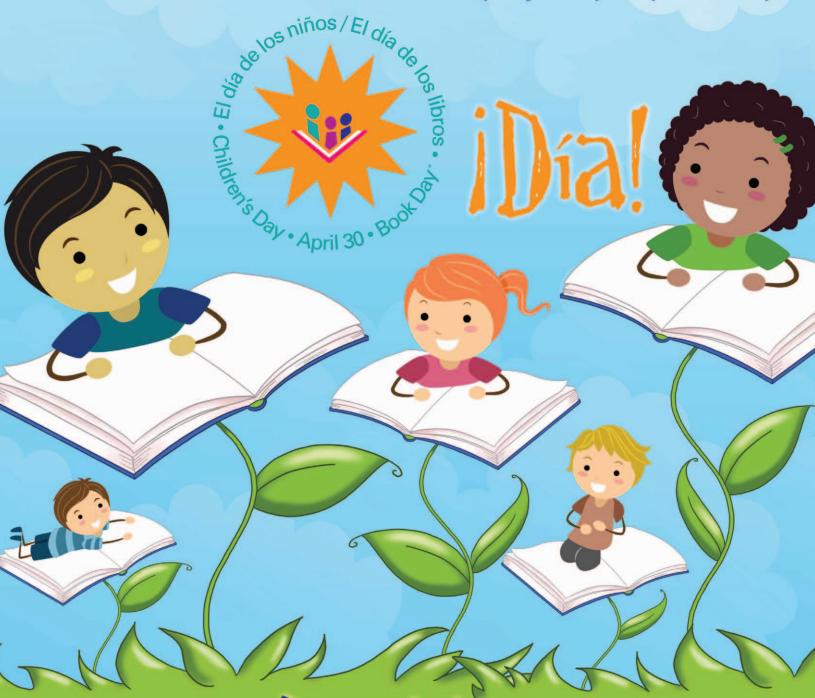
TexasLibraryJournal

VOLUME 90, NUMBER 1 • Spring 2014

INCLUDES THE Buyers Guide to TLA 2014 Exhibitors

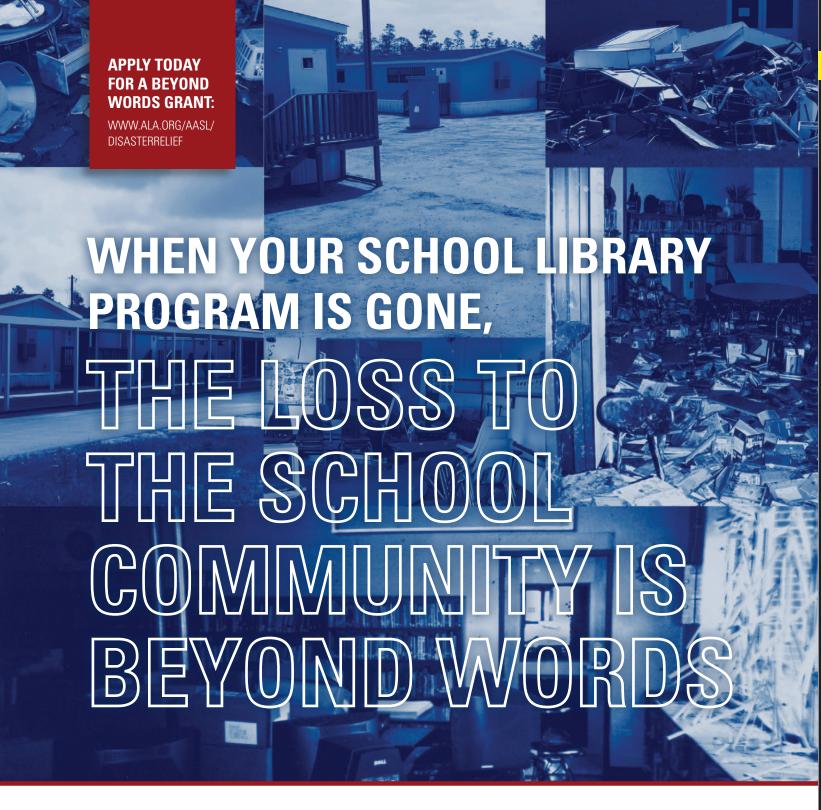
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: Libraries & Small Business Development Library Snapshot Day, Poetry in the Library



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

Opinions expressed in Texas Library Journal are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by TLA.

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Volume 90, Nº 1

↑ Spring 2014

President's Letter	3
Yvonne Chandler	
Editorial: What Does the Library of the Future Look Like to You?	. 5
Gloria Meraz	
Libraries & Small Business Development: Collaborative Efforts at Harris County Public Library	
Say Cheeese for Texas Libraries: Snapshot Day 2013	10
Poetry in the Library	14
Newsnotes	16
Corporate Members	18

TLA 2014 CONFERENCE CONTENT



BUYERS GUIDE to TLA 2014 Exhibitors

Exhibiting Companies	22
Guide to Products and Services	52
Exhibit Hall Map	52-53

See you in San Antonio April 8-11

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for TLA 2014 as we share ways to

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Conference Information: www.txla.org/annual-conference

cover: The charming graphics on the front of this issue of *Texas Library Journal* are from a poster included among Día materials and resources on the American Libraries Association website. How are you celebrating *El día de los libros / El día de los niños* in your community this year?



PENGUIN YOUNG READERS GROUP (1)



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Your favorite authors are signing in the Author Area. Stop by the Penguin Young Readers Group Booth, #1540, for books or galleys.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8



ADAM RUBIN

6:00 pm – 7:00 am Attend Adam's "Animals Misbehaving: Being Bad Never Felt So Good" Program on Tuesday April 8th, at 2:00 p.m.!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9



1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Join Phil Bildner at his signing on Wednesday April 9th in the Author Area.



3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Join Laurie Halse Anderson at the LIFTA Luncheon on Thursday, April 10th, at 12:00 p.m.!



3:30 pm - 4:30 pm Attend Maira's "Telling the Truth: Using Literary Techniques to Present the Facts" Program on Wednesday, April 9th, at 2:00 p.m.!

THURSDAY, APRIL 10



NIKKI LOFTIN

Attend Nikki's "Strong Characters, Strong Stories for YA" Program on Thursday, April 10th, at 2:00 p.m.!



-R()ZEN

MELISSA de la CRUZ

9:30 am – 10:30 am Attend Melissa's "Haute YA Authors" Program on Thursday, April 10th, at 8:00 a.m.!



11:30 am - 12:30 pm Attend Nina's "Tayshas Reading List and Authors' Panel on Thursday, April 10th, at 10:00 a.m.!



ANDREW SMITH 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Attend Andrew's "Tayshas Reading List and Authors' Panel on Thursday, April 10th, at 10:00 a.m.!

FRIDAY, APRIL 11





OLIVER JEFFERS 9:00 am – 10:00 am Attend Oliver's "Picture Books in a Digital Age" Program on Thursday, April 10th, at 2:00 p.m.!



RACHEL DEWOSKIN 10:00 am – 11:00 am Attend Rachel's "Women of YA Panel" Program on Friday, April 11th, at 8:00 a.m.!

Signing after General Session III Join Henry Winkler, the iconic King of Cool, at the General Session III on Friday, April 11th at 1:30 p.m.!

9800 cm - 10:00 pm Attend Alex's "Openly XA: The Evolution of Gay Characters in YA Literature" Program on Thursdoy, April 10th, or 200 p.m. and "Swring the World One or Mo Outharn: Kitsten a Time" Program on Friday, April 11th, or 1690 cm.!



ACQUELINE WOODSON

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Attend Jaqueline's Reaching Reluctant Readers through Urban Fiction: Black Caucus RT Author Session Bruch (ticketed event) on Thursday, April 10th, at 10:00 a.m.!





MAYA VAN WAGENEN 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Join Maya at the Texas Tea for YA Authors on Thursday, April 10th, at noon!

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#Libraries
#Communities
#Diversity
#TLALibrarians

merica thrives on diversity.
A synthesis of the world's plentiful and varied races, religions, and cultures, the U.S. is home to all. I enjoy telling my students about my first job in a library. I was an intern in the Atlanta mayor's program to encourage public service. I was placed at the Atlanta Fulton Public Library Special Collections Department, which included collections documenting the impact of many communities on that city and its history from African Americans to genealogists to lovers of Gone with the Wind. This was my introduction to the importance of

diversity – in services, collections, and staff – at libraries.

In my email over the past few weeks, I received two messages with links to an online article and a book addressing the intersection between diversity and community for libraries. In an innovative article published in the February issue of SLATE magazine, photographer Kyle Cassidy describes his unique project, "This is What a Librarian Looks Like." Cassidy set up a portrait studio at the 2014 ALA Midwinter meeting in Philadelphia and took portraits of librarians as they attended meetings, programs, and other activities. His resulting collection of pictures is a true celebration of the diversity of librarians. Cassidy discovered:

I tend to think of librarians as the ones I know from my public library and from school. But there are librarians who are researchers and archivists doing extraordinarily technical work. There are



librarians who work in specialized fields who have to know about archaeology, for example, or medicine or research science. The field was broader than I had gone in there thinking.

