Shirley Jackson

Reason Cited: Violence or horror, offensive to religious sensitivities

Action Taken: Banned

Note: Book only removed from this middle school

Paint Rock ISD

School: Paint Rock School (K-12)

Book: *The Hunger Games*, Suzanne Collins

Reason Cited: (none given)

Action Taken: Retained

Note: One person thought the book was too adult content for the younger students; review showed that no younger students had even checked it out – only older kids. We had one copy then; now we have 2. Its a popular book

Pegasus School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

School: Pegasus

Book: *Bless Me*, Rudolfo Anaya

Reason Cited: Profanity, offensive to religious sensitivities

Action Taken: Retained

Note: Challenge by teacher

Pflugerville ISD

School: Wieland Elementary

Book: *The Adventures of Captain Underpants*, Dav Pilkey

Reason Cited: (none given)

Action Taken: Retained

Note: Spelling errors, grammar errors, objectionable story lines/scenes, undesirable/unsafe behavior

School: Wieland Elementary

Book: *Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets*, Dav Pilkey

Reason Cited: (none given)

Action

Taken: Retained

Note: Spelling errors, grammar errors, objectionable story lines/scenes, undesirable/unsafe behavior

School: Wieland Elementary

Book: *Captain Underpants and the Invasion of the Incredibly Naughty Cafeteria Ladies from Outer Space (and the Subsequent Assault of the Equally Evil Lunchroom Zoobie Nerds)*, Dav Pilkey

Reason Cited: (none given)

Action Taken: Retained

Note: Spelling errors, grammar errors, objectionable story lines/scenes, undesirable/unsafe behavior

School: Wieland Elementary

Book: *Captain Underpants and the Perilous Plot of Professor Poopypants*, Dav Pilkey

Reason Cited: (none given)

Action Taken: Retained

Note: Spelling errors, grammar errors, objectionable story lines/scenes, undesirable/unsafe behavior

School: Wieland Elementary

Book: *Captain Underpants and the Wrath of the Wicked Wedgie Woman*, Dav Pilkey

Reason Cited: (none given)

Action Taken: Retained

Note: Spelling errors, grammar errors, objectionable story lines/scenes, undesirable/unsafe behavior



<http://www.aclutx.org/2010/07/19/17th-annual-banned-book-report/>

School: Wieland Elementary
Book: *Captain Underpants and the Big, Bad Battle of the Bionic Booger Boy Part 1: The Night of the Nasty Nostril Nuggets*, Dav Pilkey
Reason Cited: (none given)
Action Taken: Retained
Note: Spelling errors, grammar errors, objectionable story lines/scenes, undesirable/unsafe behavior

School: Wieland Elementary
Book: *Captain Underpants and the Big, Bad Battle of the Bionic Booger Boy Part 2: The Revenge of the Ridiculous Robo-Boogers*, Dav Pilkey
Reason Cited: (none given)
Action Taken: Retained
Note: Spelling errors, grammar errors, objectionable story lines/scenes, undesirable/unsafe behavior

School: Wieland Elementary
Book: *The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby*, Dav Pilkey
Reason Cited: (none given)
Action Taken: Retained
Note: Spelling errors, grammar errors, objectionable story lines/scenes, undesirable/unsafe behavior

School: Wieland Elementary
Book: *Captain Underpants and the Preposterous Plight of the Purple Potty People*, Dav Pilkey
Reason Cited: (none given)
Action Taken: Retained
Note: Spelling errors, grammar errors, objectionable story lines/scenes, undesirable/unsafe behavior

School: Wieland Elementary
Book: *Super Diaper Baby 2: The Invasion of the Potty Snatchers*, Dav Pilkey
Reason Cited: (none given)
Action Taken: Retained
Note: Spelling errors, grammar errors, objectionable story lines/scenes, undesirable/unsafe behavior

School: Hendrickson High School
Book: *The Collector*, John Fowles
Reason Cited: Profanity, sexual content or nudity, violence or horror, offensive to religious sensitivities,
Action Taken: Alternate book allowed (curriculum only)

Note: There are a number of alternate books that can be used at the AP level.

School: Hendrickson High School
Book: *The Bell Jar*, Sylvia Plath
Reason Cited: Profanity; politically, racially, or socially offensive
Action Taken: Alternate book allowed (curriculum only)
Note: There are a number of alternate books that can be used at the AP level.

School: Hendrickson High School
Book: *The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien
Reason Cited: Profanity, violence or horror
Action Taken: Retained
Note: Provided advanced disclaimer of potential offensive material and "opt out" policy.

Randolph Field ISD

School: Randolph High School
Book: *Never Let Me Go*, Kazuo Ishiguro
Reason Cited: Sexual content or nudity
Action Taken: Alternate book allowed (curriculum only).

Rapoport Academy Public School

School: Quinn Campus Middle School
Book: *The Lightning Thief*, Rick Riordan
Reason Cited: Offensive to religious sensitivities
Action Taken: Alternate book allowed (curriculum only).

Richardson ISD

School: All Richardson ISD High Schools
Book: *Creation Myths – Mande, Wahungwe*; Author Unknown
Reason Cited: Sexual content and nudity
Action Taken: Decision pending
Note: The District's English Language Arts department will review the 8th grade curriculum over the summer to determine how to proceed.

School: All Richardson ISD Elementary Schools
Book: *Been to Yesterdays: Poems of a Life*, Lee Hopkins

Reason Cited: Profanity; politically, racially, or socially offensive
Action Taken: Use restricted, alternate book allowed (curriculum only)
Note: Elementary English department removed the book from the curriculum and set of poetry books in the classroom and will replace.

Southwest ISD

School: Scobee Middle School
Book: *The Book of Lists for Teens*, Sandra and Harry Choron
Reason Cited: Sexual content and nudity
Action Taken: Retained

Texas College Preparatory Academies/ Premier High School

School: Open-enrollment charter high schools operated under the above charters
Book: U.S. History teaching materials, Responsive Education Solutions
Reason Cited: (none given)
Action Taken: Decision pending
Note: References to religion; review committee will meet over the summer to review and revise as necessary to ensure compliance with state and federal law.

UME Preparatory Academy

School: UME Preparatory Academy
Book: CSCOPE (curriculum framework), Various authors
Reason Cited: Politically, racially, or socially offensive
Action Taken: Retained
Note: Challenge was informal and did not result in any formal action (we continue to use CSCOPE materials).

Westlake Academy

School: Westlake Academy
Book: *Zombies vs. Unicorns*, Holly Black
Reason Cited: Profanity, sexual content or nudity
Action Taken: Banned ☹

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The Texas Book Festival (TBF) is a celebration of authors and their contributions to the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. The Festival is free and open to the public and takes place in Austin at the State Capitol and surrounding grounds. This year's Festival is October 26 and 27.

First Lady Laura Bush, a former librarian and an ardent advocate of literacy, established the Festival in 1995. Mrs. Bush created a task force to plan the festival to honor Texas authors, promote the joys of reading, and benefit the state's public libraries.

Since the first Festival in 1996, TBF has evolved into one of the premier literary events in the country, hosting more than 200 Texas and nationally known authors. Every year, more than 40,000 visitors participate in the weekend of author readings and presentations, panel discussions, book signings, and musical entertainment at the State Capitol in Austin.

VOLUNTEER!

With more than 900 volunteers, the Texas Book Festival is working hard to make this year's Festival the most exciting yet. There are many volunteer positions available, from helping with book signings, to escorting authors, and selling merchandise. For detailed information about the opportunities available and how to sign up, go to:

www.texasbookfestival.org

Libraries Join the Fight to Address Childhood Obesity

BY SUSAN COMBS



I've been a proponent of healthy lifestyles since my days as Texas' commissioner of agriculture, when I helped introduce some long-needed changes into public school food policies. And today, I'm proud to say that the Texas Library Association (TLA) is helping the Comptroller's office fight the epidemic of childhood obesity.

Childhood obesity is a serious problem. America's childhood obesity rate has tripled in the past decade, and one in three Texas children is overweight or obese, including almost half of the state's Hispanic children.

We turned to Texas libraries for help, because I believe they're central to their communities, a kind of central nervous system for knowledge. Libraries play a major role in fostering literacy in Texas, particularly with preschool and elementary school children. They're ideally positioned to offer resources that can help kids develop lifelong healthy habits. If we can reach Texans while

they're still young, we can prevent or reverse unhealthy trends.

