

TexasLibraryJournal

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with Correctional Libraries

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Connections



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Impact

This fall, we have an opportunity to make our voices heard! Elections are in two months and it's time to get out the vote. This is what libraries do best—support the tenets of democracy which are the foundation of this country's political system.

In public high schools and public libraries across the state, librarians are involved in non-partisan efforts to register voters (deadline is October 9) and providing information and access to those interested in exercising their right to vote.

While candidates for political office at all levels of government are campaigning, the Texas Library Association (TLA) is gearing up for the 86th Texas Legislative Session which begins January 8, 2019. The advocacy work that TLA does on your behalf is one of the greatest benefits of association membership. When advocating at the national, state, and local levels, we stay true to TLA's core values:

- Continuous improvement towards excellence in libraries and librarianship
- Diversity and inclusiveness
- Equity of access to information in a changing environment
- Ethical responsibility and integrity
- Intellectual freedom
- Literacy and lifelong learning
- Social responsibility and the public good

The association's legislative efforts are led by the 21-member Legislative Committee chaired by Susan Mann, director of Hillsboro City Library. Committee members have diverse political perspectives; represent all types and sizes of libraries from across the state ensuring that TLA's advocacy is non-partisan, and that our efforts are focused on issues that most impact our ability to provide the best services to our users.

This year a primary focus is the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) Sunset review. The Texas Legislature charges the Sunset Commission to periodically evaluate state agencies to determine if the agency is needed, is operating effectively, and if state funds are well spent. Agencies are generally reviewed every 12 years.

The Sunset process began in the spring and TLA has provided comment and input every step along the way.

The Sunset staff report did recommend continuing TSLAC

for another 12 years, and on August 29, three TLA members testified before the Sunset Commission in support. There will be a bill to reauthorize the agency filed during the upcoming session, which provides an opportunity for you to work with legislators to support Texas libraries.

In addition to TSLAC reauthorization, we expect another tough budget year and so will be working to ensure state funds for libraries. Other issues like Open Educational Resources and public library accreditation may arise, and we will be prepared to protect and promote the library profession.

Now is the time to ramp up your advocacy. There are four things you can do between now and January 8:

- 1. Vote!** While no one knows who you vote for, legislators do check to see if you do vote. Voting demonstrates that you are engaged and care about public policy.
- 2. Meet your legislator in his or her office.** Call the district office and schedule a brief meeting to share the latest news from your library. You aren't there to talk policy or ask for anything—just share what amazing things are happening and the contributions you make to the community.
- 3. Follow your legislator on social media** (Facebook and Twitter generally) and tag him or her when you are sharing news about your library activities.
- 4. Invite your legislator to be a special guest at an event.** They love to be asked to help and are always looking for ways to be visible in their districts in a positive manner.
- 5. Bonus! Be tenacious and never give up.** It takes more than one phone call, meeting or event to build a relationship with your legislators. Think of them as another target audience—just like your users, students, administrators, teachers, faculty, board members, city or county officials, etc.

This is a proven method of success! Whether or not you agree politically with your legislators, they are in office to represent ALL constituents. It is important that they hear from you and understand the value of libraries in their communities. When the session rolls around and it's time to ask for their vote for or against a bill, you will be able to call the office and speak with staff and members that know you. You're no longer an anonymous email or call, you're a known constituent.

During the session, the TLA Legislative Committee will be calling on you to make calls and send emails—you will be ready to leverage those relationships to help achieve positive results. We must all work together to continue to make the biggest impact in our state and in our community. Thanks for joining me in this important work!

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Change is on the Horizon

It's officially fall, and in some parts of the country, leaves are changing, temperatures are cooling, and hot apple cider is bubbling. In Texas, however, we are still enjoying summer-like weather and the beginning of football season is the only indication that the season has changed. (*Geaux Tigers!*)

TLA is embracing the change of seasons with some exciting new initiatives designed to strengthen our connection with members, prospective members, vendors, and library supporters.

Texas Library Journal Digital Issues

The *Texas Library Journal* is a key element of the association's communication strategy. As part of our budget and planning process, we reviewed content, production schedule, and cost to ensure the publication is relevant, of interest to members, financially sustainable, and supports our overall communication goals.

Beginning in 2019, TLA will publish two digital-only issues of the *Texas Library Journal*. The Spring and Summer digital-only issues will be emailed to all TLA members and subscribers in March and June. They will also be posted on TLA's website, and shared via social media. Readers will be able to download the publication from the publishing platform at no charge if they choose.

The Winter issue, including complete TLA Annual Conference Program, and the Fall issue will still be printed and mailed to members and subscribers. We will also share links to the digital versions of these issues on our website and via social media.

Digital versions of all issues will allow us to provide hyperlinks to advertisers' websites, and include interactive editorial such as videos, and direct links to relevant sources and information. The issues can be easily forwarded and shared, further increasing our audience.

TLA Weekly News Brief & New TLA Online Buyers Guide

We're excited to announce that we have partnered with North America's largest B2B publisher, MultiView, to produce a new email newsletter, *TLA Weekly News Brief*, and to re-launch a brand-new *TLA Online Buyers Guide*.

We know how important it is to have direct access to the latest information, trends, and developments in our ever-changing industry and with the *TLA Weekly News Brief*, we're proud to offer members a hand-curated selection of relevant news and association updates. The first issue of *TLA Weekly News Brief* was emailed September 18, so hopefully you have enjoyed the two or three issues you've received!

The e-newsletter includes advertising which enables vendors to get their products and services in front of those who need them.

The new *TLA Online Buyers Guide*, which launched September 25, is the ultimate search portal with a new mobile responsive design, and revamped company profile pages that give businesses and buyers more ways to connect than ever before. Companies are organized by categories and headings for easily searchable results. You can also search by company name, keyword or other relevant term. TLA sponsors and exhibitors are noted with icons by their company names so you can identify those companies that support the association.

New TLA Website

Last, but definitely not least, TLA is launching phase one of our new website at the end of October. Our website, www.tsla.org, is the first impression members of our profession and the public have of the association. It should quickly answer who we are, what we offer, and why we are relevant.

TLA plans a multi-year project to redesign and redevelop the website to serve as the main hub of information and resources for the library profession in Texas. After meeting with several companies, we contracted with Monkee-Boy, an Austin-based digital strategy and web design company, to design and develop a new, fully responsive, 200 page website for TLA.

The project began in February with the discovery and research phase that included stakeholder surveys, messaging hierarchy, audience personas, competitive analysis, analytics review, and complete content audit of all 3,000+ pages on the current site. We then moved to the strategy phase and determined which 200 pages would be part of phase one, developed wireframes, and the design.

Currently, we are in phase three, production. Content for the 200 pages has been handed off to Monkee-Boy, they are loading it into the new CMS, and will begin configuring the new site and testing across all platforms and devices. Our target launch date is October 31 and we expect it will be a great treat!

Once the site is live, TLA will begin training unit webmasters on the new CMS system so that they can begin adding content as needed. Content will continue to be expanded and added through the end of the year, and beyond. The current TLA website will become a password-protected online archive, accessible to TLA staff, unit webmasters and other key volunteers.

Thank you in advance for your support and patience as we launch the new tsla.org!