A second email reported the news that Professor David Lankes of Syracuse University was making his 2012 title, *Expect More: Demanding Better Libraries for Today's Complex World*, available for free download. Lankes is making the digital version available at no cost so that more librarians can use the book to engage their boards, principals, and provosts in a constructive conversation about the future

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Meet Our Stars!



Sandra Neil Wallace • Rich Wallace April 9 • 12:00–1:00 p.m.



Terry Widener
April 10 • 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Suzanne Bloom April 9 • 2:00-3:00 p.m.



Christine Pakkala
April 10 • 2:00-3:00 p.m.



Nikki Grimes April 11 • 10:30–11:30 a.m.



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WEDNESDAY APRIL 9, 2014





10AM

Linda Joy Singleton author of Snow Dog, Sand Dog

2PM

Sara Kocek
author of Promise Me Something

THURSDAY APRIL 10, 2014







10AM

Margaret Read-McDonald author of The Boy from the Dragon Palace

2PM

Helen Ketteman

author of There Once Was a Cowpoke Who Swallowed an Ant

3PM

Varsha Bajaj

author of
Abby Spencer Goes to Bollywood

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of their libraries. If you have not read this title, I highly recommend it. Lankes writes about the ever more essential role that libraries play in society and how librarians can use *Expect More* when working with communities whether in school, academic, public, or corporate information environments. He comments:

Though the diversity of our communities can make it difficult to agree on a single vision, we know it is possible. The library can bring our neighbors and colleagues and students and members together in a civil, safe, and inspiring space to dream.

Cassidy also examined librarians' thoughts about the budget cuts and the effects of understaffing on local communities. In interviews, he asked librarians to talk about the challenges and importance of libraries today. He concluded:

It's easy to dismiss libraries as something superfluous if you have a connection to the Internet at home. But for people in many communities, the library is their lifeline to the modern world. It's the only way they can do research; it's the only way they can apply for jobs and file taxes. This is a class of people that is easy for many of us to miss. This is who librarians are especially fighting for.

Both of these resources affirm our work at TLA. "Diversity and inclusiveness," "equity of access to information," as well as "social responsibility and the public good" are core organizational values of our association. In the 2012-2015 Strategic Plan, TLA members highlight these values and call for the association to serve as a "positive role model and valued leader, partner, resource, and advocate for Texas libraries and communities."

This year, the Executive Board has focused extensively on addressing diversity.

TLA Strategic Initiative #3

TLA values, seeks, and develops a diverse leadership and membership. All barriers to full member participation based upon gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity, or disability will be identified and eliminated.

I am very excited about three accomplishments that our association made this year concerning the fulfillment of the goals and action items identified in

this initiative. The first step in defining the importance of diversity efforts to the association is the creation of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. This committee was created following recommendations to the Executive Board from the Diversity Task Force. Past-President Sherilyn Bird and TLA Treasurer Jesús Campos are jointly chairing the committee to insure successful implementation of the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan and the Diversity Task Force recommendations. The 2014 annual conference will deliver a variety of programs that reflect the diversity of Texas to all types of librarians and communities served. This programming will include a half-day Diversity Summit on Tuesday, April 8. "Breaking Down Silos for a Unified, Diverse Society" will provide participants with a general overview of the value of diversity and inclusion to the profession, the workplace, and personal life. It will help clarify the evolving meanings of diversity and inclusion and will cover why they provide a strategic advantage. This is going to be a great day, and I invite you to join in the learning.

Our association activities, services, and conference programming examine how each Texas librarian or friend of the library can be a leader to proactively respond through Learning, Empowerment, Advocacy, and Diversity to the challenges facing library and information professionals in their communities. Through these activities, Texas librarians are prepared to be culturally-aware information professionals who are ready to work with populations that are diverse in terms of gender, ability, language, literacy, socio-economic background, age, and other factors. We must also understand and anticipate the challenges and issues related to providing inclusive information services to different populations in a range of settings.

I agree with a quote from Keith Richards from the Rolling Stones. He says, "When you're growing up, there are two institutional places that effect you most powerfully, the church, which belongs to God, and the public library, which belongs to you." Now more than ever, we need to be leaders in creating and telling our community story.

Editorial What Does the Library of the Future BY GLORIA MERAZ

Look Like to You?

version of: "Aren't libraries becoming obsolete?" To which we offer a standard answer about the explosion of information, the need to help people find what they need, the importance of providing access to diverse technologies, the increased demand given the complexity of information, etc. We probably also affirm our absolute certainty that libraries will continue to be important institutions into the future.

The astute among us will usually follow that question with another — one that is not so easy to answer: "So what does the library of the future look like?"

Do you have a concrete answer to which you would proudly sign your name and tout at the top of your lungs? If so, please, let me know. Whole library conferences and institutes have been built around this question – and we are still struggling to find a meaningful, consistent response that we, as a profession and community of stakeholders, can espouse and promote.

I'll come clean now: I don't have any revelations for you. I cannot offer you a pat answer. I can share some outcomes I believe the library of the future will continue to achieve and some results I think need to be produced. First and foremost, libraries will continue to be about:

- Access to technology and connectivity, resources (regardless of formats), and skilled and personalized assistance;
- Co-location a place (physical and virtual) where people congregate to learn, engage, and innovate;
- Community a source for stakeholder identity, problem-solving, and economic, educational, and cultural activity;
- Public Interest a commitment to equality of access, service and opportunity, as well as the shared and efficient use of resources; and
- Informational Integrity the promotion of intellectual freedom, diverse viewpoints, the ethical use of information, individual rights to access information and digital technology, and secure, safe, and private information transactions.

Characteristics we need to develop/ strengthen may look familiar on some levels and some may seem counterintuitive given the list above. I believe strongly these characteristics can and must work together.

- Collaboration promulgating a team approach among allied stakeholders as well as a nexus for customer/student/ client problem-solving, interaction, and innovation.
- Partnerships formalizing roles with private and government entities to achieve shared goals and strengthen economic, cultural, and education environments for stakeholders.
- Entrepreneurship creating a means for sustaining library activities while adhering to core principles of equality and open access.
- Innovation in information transactions

 pioneering means to connect content
 creators and users with the least amount
 of mediation and cost.
- Adaptability responding and modeling to emerging needs, audiences, skills, and scope of activity (intimate to mass delivery).
- Self-service creating and bringing together library spaces, instruction, and resources that meet and encourage individual's self-sufficiency at diverse levels of information transactions.

Physical and virtual spaces will be designed to promote these functions; staff with diverse backgrounds and expertise will be needed to meet and personify these goals; and the array of

technological and informational resources will expand in relation to the commercial, educational, and government offerings of content. Libraries will generate unique content to help navigate, access, and use resources.

I hope you will take time to think about the way Texas libraries should evolve. We find ourselves at an opportune moment as the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) undertakes its strategic plan for the next five years and as TLA prepares for the upcoming legislative session. At a recent TSLAC Commission meeting, commissioners discussed the importance of the agency working with the library community to envision and work towards a vibrant role for the library of the future. The commission noted the importance of showcasing the important work of libraries (now and in the evolving technological and information landscape) to state leaders.

A broad, collective, and thoughtful consideration will help us develop a framework we can enthusiastically support and strive towards. A large dose of bravery, confidence, and integrity must buttress our efforts. We are served by adhering to a vocabulary of action and results. Lyrical adjectives of our importance move only those who already understand and support us. The library of the future — and the library of today, for that matter — is important because of what it does. Achievement is the best end to any equation.





ibraries thrive on collaboration. At Harris County Public Library ✓ (HCPL), a 26 branch system serving the Houston area, this holds especially true for the wealth of creative programs its branches offer to their respective communities. While many of our branches offer a variety of programs to assist with workforce development, often in partnership with Texas Workforce Solutions, some of the more successful southern Houston. program collaborations in recent years have reached out to those involved specifically in small business. The partnerships that have formed enhance the reach and influence of every entity involved in a way that could not be done individually. These collaborative

The Clear Lake City-County Freeman Branch Library in the southeast corner of Harris County serves a community with a high concentration of engineers and professionals due to both NASA's Johnson Space Center and the local petrochemical industry. As economic stress developed a few years ago, many professionals found themselves looking at other endeavors such as consulting and entrepreneurship.

efforts have proven largely successful

to encourage their local community's

economic development.

and can be instructive for other libraries

seeking to find simple but effective ways

The Freeman Library witnessed a wave of professionals coming to the library for job search and business inquiries. Inspired by North Richland Hills Public Library and their successful partnership with the nonprofit organization SCORE, Freeman Library and SCORE Houston initiated discussions about the creation of a small business outreach program in the area in the fall of 2012.

SCORE, or Service Corps of Retired Executives, is a resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration and operates 360 chapters nationwide. As stated on the group's website, it offers "small business entrepreneurs practical business counseling advice at no charge for the Life of Your Business (from conception to profitable growth)." At that time, no SCORE offices were located in southern Houston.

After two pilot Saturday workshops planned with SCORE in late 2012 to determine if there was a demand for business programs, the results were clear. The programs received a high attendance rate, indicating a definite need. The partnership with Freeman Library officially began in February 2013.