That's why we're working with TLA members to encourage their young patrons to read about nutrition and fitness. We're providing public libraries and elementary schools with a variety of media geared to children and pre-teens.

Our effort began in September 2013, when our office mailed a selection of children's and young-adult books and DVDs related to nutrition and fitness to all Texas public libraries and to elementary schools that serve large numbers of economically disadvantaged children.

We're also mailing physical education equipment to Texas schools that have substantial numbers of kids in fifth grade through eighth grade at high risk for obesity.

This initiative will also help boost awareness of our *Reshaping Texas* Web portal (www.ReshapingTexas.org). This

site is the result of recent legislation that charged our agency with providing online information about the economic effects of obesity.

Reshaping Texas, launched in December 2012, includes geographic information system (GIS) maps showing where in Texas students are most at risk for obesity. In addition to the maps, our site offers success stories, a grants database for funding obesity-prevention related projects and the latest headlines about obesity trends. It also includes a children's section at www.reshapingtexas.org/kids.

We're also providing libraries and select elementary schools with posters encouraging healthy living.

We've sent letters with these materials that explain our program's purpose and provide a link to brief surveys for librarians and school principals. These will help us get a better idea of the depth and variety of the state's nutrition and fitness programs, and of Texas' children's daily participation in fitness and healthy activities.

We're also asking librarians and principals to share success stories, feedback, and resources for possible use on *Reshaping Texas*. We want our site to serve as a comprehensive, statewide collection of tools and information to help Texans address this issue.

The magnitude of the challenge we face is daunting. But together, I'm convinced that we can help thousands of boys and girls get started on a healthy path. We appreciate your help with this vital project.

For more information on the *Reshaping Texas* library book program and a complete list of books and DVDs being distributed, visit www.reshapingtexas.org/content/reshaping-texas-books-libraries.



Susan Combs is Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.



The Comptroller's Library Initiative: Quick Facts

- Children's and young-adult books and DVDs related to nutrition and fitness have been sent to all 911 Texas public main and branch libraries and 1,136 public elementary schools that serve large numbers of economically disadvantaged children.
- A panel of Comptroller writers, editors, analysts, and managers reviewed these works to ensure they met certain criteria and standards.
- The *Reshaping Texas* URL is noted on each book and DVD we provide.
- Physical education equipment has been provided to 3,557 Texas public schools, including a football, basketball, volleyball, play ball, jump rope, Frisbee, and a large mesh bag to hold them.
- Schools selected to receive this equipment include those teaching grades 5, 6, 7 or 8 that have 30 percent or more of their students in the high-risk BMI zone of FITNESSGRAM testing based on 2011-2012 data. (Since the 2007-08 school year, the Texas Education Agency has required that all students in grades 3 through 12 be tested annually using FITNESSGRAM fitness assessment software.)

URLs for Reshaping Texas Surveys

- **Public Libraries**
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Books_Public_Library_Survey
- **School Libraries**
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Books_School_Library_Survey
- **School Principals**
https://www.surveymonkey.com/Gym_Bag_Principal_Survey

Obesity: Dimensions of a Crisis

- Pre-school children who are overweight or obese are *five times* more likely than their normal-weight peers to be overweight or obese as adults.
- Obesity rates among U.S. children aged six to 11 *tripled* from 1980

All photos courtesy of the Office of Texas Comptroller



to 2008. The obesity rate among adolescents rose even faster, from 5 percent to 18 percent.

- Research published in August 2013 indicates that about 18 percent of all deaths among persons between the ages of 40 and 85 are associated with high body mass – more than *three times* the rate found in previous estimates.
- In 2011, 36.6 percent of Texas children ages 12-17 were overweight or obese, compared to 31.3 percent in the U.S.
- Adult obesity rates in Texas rose from 12.3 percent in 1990 to 31.8 percent in 2010.
- U.S. health costs associated with obesity have been estimated at \$210 billion in 2008.
- The Texas Comptroller's office estimates that obesity costs to Texas businesses totaled \$9.5 billion in 2009.
- Good news: new research shows obesity rates among low-income, pre-school children declined throughout the U.S. from 2008 to 2011.
- U.S. adult obesity rates are also showing evidence of plateauing, particularly among women, although there are no signs yet of a decline.
- Significant economic savings are attainable by preventing obesity. One study estimates that Texas could save \$12.4 billion if obesity were kept at the same level from 2008 to 2018. 🌟



RIBBON CUTTING
at the Small Business
Development Center
in Laredo

LIBRARIES & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Libraries have always been about education and helping people attain their goals. These days, we hear a great deal about workforce development. According to the report *Addressing Long-Term Unemployment*, almost five unemployed workers exist for every job opening. Yet, many workers do not possess the skill set necessary to perform those jobs. The report finds that policymakers need to invest in education and training programs that can prepare workers for new employment opportunities.

Libraries of all types provide a significant avenue to assist in meeting the state's priorities of promoting educational opportunities, helping people prepare for and find jobs, establishing favorable environments for business, and raising literacy at all age levels. With the closure of some local Workforce Solutions offices statewide, libraries must meet ever-increasing demands for training and educational programs.

Not surprisingly, Texas libraries are stepping up.

We asked librarians across the state to share some of the activities conducted in their libraries. Here is a quick sample of what your colleagues are offering.

Houston Public Library

In Houston, three of every four high school freshmen drop out before their graduation dates, and 30% of adults 25 years and older has less than a 9th grade education, no high school diploma, or any technology skills. Because of these statistics, the Houston Public Library (HPL) has designated workforce development as a service priority and is working to ensure that we provide the community with the skills, resources, and tools to enter or reenter the workforce. Specific efforts include:

- HPL's Central Library Compass Center provides customers seeking career opportunities with specialized technology and workshops, as well as one-on-one assistance. HPL has partnered with Workforce Solutions; last year their career counselors conducted 293 workforce development sessions at HPL locations with 1639 attendees.
- HPL's Open Job Skills Labs provide reserved computer lab sessions where customers can search for jobs, complete applications, work on résumés, and practice interviewing. Staff is available for one-on-one help. Last year there were 1607 Open Job Labs offered with 5646 attendees.
- HPL's WeCAN Works (WW) is designed to improve the

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opportunities for Houston's underserved, unskilled, and unemployed by preparing them for sustainable career paths. Using combined partner resources, WW targets at-risk high school students and provides them with internships in high-demand/growth fields with a goal of graduation, provides out-of-school youth and adults with training to obtain their GED, provides digital literacy and workforce skills, and provides career counseling and job placement assistance at over 89 libraries, community colleges, high schools, career offices, and community centers in high need areas. More than 500,000 Houstonians have benefitted from WW to date.

Hundreds of thousands of unemployed, unskilled, and underserved youth and adults have benefited from HPL's apprenticeships, GED obtainment, digital literacy and workforce skills training, and career counseling and job placement assistance. This is HPL's story.

We are grateful to our library colleagues, foundation, and partners who are united in this mission.

HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Nicole Robinson, Director of Digital Inclusion
Rhea Brown Lawson, Director

Victoria Public Library

Victoria Public Library (VPL) partners with Workforce Solutions of the Golden Crescent (WSGC) to provide free basic computer classes to job seekers in our community. In addition to teaching free basic computer classes in the computer lab at the library, several library classes are taught each month in the computer lab at WSGC. These classes include:

- Introduction to Computer Basics
- Introduction to Microsoft Office
- Introduction to Microsoft Word
- Intermediate Microsoft Word
- Using Internet and Email in Your Job Search

The partnership between VPL and WSGC began in November 2011, and 85 classes have been taught at the

WSGC to date with 684 community members in attendance.

More information about VPL computer classes can found on our website at www.victoriapubliclibrary.org/computerclasses.asp.

VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
Katherine Henley, Training Services Manager
Dayna Williams-Capone, Director

El Paso Public Library

The El Paso Public Library initiated a program to train local citizens in computer technology skills from beginning to advanced levels. The project entitled the Virtual Village was supported through a grant from the Department of Commerce Broadband Technology and Opportunities Program (BTOP). It was a broad-based community partnership program that combined the strengths of the partners to recruit, train, and help employ the thousands of local citizens. The program also effectively doubled the number of free public computer centers

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within the greater El Paso area and updated the technological infrastructure of the city by implementing new equipment and software as well as wireless Internet through its Digital El Paso brand. During its three-year existence, the program trained more than 150,000 citizens through various levels of curriculum starting with basic instruction and continuing on with job and educational skills.