Building Partnerships with Correctional Libraries

BY KATIE MILLSAP

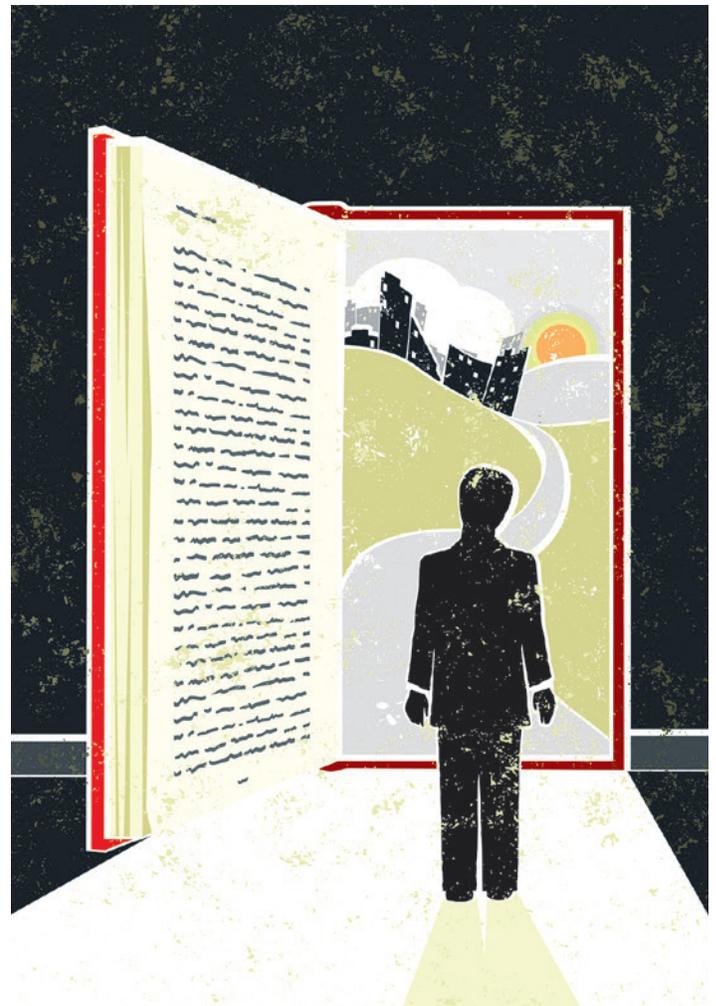


Image credit: iStock.com/MHJ

Librarians are passionate about libraries being a gateway for information and a place for community members to come together. While we strive to promote literacy for all community members, outreach to those with current, or previous, criminal convictions is lacking. As a prior correctional librarian for a men's prison in the northwest U.S., the time I spent behind bars working with these men was not only a rewarding professional experience, but was a purposeful step towards connecting these individuals, each with their own needs and interests, to literacy opportunities starting in our small correctional library, all the while hoping to engage them to seek public library resources after release.

Because literacy is imperative to function in modern American society, it may be shocking to learn that a study conducted in 2008 revealed 75.5% of inmates housed in Florida's correctional facilities read at or below the ninth-grade level (Brown and Rios 2014, 60). James Vacca's (2004, 300) research found a similar statistic and expressed that, "More than half of the adults incarcerated in American federal and state prisons can neither read nor write, and they have less than an eight[sic]-grade education."

After a survey of the available literature, I am dismayed at the lack of current information on the topic of prisoner literacy, Adult Basic Education (ABE) collaborative programming with correctional libraries, and partnerships between correctional and public libraries. Only a few researchers and librarians have ventured inside the prison walls and written pieces concerning these topics.

Harlow, Jenkins, and Steurer (2010, 74), found that inmates with a GED had an average literacy score of 270 while the general public, with the equivalent education, had a literacy score of 260. One theory for the significant statistical difference asserts that because prisoners have more free time available to them than the general public, inmates frequent the correctional library weekly compared to one-tenth of the general population who enter a public library in the same time frame (Harlow, Jenkins, and Steurer 2010, 80). These higher literacy scores offer enough data to support further research into correlating factors between correctional libraries and improved literacy abilities.

In a publication from 2010, Glennor Shirley described a partnership between the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Maryland Correctional Education Libraries to implement the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) literacy program. This monthly program was incorporated into the public library's summer reading games and encouraged new interactions and engagement opportunities between incarcerated parents and their children (69). As a result of this collaborative programming, there was an opportunity for the adults to build confidence in unfamiliar areas of interest while bridging relationship gaps with their children.

Yet, despite the impactful learning opportunities that programming offers, released inmates and their families are less likely to use public library services unless partnerships between correctional and public libraries are created ahead of a person's release from custody. Beyond these two topical pieces, current studies focusing on the benefits of correctional libraries are difficult to find, which has created a significant gap in the available literature.

The limitations that are in place because of the high security environment are difficult to overcome, which I believe significantly contributes to the lack of available literature. Inmate patrons need information literacy assistance just as much as the general public; however, most of them are too intimidated to ask for assistance unless a transitional pipeline is established between correctional and public libraries. Frank Dempsey, the director of the Arlington Heights Memorial Library (IL), once said, "Librarians must intensify their efforts to demonstrate to all citizens the basic human needs they can help to meet (information, recreation, education) and convince the large body of the nonusers that libraries can be an important element of their 'survival kit' in an increasingly complex society" (Proeschel 1983, 15). His statement is 35 years old, yet it is just as relevant today as it was then.

I often heard the inmates discussing how they had not stepped foot into a library since grade school, or they did not "read good" so they stayed away. When I would explain the various resources that were accessible to them while they were serving their time (graphic novels, small business start-up books, YA novels, etc.), and the available resources that public libraries had waiting for them once they were released, the inmate patrons became more willing to not only come into the correctional library but to engage in conversations with myself and the library clerks to inquire about additional resources. They had identified the library as a safe space inside the institution where they would not be judged for the lack of literacy skills or reading interests.

Each time a patron would come in and tell me that this would be their last time in the library because they were going home

I always reminded them to visit their public library (and then I prayed silently that whoever that librarian might be they would not fear this man because of his criminal background or tattoos on his face).

These men make the decisions they do because society has turned its back on them, but libraries, both correctional and public, have an opportunity and a chance to step up, build partnerships, and offer access to life changing resources.

Literature addressing the struggling literacy skills of children and youth describe them as being "at-risk," well, I saw first-hand what happens to these "at-risk" children if their literacy and information literacy needs are not addressed at a young age. Teachers give up on them, they learn to hate school and drop out, get involved with criminal activities because they cannot gain legitimate employment, and eventually wander into a correctional library because of institutional boredom.

Vacca (2004, 301) said, "Inmates who are released from prison are frequently unable to find jobs because they either lack experience and/or literacy skills." So, I am calling out to you, correctional and public libraries make those connections! Correctional librarians, step out of the safety of your libraries and build bridges with your ABE teachers to create literacy classes that take place in the library. Public librarians, reach out to your local correctional institutions and talk to the librarian (trust me, after they pick themselves off the floor they will be overjoyed to talk to you). No matter what approach you take, reach out to this societally shunned population and share the wealth of life changing information as they rebuild their lives outside the prison walls.

Katie Millsap is a doctoral student in literacy at St. John's University and assistant manager and adult services librarian at the Bossier Central Library Branch in Bossier Parish, LA.

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Building Community in Rural Texas

BY ANNE BENSON AND A'NDREA MCADAMS

Small and rural libraries accounted for the majority (80.5%) of the public libraries in the U.S. five years ago, according to research done by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Perhaps you know a library with estimated census statistics a little like this:

- 33% Population under age 18
- 12% Living in poverty
- 8% Disabled
- Population served: 4,000

Yoakum County Library in Plains, Texas, is the last small, rural library a person will see as the roads divide toward New Mexico

less than five blocks from the library's front door. Oftentimes, the 1957 building is a stop for free restrooms or other traveling-convenience factors. To serve as a link to the needs of all the various entities within our city limits can sometimes present a challenge to a library with limited staff and resources. In a technology-driven society, what steps can quaint libraries take to connect with the rooted community?

One way is to assess what a particular group in the area needs. For example, when school is in session, a majority of our visitors during the morning are landmen who are part of the currently expanding gas and oil exploration industry. These men and women spend much of their time in the county courthouse

across the lawn from the library. However, many of them also commute 30 to 70 miles minimum and therefore do not have easy access to printing. The courthouse does not offer wireless internet to these workers, so they often come in to our facility. Another group of workers that frequent our town seasonally are migrant farmhands who move into town during harvest. This can increase our visitors (if they are not in the fields due to inclement weather), but otherwise, many of these men and women work long hours, past our operating hours. Thankfully, we are able to offer free Wi-Fi 24/7. Even though we may not be able to reach out to them in person, being a source for free wireless makes a difference. The temporary residents know where we are located and that we welcome them, any time of day or night.