SCORE counselors meet small business owners for free, one-hour sessions in the library by appointment. Study rooms serve this purpose once a week, but other meeting spaces can be used as well if needed. Free quarterly business workshops have also been provided on a variety of topics, including financing your business, business plans, social media, marketing, and Quickbooks.

Almost 400 people registered for just five quarterly sessions in late 2012, and over 140 received free, one-on-one counseling from SCORE representatives. Email marketing for this and other library programs began at Freeman around this time and proved to be very effective. The "Business Matters @ Your Library" email newsletter highlights SCORE and other business events and programs at the library; research tips on market data; competitors; company and industry profiles; and much more.

BY JIM JOHNSON, MILAGROS ANDRADA-TANEGA, BARBARA MITCHELL, AND CLAIRE GUNNELS

Local chambers of commerce are also an important yet sometimes undervalued resource for public libraries, especially for efforts such as this one. Some have counseling or similar services in place and would be willing to partner with libraries, if for no other purpose than to reserve available space. At Freeman, the local Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce has provided important networking opportunities through monthly small business development seminars that it offers and, which in turn, has provided speakers for library programs covering special business topics.

Overall, the partnership with SCORE has been a win-win for all parties involved and has proven itself to be a perfect partnership for public libraries. While the Freeman Library staff developed a successful partnership for small business development by looking outward, other HCPL librarians have found effective ways to support small businesses in their communities by looking within their walls.

LoneStar College-Cy Fair College
Library and LoneStar College-Tomball
Community Library are each two libraries
in one: the academic library of the Lone
Star Community College and the public
library of the Harris County Public
Library system. Each of their Business
Success Seminars were created through
a collaboration of librarians from both
sides of the library with the Small Business
Development Center (SBDC) of Lone
Star College.

In February 2010, Lone Star College – CyFair Small Business Development Center approached the library to discuss

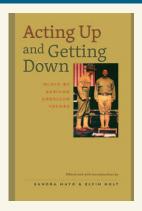
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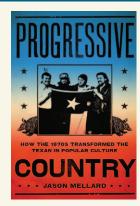
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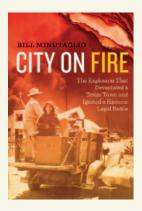
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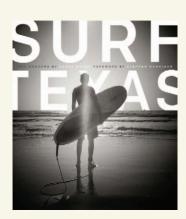
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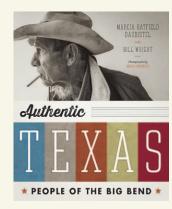
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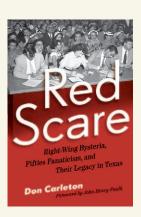
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plans for collaborative programming. It was determined that every semester they would present a series of one-hour seminars focused on small to mediumsized businesses. A team of librarians and reference assistants was enlisted to facilitate the programs, which would be called Business Success Seminars. Recognizing the value of a community organization already well connected that focuses on small business, they invited the CyFair Houston Chamber of Commerce to join as well.

The team is instrumental in the creation of the program from topic ideas to speaker selections. Successful programming, however, does not end with speaker selection and scheduling. Small but significant details in publicity and operations can make a difference.

With this in mind, the library arranges for food, beverages, door prizes, certificates of appreciation, and marketing. The team also coordinates all the content for the flyers and press releases and developed a brochure to highlight the resources provided by the library for business owners.

The topics of the seminars lean toward social media but include other interesting topics as well. Since 2010, the CyFair program has held approximately 50 seminars that have benefitted 1300 attendees. While the target for these seminars are business owners and entrepreneurs, even nonprofits have gleaned valuable information, including the CyFair Friends of the Library.

"I volunteer at a small bookstore that I thought could generate more income, which is used to support local good causes," says Ken Doherty, a FOL bookstore volunteer. "I learned how we could help market the store with the use of Facebook, Google Search, and Google Maps as free, readily available marketing tools; for example, when one queries Google Maps about used books, they could see our store's location displayed, along with others. Many free tools are available for those who want to use them, with others at low cost."

Shortly after the recognized success of Cy-Fair's programs, the executive director of the SBDC asked that all the colleges

develop a similar program. LSC Tomball answered the challenge.

As with business, marketing is critical to success. Tomball College has produced posters, and the public library side produced digital monitor slides. The SBDC and library have advertised via Facebook, Twitter, and blogs as well as to the local chambers of commerce and its own mailing list of small business clients. The paper surveys distributed to participants at seminars indicate that the SBDC business-focused advertising has been the most effective in drawing participants.

At Tomball, four series of seminars have been organized to date. The SBDC typically suggests topics and speakers, which librarians approve. A few of the topics for the four series have included:

- Social Media Trend or Blip on the Radar?
- Create Potential Client Lists
- Driving Revenue with LinkedIn
- Selling on eBay
- Broken Windows (Marketing on a Tight Budget)
- Marketing to the Hispanic Community
- Building a Remarkable Brand
- Google Tools for Business

The library was opened early for the first two series at 8:00 am. The early morning time was deemed appropriate for business people who would appreciate a breakfast meeting but wouldn't take time out from their business later in the day. Initial attendance averaged between 20 and 30 participants each time. Time was also allowed after the formal presentation for participants to network.

At all four of the series, business cards were collected for future advertising and for a drawing of a door prize – a book related to the topic being discussed. Related library books were also put on display and were used to promote signing up for a library card and to encourage using HCPL's various business databases, the latter of which are advertised on a handout bookmark. Checkouts from displays have demonstrated that this clientele, if they use business improvement

resources, prefer electronic and CD audio books and DVDs.

Partnerships and programs such as these need not be large in scope and extensive in planning in order to succeed. The North Channel Branch Library has developed and maintained a fruitful small business education partnership with another local college. "The Small Business Development Center at San Jacinto College North Campus is located less than two miles from our library branch, yet many of our customers have no idea this incredible resource is so close," says Christina Thompson, assistant branch librarian. "They've been hosting free programming on starting your own business and writing a business plan at our branch for several years now and for many of the attendees those programs really serve as the starting point for their businesses."

All in all, HCPL's small business programs have yielded positive feedback and have produced an appreciative small business community that continues to grow. Both public and academic libraries can develop successful partnerships to encourage not simply workforce development but small business development in their communities by looking both inward and outward. A local, well-networked chamber of commerce is often the best place to start but, as has been seen, is just one of many willing and available organizations, individuals, and services which can help. Libraries, as community services, can serve as an outlet not only for their communities' personal well-being but also for their economic well-being through the development of mutually beneficial partnerships such as these.

Jim Johnson is branch librarian at Clear Lake City-County Freeman Branch Library. Milagros Andrada-Tanega is a reference librarian at Clear Lake City-County Freeman Branch Library. Barbara Mitchell is a reference librarian at Tomball Community Library. Claire Gunnels is asssistant director for Adult Services & Staff Training at Cy-Fair College Library. All are with Harris County Public Library.

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exas Library Snapshot Day is an annual tradition. During this promotional event, libraries pick one day in October (the official Snapshot Day is billed as October 31 each year) to gather and submit information about library activities. It is a "snapshot" of a day in the life of a library.

Library Snapshot Day provides a way for libraries of all types across the state to show what happens in a single day. As always, the range of programs is simply impressive. It's amazing how much libraries do! The student and customer comments are priceless. Check out the summary and a list of all the comments submitted at TLA's official Snapshot Day home: www. texaslibrarysnapshotday.org.

We thank all the libraries and people who participated. We hope everyone will take part in Library Snapshot Day 2014.

SUMMARIES

Total 2013 participating libraries (includes academic, public, and school): 429

Sample of services from participating libraries...

- Every day, librarians at academic institutions are collaborating on at least 20 support and collaborative class efforts with faculty.
- The average public library building sees about 225 kids every day for storytime and over 270 people attending programs.
- The average school library hosts over 230 students participating in non-class related activities such as book clubs and individual study, and almost 405 students receive instructional assistance from librarians.

A SAMPLING OF RESPONSES

What are three to five examples of reference questions asked on Snapshot Day?

- We are moving to the area and need to identify the best schools for our children.
 What does Texas law say about the rights of grandparents as guardians?
- Where are the scary books?
- Where can I find information on fixing a 2000 Volkswagen Engine? I need to find a book about science projects.
- Is there an app on the student iPads that we can use to reinforce vocabulary instruction?
- Which database should I use for my topic?
- What's the difference between copyright and Fair Use?
- How do you convert data in Excel into a PIE Chart? How can I practice for the SAT? Do you have anything about anger and families?
- Who is my state representative and how do I contact them?
- Is the iPad Lady here?
- What would you recommend for a 2nd grade girl?
- Do you have any books about fracking? How do I cite this information? Which database should I use to find information about Obamacare?
- Can I borrow headphones? How do I print from my iPad? How do I use the note feature in Easybib? What are the best websites for nutrition?
- How do I apply for unemployment?