BTOP Partners include:

- El Paso Public Library
- City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department
- City of El Paso Department of Public Health
- Boys and Girls Club of El Paso
- Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, Inc.
- El Paso Community College
- Housing Authority of El Paso
- People Skills, Inc.
- Paso Del Norte Children's Development Center
- Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande
- Volar Center for Independent Living
- Yseta del Sur Pueblo

The program was marketed and promoted through an advertising campaign by local advertising company Eureka media. The cost of the campaign was included in the grant application. There was also a strong publicity push that included press releases, posters, flyers, give-aways, and online media.

EL PASO PUBLIC LIBRARY
Jerry Kurtyka, BTOP Director
Dionne Mack, Director

Laredo Public Library

The Laredo libraries offer many programs and services to support workforce development. Here is a quick list.

- Computer classes: basic computer skills, résumé writing, and online application assistance
- Academic Computer Lab: preference given for educational and

employment purposes including job searching, filling of online job applications, school work, and testing; Texas Workforce refers clients to us to apply for unemployment benefits and to fill out online job applications.

- One-on-one computer help from librarians: Since March 2013, 6,617 patrons have been helped, most of them needing help with software, résumé writing, and online job applications. Current employees of Wal-Mart, Target, school districts, and H.E.B. come to the library to access their online personnel files (i.e. W-2s during tax season).
- Cyber Mobile services: mobile computer lab with Internet access. It has been used for both computer classes and for patrons who want to fill out job applications. It was used at the city wide job fair for the Eagle Ford Shale which drew over 6,000 people; Hi/LO Auto parts used it to have candidates fill out online job applications.
- Databases – Atomic Training – Online software training; Learn-a-Test for certification testing and professional development
- Proctoring exam services: for student, professionals, and small business owners needing to obtain certification or licenses

Additionally, in June 2013, the City of Laredo signed an interlocal agreement with Texas A & M International University Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The Library and SBDC have partnered many times to host workshops (Art of Starting a Business, Managing Payroll with QuickBooks). Norma Rodriguez is the business advisor from SBDC. Since the office opened, she has seen 58 clients (196 contact hours) and has hosted three workshops (26 in attendance). SBDC has access to our meeting rooms, computer labs as well as our business resources.

LAREDO PUBLIC LIBRARY
Maria G. Soliz, Library Director

Fort Worth Public Library

Fort Worth Library created an eSkills Library and Job Center through partnerships. In 2010, confronting a reduced budget, the Fort Worth Library faced the likelihood that one of its 16 locations, the Meadowbrook Branch Library, would be closed. However, the demand in the community for job training and traditional library services remained high. In an effort to meet the community's needs, the library remodeled and repurposed the branch and invited Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County to partner in providing workforce development training. Workforce would provide the instructors and curriculum, while the library would provide a technologically modern classroom and support materials for job seekers.

In July 2011, with the financial assistance of the Friends of the Fort Worth Library Inc., the partners opened the repurposed branch, renaming it "eSkills Library and Job Center," the first facility of its kind in Fort Worth.

Though the initial months were slow going, with an average monthly attendance of 60 students, eSkills now serves more than 300 people each month, offering classes on such diverse topics as résumé writing, conducting a job search on the Internet, parenting, and preparing for the GED.

In recognition of eSkills' success, Workforce presented the Fort Worth Library with the Keeping Tarrant County Partnering Award in 2012.

You can learn more at fortworthlibrary.org.



*L.G. Swift, Regional Manager,
 Urban Services*
Gleniece Robinson, Director ✪

TLA membership and YOU

BY GLORIA MERAZ

Every now and again, it's helpful to take stock of where we are and determine how best to go forward professionally and personally. For members of the Texas Library Association, professional assessment includes looking at the operations of the library at which we work or support, our own professional and personal growth in our field, and the general outlook for libraries. An important element in this review is the role of the Texas Library Association in these key areas.

Like most institutions in the state, the Texas Library Association was subject to the financial pressures of the recent financial downturn. Now that the state budget and many local budgets reflect economic gains, we are in a time of targeted growth, and libraries, librarians, and library supporters must be part of that renewal.

I want to share with you our thoughts on the impact of TLA in this process and, most importantly, in your own commitment to and growth in library and information services.

TLA works to be your partner for professional success.

From continuing education and job placement resources to professional liability insurance and a library advocacy network, TLA is the only "one-stop" shop in the state for all areas related to preparing for and delivering quality library services. Beyond that, however, TLA is committed to offering an open and rich experience for people to build lifelong relationships with colleagues. Alice Specht, dean of university libraries at Hardin-Simmons University, put it this way:

TLA helps our library team meet our institution's mission by providing a statewide forum for sharing challenges, finding solutions, and learning new skills

and strategies through an extensive network of colleagues and CE opportunities. TLA also provides a means to develop friendships, professional support, and a collective 'presence' for the benefit of individuals and the profession itself.

Connect to Know, the TLA's motto, captures the essence of the association's

TLA provides leadership opportunities and allows employees to develop important skills by trying things that they might not be quite ready to try at work. Through TLA, employees can share ideas with colleagues around the state (and at other types of libraries), test theories and explore ideas, and enjoy a sense of belonging, of being part of a larger group.

Ramiro Salazar
DIRECTOR, SAN ANTONIO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

mission. We serve as a bridge linking members to where, what, and who they need.

In terms of employment, the value of a professional organization is captured well by veteran career coach and founder of KB & Associates. She writes, "As a recruiter, career coach and hiring manager I always look at Association membership, then at what capacity as I evaluated the individual as a viable candidate. Drive, abilities and priorities are displayed in this component of the total person." According to *Where the Winners Meet*, a 2004 report by the William E. Smith Institute for Association Research using data from the biannual General Social Survey, people who are members of professional associations "earn more, they like their jobs better, and data shows they are even happier people." Now, some may make the chicken and egg argument: better paid, more fulfilled professionals are the most likely to be a part of an association. I'm okay with that theory,



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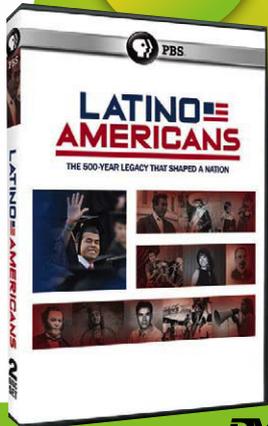
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since I think the outcome is the same. Professional affiliation is a destination for professional satisfaction.

If this piece is sounding somewhat like a commercial to you, let me fess up: It is. We want TLA to continue being a leader for Texas librarians and libraries, and we want to grow services in the coming year. That means we need all TLA members to maintain their commitment to the association and the Texas library community. And we want your help recruiting new or lapsed members.

So, here is an overview of some ways to think about the impact of TLA membership.

What does TLA do for me?

TLA benefits its members in both direct and indirect ways. Keep in mind, TLA is the only state association advocating exclusively for the unique needs of the library community.

Benefits You See and Feel: Direct Ways TLA Benefits Its Members

Quality access to your network of colleagues

While there are many ways and forums to connect with other librarians today (social media, ad-hoc meetings, other organizations), TLA is specific to the Texas library community and gives you a professional and high-quality framework to interact with, learn from, and work with colleagues in a safe, friendly, and productive environment.

You want to meet library directors? Want them to meet you and see you “in action”? Want to show off your mettle in the selection and preparation of learning resources for students? Hope to build your leadership portfolio and build a circle of supporters (and admirers) for your skills outside of your own workplace? Need to hone your skills in all the ways not taught in library school?

Being a part of TLA – attending conferences and especially by

participating in TLA activities and units – gives you unparalleled access to your colleagues, potential bosses and/or employees, mentors, and opportunities that will help you in your own job or the next job ahead.