Students in K–12 also benefit from free 24/7 Wi-Fi, and we offer a dedicated wireless printer behind our circulation desk for secondary students, who receive a school-use laptop. We also plan to promote the new TexShare service, Credo, to the high school teachers and students. This further extends our research services after hours and allows us to be helpful to all students virtually.

If you see value in wireless but don't have the funds, the federal e-rate program is an excellent incentive to make sure all rural libraries can offer broadband to their communities. For more information, visit the Texas State Library and Archives Commission website at www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/tech/erate.

In addition to serving landmen, migrant workers and students, we reach out to companies and other organizations working in our rural area that need meeting space. The Texas Workforce Commission, a state agency which travels to our area to aid job seekers, usually needs a private place to host workforce development appointments. As libraries, we are givers of pamphlets and information. Turn this into an advantage, and when an organization or group drops off materials for you to distribute, offer to host them when they need to meet in the area. We offer a room to reserve at no cost which helps continue the dialogue with these commuter groups.

For our local community, we offer the same room for youth sports organization signups after hours. Additionally, if the group will leave forms with us, we are a bridge between the organizers and the parents (no financial obligations). Some local organizations—like cemetery associations, economic development committees, or study clubs—host monthly meetings. Carving out an area of your library that provides a central spot to meet is a small gesture says to others: “How can we help you?” Whether it is job seekers or a hobby club, welcoming groups is an important aspect of connection.

Expecting others to come in to our fabulous library is limiting our reach, so we brainstormed on how to connect with our community outside of the building. Our lawn gives us fabulous opportunities to host.

We connected with a non-profit from the nearest larger city to partner for a backpack giveaway. The organization brings all the goodies and feeds the kids; we supply the green grass for the games! When our town's annual outdoor festival happens on the front lawn in the Texas heat, we host an air-conditioned hospitality room and non-porta-potty restrooms for vendors. Many of these booth operators, who are not from our area, then have a reference point for their future needs. It may not lead to library card patrons, but it will lead to a beneficial relationship.

Consider extending your services to the local school. While having a working partnership with the education system is sometimes a challenge in a larger town, rural libraries can use their size as an advantage. We already know the administrators and teachers and have those relationships in place. Read for a pre-K class as often as they will host you. If you re-use your Storytime books in a simplified manner, there is no preparation work. The children will recognize you in the grocery store so be prepared to advertise the library!

If you are able to work with the school librarian, establish a partnership for the Texas Bluebonnet Award voting. Visit the library on “Voting Day” as an election official. Make yourself available to elementary, middle school, and even high school reading teachers. Offer to host a book club. Both teachers and students, or the school librarian, can pick the book, and you join them at the school weekly for discussion. This has been particularly successful in promoting of our rural library as the students feel valued and important while discussing life lessons with trusted professionals.

Sometimes we overlook the value of rest in such a busy society, and libraries are often the place of retreat and solace. Visitors may be students or landmen working on laptops. Some may be migrant workers using Wi-Fi to facetime with far-away family. Other groups may just need a place for meetings, planning, or fellowship. No matter the purpose for coming in to the library—or for the library staff to reach out—maintaining connection with our community's needs affords rural libraries the privilege to be a distinct hub of relationships.

Anne Benson is the library director, and A'ndrea McAdams is the assistant librarian at Yoakum County Library, Plains, TX.

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

AND DIGITAL INCLUSION

BY MARK SMITH AND HENRY STOKES

“Access to online opportunity shouldn’t depend on who you are or where you are from.”

—Ajit Pai, Chairman,
Federal Communications
Commission (Pai 2017)

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) and staff believe that high-speed online access is foundational, even equivalent, to information access. It is today’s great equalizer for opportunity and advancement regardless of age, income, urban or rural location, or social status.

In fact, a commitment to digital inclusion for all Texans is one of TSLAC’s stated strategic goals. The Agency Strategic Plan, adopted and submitted by the Commission in June, includes the following goal: “To support efforts to ensure digital inclusion for Texas.” We consider broadband to be an integral, fundamental part of digital inclusion and the role of libraries today – a core library service.

TSLAC uses a variety of strategies to achieve this goal. We tackle the objective by thinking of the digital inclusion challenge as comprising not just one, but a series of obstacles that escalate in scope, from the most fundamental and localized, to the broadest and most global.

LOCAL LIBRARY AWARENESS

The first, fundamental obstacle is a lack of awareness of the importance of broadband access by local library staffs. Even when library directors and staffs recognize that broadband and online access is important, many are so overburdened that they

don’t have the time or the resources to devote to this challenge. TSLAC increases awareness via many online and in-person trainings such as the You Can Do IT technology training series, one-on-one consulting, and content in the technology blogs (www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/tech) maintained by TSLAC Library Development Network staffs Henry Stokes and Cindy Fisher.

LOCAL LIBRARY EXPERTISE

Once library managers are enthusiastic about the potential for high-speed internet and online resources to transform their libraries into technology and learning hubs, the next challenge is developing the expertise needed to run broadband-enabled public access computer services. TSLAC offers various resources to build staff expertise. The You Can Do IT workshop series and online training courses empower local library staffs to be more self-sufficient in managing their technology. The Edge Initiative, another TSLAC tool, has a wealth of material to help all public libraries in Texas analyze their technology to determine where they need improvement and specific steps to attain the library’s goals. Training resources provided to all Texas libraries via WebJunction also help staff develop needed expertise. One-on-one consulting from TSLAC technology experts help library staff teach digital

literacy skills to patrons and help the public navigate the world of broadband services. Libraries are not just providers, they also act as the guides and first responders, addressing the communities' lack of expertise in internet service options, navigating online information, and understanding how to fully utilize their devices.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Libraries that have the awareness and basic expertise to tackle digital inclusion often face the next obstacle, funding. For over two decades, TSLAC has addressed access to online information via statewide shared purchase of TexShare and TexQuest resources. However, those resources are increasingly bandwidth intensive and only a small percentage of Texas libraries can afford broadband at adequate speeds. For that reason, in the last legislative session, TSLAC sought and received funds to help Texas public libraries get affordable high-speed internet via federal E-Rate discounts. Our Libraries Connecting Texas project has helped 84 libraries get affordable upgrades and increase their speeds by an average of 927%! And we expect to have enough money left from that \$1 million appropriation to extend this program to other libraries in FY 2019 and beyond.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Another obstacle is lack of local government

support. Even in cases where we have helped libraries access significant discounts, subsidies and other assistance, the local government can be reluctant to participate, concerned about long-term costs, and sometimes not recognizing the benefit to the entire community. We have several strategies to support libraries working with their cities and counties. The Edge Assessment allows libraries to demonstrate need to their local governments. Another project, Toward Gigabit Libraries, a partnership with Internet 2 via support from an Institute for Museum and Library Services grant, has helped several Texas libraries understand the larger policy issues. Then, they are able to describe to city and county officials how the library can serve as a digital safety net for education, economic development, and quality of life in the community.

SERVICE AVAILABILITY

The next obstacle—one that transcends the local library and community—is availability of internet service. Large, mainly rural areas of Texas have limited access to true high-speed internet service. In other words, broadband service simply isn't offered. TSLAC cannot directly address this problem; however, we have been working with other partners statewide to explore broadband availability and affordability. For example, TSLAC partnered with the

Glasshouse Policy Institute to hold a series of policy forums to discuss broadband issues with decision makers and the public. Libraries are increasingly seen as pathways to funding the buildout of broadband for the entire community. (Settles 2016)

SUSTAINABILITY

Once libraries are connected, keeping them connected for multiple years is a longer-term challenge. Budgets face unexpected shortfalls, equipment becomes obsolete, technology constantly evolves, and upgrades become necessary. Edge and Toward Gigabit Libraries can also help libraries conduct strategic planning and develop a framework for longer-term sustainability, providing ways to talk about the impacts of high speed access in libraries as well as the tools and resources to plan and create capacity and self-sufficiency.