ACTIVITIES	Average from Responses	Total	Total Responses
Customer/student visits (door count)	929.04	126,350	136
Internet/public computer use (number of people)	288.59	34,631	120
Number of reference questions (received through all forms: in-person, email, phone, etc.)	121.04	14,404	119
Circulation (all materials) for the day	1,148.29	144,684	126
Database and e-resource usage (combined internal & external access)	5,750.75	506,066	88
Hits to Webpage	5,382.36	285,265	53
Number of children (age 0-12) participating in programs	325.82	36,818	113
Number of teens (age 13-18) participating in programs	182.71	15,348	84
Number of adults participating in programs (include higher ed students here)	52.28	5,751	110

What are three to five examples of student/customer comments?

- I have a library card and I'm not afraid to use it! NVC Library & Librarians have been more than helpful with students researching as well as giving of time and expertise. They are gratefully appreciated always!
- I am learning English at the library, and this helps me to help my daughter with her homework. Without the library, I would never have learned how to use a computer. I use the library to work remotely and take online classes.
- Should be open 7 days a week/ 24 hours I love Alkek!
- The librarians are very helpful. The computer tutorials are very educational and the librarians will try to help you anyway they can to find a solution. Thank you for everything you guys have done throughout the years. Awesome job on the programs, keep it up.
- Love to come here. Staff is very, very helpful in information and in service.
- Fun. It's a good place. The library of Duncanville High School is great. The librarians are nice and helpful.
- The Alpine Public Library is an outstanding facility. Clean, quiet and having a great staff. Book selection is current with many local texts dealing with Texana and local history, and it's architecturally pleasing. It is a community treasure. Really looking

- forward to being able to load best sellers on my iPad.
- I love doing my homework upstairs near the big window, it's peaceful. Love this, for work and play so does my wife, Great helpful staff! Love this place, been coming here since the late 80's. The library provides a source of wholesome educational activities. It's the jewel of our city.
- You need to extend your hours, especially on the weekends.
- "This place is like book heaven!" –
 student attending the book fair. "I'm
 glad to know that parents can check out
 books from the school library.
- Ms. Tubb does so many different types of lessons with our first graders. She uses technology some days, reads books, does interactive lessons with the kids, and so much more. My class loves going to the library. – Elementary teacher
- Our librarian is always ready to help and share lesson/new books with my class and me. She inspires me to use literature to better my teaching craft. – Elementary teacher
- The library provides many valuable resources for my family, including library materials, computer resources and the printer. We have always enjoyed the children's programs. I love this library because I can take on-line courses to help in my job search. And the wonderful people who work there!



Programs at libraries in ONE school district:

Mentor Program (community member reads with a student); Parent info Session (how to use the library to help with homework); 4th grade book club (Big Read); Family Night @ the Library; Storybook Character Parade; Preschool story time, Halloween story time; Helped 7th grade ELAR teacher administer test on media literacy; Reading Buddies; American Girl Book Club; teacher in-service; intervention; Teaching 3rd graders to edit using Movie Maker and Audacity Destination Imagination session; booktalks for Halloween; Using Google Docs; Using Audacity; Using Glogster; Using Databases (Discovery Streaming); Worked with ITS to show Learning. com to teachers during PLC ipad lesson with first grade classes; Ebook help for teachers; Book talks; sharing Prezi in Google Docs; Fall/Halloween Storytime for Kinder-2nd grade; Texas Bluebonnet Award info session and Shared Reading for 3rd-5th grades; Scary Stories in the library; Bluebonnet lessons related to current Bluebonnet books: Middle School had the Boo Bash for the children from Pierce Early Childhood Center; iPAD information to 8 faculty; Taught four Leadership classes, a lesson that required students to select a short story and analyze a character's leadership traits; Police officer spoke to 9 classes of 4th graders on Bullying; 3rd grade reading tutoring after school; 2x2 read alouds; co-teaching compare/contrast texts; K training for self-checkout; Library hosted a book fair and special extended hours for Family Night; Students were instructed on book care, calculating price, adding sales tax, rounding up to the nearest dollar and counting money; Chick Lit Book Club; Fall into Reading Night; teacher training on ebooks (GALE); book fair; planning with IT for acceptable use lesson; database training; NetTrekker training; Pebble-go training; Ebsco training; Britannica and World Book training; Tellegami app training; students created avatars; took fall photos; recited original poetry; Inventory in the library; Reading Spooky for Halloween. Whew!

If there were no Internet at the library,
 I would not have a good place to do
 homework. I would not be able to do my
 projects for school.

What are some examples of programs and/or training sessions you held on Snapshot Day?

- 5 information literacy classes
- I read a scary story to the 6th grade class and discussed the difference between the genres of mystery and scary stories. I also had a fall breakfast in the library for the school staff members that morning.
- Internet safety, digital footprint, StudentNet usage, Database usage
- In conjunction with No Place for Hate,
 I read Mo Willems' book, The Duckling
 Gets a Cookie! and we discussed and
 modeled how to speak to someone
 kindly and how kindness can change
 someone.
- 2 orientation sessions for US 1100 class by Library staff; 1 orientation session for US 1100 class by Wittliff staff; Ladrillería, part 2 event in the Wittliff Gallery (Presented by Texas State's Center for the Study of the Southwest, this second of three events features a talk by Alberto Dávila, a border-area economist from the University of Texas-Pan American.)
- Worked individually with one student to create a Voki book report during lunch.
- We had our regular once a week session Information Research Certificate classes. These are seven classes held almost every week on a different weekday and in different order, covering research skills, use of catalog, databases, and web for research as well as citation in MLA and APA formats.
- Students were instructed in Internet Safety and given the opportunity to create a Digitial Super Hero.
- Instructed students on how to effectively evaluate websites. e-Library training sessions were being conducted. Austin Community College Connection Program Small Group, Books Studies Voicethread project with 6th graders. Read a book about the importance of math to first grade. Then we played a dice game on the Promethean Board to reinforce addition. Librarian presented a program on developing characters in fiction writing. Interactive story time, Broadcast, Math Intervention group, lunch group for reluctant readers in

- 4th and 5th grade; 2 inference lessons; 3 interactive booktalks comparing text encyclopedias to online databases; Biography Lesson/Database instruction Book Talks, 6th grade Independent Reading Assignment; and collaboration where students select and read different genres or topics correlated to class instruction.
- ALA Declaration for the Right to Libraries on display for signing
- Examples of programs and/or training sessions we held on Snapshot Day: Story time and costume parade conducted by Cari Raley, children's librarian, geared for the 3-5 year olds. Teen Program conducted by Stephanie Vazquez, teen librarian, geared for 13 - 18 year olds.
- Working on annotated bibliographies Students using the EasyBib App on their iPads
- How to use our online databases.
- We had training sessions on searching for books in HIP (Horizon Information Portal). A class of students was shown how to use AP Archives for a research project.
- "Take Your Best Shot" of the Western Texas College LRC/Library Outside/ Inside Photo Contest – "Submit Your Favorite DVD" Contest

Please make any comments you would like to add.

 I am always pleased by the many positive compliments we receive about our staff on Snapshot Day: "This is a great place for all ages to come, and the staff is great! I love and appreciate this place and these people more and more every day."

Playtime at the Albert George Branch Library (Needville). Photo courtesy of Fort Bend County Libraries.

- Patrons enjoyed being asked about their library experience and what would happen if libraries ceased to exist! They had fun having their picture taken and being interviewed.
- This [special day] was a great idea. The students had an opportunity to do things out of the norm. A wide variety of things may go on in the library on any particular day. Activities may range from circulation (always) to Future Problem Solving competition to faculty and departmental meetings. Participating librarians commented on how much fun the day was both for themselves and for the students.
- Great program to share what is happening in school libraries. Good way of promoting libraries with data!
- This Snapshot Activity was such a positive experience! We found it difficult to limit the number of comments and programs we collected in our stats.
- This is a great way to showcase all the things we do in the library and remind patrons of the many resources we provide.
- Thank you for Snapshot and allowing us to share what is going on in our library with you.
- It was a fun Halloween Library Snapshot Day!
- It was a lot of fun and ended up making the library experience more interactive for our students.
- I loved taking part in Snapshot Day. I realized I really need to promote using the library computers for instruction and other such purposes other than only OPAC searches. I want to get other libraries in my district to take part in Snapshot Day so we can compare and share information.



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Poetry in the Library

BY S. ZULEMA SILVA BEWLEY

ith the new rigors of STAAR and the inclusion of poetry in this state-wide test, school librarians across Texas have the opportunity to lead the way in making poetry resources available on their respective campuses. But our involvement with poetry can extend a bit further. As educators, we can encourage students to read more poetry, and we can expose them to poetry through engaging activities. An excellent resource for these types of lessons is The Poetry Friday Anthology: Poems for the School Year with Connections to the *TEKS*, K-5 *Edition* compiled by Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong. I was fortunate to have received this book through a minigrant award. I used this resource with my students last year, and the response I received from them was at times surprising, humorous, and satisfying. I learned some valuable lessons through the entire process.

The Poetry Friday Anthology contains 36 original poems for each of the grades in K – 5. The poems are meant to be shared aloud and, when possible, displayed so that language skills can be reinforced. Five tips called "Take 5!" accompany each poem and range from activities to encourage student participation, language arts skills or poetry forms being taught, to ways to connect each poem to other poems. Armed with a book that had easy lessons to follow, I decided to engage my students with these new poems.