Make no mistake, leaders in every profession look to see who is involved with and attuned to the overall work of the profession. That’s how big thinkers, big players, and desirable workers are most often identified. There is no better forum for Texas library workers than TLA. Whether you are the lone librarian in your organization who needs to connect with others or one of many librarians who wants to group with others doing similar work, TLA provides the broadest pool of colleagues and the highest quality opportunity to meet and work with them.

Jobs, Jobs, and Jobs

Members of all professions have the same questions. Where can I find jobs in my field? How can I make myself more marketable for those jobs? How can I beef up my résumé? How do I find references and contacts outside of my immediate work environment? How can I show experience in diverse areas? The answer: membership in your professional association.

Through your membership in TLA, you can show your commitment to the profession, continuing education, volunteerism to important professional work (statewide information literacy training, development of reading lists, intellectual freedom, fundraising, marketing, and on and on), a network of professional resources, and knowledge of the professional environment. As a TLA member, you also have access to job postings, career support, and job-seeking resources through TLA’s placement center at conference.

TLA is a place where staff at all levels is introduced to the real world of librarianship, the practice of skills, knowledge and abilities acquired through education, and the benefit of practical experiences and war stories shared by colleagues.

Gleniece A. Robinson
Library Director, Fort Worth
Public Library

Access to Librarian-Specific Professional Liability Insurance

Only TLA offers special liability insurance for librarians and library staff. Only TLA members can purchase this insurance which covers library workers in the scope of work duties. Ever worried about any legal actions that may result from protecting patron records? This special insurance program covers associated legal fees. What are your options if you feel you were unjustly terminated? The insurance program offers a means to work with an attorney. Ever worried about someone suing you if something happens at the library? Did you know some patrons have sued over incorrect reference information? The insurance package helps TLA members address these circumstances.

Awards, Grants, Honors

Who recognizes you when you do outstanding work? How do you publicize that you’ve been honored? Do you have channels to explore to help you attend conference, be noticed for great PR work, garner recognition for outstanding programming, or help pay for school? TLA members can apply for several association-wide or specific unit awards, grants, and stipends. Being part of the application process not only presents you with the opportunity to be honored and/or receive financial support, it lets a broader community notice you and the work you are doing at your institution and

libraries. Few items on a résumé are as impressive as honors bestowed by your colleagues. TLA members have multiple opportunities for diverse recognition.

Leadership Development

Rising to the top of any career depends greatly on one’s ability to be a respected leader. We learn many skills in our workplace and we may even pay for some extra management courses, but TLA members have the distinct advantage of having continued access to training, other leaders, and (most

When I was still a student, I delivered a presentation at a TLA conference. Sitting in the audience were library directors - employers. I had a job offer just outside the session door. TLA is absolutely the best place to connect with library colleagues.

Eddy Smith Executive
Director, Abilene Library
Consortium

importantly) the means to develop, practice, and showcase leadership skills. By working on and running committees, round tables, or other professional groups, you not only demonstrate your acumen, you pick up invaluable experience and skills: how to run a meeting; how to develop and execute important professional goals and projects; how to recruit, manage, and motivate diverse people; how to apply expertise in diverse settings; how to negotiate and persuade; and how to represent your interests and those of your institution and profession across a broad spectrum.

In addition to these opportunities, specialized training (including the renowned TALL Texans Leadership Development Institution) and programs are geared specifically for today's and tomorrow's library leaders. Through membership in TLA, you have an unparalleled means to shape your future as a mover and shaker in the field. Not only do you learn how to make a difference in the profession and your career; you have the means to actualize those goals.

Continuing Education

Professional development and continuing education credits are essential (and required) for most library workers. TLA members enjoy access (including many free opportunities) and discounts to programs, trainings, and CE. From TLA's nationally-recognized annual conference and annual assembly to diverse year-long webinar selections and special programs, TLA members can tap into a broad and quality catalog of professional development options. As an accredited CPE provider, TLA provides credit that meets SBEC and TSLAC standards.

Discounts/Products/Goodies

Membership in TLA entitles you to discounts on registration for certain event (such as the TLA annual conference) and premium webinars. Through your TLA membership, you also get four issues of the *Texas Library Journal*; *TLACast* (TLA's online newsletter); access to division, district and roundtable e-lists, publications, and

programming; information about state policy matters regarding libraries; online toolkits and resources; inclusion in TLA publications (*TLACast* and website) for such things as job changes and blog publications. You also have the ability to send out professional announcements via TLA's member e-lists.

Benefits You Feel but Don't Necessarily See

Just as importantly, TLA works behind the scenes to protect jobs, maintain programs that help make your library strong and vital to the people and bosses you serve, and promote the value of libraries. Many library workers – even those not in TLA – benefit from the Association's work and investment in building library services.

Statewide library programs, like electronic resources (TexShare and the soon-to-be added K-12 database program)

What would your work situation be like without state standards or support for library resources? What would that mean for your students, community, and institution? What would that mean in terms of your own professional standing?

Advocacy

Through the years, TLA has fought mightily at the State Legislature to protect, increase, and (most recently) reinstate funding for Texas libraries. The effort to safeguard library funding falls to many players – the State Library, the library community, and educational institutions to name a few. That being said, the single most consistent source for advocacy/lobbying for statewide library funding is TLA. No other state organization has the expertise and infrastructure – volunteers, staff, and programming – to carry out a continual advocacy strategy. Teacher groups, municipal organizations, and higher education associations certainly support general library issues, but the banner is carried by Texas library supporters and

TLA. From working with state agencies, monitoring hearings and proceedings, visiting with legislators and staff, preparing and delivering testimony, providing background information, submitting formal reports, assisting with the drafting of legislation, and lobbying decision makers to convening

TLA helps maintain 'professional jurisdiction' through advocacy and raising awareness. On a personal level, membership and participation in TLA broadens perspective and provides opportunities for professional growth, networking, and leadership.

J. Carter Cook Director,
Library Media Services,
Fort Worth ISD

interested members of the library community, providing information to the field on critical state decisions, offering a means for local action, and coordinating statewide grassroots advocacy, TLA helps keep Texas libraries strong, and that means helping make librarians and their positions vital. That's a basic investment for all professionals and stakeholders.

Over the years, TLA has worked on many issues that affect your library and, by easy extension, you. Here is a list: statewide telecommunications discounts for libraries of all types (think broadband is expensive; imagine what it would be like without the state discounts and what paying the extra funding would mean for your institution's budget for the library); funding for library programs; Internet policies; purchasing policies; school librarian certification requirements; open access to information; digital licensing issues; standards for libraries; and many more.

Promoting Library Services

In addition to our advocacy efforts, TLA also promotes libraries, librarians, and library services through publications, campaigns, and media coverage. From the multitude of news reports to the creation of marketing toolkits, PSAs, and other promotional items, TLA works with the library community to help make the public aware of what you do.

Simply put, TLA is your partner for professional success. ☺

TLA CORPORATE MEMBERS: Up Close and Personal

TLA thanks all of our corporate members for their support of the Association. The *Texas Library Journal* recently invited all our corporate members to submit information about their company, products, and relationship with the library community.

Baker and Taylor



George Coe, President of Library & Education

www.btol.com

Baker & Taylor thrives on finding solutions to help satisfy our library partners' ever-changing needs and priorities. As the world's largest distributor of books,

digital content and entertainment products, Baker & Taylor leverages its unsurpassed worldwide distribution network to deliver rich content in multiple formats. With decades of experience, Baker & Taylor delivers the content that best suits a library's collection development requirements and meets the needs of patrons and the community.

As patrons' habits are changing, and with ever-increasing demand for materials in digital formats, Baker & Taylor draws on deep knowledge to ensure libraries can offer materials that are relevant and timely. Because of Baker & Taylor's development in ebook technology and market-defining alliances, building electronic content collections has never been easier with the Axis 360 digital media library. Axis 360 is the one complete solution that seamlessly integrates with your library's technology, and it's the only fully-accessible econtent platform with the only accessible ereader. And through Baker & Taylor, you can order both print and digital collections from one trusted source.

Baker & Taylor's world-leading collection performance improvement tool, collectionHQ, allows librarians to analyze their collection's performance

and take action to maximize and manage it. Customized Library Services (CLS) offers the industry's most comprehensive and customized technical service solutions. From Opening Day Collections and collection expansion services to collection development services and project management – CLS promotes the progress and success of your library.