TSLAC looks forward to an additional one to three years of support for library E-Rate access via the Libraries Connecting Texas program.

STATEWIDE BROADBAND POLICY

At the highest level, perhaps the greatest obstacle to digital inclusion in Texas is the lack of a statewide broadband policy. We see partnerships between state and national groups such as Glasshouse Policy Institute, the Texas Department of Agriculture, and Connected Nation, as foundational to

the creation of an office of statewide broadband policy, such as those in about half of the states in the U.S. A statewide policy office would help ensure greater sustainability and consistent development of statewide access to broadband.

TSLAC takes its strategic goal of supporting Texas libraries as a point of access for broadband in their communities seriously. With an ever-increasing amount of information online and a strong bi-partisan awareness of broadband's key importance to economic and educational success, TSLAC and Texas libraries should be key players in the state's long-term efforts to provide access to high-speed internet and online information for all Texans.

Mark Smith is the director and librarian at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Henry Stokes is the library technology consultant and Texas e-rate coordinator at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

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TLA CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

The Texas Library Association provides a forum for academics to publish and present their current studies and research during the Contributed Papers session each year at the Annual Conference. Submissions are peer-reviewed and published in an upcoming issue of the Texas Library Journal. Deadlines for submitting paper proposals for the 2019 TLA Annual Conference will be announced later this fall. For more information, contact Sarah Merrill, SMerrill@twu.edu.

Obstacles for Faculty using Open Educational Resources and Solutions

BY HONG XU

INTRODUCTION

The concept and practice of Open Educational Resources (OER) have been in the higher education field for almost 20 years. OER are “any type of educational materials that are in the public domain or introduced with an open license. The nature of these open materials means that anyone can legally and freely copy, use, adapt and re-share them” (United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organization, 2017). OER include full courses, course chapters, standalone objects, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, audios, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge (Atkins, Brown, & Hammond, 2007). The core values of open education are sharing and open access. Open access effectively broadens the scope of learners. Anyone may access and use the educational materials free via the internet (Xu, 2017). In higher education, using OER benefits both students and faculty. It may greatly reduce students’ education cost and save educators’ time in course creation. According to a research study, using OER generally produces equivalent or better student learning outcomes (Fischer, Hilton, Robinson, & Wiley, 2015). Due to the advantages of

OER, more and more states promote using OER. The Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 810 in 2017 to increase OER use in public institutions of higher education within Texas. Supporting faculty using OER becomes an important service in academic libraries.

The purpose of the study is to learn the current situation of faculty using OER and to understand the obstacles and supports for faculty using OER in their curriculum. Based on the results and findings of the study, libraries may develop effective strategies to promote OER to faculty.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The study used a face to face interview method to collect data. The research subjects were 10 instructional designers and 16 faculty members. The data were analyzed by content analysis method. The research questions were the following.

- What are faculty’s attitudes toward using OER?
- What types of OER do faculty use?
- What sources do faculty use to find OER?
- What are obstacles for faculty using OER?
- What supports may faculty get in using OER?

The interview subjects were from four universities: Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi; Texas A&M International University; Texas State University, San Marcos; and University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The faculty interviewees were selected from responders to a survey. The survey was conducted to learn faculty’s interest in using OER through a National Science Funded (NSF) funded 5-year project (2011-2016), the Research Coordination Network (RCN) – Climate, Energy, Environment and Engagement in Semiarid Regions (CE3SAR). The faculty interviewees are those who expressed interests in using OER in the survey. The research questions one to four were mainly for faculty and the last question for both faculty and instructional designers.

The interview data were analyzed by a qualitative content analysis method. Data were coded in a coding scheme. The category terms were generated based on the research questions. The codes were formed from interviewees’ answers to research questions. Table 1 shows the coding scheme.

Table 1. Coding Scheme for Answers to Research Questions

Category	Code
Attitude	like to use
	don't worry about copyright issue
	supplement
	students' benefit
	personal interest
Type	video
	audio
	animation
	assignment
	course chapter
	full course
	textbook
Source	Google
	YouTube
	discipline conference
	discipline association
	peers
Obstacle	no appropriate OER
	don't know where to find
	no time
	technology issue
Support or help	instructional designer
	faculty center
	IT department
	librarian
Support or help (Instructional designer)	like to help
	OER knowledge
	no technology issue
	limited knowledge of OER discipline source

RESEARCH RESULTS

Based on the data analysis, the results were concluded as the following. The research results also answered the research questions.

1. Faculty have a positive attitude to using OER. They are interested in learning and using OER. By using OER, they don't have to worry about copyright issues and have an option in selecting teaching materials. They would like to use OER to supplement their courses and to recommend OER instead of commercial textbooks as elective materials. They recognize the benefits of OER to students.
2. The types of OER faculty often use are standalone OER objects, such as images, video or audio clips, animations, and assignments. They either simply adopt or adapt OER. In this study some faculty wanted to use a course module, full course, or textbook. For example, an English professor wanted to use a course module about conservation in Middle Ages as a background information to teach students how to write an essay. She also wanted to use OER about waste disposal in a book written by herself. Another faculty would teach a brand-new course next semester. She wanted to use a full course or textbook.
3. The sources faculty usually use to find OER are Google, YouTube, discipline conferences, discipline associations, or peers. A faculty said when he attended a conference in his discipline he found good OER. Another faculty visited a national association website in her discipline and found video clips and images. Most faculty don't know OER libraries, repositories or databases like MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resources for Learning and Teaching) and OpenStax (an open textbook repository). Only two faculty knew MERLOT: One knew it from a librarian and the other knew it from a Blackboard training by the distance learning department at his institution.
4. The main obstacles for faculty using OER are no appropriate OER, no time, and limited sources. Although faculty are interested in using OER, they don't know where to find appropriate OER to fit in their curriculum. Often, when faculty do find an assignment module or other materials, they do not exactly fit their curriculum, causing extra work to revise the assignment. Faculty are very busy, so they don't want spend a lot of time to identify or modify OER.

RESEARCH RESULTS *continued*

5. Faculty can get technical support in using OER. Faculty like to use OER in a simple way. They may not be technology savvy but they are confident in getting help from educational support departments. In this study, all instructional designers, who are from educational support departments, would like to provide support for faculty using OER. They are confident in resolving technology issues in using OER. They know how to integrate OER into course curriculum via different learning management systems such as Blackboard, Sakai, and Angel. They have knowledge and skills of using OER in academic settings. Most instructional designers know popular OER sources, for example MERLOT (www.merlot.org); however they may have limited information about OER sources, especially disciplinary OER sources, for example CAMEL (Climate, Adaptation, Mitigation, E-Learning camelclimatechange.org).

APPLICATION

The research results reveal the current situations and obstacles in faculty use of OER. Faculty do have interests in using OER and they recognize the benefits of OER. The technical supports are available for faculty using OER. The main obstacles are limited knowledge about where to find OER, lack of appropriate OER, and time constraints. According to the research results and findings, libraries may take the lead and use the following strategies to promote OER in campuses.

Libraries collaborate with educational technology departments to promote OER. Utilizing the expertise of instructional designers and librarians to promote OER knowledge, technology, and sources by trainings and workshops.

Libraries initiate OER services to faculty. Editing OER guides for faculty. Library liaisons may identify faculty's needs and use librarians' professional knowledge and skills to locate and identify appropriate OER for faculty.

Utilizing grants to encourage faculty adapt or create OER. With the promotion of OER in higher education field by SB810, many universities and colleges encourage faculty using OER. Libraries may propose and locate grants to support faculty to create and publish OER such as articles, courses, and textbooks.