One group from each grade level typically visits the library every day from Monday through Thursday. The first group that I used the PFA lessons with was kindergarten. I decided to use a poem about weather titled "Teddy Wear" by Graham Denton.¹ So one Monday last year, with a teddy bear on my lap, I read the poem out loud and then ran through some of the Take 5 activities for that poem. One activity suggests asking students to pretend to be hot during the reading of the first stanza and pretend to be cold during the second stanza.²

This all went smoothly. Students seemed to be enjoying fanning themselves and shivering while I read. But then, one of the Take 5 tips suggests that the poem be sung to the tune of "O, ... who knew Tannenbaum." I decided to forge ahead and sing. The reaction I received was rather interesting.

discriminating For a while now, I've suspected that I must have been sitting in musical tastes? a corner reading a book when God was handing out singing voices. The faces on those little ones confirmed my suspicions. While I was singing, one little boy who was sitting right in front of me would not even look at me. He was embarrassed for me! And then when I finished, everyone just sort of looked at each other with little perplexed faces. I could read their minds... "Oh no, our librarian just sang to us....what are we supposed to do? Is our teacher coming soon?" Poor babies, I felt so bad for them, but who knew kindergarteners could have such discriminating musical tastes? Needless to say, I was not at all excited to repeat this torture on Tuesday, but I did. The reaction from that group

was only slightly better and ditto for Wednesday. However by Thursday my confidence had returned and when I

belted out the poem, the kids

... who knew

kindergarteners

could have such

belted out the poem, the kids

were swaying to the rhythm.

After I finished they all clapped
and said "Again, again." I felt
like a rock star!

A couple of months later I decided to use *The Poetry Friday Anthology* again with some of the other grades, including sixth

grade. There is a Poetry Friday Anthology compiled by Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong now written especially for middle school but was not available at the time so I used the one written for grades K-5. I chose a poem intended for 5th grade students with my 6th graders, "The Bully" by Guadalupe Garcia McCall.⁴ This poem is serious and powerful. My experiment began when my 6th grade students visited the library at 8:15 in the morning. So on Monday, my first group came in and I proudly announced that we were doing poetry! My enthusiasm was met with rolling eyes and grumbles. One of the Take 5 activities says to stage a tableau, a



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frozen moment depicting a scene from the poem.⁵ I was thinking that this would get the kids enthused. I was wrong. When I asked for volunteers, not one hand went up. I started to beg, but still nothing. So I decided to choose a table of students who were muttering under their breaths and they got up, but they were definitely not happy. I was punishing them with poetry. How could I even think that this was going to be a positive experience? I knew my actions were doomed from the beginning.

I truly considered scrapping the whole thing and not even trying with Tuesday's group, but I did not. I persevered. I did, however, have to rethink how I was going about this activity. I decided to change the tableau to acting out the poem. I divided the poem up into three scenes and asked for volunteers to act out each scene as I read the poem. The ground rules were that no physical contact was to take place – no real punching or kicking as described in the poem. I was amazed at how many students wanted to participate. On one of the days there were so many boys volunteering that boys were playing the parts of the girl! They were not at all embarrassed. And, on top of that, we had great discussions about how many characters in the poem were bullies ... was the father a bully or not? We discussed the words the poet used to describe the father, his actions, etc. Victory!!

Years from now, will those sixth grade students remember acting out a poem during library class? I think so. I do hope, however, that the kindergarten students don't remember my singing.

All joking aside, I did learn some valuable lessons. For instance, I cannot be afraid to try different strategies in an effort to make poetry fun and a learning experience. Also, and perhaps more importantly, as an educator I am allowed to fail, but I should not give up. There are always ways to turn failures into successes.

In the spring of 2013, my principal Anthony Limon and I teamed up to write a grant to be able to purchase a copy of The Poetry Friday Anthology for each of our reading teachers in grades K - 5 to use the following school year. The Sharyland Education Foundation felt this was a worthy endeavor and generously supplied the funds. Shortly thereafter, The Poetry Friday Anthology, Middle School Edition

was published and my principal bought copies for our 6th grade reading teachers. Now every reading teacher has this valuable resource at his and her fingertips. And the involvement with poetry does not end there. I have shown the teachers how to use EBSCO to find poems on certain topics and pair them with non-fiction articles on the same topic. Our hope is that students will be exposed to poetry in a variety of ways.

This is an exciting time for children's poetry. We can tap into the creative works of a host of brilliant poets. I do not recall reading poetry with my librarian during my school days. I had excellent teachers during my elementary school years, but I do not remember spending much time enjoying poetry. I hope to change that with our students. How wonderful it will be if a year from now, our teachers will have marvelous stories to share about their experiences teaching poetry. But imagine how much more fulfilling it will be if students have their own stories to share.

S. Zulema Silva Bewley is a librarian at Harry Shimotsu Elementary School in Sharyland ISD.

Endnotes

- Graham Denton, "Teddy Wear," in The Poetry Friday Anthology: Poems for the School Year with Connections to the TEKS, K-5 Edition, comp. Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong (Princeton, New Jersey: Pomelo Books, 2012), 35.
- ² "Take 5!" in *The Poetry Friday* Anthology: Poems for the School Year with Connections to the TEKS, K-5 Edition, comp. Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong

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- Guadalupe Garcia McCall, "The Bully" in The Poetry Friday Anthology: Poems for the School Year with Connections to the TEKS, K-5 Edition, comp. Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong (Princeton, New Jersey: Pomelo Books, 2012), 248.
- ⁵ "Take 5!" in *The Poetry Friday* Anthology: Poems for the School Year with Connections to the TEKS, K-5 Edition, comp. Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong (Princeton, New Jersey: Pomelo Books, 2012), 248.

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A Declaration for the Right to Libraries

The Declaration for the Right to Libraries is the cornerstone document of ALA President Barbara Stripling's presidential initiative, Libraries Change Lives, which is designed to build the public will and sustained support for America's right to libraries of all types – academic, special, school and public.

Throughout this last year, libraries of all types have held signing ceremonies, during which community members, students, and stakeholders declared their right to have vibrant libraries. These signing ceremonies are intended to serve as the launching point for continued and robust engagement.

With National Library Week coming up in April, we are asking the Texas library community to plan to gather signatures. The ALA Declaration website (see URL below) has many resources including a toolkit, signing sheets, an online place for signatures, and downloadable resources. Let's ensure everyone knows about this important and educational initiative. Additionally, TLA's ALA Councilor Walter Betts has created several downloadable template letters available at TLA's Declaration page (www.txla.org/library-rights) that you can use to ask for signatures from your administrators and student groups.

You can drop off your signed documents in the Registration Area at the TLA conference. The collected signed Declarations will be presented to Stripling during the TLA convention.



Libraries Change Lives Declaration for the Right to Libraries

In the spirit of the United States Declaration of Independence and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we believe that libraries are essential to a democratic society. Every day, in countless communities across our nation and the world, millions of children, students and adults use libraries to learn, grow and achieve their dreams. In addition to a vast array of books, computers and other resources, library users benefit from the expert teaching and guidance of librarians and library staff to help expand their minds and open new worlds. We declare and affirm our right to quality libraries -public, school, academic, and special – and urge you to show your support by signing your name to this *Declaration for the Right to Libraries*.

LIBRARIES EMPOWER THE INDIVIDUAL. Whether developing skills to succeed in school, looking for a job, exploring possible careers, having a baby, or planning retirement, people of all ages turn to libraries for instruction, support, and access to computers and other resources to help them lead better lives.

LIBRARIES SUPPORT LITERACY AND LIFELONG LEARNING. Many children and adults learn to read at their school and public libraries via story times, research projects, summer reading, tutoring and other opportunities. Others come to the library to learn the technology and information skills that help them answer their questions, discover new interests, and share their ideas with others.

LIBRARIES STRENGTHEN FAMILIES. Families find a comfortable, welcoming space and a wealth of resources to help them learn, grow and play together.

LIBRARIES ARE THE GREAT EQUALIZER. Libraries serve people of every age, education level, income level, ethnicity and physical ability. For many people, libraries provide resources that they could not otherwise afford – resources they need to live, learn, work and govern.

LIBRARIES BUILD COMMUNITIES. Libraries bring people together, both in person and online, to have conversations and to learn from and help each other. Libraries provide support for seniors, immigrants and others with special needs.

LIBRARIES PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO KNOW. Our right to read, seek information, and speak freely must not be taken for granted. Libraries and librarians actively defend this most basic freedom as guaranteed by the First Amendment.

LIBRARIES STRENGTHEN OUR NATION. The economic health and successful governance of our nation depend on people who are literate and informed. School, public, academic, and special libraries support this basic right.

LIBRARIES ADVANCE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP. Knowledge grows from knowledge. Whether doing a school assignment, seeking a cure for cancer, pursuing an academic degree, or developing a more fuel efficient engine, scholars and researchers of all ages depend on the knowledge and expertise that libraries and librarians offer.

LIBRARIES HELP US TO BETTER UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. People from all walks of life come together at libraries to discuss issues of common concern. Libraries provide programs, collections, and meeting spaces to help us share and learn from our differences.