To help support the library industry, Baker & Taylor sponsors two major awards. The Allie Beth Martin Award and honorarium is given to a librarian who has demonstrated extraordinary knowledge of material and the ability to share that knowledge. The Charlie Robinson Award honors a public library director for risk taking and innovation.

Through long-standing relationships, libraries have come to know and trust Baker & Taylor as an innovative supplier of books and audio/visual materials. Baker & Taylor has been a proud sponsor of TLA for more than 50 years, and this year we will be sponsoring the President's All-Conference Celebration at the upcoming TLA show – we hope to see you there.

Capstone

www.capstonepub.com

Capstone is devoted to creating books, digital solutions, databases, and literacy



Tom Ahern, CEO

programs that kids love and educators trust. Covering the spectrum of reader interests and curriculum needs from fiction to nonfiction, traditional print to interactive eBooks and

everything in between, Capstone is well positioned to help inspire and inform 21st century learners.

Imprints include Capstone Press, Compass Point Books, Picture Window Books, Stone Arch Books, and Heinemann-Raintree. We are

the creators of the top-ranked PreK-3 database PebbleGo and the exclusive developers of myON, a personalized literacy program.

In spite of today's difficult funding landscape, librarians are increasingly committed to helping students navigate our 21st century world. Our kids need to develop the ability to not only find information but to approach it critically. We are also impressed with librarians' eager adoption of the possibilities of technology, the importance of teaching its responsible use, and providing equal access across their communities. And reassuringly, some things defy trends and remain constant – there's no better resource for curious kids looking for information or the next great story to read than a librarian!

We at Capstone have a special place in our hearts for Texas librarians. We thrive on working with you to help kids. What could be better than that?

Demco www.demco.com

For over 100 years, Demco has been supporting the success of school, public,



Janet Nelson, Director of Library Markets

and academic libraries. Our relationship with libraries began in 1905, when Demco, then the Democratic Printing Company, created a special department to serve libraries and promote their mission – to educate and uplift all Americans.

Over the past century, we've seen incredible change and growth in libraries and within our own company. These days, we've been focusing on topics like supporting space and budget challenges, keeping up with technology – and offering librarians relevant solutions that make it easier to imagine what's possible for their spaces and community.

What follows is an overview of some of the ways we're connecting with the library community:

Free Webinars: We've partnered with experts to provide practical advice on some of the top-of-mind issues facing today's libraries including grant writing, marketing, innovations in teen spaces, and more. For more info, go to demco.com and search: webinars.

In-depth Articles: Our articles are full of relevant solutions that make it easier for your library to evolve and better serve your community. Topics covered include space planning, the power of library collaboration, early literacy, and reimagining fundraising. For more info, visit demco.com and search: newsletters.

Branch Out Talks: At the last ALA conference in Chicago, we introduced Branch Out Talks, which is a forum for the exchange of ideas and challenges faced in your libraries, coupled with the opportunity to hear from industry experts about trends and solutions that address your most pressing questions. For more info, go to demco.com and search: branch out talks.

Local Contributions: Demco also contributes locally in Texas with grants, awards and programs like the TLA/ Demco Research Grant which helps advance professional knowledge, the Innovative Programming Award which recognizes two libraries annually, and supporting the TALL Texan Leadership program at the TLA conference.

These are just a few examples of how we're reaching out to libraries to provide value and support. For over a century, our dedication to understanding your library's needs and delivering relevant solutions is what drives us.

Follett

www.folletlearning.com



Todd Litzinger,
President

Follett is the largest provider of educational materials and technology solutions to PreK-12 libraries, classrooms, learning centers, and school districts in the United States, and a major supplier to educational

institutions worldwide. Follett distributes books, reference materials, digital resources, ebooks, and audiovisual materials, as well as pre-owned textbooks. Follett also is one of the leading providers of integrated educational technology for the management of physical and digital assets, the tracking, storing and analyzing of academic data, and digital learning environment tools for the classroom focusing on student achievement.

In PreK-12 schools, we see a continued need for evidence-based practice in connecting the value of school libraries to student achievement. We also see an increasing emphasis on the importance of digital resources in education.

We feel strongly that we, as the major supplier to PreK-12 school libraries, must continue to provide you with the new and innovative products you need to keep pace with today's students. We also see the need to continue to develop services that help you present the value your efforts bring to your fellow educators and administrators.

All of us at Follett believe in the value of school libraries. Our membership in and support of TLA and other state and national library associations reflect this.

Gale/Cengage Learning

www.gale.cengage.com



Nader Qaimari,
Senior VP of Sales
& Marketing

Gale, part of Cengage Learning, is the world's leading publisher of research and reference resources for libraries, schools, and businesses. Our strategy is to transform the library and research business

by unlocking access to rare artifacts while also helping all libraries fulfill their mission of lifelong education. Let me tell you more about how we are working to achieve this through the innovative products and services we offer.

One our most recent and exciting products is Learn4Life, which brings turnkey online training and education to the public library market. Through products like Learn4Life, Gale is helping libraries support lifelong education and enrichment opportunities for their community.

We've also begun unifying our extensive digital humanities collections into one experience, creating the world's largest online curated primary source and literary collection. The new research experience, Artemis, enables researchers to make connections and realize relationships among content that had previously been worlds apart in the digital divide.

We've also secured partnerships with world-renowned organizations such as National Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institution and have created several exciting products utilizing these institutions' assets.

In addition to delivering innovative products, we must make sure we provide the services that support libraries in their mission - whether it be increasing usage, influencing positive outcomes, or solidifying the library's role in the community. We are providing more in the way of analytics and outcomes support, and we also continue to provide tools such as our free AccessMyLibrary application and marketing collateral support via GaleProMo. We also offer resources to help libraries market not only their resources but themselves. After much success, we developed and published detailed guides to help all libraries better tell the story of the impact they have on their patrons' lives and their communities.

Great product development, service, and library advocacy has always been an important part of our mission at Gale. Not only can Gale not exist without great libraries to serve students, teachers, and the public, the healthy, happy and productive society we enjoy would not be possible.

HEB www.heb.com

H-E-B is in the business of selling groceries, but we believe our real mission is making a difference in the lives of our partners and customers.



H-E-B believes in nourishing the future of Texas, which is why we launched our Read 3 campaign focused on improving childhood literacy. We want to be sure that all children have the opportunity to begin their school experience with an equal opportunity to succeed. The goal of Read 3 is to educate parents and caregivers about the need to read to their children at least three times per week and to provide families with the tools and resources they need to prepare early learners, including access to books. We believe people matter and we have a mission to make their lives better, which is at the heart of everything we do.

H-E-B believes that free and affordable books are something every family in Texas should have access to. With the dwindling number of major chain book retailers across the country, H-E-B supports local library systems to ensure all families can enjoy the experience of a book together.

What motivates us to be a TLA member?

H-E-B has been committed to education in Texas for many years through our Classroom Champions Program, Excellence in Education

Awards, and our support of programs such as Junior Achievement, and Communities in School.

We are proud to partner with the Texas Library Association to make books available to all Texans - young and seasoned!

Junior Library Guild *Collection Development Made Easy* juniorlibraryguild.com

Founded in 1929, Junior Library Guild is a book review and collection development service helping thousands



Randall Asmo,
President/CEO,
Media Source Inc.

of school and public libraries acquire the best new children's and young adult books, saving them both time and money. Our members trust us to put only the best books into the hands of their eager young readers.

Season after season, year after year, our book selections go on to win awards, collect starred or favorable reviews, and earn industry honors. We send these books on a monthly basis to our members, who receive them hot off the presses.

JLG selects books with the same care and attention you use when building your collection. Our editors know the children's and young-adult literature landscape like no one else. And this credibility gives us a unique advantage, which benefits our members every

month. The JLG editorial team reads the best books of the year well before they're published. Publishers large and small value the prestige that comes with having their books named JLG Selections. They allow us to read and review more than 3,000 of their most anticipated books in manuscript or in preproduction stages. After narrowing that group to the very best titles, we place our orders well in advance of publication dates (all JLG books are first editions) to provide you with new-release titles soon after they are first released.

This is how JLG membership allows you to get tomorrow's award winners today.

Speaking of future awards, our recently announced fall 2013 list is full of potential winners. Visit our website to view the list and learn more about our highly praised service.