*Hong Xu is the library director at Coastal Bend College.
This paper was presented at a contributed papers session at the
2018 TLA Annual Conference.*

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GETTING BACK TO THE BASICS

BY ESTHER DE LÉON

As librarians, we can find ourselves feeling burnt out by the constant changing of technology and how that impacts our patrons, and the resources we provide. How can we truly connect with patrons, faculty and staff to provide better access and content through our resources? By interacting with them. We must gain firsthand understanding of our patrons' perspectives whether they are faculty, staff, or students, and utilize that data in our daily work. This article describes my journey to make the most of the resources on hand.

Colleagues are valuable resources that can help you understand how to collaborate with different groups. Learning how library services, systems and resources are taught, and how faculty and patrons engage with the library leads to ideas for how what you do fits with others' workflow, invoking collaboration and generating further exploration.

At some point in your library career you might feel drained and a bit unsure of your role. Especially if your responsibilities are (or can be) duplicated in other areas. For example, an electronic resources librarian may have been responsible for paying invoices for those resources at one point, but that duty has been delegated to staff in the acquisitions department; or manipulation of data in an e-resource bibliographic record is now done by staff in bibliographic services and cataloging. When job duties change, it can cause you to question your role and perhaps feel frustrated.

I know I have felt this way at times. I have been in my department for 10 years, starting as staff and working my way up to my current position, electronic resources (ER) librarian. Recently, I found myself thinking, "This type of 'research' has been done before," or "This idea is not new." and "What exactly is my role now?"

My supervisor suggested I shadow my colleagues to refresh my brain and mind. Her idea was that by shadowing my colleagues in Research Outreach and Instruction (RIO), I would gain useful information to aid in my role as an ER librarian. For several weeks, I shadowed my colleagues in RIO – attending meetings and workshops they led, watching as they taught the LIB1100 course, and participating in outreach activities.

One of the very first things I did was attend and participate in the new student orientations where many of the university's departments, services, and organizations have information tables ready for incoming students and their parents. Along with a few other colleagues, I sat at our table with information ready to distribute. I met and greeted many families, gave them information, and talked to them about all the resources and services that our library provides.

It was refreshing to see new and eager faces learning that they had librarians dedicated to their major and free services that complimented either their minor, or maybe their hobbies and other interests.

And then you remember that these students, our future patrons, are the reason to find new and relevant ways of providing resources to them, especially in areas in which you work. I remembered that my calling is to help provide access to the electronic resource materials these students need. And while my responsibilities may change, so too do students' needs so it is important that I keep them top of mind.

As I shadowed the librarians, I realized that no one person is the same as another, and this is reflected in their teaching and overall attitude toward their students. Some instructors are very confident and know that regardless of how something is being taught, students will ultimately grasp the concept. Other librarians may be more cautious, making sure they cover every aspect of the topic in detail. And some are in the middle. They are confident, they make sure they cover all the bases, but are not extreme in methodology.

While observing the classes, it was a pleasure to witness firsthand how students interacted not only with the instructor, but with the resources. I saw things I had never thought about, noticed some inconsistencies, and heard questions directly from the students. Which made me think—How can I make this system or service better? How can I make it easier and more worthwhile? How can I help our librarians teach this system, service, or resource better? How can I get our librarians to buy into the resources we already provide, to give input, and to feel that their feedback is welcomed and necessary? How can I take this information gathered, turn it around, and utilize it in my workflow?

There is no one answer to these questions. Because the Fall semester is considerably different than Spring and Summer sessions, one may have to frequently observe fellow colleagues at intervals throughout the year to get a more accurate idea of what is needed to complement their teaching.

Continuous interaction with the students is also a must. At our library, we work closely with our User Experience Librarian (UX), utilizing surveys, focus groups and working with the library's student advisory board, to ensure that we are meeting their needs. Working with the UX librarian also plays an important role as you collaborate with other teams, committees or departments.

The main lesson that I learned from this experience was that the human factor is critical. You cannot forget the who and the why of the things you do. We cannot forget our patrons. No matter the role you play at your library, those we serve are the key to making our libraries successes.

Esther De Léon is the assistant librarian, electronic resources, at Texas Tech University Library.

Step 3

BE MINDFUL



This is part three of a three part series on forming good habits to manage day-to-day stress. Follow these fictional librarians' journey as they incorporate healthy meals, exercise and mindfulness into their busy and stressful daily lives. BY SARAH BOOTH

Thomas Textbook sat at his desk and adjusted his web cam. He had an appointment to meet with Nancy Nonfiction. They were going to talk about the recent ILS migration at Nancy's library, but Thomas also had some personal business to discuss. Thomas' computer dinged and Nancy came into view.

"Nancy! It's great to see you!" Thomas exclaimed.

"Hi Thomas, you too! I know we've been emailing about the ILS project, but it's nice to see you in person. At least some of you is there. I don't know if it's the camera but you look amazing!"

Thomas beamed. "I can't believe it, Nancy. You were right! I'm addicted to walking. I have a colleague here and we walk a half hour at lunch.

And I'm also walking early in the morning. I feel so much better. Lighter, and not as stiff. I wouldn't have done this without your encouragement. How are you?"

Nancy smiled. "I am so happy for you, Thomas! I really am glad we've been able to encourage each other. I'm okay. I'm still walking, and eating well for the most part. I am just stressed out with this ILS project and the budget coming up. I find myself snapping at our staff and that's not like me at all.

And I feel really down and unhappy. My blood pressure has increased, too, even though my weight is still down. I don't know what's going on. Besides my blood pressure, my doctor says I'm fine. I just don't feel fine."

"Good." Thomas said. "After all the great advice you've given me, it's now my turn to let you in on a secret."

Nancy shook her head and smiled. "Okay. What's your great advice? Take a day off? Relax? It's too busy for me to take any time right now."

"Those are good suggestions, but not what I was going to say. My colleague that I walk with got me into meditation and mindfulness."

Nancy didn't say a word. After a long pause she said "Thomas, I appreciate your suggestion but that's a little out there for me. I mean, it's not the 70s."

"I know! I felt the same way until I tried it. And now I really like it. The whole purpose is learning how to breathe during the day and focusing on the present—not the future or the past. It has really helped me deal with some of our more challenging patrons. Plus, meditation has been scientifically proven to help lower blood pressure."

"I'm not sure. I'm not the type to sit still at all, much less meditate."

Thomas nodded. "Again, same with me. That's why meditation and mindfulness is important. I started by reading *10% Happier* by Dan Harris, the co-anchor on Good Morning America. He was the biggest meditation skeptic and now he's a big fan."

"I know who you're talking about. I've seen him on GMA. And he mediates?"

Thomas said "Yes. I haven't been doing this for very long. Three months now. And I can tell a difference. I feel...more like me than I have in a while. I feel like I can handle the pressures at work and at home better. Plus it's useful helping patrons and doing work. I can concentrate on my ordering more fully. And when a patron asks me a question I can tell that I am really present. Not just trying to give an answer and get to the next person, but being fully engaged with the patron."

Nancy looked surprised. "Really? There's that much difference?"

"Yes and no," said Thomas. "I still feel very pressured by everything that's going on at work and at home. I'm just able to handle it better. Come on, Nancy. You should try it. It doesn't cost anything. What would it hurt?"

"Time! Same argument you gave me about exercising!" Nancy smiled.

Thomas laughed. "Good one! But no. I'm up to 10 minutes a day. 10 minutes is a lot less than my 30- 45 minute walk. Plus you don't need to change clothes or go anywhere. You just start."

Nancy sighed. "You win. I'll try it for a month. But no promises that I'll continue after that. How do I get started?"

Thomas smiled. "I'll send you some resources. And just like you told me months ago, you'll love it. And it will make difference. Now about your ILS migration..."

Sarah Booth is the assistant library director for Montgomery County Memorial Library System. She is a graduate of the Institute of Integrative Nutrition and an Integrative Holistic Health Coach. You can follow her on Instagram at noldihealthylife.

"I feel... more like me than I have in a while. I feel like I can handle the pressures at work and at home better. ... And when a patron asks me a question I can tell that I am really present."