LIBRARIES PRESERVE OUR NATION'S CULTURAL HERITAGE. The past is key to our future. Libraries collect, digitize, and preserve original and unique historical documents that help us to better understand our past, present and future.

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Librarians have always been Follett's core customers, but most importantly, our supporters. Which is why we feel it's important to give back. Our Project Connect advocacy program works to empower librarians through school and district leadership. Follett partners with associations like TLA to help further this important message about the value of school libraries in education.





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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.



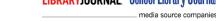


SCOTT SWIDERSKI

Being involved in the construction industry daily, we are able to share our wealth of knowledge to aid in the decision making of library directors and staff. We facilitate with designers and contractors to resolve project issues on behalf of library organizations so they can focus on their daily responsibilities







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, Communities in Schools and most recently, our early childhood literacy campaign, Read 3. H-É-B is working hard to promote early childhood literacy through the H-E-B Read 3 Program and is committed improving childhood literacy rates in Texas. That's why we are proud to partner with the Texas Library Association to make books available to all Texans - young and seasoned!

RANDALL ASMO Since my first involvement

with school libraries over 20 years ago, I have found that Texas librarians are some of the most passionate people in the library field. I believe this passion has created the best library-related association in the United States.



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Continuing Education

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SPRING WEBINARS

The Power of Positive Conflict Resolution: How to Take Any Situation from Breakdown to Breakthrough in Eight Simple Steps May 1, 2-3 PM

This powerful webinar addresses the greatest productivity and time robber of all: conflict. Conflict has a way of intertwining into our personal and professional lives. Based upon her forthcoming book, Melinda Stallings, SPHR, will briefly highlight each of the eight steps proven to effectively reduce conflict, providing an overview of a usable tool capable of positively changing participants' lives.

Organizing Friends of School Libraries

May 7, 2-3 PM

Ty Burns, director of Library Media Services at Clear Creek ISD, will describe how his district's Friends of the Library group was started. Districts and schools wishing to organize their own Friends may learn some of the advantages and potential challenges in founding such an association. (Part of the TLA Strategic Grants & Fundraising Series)

Adding Diversity to Your Strategic Action Plan

May 15, 2-3 PM

Shani Moore, chief diversity and inclusion officer for Tarrant County College, will discuss how diversity initiatives have evolved from federally-mandated quotas to integral themes in successful strategic plans. Learn how her institution improved their outcomes by approaching diversity in practical ways.

www.txla.org/ce



Texas Bluebonnet Award

TBA Has a Winner!

10 Rules You Absolutely Must Not Break If You Want to Survive the School Bus, written by John Grandits and illustrated by Michael Allen Austin, was voted tops by the young readers in Texas who participated in the Texas Bluebonnet Award Program. A video of the announcement with a message by John Grandits and complete voting tallies are available on the TBA site.

The 2014 statistics show the huge statewide participation in this children's choice award. A total of 181,734 students voted. They represented 1946 institutions. The winning book received over 15% of the votes. Thanks to all our young Texas readers who participated!

TLA READING LISTS



Tejas Star Announces New List

The Tejas Star Reading List (TSRL) provides a recommended reading list developed by TLA member librarians from the Texas Association of School Librarians (TASL), the Children's Round Table, Public Library Division (PLD), and the Latino Caucus. The new 2014-15 list is now available on the TLA website.

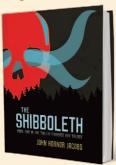
The purpose of the list is to encourage children ages 5-12 to explore multicultural books and to discover the cognitive and economic benefits of bilingualism and multilingualism. The Tejas Star Reading List is intended for recreational reading, not to support a specific curriculum.

www.txla.org/reading-lists

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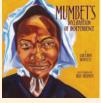
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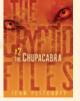


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April 8-11

he 2014 TLA Annual Conference, establishes one of the nation's premier interactive and engaging professional forums for library professionals. TLA is the only continuing education forum dedicated to the specialized interests of Texas librarians and library supporters. From educational technology and changes in academic learning spaces to updates for state public library accreditation and services designed to meet the changing demographics of the state, the TLA conference offers the latest in news, best practices, and national discussions on library matters.

The theme of the conference – **LEAD OUT LOUD** – sets the stage for authoritative and ambitious approaches to library planning, advocacy, and growth. Sessions at TLA will cover critical issues such as scholarly communications, ebooks and epublishing, learning strategies for physical and digital classrooms, the development of cooperative and creative library staff teams, emerging services, and countless others topics.

ACADEMIC librarians will also have the opportunity to participate in many programs, including sessions on MOOCs with Michael Stephens; "flipping" academic instruction with Lane Wilkinson of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; Yale's book delivery service with Julian Aiken; the transformation of research collections with Carol Pitts Diedrichs; embedded librarianship with David Shumaker of the Department of Library and Information Science at the Catholic University of America (Washington, DC); and

scholarly communications with several featured speakers.

PUBLIC librarians have the opportunity to participate in the state's open forums on accreditation and standards; "Leadership from the Frontlines," "Market Like You Own IT: Library Marketing on the Edge," "Library User Experience, Service, and Value," "Completing a Comprehensive Library Valuation Picture: Tools of the Trade," and "Keeping Texas Competitive: Workforce Development and Libraries."

TECHcamp, a new feature at TLA, is an intensive "boot camp" for **SCHOOL** librarians and focuses on today's technological and curriculum demands. Presenters include Bruce Ellis, Todd Nesloney, Jennifer LaGarde, and Matthew Nichols.

Programming for SPECIAL librarians ranges from digital innovation (curation, outreach, and partnerships) to competitive intelligence activities and specialized audience services. "Cataloging Special Materials: The Case of the Metropolitan Opera Library" with Tanisha Mitchell offers an in-depth look at one of the nation's premier special libraries.

The convention features a talented array of experts and leaders in all areas of information and library services. General session speakers include Jmees Patterson and Henry Winkler. Other teatured speakers are ARL President Elect Carol Pitts Diedrichs, school librarian specialist Kristin Fonticiaro, L/s 2012 Librarian of the Year Luis Herrera, technology trend spotter Joe Murphy, technologist Jessamyn West, library futurist Joan Frye Williams, child development specialist Ross Todd, emerging technology expert Michael Stephens, digital projects guru Brian E.C. Schottlaender, and communications and code expert Adromeda Yelten.

Presenters also include: David Tyckoson ("Mr. Reference") of California State University (Fresno); intellectual freedom defender Dave Askey of McMaster University; Educopia's Katherine Skinner; Debbie Abilock of NoodleTools, Inc.; Lee Rainie of the Pew Research Center: Catherine Hakala-Ausperk of the Northeast Ohio Regional Library System; anythink™ Libraries' Ronnie Storey-Ewoldt; inquiry design specialist Mega Subramanian; Char Booth of Claremont Colleges Libraries and expert in digital classroom learning strategies; and Bob Steiner of The Institute for the Future of the Book speaking on social reading platforms. And MANY others!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Exhibit Hall Grand Opening and Welcome

Tuesday (April 8), 5:30-7:30 PM

Settle in for conference as you join colleagues in the exciting and lively TLA Exhibit Hall. Meet up with friends and exhibitors and begin four days of networking and learning. Refreshments will be provided.

President's Round-Up and All Conference Party

Wednesday (April 9), 8:00-10:00 PM Briscoe Western Art Museum

Late Breaking News! TLA proudly announces that Pulitzer Prizewinning writer RON SUSKIND will speak at General Session II on the power of stories and the everyday miracles that transform us. The New York Times bestselling author tackles his most personal story - that of his autistic son, Owen. Life, Animated, A Story of Sidekicks, Heroes, and Autism is the remarkable story of his own family and their courage and creativity in discovering the means to reach Owen. Suskind is author of the critically-acclaimed A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League. He was the senior national affairs writer for The Wall Street Journal.

(Due to unforeseen circumstances, Kareen Abul-Jabbar will be unable to attend the TLA conference.)

Celebrate the art, history, and culture of the American West at the Briscoe Western Art Museum located on San Antonio's famed River Walk. The institution is housed in San Antonio's first Public Library and newly constructed pavilion. The Briscoe Campus also includes the adjacent McNutt Courtyard and Sculpture Garden. Join your colleagues for an engaging evening filled with music, friends, and art.

Librarians: Prepare to do **BATTLEDECKS!!**

Wednesday, 6:30 - 7:30 pm (just before the President's Party)

Are you ready for the Olympics of Oratory? The witnessing of winning wits? Then you, dear library friend, are ready for Battledecks!

This growing movement of intellect, humor, and bravery has been on the rise for several years. More than a sport or a game, Battledecks brings out the skill, passion, and energy of participants and audience members alike. So, what is this phenomenon that is capturing the hearts and minds of the smart and gifted?

Battledecks is a competition in which presenters (sign up!) have four minutes to speak on 10 unrelated slides they have never seen before. Trust me, hilarity ensues! A panel of judges will select the 2014 Battledecks Champion. Along with earning credentials worthy of cereal box placement, the winner will walk away with bragging rights and an army of admirers.

Whether you want to test your extemporaneous speaking skills or just watch others attempt Flying by the Seat of Your Pants, do plan on attending the soon-to-be-internationally-known TLA Battledecks Competition of 2014!