Library Interiors of Texas www.libraryinteriorsoftexas.com



Trevor Taylor,
Vice President

Library Interiors of Texas presents the ultimate in library furniture design. Uniting domestic favorites with the best of European vendors, we bring you the most comprehensive portfolio of library furniture and shelving available today.

Electronic Media is going to have a very influential impact on libraries and how they are used. With the introduction of handheld devices like the Kindle and the iPad, it's more important than ever to ensure libraries continue to be the hub of the community. It's crucial to strive for innovative, new and exciting ideas to ensure patrons continue to consider the library the center for life-long learning. Libraries are traditionally seen as comfortable places to go for casual reading and to expand knowledge, but competition from the retail sector (Borders, Barnes and Noble, Starbucks, etc.) is threatening the status quo. Therefore, now more than ever, it is our duty as professionals and vendors



to ensure we build libraries that exceed the demands of today and embrace the challenges of tomorrow.

We enjoy being a member of TLA, because it keeps us up to date with the most recent library news and events, and makes us feel a part of the Texas library community. We have always enjoyed our dealings with the TLA, and are a proud to be a member of such a great organization.

Library Furniture

www.libraryfurniture.com



Penny Gromatzky,
President

Libra-Tech Corporation is a dealership specializing in library furniture, shelving, technical furniture, display and accessories too. We will provide consulting, layouts, budget pricing, and installation including book moves. We are delighted to encounter the relationships with the colleges we have worked on successfully.

We have are now working with Dallas Community Colleges and the Richland College Library. Richland is a complete renovation and book move. We are in the middle of this project and staging the collection as it does its renovation; then we will install the shelving, end panels, and signage in the new space. We will then install the complete 75K collection back on its new shelving.

Libra-Tech sees the trends of continuous growth and change so we still believe in the most modular and flexible furniture and shelving in the market! We strive to keep in front of librarians and their needs so we can supply them with the newest and greatest of product lines.

Visit our website to see the gallery and list of colleges that have been successfully completed.

Sourcebooks

www.sourcebooks.com

Sourcebooks is a forward-thinking, independent publishing house with a passion for books and a dedication to the belief that books change lives. We are committed to innovative publishing, where every book is personal and every author's voice has a place.



Dominique Raccach,
Publisher & CEO

We are a group of passionate, energetic, and enthusiastic book lovers, and we are committed to helping readers experience each book. Sourcebooks also offers MyMaxScore, an innovative online program that revolutionizes how students prepare for standardized tests, and the newly-announced Fiske Interactive College Guide app, the fully digital version of the #1 selling college guide in North America.

Sourcebooks has more than 70 employees, publishes more than 300 new titles each year across all genres and age ranges, and has celebrated 15 *New York Times* bestsellers and counting. In addition to being one of the largest

independent publishers in America, Sourcebooks is proud to be the largest woman-owned book publisher in the country.

What do we see as the future for libraries?

- Libraries being a wealth of information for the people of the community, not just a place to check out books.
- People of the city or town taking advantage of the wonderful programming libraries offer.
- Librarians adapting with the fast-paced change in technology and providing content in multiple formats for their patrons.
- The need for new and fresh content in the children and YA market, both in the print book and digital formats.

We see TLA as a source of knowledge, expertise, and passion that is palpable when talking with Texas librarians. TLA is a great medium for Sourcebooks to connect our books with readers and advocates for learning. We believe that books change lives and feel strongly that Texas librarians would share the same motto. 🌟

TLA salutes its Corporate Members for Helping Libraries Grow

Initiatives facilitated through our corporate partnerships make a large contribution to Texas libraries. Examples of such initiatives have included: statewide distribution of TLA's *Texas Voter Opinion Survey*, which put critical information directly into the hands of over 20,000 local city, county, and school leaders; publication of *A Pocket Guide to 21st Century Libraries*, which delivered a snapshot of Texas libraries and the library message to state elected officials; and the *Strategic Initiatives* CE webinars on communication, collaboration, and innovation.

Corporate Membership Benefits Include:

- Recognition in TLA print and digital publications, including a featured article linked from the homepage of the TLA website.
- Recognition at TLA meetings and in strategic communications.
- Visibility on signage and a corporate member ribbon at both Annual Conference and Annual Assembly.
- TLA Corporate Membership web-badge for year-round promotion.

S. JOE McCORD LIBRARY HERO AWARDS

The Texas Library Political Action Committee announced its first round of advocacy awards this past summer at the Texas Library Association's Annual Assembly. The S. Joe McCord Library Hero Awards are named for former TLA President S. Joe McCord, who worked tirelessly on legislative matters. He served as Legislative Committee Chair and developed TLA's first Legislative Day activities. He was also a leading force in gaining the first state funding for TexShare.

Joe McCord is a legend in library advocacy, and the TLPAC's new award is named for an extraordinary individual. Though not affiliated with TLA, the TLPAC follows closely the work of TLA and its members.

The three individuals below are the inaugural recipients of the S. Joe McCord Library Hero Award. The citations below are based on the presentations made in July. To learn more about the award, which recognizes extraordinary legislative contributions to the state of libraries, go to www.tlpac.org. The TLPAC is funded by contributions of library supporters and librarians across the state.

REPRESENTATIVE JIM PITTS

The first S. Joe McCord Library Hero Award is presented to Texas House District 10 Representative Jim Pitts. As a leader in the Texas House of Representatives, he has consistently supported legislation that has sustained and enhanced library services in Texas.

A Waxahachie attorney first elected in 1992, he brought public service experience – including serving on the boards of the Sims Library and Waxahachie ISD – to his legislative work. Over 11 sessions, he was appointed to a number of powerful committees, including the House Appropriations Committee (which he chaired during four sessions).

Recognizing his leadership skills, *Texas Monthly* magazine has three times named Representative Pitts among “The Best” in “Best and Worst Legislators” in 2005, 2009, and 2013. In this year's article, author Bob Daemmrich wrote, “Having power doesn't earn you a spot on the Best List. Knowing how to use it wisely does.”

Texas libraries often have benefited from those master skills. Representative

Pitts has a long track record of working closely with Texas library advocates in addressing funding issues for the Texas State Library and K-12 library technology initiatives. Working closely with library advocate Susan Mann, the Appropriations Committee secured an allocation of over \$5 million dollars for TSL programs in 2009. During the recently concluded regular 83rd Session, Representative Pitts worked through the Conference Committee to restore critical funding for libraries.

Representative Pitts is a proven leader in the Texas Legislature who over time has shown ongoing and outstanding achievement in support of legislative efforts on behalf of Texas libraries, librarians, and library programs.

RHODA GOLDBERG

While small in stature, Rhoda Goldberg and the totality of her dedication and accomplishments are gigantic. Her contributions span three decades of commitment. Rhoda began her professional career with Houston Public Library in 1972, later joining the Harris County Public Library system in 1975, where she became assistant director in 1978 and then director in 2008. She also served on the Houston Center for Literacy Board and the TexShare Advisory Board of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Rhoda served on and chaired many TLA task forces related to technology and legislative programs. She has served as PLD legislative chair and as chair/co-chair of TLA's Legislative Committee four times and has shepherded TLA's legislative platforms through several tumultuous sessions.

July 2007 the TLA Council honored Rhoda and noted: “During her terms as Legislative Committee Chair, Rhoda Goldberg coordinated the library community's advocacy efforts to fund K-12 databases, create the Loan Star Libraries direct aid program, increase funds for TexShare, enact a state match for school library material, defeat the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act,

secure authority for the regional library systems to reinvest program income, gain the reauthorization of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, continue telecommunications discounts for libraries and schools, and many other library initiatives.”

This is only a partial list of what Rhoda Goldberg helped accomplish. Her work has been felt throughout the library profession and taught many of us “how it's done.”

CYD SHEFFY

For 40 years Cyd has been a librarian, who not only touched the life of every student who graced the doors of her library but also embodied advocacy at all levels. From doing outstanding work at her school library (and thus garnering respect for herself and the library program) to developing a strong district program for libraries, Cyd knows how to build support from the ground up.

A true leader, Cyd led many legislative efforts for the school library community as a TASL leader. Her work as a passionate and tireless member of the TLA Legislative Committee helped make the impossible probable and the unlikely doable. Her stalwart work promoting libraries is the stuff of legends.