RESOURCES

Harris, Dan. *10% Happier: How I Tamed the Voice in My Head, Reduced Stress Without Losing My Edge, and Found Self-Help That Actually Works—A True Story.*

Huffington, Arianna. *Thrive: The Third Metric to Redefining Success and Creating a Life of Well-Being, Wisdom, and Wonder.*

Kabat-Zinn, Jon. *Wherever You Go, There You Are: Mindfulness Meditation in Everyday Life.*

Moniz, Richard and Joe Eshleman, Jo Henry, Howard Slutzky, & Lisa Moniz. *The Mindful Librarian: Connecting the Practice of Mindfulness to Librarianship.*

Schwartz, Suze Yalof. *Unplug: A Simple Guide to Meditation for Busy Skeptics and Modern Soul Seekers.*

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TLA Texas Library Association

Powered Libraries Transform Texas

BY JANE STIMPSON

The Texas Library Association (TLA) Public Relations and Marketing Committee has something big in the works, and we're excited to share a sneak peek.

This year we're working on a new public awareness campaign: **Libraries Transform Texas.**

Sound familiar? Perhaps you've seen the bright, bold "Because" statements from the American Library Association's Libraries Transform campaign, powerful declarations of the many reasons libraries are essential to their communities. (www.ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/because)

In the spring, ALA introduced state-specific branding for state library chapters and encouraged them to adapt the Libraries Transform messaging and branding in their own states.

Adopting the Libraries Transform message not only allows TLA to take advantage of the momentum the national campaign has already created, but also builds on the current Powered Libraries campaign to encourage a broader perspective on the transformative power of libraries.

Libraries are still the "technology-centered institutions in the community" Powered Libraries promotes; but libraries are also people-centered, learning-centered, and community-centered, all values Libraries Transform Texas emphasizes.

So while we transition to Libraries Transform Texas, we want to recognize the success of the Powered Libraries campaign, the ideas shared and projects powered since 2016.

Maybe you stopped by the Powered Libraries booth at the entrance to the Exhibit Hall and entered to win a maker bundle for your library. Maybe you remember the Powered Road Trip through libraries in West Texas. Maybe you shared your own Powered Library program at poweredlibraries.org.

However you interacted with the Powered Libraries campaign over the last few years, it's time to celebrate this October as the last Powered Libraries Month.

If you registered your library to share your projects on the Powered Libraries website, take the promotion to social media. Use #poweredlibraries when you share posts and pictures of your Powered Libraries programs on social media.

In the meantime, PR & Marketing Committee members are hard at work on Libraries Transform Texas to help libraries and library supporters bring awareness to all the ways Texas libraries are transforming lives and communities.

We've started creating our own "Because..." statements to describe why libraries are essential to the Lone Star state:

Because Texans speak over 160 languages.

Because every dollar invested in Texas public libraries has a \$4.64 ROI for communities.

Because Texas fought an Archives War to preserve our history.

Library supporters will also have the chance to share their own personalized "Because..." statements.

Start thinking about the unique ways your library transforms your community and be prepared to share your story at TLA district meetings and TLA 2019! For inspiration, check out the great video District 5 librarians created to showcase "Because" statements (youtu.be/M9vdXAGjavo).

In addition to tailoring the Libraries Transform messaging to Texas, the PR & Marketing Committee is also working on creating content for a new Libraries Transform Texas website and social media presence.

In November, Powered Libraries will begin its transition to Libraries Transform Texas, so be on the lookout for all the great content and start thinking about how your library transforms Texas!

Jane Stimpson is chair of the TLA PR & Marketing Committee, and a reference librarian at Lone Star College-CyFair.

MEET TLA's CORPORATE MEMBERS

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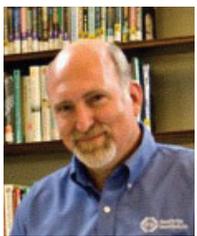
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Bound to Stay Bound



Robert L. Sibert,
President

Bound to Stay Bound has been member of TLA since the beginning. We are proud to be a Platinum sponsor and the exclusive sponsor of the Bluebonnet Luncheon. Texas has some of the most highly trained school and public librarians in the country. You'll never be disappointed attending a TLA meeting with all it has to offer and we are proud to be a part of it.

Capstone



Tom Ahern, CEO

The passion TLA has for literacy and education inspires and motivates us at Capstone. We love connecting with Texas librarians and joining forces to bring the best resource to help our children learn and grow.

Demco, Inc.



Nedra Sadorf,
President

Demco has always been passionate about supporting the librarians and libraries that we serve. Our involvement with

TLA provides us opportunities to stay in touch with the Texas library community, to learn from them, and to gain a better understanding of what products and services are important to our customers. Our ultimate goal is to be a partner in creating learning environments that foster a viewpoint of Texas libraries as the center of lifetime learning.

EBSCO Information Services



Alejandro Rojano,
Regional Sales Manager

Texas represents a cross section of our customers from K-12 to public libraries to academic institutions. Our involvement in TLA and with Texas libraries extends back decades. We believe there are many more products and services to create and share with Texas libraries, and much more we can learn from the librarians and end users represented by TLA.

Follett School Solutions



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Britten Follett,
Vice-President,
Marketing

Like TLA, Follett is committed to the success of librarians and school libraries. With a long and rich

history, Follett is dedicated to library advocacy and building relationships with librarians in the state through our sponsorship of Future Ready Schools and Future Ready Librarians. Additionally, we have expanded Follett Book Fairs into Texas to support student reading and literacy. Follett consistently relies upon input from working librarians and consortiums, such as the Region 11 Education Service Center in Texas, to improve Destiny Library Manager and to ensure libraries and librarians have the tools they need to operate efficiently.

Gale, A Cengage Company



Paul Gazzolo,
General Manager

I can honestly say that Texas is home to some of the most kickin' librarians in the world. TLA's priority of continuous

improvement and excellence in libraries and librarianship envisions a future for each and every Texan to recognize the value that libraries bring to their lives. TLA conferences are top notch events with engaging programs from librarians across all library market segments. Gale is proud to be associated with TLA and the libraries of Texas.

H-E-B/ Read 3

Christa Aldrich,
Literacy Program
Manager



H-E-B recognizes the value of libraries in the communities we serve. We are honored to support the efforts of librarians across Texas who bring the love of reading to the next generation of young Texans.

Ingram Content Group



Jim Heuer,
Director of Sales
Texas is a bellwether for the rest of the country. Trends are launched in Texas. Want to see where libraries are going? Look at Texas.

Library Design Systems



LIBRARY DESIGN SYSTEMS



Robert Williams,
President
The opportunity to meet library professionals from not only Texas, but surrounding states, is always exciting. The

annual conference is a fantastic event that allows us the opportunity to interact with librarians and decision makers. Needs, ideas, trends, building and space usage, furniture and equipment are topics of discussion. There's no better event than the TLA Annual Conference to learn about the needs of the library community and to provide assistance.

Library Interiors of Texas



Trevor Taylor,
Vice President
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.

Mackin



Randal Heise,
Co-Owner
All of us at Mackin have been motivated for almost twenty years to support the association and be active members

because TLA makes a real difference. TLA is the future of education in Texas and educators across the nation look to TLA members as exemplary leaders with real passion and an endless dedication to children and students of all ages.

Media Source



Steve Zales,
CEO
Since our first involvement with TLA, we've found that Texas librarians are some of the most passionate people in

the library field. And that passion leads us to become the best, most valued partner to librarians. Each year, we are proud to be a TLA corporate sponsor.

Scholastic Book Fairs



Roscoe Compton,
Regional Field
Supervisor
We believe that our librarians are critical pieces to the success of every child. We want to help support

these efforts through our partnership with TLA.

Sourcebooks



Dominique Raccah,
CEO & Publisher
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 share the same motto.