2014 EXHIBITS

Plan plenty of time to visit TLA's famous Exhibit Hall, where hundreds of corporate partners and industry reps will be on hand to show you the latest in technology, trends, tools, resources, and (of course) books and informational content! The Exhibitor's Guide included in this issue of Texas Library Journal provides a listing of our vendors and corporate partners. An online hall map and Buyers Guide are available year round. You can also shop with TLA exhibitors via the conference mobile app.

CONFERENCE ESSENTIALS

PLACEMENT & CAREER CENTER:

Located in Market Street Lobby. You do not have to be a registered conferee to use or attend any programming located in the Placement Center. The Placement Center hours are: Tuesday, April 8: 10 AM - 5 PM; Wednesday, April 9: 8 AM - 5РМ; Thursday, April 10: 8 AM – 4 PM; and Friday, April 11: 8 AM - NOON. Work with a pro to get your resumé critiqued or for interviewing techniques at the Placement Center. Visit the TLA website for additional information, to register as an employer or job seeker, and to discover more available services.

AUTHORS AREA: Obtain autographs from your favorite author(s) at the Authors Area in the TLA Exhibit Hall. Conferees may bring up to five (5) items to be signed per author, per visit. The Authors Area and book signing schedules are available on the TLA website. A few copies will be available onsite at the Authors Area. Authors are also allowed to sign in the exhibit booth, at the discretion of the Authors Area Committee.

CONFERENCE INFO

- *Conference Program* (in the winter issue of TLJ) – Bring your copy with you to San Antonio.
- The Exhibits Buyer's Guide (in this issue of TLJ) – Bring it with you!
- 2014 Pocket Program You will receive a copy onsite.
- *Mobile App:* The conference mobile app is on multiple mobile platforms; go to your provider's app store and search TLA 2014. This application enables attendees with a web-enabled phone or other mobile device to access their schedules while on the go and receive real-time updates to sessions and author events. It will also offer Twitter, exhibitor information, and show documents. You can even use the mobile app to rate sessions and find access to speaker content.
- Conference Blog: www.txla.org/blog
- General Conference FAQ & *Information A-Z* (on the website)

Anyone wishing to contract for scooter rentals should contact Tom's Wheelchair Rentals directly (210-223-7878).

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INSIDE THE EXHIBIT HALL

Enjoy food and refreshments during exhibit hall hours at the *Fiesta Café* and *River City Lounge*. The Café features a daily meal deal as well as *a la carte* offerings. The Lounge offers a coffee and cupcake bar plus sandwiches, snacks, and refreshments. A candy concession and other snacks will be available throughout the hall.

You can find a bag check area on each end of the exhibits. *Tower View Bag Check* is at the bottom of the escalators on the Café side, and the *Market Street Bag Check* offers Rent-a-Box in addition to bag check.

The *Authors Area* schedule is available on the TLA website and the conference mobile app. Limited copies will be available onsite, so print a copy to bring with you. Schedule changes will be noted in the Authors Area.

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Tickets may be purchased onsite at the Disaster Relief Table in the Market Street Lobby, from roving volunteers, or online. Visit the Itsy Bitsy Gallery (www. txla.org/gallery) for more details. The drawing will be held during General Session II on Thursday, April 10.

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Book Systems, Inc	
Follett	
L4U Library Software	
MARCIVE, Inc	
Media Flex - OPALS - CERF	
OCLC	
Polaris Library Systems	
5 5	
TLC - The Library Corporation	2415
CD-ROM	
NewsBank, Inc	1917
	1120

Circulation Systems & Procedures	
	1500
Bibliotheca	
Book Systems, Inc	
Cover One	
Media Flex - OPALS - CERF	
Tech Logic	
TLC - The Library Corporation	2415
Coin-Op Boxes	
Electronics for Imaging – EFI	2548
, , ,	
Computer Hardware	
3M Library Systems	1209
<i>AWE</i>	
mk Sorting Systems	2546
Computer Software	
3M Library Systems	1200
Alexandria by Companion Corporation	
AWE	
Britannica Digital Learning	
Envision Ware	
Evanced Solutions	1509
Gumdrop Books	2431
L4U Library Software	2242

SouthClampy Publishing 2043 Southwest Bearport 2039 2138

Book House 2132

OCLC

ABC-

ABDO





Sylvan Dell 2235	Lexis Nexis 2334
Lucas Miller 2233	Indus 2332
Cox	Texserve (Dallas County



Baker

&

Taylor



Charlesbridge 2440

Northern Microg. 2432

SJB

CTLS

Brain fuse	TLA TAIIG 2526	
Trinity Library	Over- looked Books	
2422	2522	

TLA

2543

TLA BCRT

Take Care 255 EQ Magazine 284bsc. Little Free Library 2640

2632

<u>М</u>МКТ

Find-

away

YALSA SCLRT

Oxford UP 2527	2626
Sirsi	Zytron 2624
Dynix 2523	Harr- ington 2622LC

Veterans SACV 2643

TLA

₂PLD

TLA 2015

2740

Amber Way 2734



FIESTA CAFE



Rosen Publ/

Power Kids

ABDO

Key stone





ABC-

CLIO













Gift Solution

Prozen Light 2735

> Stop Falling

Piel Canela 2727^{eru}

2725

2723

HEB Read 3







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Tower View ENTRANCE

Tower View BAG CHECK

Polaris Library Systems1109	Document Delivery Systems		TeachingBooks.net	1449
Renaissance Learning1322	Cover One	1934	Texas SUCCESS / Digital Knowledge	
TRACSYSTEMS, inc2530	DLSG at Image Access	1431	Central	
WT Cox Information Services, Inc2231	FaxScan24 Fax & Scan Service		Tongfang Knowledge Network Technology	2627
Databases – Bibliographic	Northern Micrographics	2432	OPAC	
Baker & Taylor/ YBP Library Services2223	Electronic Imaging Systems		Alexandria by Companion Corporation	1123
EBSCO Information Services1215	IImage Retrieval, Inc	26.30	Biblionix	1333
LexisNexis2334	Indus MIS, Inc		Book Systems, Inc	2222
<i>MARCIVE, Inc.</i> 2342	ProQuest		Media Flex - OPALS - CERF	1607
National Library of Medicine1915	Stars Information Solutions		Polaris Library Systems	1109
Texas SUCCESS / Digital Knowledge	Zytron Imaging Services		SirsiDynix	2523
Central1933		2020	TLC - The Library Corporation	2415
Databases – Electronic	Internet Services	2716	Print-Cost Recovery	
ABC-CLIO2123	AtoZdatabases		Electronics for Imaging – EFI	2548
AtoZdatabases2716	AWE	1409	TRACSYSTEMS, inc.	
BiblioLabs2333	Basch Subscriptions Inc., A Prenax	2(11		2))0
Biblionix	Company/The Reference Shelf		Retrospective Conversion	
Britannica Digital Learning1430	Brainfuse		Alexandria by Companion Corporation	
	EnvisionWare		Biblionix	
Cavendish Square1223 EBSCO Information Services1215	FamilySearch		Book Systems, Inc	
	National Library of Medicine		L4U Library Software	
Emerald Group Publishing, Inc	SirsiDynix	2523	MARCIVE, Inc.	
Gale Cengage Learning1023	Texas SUCCESS / Digital Knowledge	1022	Mitinet Library Services	2442
Infobase Learning2014 Modic Flow ODALS CERE 1607	Central		Web Products	
Media Flex - OPALS - CERF1607	Texserve		#1 Private Tutor	2411
Mittinet Library Services	Vocabulary.com	2131	Amigos Library Services	
MyHeritage-WorldVitalRecords1932	Library Automated Systems		Brainfuse	
Polaris Library Systems1109	3M Library Systems	1209	Education Week	
PolicyMap1101	Alexandria by Companion Corporation.	1123	Evanced Solutions	
Scholastic Library Publishing Digital1622	Biblionix	1333	Humanities Texas	
Springer	Book Systems, Inc	2222	Innovative Interfaces, Inc	
TeachingBooks.net1449	CoLibri System North America Inc		NewsBank, Inc.	
Texas SUCCESS / Digital Knowledge Central1933	Cultural Surroundings	1415	Noodle Tools	
	Envision Ware		OCLC	
Tongfang Knowledge Network Technology2627	FaxScan24 Fax & Scan Service	1201	OverDrive Inc	
Vocabulary.com2131	Gale Cengage Learning	1023	PolicyMap	
World Book, Inc1009	Innovative Interfaces, Inc		Renaissance Learning	
Databases – Full Text	L4U Library Software		SirsiDynix	
Amigos Library Services2230	Media Flex - OPALS - CERF		TLC - The Library Corporation	
EBSCO Information Services1215	mk Sorting Systems	2546	Vocabulary.com	
Emerald Group Publishing, Inc1001	Polaris Library Systems	1109		
National Library of Medicine1915	SirsiDynix		Books, Periodicals, Documents	5
NewsBank, Inc1917	Tech Logic		ADA	
ProQuest1139	TLC - The Library Corporation		National Federation of the Blind	
Texas State Library & Archives	Multimedia		of Texas, Newsline	2340
Commission		1/20	American Government Books	
Texas SUCCESS / Digital Knowledge	Britannica Digital Learning OverDrive Inc		Driving on the Right Side of the Road	1455
Central				100
Tongfang Knowledge Network Technology2627	ProQuest		Art Books	
Database Preparation	Tech Logic	1130	Abrams Books for Young Readers/	1/1/7
<i>MARCIVE</i> , <i>Inc.</i> 2342	Online Search Services		Amulet Books/Abrams Appleseed	
Tongfang Knowledge Network Technology2627	Amigos Library Services	2230	Sterling Publishing Wow Productions	
Debit Vend Card Terminals	Basch Subscriptions Inc., A Prenax			1/)2
	Company/The Reference Shelf		Book Jobbers	
Electronics for Imaging – EFI2548	Britannica Digital Learning		the Book House, Inc	
TRACSYSTEMS, inc2530	Education Week	2443	Bound To Stay Bound Books	
Digital Book Scanners	Evanced Solutions	1509	Children's Plus, Inc2514	
DLSG at Image Access1431	Mitinet Library Services	2442	Davidson Titles, Inc	
IImage Retrieval, Inc2630	MyHeritage- WorldVitalRecords		Garrett Book Company	1831
Indus MIS, Inc2332	Northern Micrographics	2432	Gumdrop Books	2431
Cham Information Colutions 2220				
Stars Information Solutions2338	ProQuest	1139	Keystone Books & Media	1923