For the last eight years Cyd has been the chair of the TL PAC Board (the leader of the PAC) and has continued her tireless fight for Texas libraries in school districts, Austin, and DC.

There are many things librarians have learned from Cyd Sheffy. Here is probably the one she would offer now:

Do not ever give up, even when you have had a bad session – keep fighting, because there's always another chance. And we saw that very recently, didn't we?

THIS is not optional. And by THIS, I mean TLA, the luncheon, writing the check, fighting for what we love and what we know is so important to our communities. ☘

State Library Update on K-12 Database Access

The TexShare Advisory Board and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission are now considering the path for offering database access to the K-12 community (given the restoration of funding for this purpose). Agency staff sent out the following notice during the summer.

We are very excited to be bringing back statewide online resources for our state's K-12 public school libraries. In order to implement this project we are doing the following:

- August 2013 – appointing a taskforce to advise on the program timeline, communications, structure, relationship with TexShare and related issues
- Hiring two new staff members to work with you on K-12 school library matters – one position for a database coordinator and one position to manage the other programmatic aspects of the project. We hope to have staff in place soon!
- September 2013 – beginning our search for an educational partner using a competitive (bid) process.

When will these new statewide resources be available?

We expect to issue a bid for database content sometime in November or December. We will work with the school library community throughout the purchasing process. Product(s) will be selected by April 2014, and a strong core of content will be available to K-12 public school libraries in the summer of 2014.

Questions can be addressed to Deborah Littrell, deborah.littrell@tsl.state.tx.us, 512-463-5456.

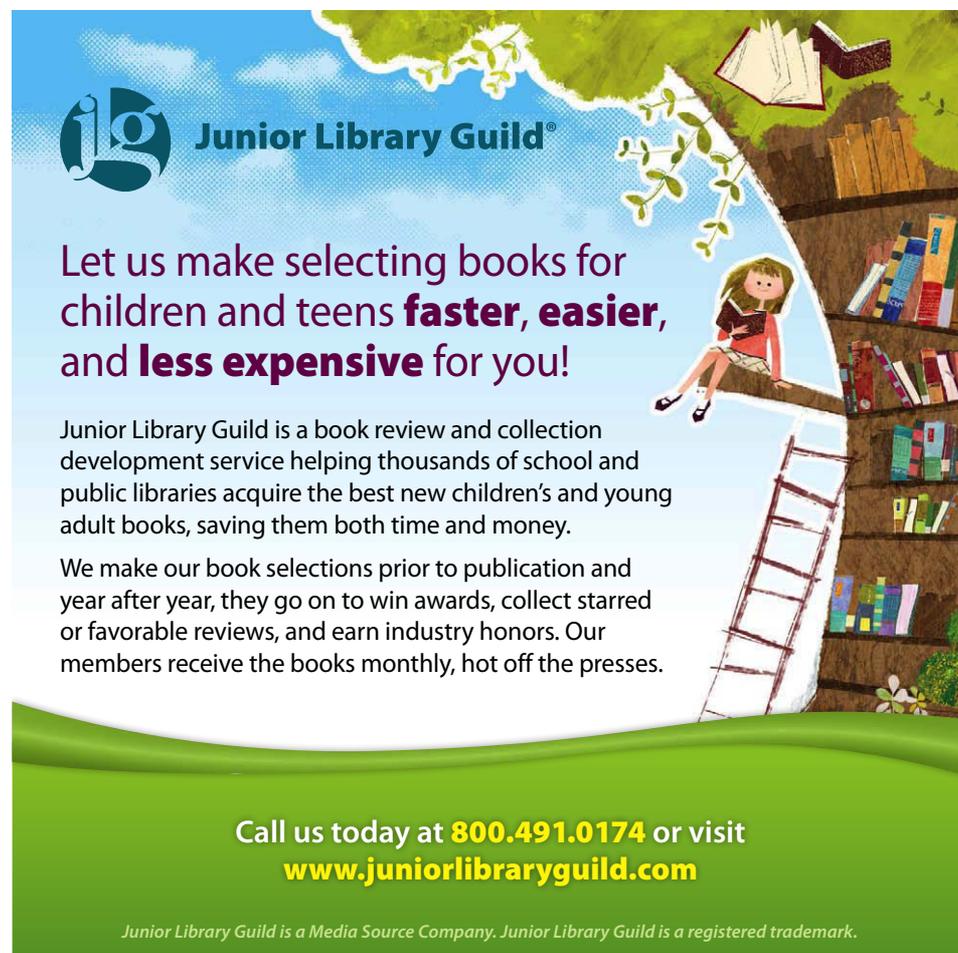
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Over 300 TLA members gathered at the Hyatt Regency in Austin, July 7-10, for the association's annual assembly. The meeting provided officers and interested members an opportunity to plan for the upcoming year. Major assembly events this year included the annual luncheon. Rep. Larry Gonzales of Round Rock, who successfully fought for library funding this past session, spoke about the importance of libraries.

State Comptroller Susan Combs also attended the luncheon to announce an initiative on curbing childhood obesity. The Comptroller's Office is working with public and select school libraries to distribute resources to children and their families. *(See article page 102.)*

Attendees benefited from access to many free CE sessions and diverse evening outing options. Special events included an education forum, "Shaping the LIS Graduates in the Next Decade," to discuss the skills, competencies, personality traits, and attitudes essential to prepare future librarians.

Lila Valencia, a researcher and legislative liaison at the Office of the State Demographer at the University of Texas at San Antonio, spoke on the changing demographics in the state in a keynote address at the forum on TLA's Diversity Action Plan and Strategic Plan. The group discussion focused on diversity and inclusion in TLA.



Junior Library Guild®

Let us make selecting books for children and teens **faster, easier, and **less expensive** for you!**

Junior Library Guild is a book review and collection development service helping thousands of school and public libraries acquire the best new children's and young adult books, saving them both time and money.

We make our book selections prior to publication and year after year, they go on to win awards, collect starred or favorable reviews, and earn industry honors. Our members receive the books monthly, hot off the presses.

Call us today at **800.491.0174** or visit **www.juniorlibraryguild.com**

Junior Library Guild is a Media Source Company. Junior Library Guild is a registered trademark.

CONFERENCE 2014: *Are you ready to*



TLA President Yvonne Chandler and the Conference Program and Local Arrangements Committees have been working to line up the best programs and events for the 2014 conference in San Antonio next April 8-11.

Reserve your hotel room and clear your calendar for another outstanding continuing education opportunity centered on *Leadership, Empowerment, Advocacy, and Diversity*.

CALLING NOW...

1001 Ways to L.E.A.D Out Loud! Poster Session: The 2014 Annual Conference Program Committee is looking for librarians who would like the opportunity to present at a new TLA conference event, the "1001 Ways to L.E.A.D Out Loud! Poster Session." This event will be held on Tuesday, April 8 from 4:00-5:30 pm. Interact with colleagues as you discover new ways to Lead Out Loud in your workplace. In this dynamic and informal poster session, participants will move among tabletop presentations showcasing best practices in learning, empowerment, advocacy, and diversity within library programming, operations, and other services representing all library types.

Submit your proposal describing your presentation by November 1, 2013. Presenters selected will be notified by December 1, 2013. The online submission form is available on the TLA website at www.tla.org/1001-Ideas. If you have questions about this event please contact: Renee Newry, rnewry@juno.com.

TLA Bequests and Planned Giving

We want to acknowledge the many wonderful library supporters who, through the years, have made TLA part of their lives. We have been enriched by the participation of thousands of librarians and library supporters, and the full library community has benefited from the financial contributions of many of their colleagues.

Planned giving and bequests to TLA have allowed many programs and initiatives to flourish at TLA. They offer individuals a chance to dedicate posthumously a portion of their assets to the library community or to settle on gifts to the Association over an extended period of time. These legacy donations express the generosity and deep commitment to library services of the donors. TLA and the library community stand in ongoing gratitude for this philanthropy.

Contributions may be undesignated and left to the area of greatest need or may be designated for a particular cause or interest. If you would like to learn more about planned giving, please contact Pat Smith, executive director of TLA.