Tocker Foundation



Darryl Tocker,
Executive Director
As a private foundation focused exclusively on Texas' public libraries in towns of 12,000 or less, we

support efforts to provide welcoming, comfortable patron spaces, furnishings to support the use of patron devices, and expansion of communal areas to accommodate the variety of activities happening in the library through our grants, travel stipend programs, and advocacy work. The camaraderie and peer support from TLA helps us assist the rural libraries which are vital centers of community activity.



TLA★2019

CONNECTING TO

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The largest state library association conference in the country will be in Austin Monday, April 15 through Thursday, April 18. Join thousands of library professionals from around the state, and the country, for four days of inspiration, learning, networking and fun! Connections are at the heart of learning and libraries are at the heart of those connections. TLA2019 will inspire new ideas, leading to innovation, and ultimately impacting our community and our world.

MONDAY, APRIL 15

PRECONFERENCES

- Tech Camp
- Use Your Library Voice: Personalizing Advocacy

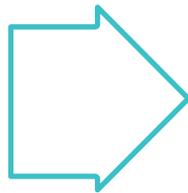
CONFERENCE PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- Education Sessions
- Great Ideas Lightning Talks and Posters
- Hands on Labs



NEW in 2019! TLA After Hours

What happens after hours at TLA? Join us and find out! From 7 – 11 pm, we're offering a more casual pace, with a cash bar, headline speaker, and programming you've never seen before at TLA. See your all-time favorites like Battledecks and the Lip Sync Battle, and more. There is something for everyone at TLA After Hours—it will be a night to remember!



TUESDAY, APRIL 16

CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

- General Session I
- Education Sessions
- Hands on Labs
- Contributed Papers Presentations

EVENTS

- Opening Awards & Author Session
- Black Caucus Round Table
- Author Session
- School Administrators Conference
- Storytelling Showcase & Swap
- Illustrators Sketch-Off



End your day at the TLA President's All-Conference Party!



EXHIBIT HALL

400+ exhibitors showcasing the latest library-related products, services and of course, books! In addition to the exhibits, be sure to check out the:

- Authors Area
- Collaboration Space
- Innovation Lab & Maker Playground

MONDAY, APRIL 15



Exhibit Hall Grand Opening & Welcome

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

10 AM – 5 PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17



Last day to visit the Exhibit Hall

9 AM – 5 PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

Come celebrate TLA's first ever Comic Book Day!

We will have amazing comic and graphic novel related programs to help librarians curate and create programming around these collections. Join us as celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Maverick Graphic Novel reading list at an off-site event. The culmination of the day will be a Grand Cosplay contest in the Exhibit Hall from 4:00 – 5:00pm. Judges TBD. You don't want to miss this!



CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

- Directors Symposium
- Education Sessions
- Hands on Labs
- Contributed Papers Presentations

EVENTS

- Teacher Day @ TLA
- Texas Bluebonnet Award
- Author Session
- Evening with the Authors
- Storytelling Concert
- Special Networking Event for New TLA Members

THURSDAY, APRIL 18



Join us bright and early for the last day of conference! General Session II begins at 8:00 am and programming ends at 2:00 pm.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

- General Session II
- Education Sessions
- Hands on Labs
- Contributed Papers Presentations

EVENTS

- Closing Author Session
- TLA Membership Meeting

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Meet the Executive Board Candidates

President-Elect

TLJ: One of the Foundational Strategies in the TLA Strategic Plan is to demonstrate the value of libraries and library personnel to stakeholders through advocacy and related actions at the local, state, and national level. How would you encourage greater engagement from TLA members to serve as library advocates at the local and state levels?



Jesus Campos

Dean of Library &
Learning Support Services
South Texas College

I agree that it is important to encourage members to continue to grow as library advocates at the local, state, and federal level. I would work with TLA staff and chairs

of pertinent units to explore ways in which the association can provide members with enhanced information services including analysis, statistics, research, and anecdotes demonstrating the value of libraries and library personnel. For example, statewide library legislative agendas are useful to librarians doing individual advocacy or contributing to broader advocacy initiatives within their parent organizations.

Additionally, TLA can continue to develop specialty toolkits to assist members with emerging advocacy initiatives. TLA staff and units already provide information resources to encourage member advocacy efforts, so I would explore ways of increasing member awareness of existing and emerging advocacy resources.

In addition to using TLA advocacy resources, I would encourage members to continue engaging with their communities from a posture of service. To remain relevant to those we serve, we must anticipate the needs of our communities and parent organizations and be ready to evolve with them.

State-level and national advocacy efforts usually rely on local engagement and action. I would encourage members, where possible, to get to know their local, state, and federal representatives before the need arises to request their assistance on legislative issues. I would also encourage members to take advantage of workshops and opportunities the association provides for those who wish to take an active role in legislative advocacy.

It seems to me that the most effective advocacy for the value of libraries and library staff emanates from the actions of committed library staff working daily to promote the common good through professional service and informed engagement with their service communities. www.jesuscampos1.wixsite.com/website



Christina Gola

Director of Recruitment &
Organizational Learning
University Libraries, University of Houston

TLA has a robust history of communicating about the need and opportunities for advocacy. We've seen this in action through conference sessions, toolkits, public

relations campaigns, and rallies. This solid foundation helps our members understand why we need to serve as advocates. While many of us may recognize the need and have passion for serving as library advocates, we may not fully understand how to effectively advocate. I believe we can encourage greater engagement by expanding mentorship opportunities and building pride in how membership dollars contribute to advocacy.

Advocacy skills are learned and practiced through first-hand experiences. One of the most effective ways to build competencies is through mentorship. An advocacy mentorship program could pair experienced advocates with potential advocates,

and empower them to practice advocacy skills, while building confidence and agency. Mentorship programs can also be tailored to an individual's advocacy goals and readiness, especially as it pertains to the advocacy needs of local communities.

Additionally, I want to ensure that all TLA members, and non-members, understand how individual membership dollars contribute to state level advocacy. Recently, we've made positive steps in bringing transparency to how our membership dollars contribute to advocacy. I'd like to expand these efforts to give members a stronger sense of pride and purpose within TLA. This may mean working through units and districts to tailor messaging.

In summary, we must continue championing the value of advocacy to all our members to maintain the momentum behind why we advocate. By expanding mentorship opportunities and a greater understanding of how membership dollars contribute to advocacy, I hope to inspire more members to take that critical step of embracing the many opportunities that are available for advocacy. Taking that step is critical to the advancement and betterment of all libraries. www.linkedin.com/in/chgola

The Texas Library Association elects leaders at the beginning of each year. In 2019, members will elect a president-elect and a representative-at-large to serve on the Executive Board, and many board positions at the district, division, and roundtable levels.

The 2019 Election will open in February and close in mid-March. Your participation in the election process is critical as these leaders will help set the course for the association for the coming year. To vote, you must be a current TLA member by January 31, 2019.

The Texas Library Journal asked the Executive Board candidates to reply to a question to help members get to know them.

Representative-at-Large (school library position)

TLJ: TLA recently appointed a Membership Development Task Force to look at potential areas for membership growth. What advice would you give to a new member to get the most out of TLA membership?



Claire Hogg

Librarian
Central High School
San Angelo ISD

The nearest 6A library is two hours away, but my online Professional Learning Community (PLC) is at my fingertips and spans the state. Whether you are the only

librarian in your district, or you work with another librarian in your library, I believe we all need connections. Allow TLA to become your community of support and professional development.

The theme of the 2019 TLA Conference is Connecting to Innovate, Inspire and Impact which embodies what TLA is: connections with others! Connect at District meetings in your area and at Annual Conference to expand your circle across the state. Use the TLA advocacy tools and resources, book lists, and promotional

materials to help others learn how 21st century libraries impact our students. Meet other members in person or online to foster your own Professional Learning Community with others who inspire, share trends, resources, and support.

Veteran Texas librarians are the best of the best and share their wisdom, while new librarians bring excitement, current trends and innovation. TLA also has excellent resources to assist your school in implementing the Texas School Library Standards which allow you to assess areas for growth and celebrate areas of excellence. Ask questions, get involved, and volunteer for committees, task forces, and round tables. Your expertise is needed and should be shared through connections. TLA is the largest state library association in the nation. Texas school librarians serve our students, develop our future leaders, instill 21st century skills, and a love of reading and learning to last a lifetime. Our impact is greater when we connect and learn from each other.



Renee Newry

Library Services Coordinator
Irving ISD

As a new librarian nineteen years ago, I was hearing that the Texas Library Association is an amazing organization, has wonderful conferences, and is a major source for networking. It was obvious to the seasoned

librarians, but I had no idea what all the hype was about. As a conference attendee, I learned so much about the profession, I honed the skills needed to meet the needs of my community, and I met some lifelong friends along the way. When I had the opportunity to look inside the organization through a volunteer opportunity, I realized the power of my TLA membership. I realized how amazing and powerful my membership could be to the organization. The give and take experience is where the power of membership begins.

Why should members get involved? The opportunities to get involved can be great or small. Volunteering provides a sense of community. Don't know where to start? Ask questions; follow TLA groups on social media, network with seasoned librarians to get a feel for what is happening in the circle of influence for your library type. Dive in and take a risk! The effect of small opportunities will lead to greater opportunities as one grows and learns through volunteering.

Most importantly to me, being a member of TLA is fun. Librarianship comes with many serious and demanding responsibilities. However, when you love what you do, and you have the community support of TLA those demands are better met together. Whether conversations on a listserv, attending the conference or volunteering on a committee the benefits are plentiful when we are on the journey together. Get involved and the population that you serve will reap the benefits of your membership.



TLA DISTRICTS FALL MEETING SCHEDULE

District meetings provide regional settings for continuing education and networking, and are an opportunity to introduce colleagues to TLA. The annual fall meetings are an opportunity for local librarians, para-professionals, and trustees from all types of libraries to set a foundation for collaborative efforts. Visit www.txla.org/district-meetings for more information and to register.

DISTRICT 7

Friday, October 5
Lewisville Public Library
Lewisville, TX

DISTRICT 3

Monday, October 8
Ridgeview Middle School
Round Rock, TX

DISTRICT 5

Monday, October 15
Meadows Conference Center
Dallas, TX

DISTRICT 8

Saturday, October 20
University of Houston
MD Anderson Library
Houston, TX

DISTRICT 10

Saturday, October 27
St. Mary's University
San Antonio, TX

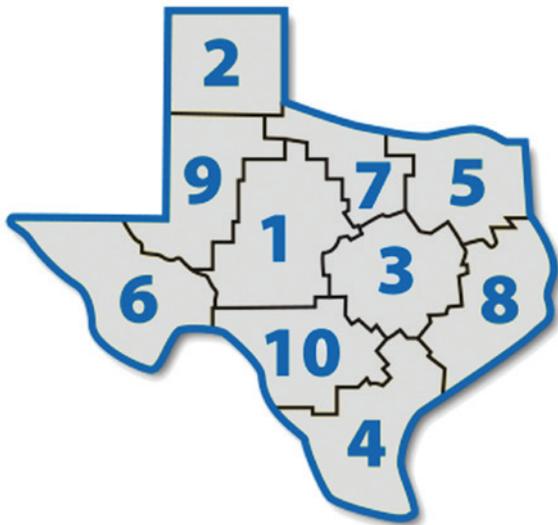
DISTRICT 4

Thursday, Nov. 1: Reception
Friday, Nov. 2: Meeting
Embassy Suites
Laredo, TX

DISTRICT 6

Friday, November 9:
REFORMA Night with
the Authors
Saturday, November 10:
Meeting
El Paso Community College
El Paso, TX

*Districts 1, 2, and 9 held
a combined meeting in
September.*



NOMINATE A DESERVING CANDIDATE!

Who do you know that is setting a standard that others are following? Each year, TLA honors individuals, libraries, supporters, and projects with the TLA Awards; and the association depends on its membership to identify worthy candidates. Chances are you have someone in your library system or in your life that deserves an award for the work they're doing, the projects or programs they're leading, or the support they're giving in their community. Maybe it's you. Nominate yourself! These awards are for real people and real projects like yours.

TLA AWARDS

Librarian of the Year
Wayne Williams Library Project of the Year
Lifetime Achievement
Outstanding Services to Libraries Benefactor
Distinguished Service
Libraries Change Communities
TLA Branding Iron Awards
Nominations for TLA Awards are open from September 15th through January 15th.

TLA SCHOLARSHIPS

Janeway
TLA Summer School
Vivian Greenfield Education Award
Walter H. Escue Memorial Scholarship
Also consider the many awards, stipends, and grants TLA units offer to their members.

CONFERENCE STIPENDS

Automation & Technology
Bibliionix (PLD and SCLRT)
Black Caucus
Cataloging and Metadata
College & University Libraries
District 3
District 5
District 8
Escue (paraprofessionals)
Genealogy (AGLHRT)
Junior Library Guild/Diversity & Inclusion Committee
Library Instruction Devin Zimmerman
New Members RT Professional Development
Reference & Information Services
Supervision, Administration, & Management
Tocker Foundation

UNIT & PARTNER AWARDS

Distinguished Service for School Administrators (TASL)
Knowledge Is Power (Marcive/GODORT)
Library Instruction Project of the Year (LIRT)
Media/Virtual Presence Award (TASL)
Outstanding New Librarian (NMRT)
Outstanding Service in Library Instruction (LIRT)
Siddie Joe Johnson Award (CRT)
Small Community Librarian & Small Community Library Advocate Award (SCLRT)
Shirley Igo School Library Collaboration (TLA & Texas PTA)
SMARTy Award (SMART)
Standing TALL Award (TALL Texans)
Texas Youth Creators Awards
Texas Reference Award (RRT)
Upstart Innovative Programming
Young Adult Reading Incentive Award (YART)

UNIT SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS

ATRT (TLA Membership)
CULD (Academic Librarianship)
TASL (School Librarianship)

GRANTS

J. Frank Dobie Library Trust
Jeanette & Jim Larson Grants
Texas Book Festival
Texas Library Disaster Relief
Tocker Foundation
Woll Memorial Fund

www.txla.org/awards



OCTOBER 12
1–2 PM

AZ: CATALOGING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Specialists in Technical Services are the mainstay of many acquisitions and cataloging services in libraries. Explore these systems, from purchasing and preparation to Dewey Decimal and Library of Congress classification. Learn the unique organizational schematics for local needs such as genealogy, media, government documents, and realia.

NOVEMBER 13
1–2 PM

AZ: ROLE OF LIBRARY SPECIALISTS IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

One critical key to success for libraries is the creation of strategic relationships with other community entities, including non-profit, for-profit, and governmental organizations. These partnerships can introduce new benefits and leverage existing resources. Discover the roles for library staff in identifying and forming connections with other institutions, including lists of potential partners.

DECEMBER 5
1–2 PM

AZ: MENTORING AND BEING A MENTEE

Library careers rarely happen in isolation. Mentoring represents fulfilling opportunities for both new and experienced people. Get an overview of the mentoring process and learn how it differs from coaching, shadowing, and counseling. Find out how to connect to potential mentors or mentees.

WE APPRECIATE OUR TLA CORPORATE MEMBERS

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A Follett Company

Bound to Stay Bound

Capstone

Demco, Inc.

EBSCO Information
Services

Follett School Solutions

H-E-B/ Read 3

Ingram Content Group

Library Design Systems

Library Interiors of Texas

Mackin

Media Source

Scholastic Book Fairs

Sourcebooks, Inc.

Tocker Foundation

All webinars are FREE for TLA members. Webinars are recorded and a link to the recorded version is sent to everyone who registers. **Register at www.txla.org/CE**

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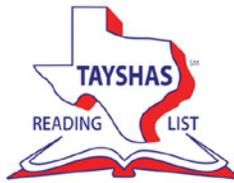
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- ✓ Bilingual
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Pleasure?

txla.org/reading-lists

TLA 
TEXAS LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION



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