Consider Institutional Membership for Your Library

Institutional membership in the Texas Library Association is a significant investment in your library's future. With discounts on products and services, the dollar amount of your library's annual dues will yield a value that far exceeds the total of your dues payment.

Great Benefits:

Access to GrantStation's extensive searchable database of funding sources and technical resources for the discounted price of \$79 per year.

- Ability to utilize purchase orders for all TLA financial transactions.
- Seventy percent (70%) discount on exhibit booth rentals in the TLA Exhibit Hall to promote your library's products and services and to recruit prospective employees.
- Access to the online Members Only Directory, a database of more than 11,000 librarians and library supporters in Texas.
- Subscriptions to *Texas Library Journal*, *TLACast*, and all association mailings.

Fall Meeting Schedule

DISTRICT 1

Saturday, October 5
Abilene

DISTRICT 2

Tuesday, September 24
Canyon

DISTRICT 3

Friday, October 18
San Marcos

DISTRICT 4

Fri/Sat, November 7 & 8
McAllen Public Library

DISTRICT 5

Thursday, November 7
East Texas A&M, Mesquite

DISTRICT 6

BRLA/REFORMA/TLA
Saturday, October 5

DISTRICT 7

Saturday, October 12
UNT (Denton)

DISTRICT 8

Saturday, October 5
University of Houston - Downtown

DISTRICT 9

Saturday, October 26
Baker Conference Center
Lubbock Christian University

DISTRICT 10

Saturday, October 19
San Antonio

Apply! Nominate!

AWARDS, GRANTS SCHOLARSHIPS, & STIPENDS

It is awards season again. Check the TLA website for links to more information about association-wide awards and unit-level awards.

TLA AWARDS (www.txla.org/tla-awards)

Librarian of the Year Award: *Recognizes extraordinary leadership or service within the library community within the past 12-18 months.*

Distinguished Service Award: *Recognizes outstanding and continuing service in one or more areas of the library profession.*

Lifetime Achievement Award: *Recognizes an exemplary career in librarianship.*

Outstanding Services to Libraries Award: *Given to an individual or to an organization in recognition of outstanding lay advocacy.*

Wayne Williams Library Project of the Year Award: *Recognizes a project that exemplifies the highest levels of achievement, professional standards, and inspiration to other libraries.*

Libraries Change Communities Award: *Given to a collaborative community effort that recognizes positive achievements and promotes outstanding library-based initiatives in Texas.*

Benefactor(s) Award: *Recognizes substantial donations.*

For additional information about submitting nominations, please contact the TLA Awards Committee chair, Carrye Syma (carrye.syma@ttu.edu).

PR BRANDING IRON AWARDS

Be sure to apply for TLA's Public Relations Branding Iron Awards. With multiple categories, make sure you and your staff are being recognized for all the good work you are doing promoting your library and its services!

<http://www.txla.org/branding-iron>

TLA SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND STIPENDS

The Scholarship and Research Committee of the Texas Library Association invites TLA members to submit applications for scholarships, research grants, and conference stipends to be awarded in the spring of 2013. To apply for any TLA scholarship, grant, or stipend, applicants will need to complete the online form found on the TLA website. Applicants must be TLA members to apply. Scholarship applicants must also be accepted as a graduate student at a Texas ALA-Accredited Library Program.

- Ray C. Janeway Scholarship
- TLA Summer School Scholarship
- Van Dusen-Tobin-Kaiser Scholarship
- Vivian Greenfield Education Award
- Walter H. Escue Memorial Scholarship
- DEMCO/TLA Research Grant
- Escue Annual Conference Stipend

www.txla.org/scholarships
www.txla.org/grants

Questions about the application process should be directed to April Kessler (akessler@austin.utexas.edu), chair of the TLA Scholarship and Research Committee.

OTHER GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Shirley Igo PTA/School Library Collaboration Award (co-sponsored by the Texas PTA)
- GODORT/Marcive "Knowledge Is Power"
- Intellectual Freedom Award
- J. Frank Dobie Library Trust
- James L. Love Awards
- Texas Library Disaster Relief
- Upstart Innovative Programming Award (formerly Highsmith)
- Woll Memorial Fund

Unit-Sponsored SCHOLARSHIPS

- CULD (Academic Librarianship)
- TASL (School Librarianship)
- Library Support Staff Certification (LSSRT)

Unit-Sponsored AWARDS

Numerous awards, stipends, and scholarships are sponsored by the groups within TLA. (www.txla.org/unit-awards)

- Distinguished Service for School Administrators (TASL)
- Library Instruction Project (LIRT)
- Media/Virtual Presence Award (TASL)
- Outstanding New Librarian (NMRT)
- Outstanding Service in Library Instruction (LIRT)
- Siddle Joe Johnson Award (CRT)
- Small Community Librarian (SCLRT; Tocker Foundation)
- SMARTy Award (SMART)
- Texas Media Awards
- Texas Reference Award (RRT)
- Young Adult Reading Incentive (YARI) Award (YART)

CONFERENCE STIPENDS

- Acquisitions & Collection Development RT
- Automation & Technology RT
- Biblionix - SCLRT
- Black Caucus RT
- Cataloging & Metadata RT
- College & University Libraries Division
- Districts 3, 5, and 8
- Escue (*for paraprofessionals*)
- Genealogy (AGLHRT)
- Library Media Connection (YART)
- Laura Edwards (CRT/TASL)
- Library Instruction RT - Devin Zimmerman
- New Members RT
- NMRT Professional Development
- Public Libraries Division
- Reference (RRT)
- Tocker Foundation

Many *Fall District Meetings* include continuing education opportunities that contribute to your professional growth and also yield CPE credits. Check the district websites for details.

The *I-Do-Make-A-Difference* webinar series for school librarians continues this fall. *I-Do-Lead* is already underway, but you can register for any of the remaining four modules separately. Learn how to improve your skills and communicate your value.

Free webinars on *Diversity* and *Grants & Fundraising* are also being planned. Visit the CE page regularly for updates: www.txla.org/CE. These webinars will convey CPE credits, and registrants may view them live or as a recording.

Also check out recordings of *Archived Webinars*, many of which carry CE credit. ☛

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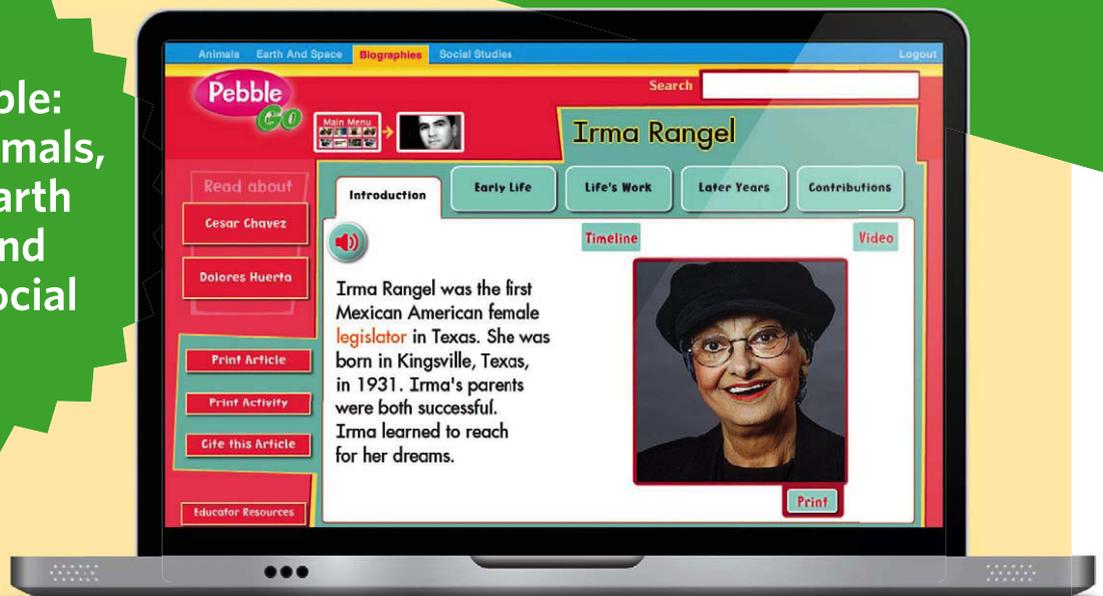
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