Perma-Bound Books1515	Firefly Books, Ltd	1538	World Book, Inc	1009
Rainbow Book Company2109	Gareth Stevens Publishing, Inc		Wow Productions	
Scholastic Book Fairs, Inc1623/1723	Garrett Book Company			
Sebco Books2323	Groundwood Books		Comic Books	16/7
	Gumdrop Books		Andrews McMeel Publishing	
Business Books	Half Price Books		Publisher Spotlight	1422
the Book House, Inc2132	HarperCollins Children's Books		Cookbooks	
Emerald Group Publishing, Inc1001	The History Press		Charlesbridge	2440
HarperCollins Publishers1739	Holiday House		Chronicle Books	1832
CD-ROM	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt		HarperCollins Publishers	1739
Combined Book Exhibit1639	Independent Publishers Group		Pelican Publishing Company	
Driving on the Right Side of the Road1455	James Lorimer & Company Ltd		Sterling Publishing	
LibrarySkills, Inc	JGD Publishing LLC		Wild Horse Media Group	
Children's Books	Jump!			
ABDO2022/2023	Junior Library Guild		Foreign Language Books – Asian/	maian
	Keystone Books & Media		Asia for Kids/Culture for Kids/ Master Comm	1225
Abrams Books for Young Readers/ Amulet Books/Abrams Appleseed1447	Lectorum Publications, Inc			
Albert Whitman & Company	Lerner Publishing Group		Star Bright Books	
Amicus			Foreign Language Books – Spanis	h
Andrews McMeel Publishing1647	Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.		Arte Público Press	1633
Annick Press	Lucas Miller, Singing Zoologist		Asia for Kids/Culture for Kids/	
	Mackin Educational Resources		Master Comm	
Arte Público Press	Macmillan Children's Publishing Group		BiblioLabs	2333
August House Publishers	Martha Hannah, Medieval Comedienn		BookLingual	1355
Authors Tim Tingle and Greg Rodgers1830	& Stand-Up Historian	1301	By Grace Enterprises	1652
Bearport Publishing	Matthew Gollub Books & Dynamic Author Assemblies	1/52	Cavendish Square	
Bear's Flower	Maverick Books, Inc		Charlesbridge	
Bellwether Learning	Norwood House Press		Child's Play	
Bellwether Media1909	Orca Book Publishers		Cinco Puntos Press	
Big Timber Book Club2010			DLB Educational Corporation	
Black Rabbit Books1641	Parkhurst Brothers Publishers		Escue & Associates	
Bloomsbury Children's Books1440	Peachtree Publishers, Ltd		Groundwood Books	
Bound To Stay Bound Books1015	Pelican Publishing Company		Independent Publishers Group	
Boyds Mills Press1630	Penguin Young Readers Group15		Keystone Books & Media	
Brain Hive, LLC1648	The Penworthy Company		Lectorum Publications, Inc	
Brainstorm1909	Perma-Bound Books		Lerner Publishing Group	
By Grace Enterprises1652	Publisher Spotlight		Matthew Gollub Books & Dynamic	
Candlewick Press	Publishers Group West		Author Assemblies	1452
<i>Capstone</i>	Rainbow Book Company		Overlooked Books	
Cavendish Square1223	Random House, Inc 15		Peachtree Publishers, Ltd	
Charlesbridge2440	The RoadRunner Press		Perma-Bound Books	
Cherry Lake Publishing/	Rosen Publishing/Power Kids	2030	Publishers Group West	
Sleeping Bear Press2038	Rourke Publishing Group		Rainbow Book Company	
Children's Plus, Inc2514, 2515	Scholastic Book Fairs, Inc10		Rosen Publishing/Power Kids	
Child's Play1940	Scholastic Library Publishing Digital		Star Bright Books	
The Child's World Books2034	Scholastic Trade Books		Sylvan Dell Publishing	
Chronicle Books1832	Sebco Books		-	2237
Cinco Puntos Press1931	Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing	z1841	Foreign Language Books - Other	
Collaborative Summer Library Program1809	Sourcebooks, Inc	1132	Asia for Kids/Culture for Kids/	
Combined Book Exhibit1639	Southwest Book Company	2138	Master Comm	
Crabtree Publishing Company2009	Star Bright Books	1742	Child's Play	
The Creative Company2015	Sterling Publishing	1746	Mackin Educational Resources	
Davidson Titles, Inc1309	Sunflower Seeds Press		Overlooked Books	
Debbie Leland1555	Sylvan Dell Publishing		Star Bright Books	1742
<i>Debra Frasier</i> 1700	Teacher Created Materials Library		General Books	
Delaney Educational Enterprises, Inc2133	Tilbury House Publishers		Andrews McMeel Publishing	1647
Disney-Hyperion	Tor/Forge Books		Bayou Publishing	
DLB Educational Corporation1930	Tyndale House Publishers		Brodart Company	
Driving on the Right Side of the Road1455	Upstart		Cherry Lake Publishing/	1 12.)
Eerdmans Books for Young Readers1446	VIS Enterprises		Sleeping Bear Press	2038
Egmont USA	Weigl Publishers Inc.		Chronicle Books	
Enslow Publishers, Inc	White Bird Publications		Combined Book Exhibit	
Escue & Associates	Wild Horse Media Group		Firefly Books, Ltd	

Hachette Book Group1635	Escue & Associates2000	Boyds Mills Press1630
Half Price Books2241	Parkhurst Brothers Publishers1941	Brainstorm1909
HarperCollins Publishers1739	Seizure of the Moment2710	Candlewick Press1840
The History Press2311	Upstart1815	Capstone1613
Independent Publishers Group1141	VIS Enterprises1811	Cavendish Square1223
Ingram Content Group1922	•	Cherry Lake Publishing/
Keystone Books & Media1923	Journals	Sleeping Bear Press2038
Macmillan - Adult1438	Cover One	The Creative Company2015
Mason Crest, an imprint of National	EBSCO Information Services1215	Enslow Publishers, Inc2035
Highlights Inc2007	Education Week2443	Escue & Associates
Parkhurst Brothers Publishers1941	Emerald Group Publishing, Inc1001	
Penguin Group (USA)1541	The New York Times2617	Gareth Stevens Publishing, Inc2042
	Oxford University Press2527	Garrett Book Company1831
Penguin Young Readers Group1540/1543	SAGE and Adam Matthew1408	HarperCollins Children's Books1738
The Penworthy Company1234	Springer2410	HarperCollins Publishers1739
Publishers Group West1339	Taylor & Francis Group1349	The History Press2311
Random House, Inc 1530-1531	Tongfang Knowledge Network Technology2627	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt1730
The RoadRunner Press2510	University of Texas Press2134	Infobase Learning2014
Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing1841		James Lorimer & Company Ltd2240
Sourcebooks, Inc1132	Young Adult Library Services Association2441	Jump!1907
Texas Tech University Press1838	Large Print Books	Lerner Publishing Group1222
Tor/Forge Books1448	Gareth Stevens Publishing, Inc2042	Macmillan Children's Publishing Group 1439
University of Texas Press2134	Random House, Inc 1530-1531	Mason Crest, an imprint of National
U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services2642		Highlights Inc2007
Wild Horse Media Group2722	Library Science Texts	Pelican Publishing Company1323
World Book, Inc1009	ABC-CLIO2123	
	Enslow Publishers, Inc2035	Rosen Publishing/Power Kids2030
General Magazines	OCLC2130	Rourke Publishing Group1231
Boyds Mills Press1630	Unshelved2339	Scholastic Library Publishing Digital1622
Combined Book Exhibit1639	Literature and Criticism	Sebco Books2323
Education Week2443		Seizure of the Moment2710
WT Cox Information Services, Inc2231	Cinco Puntos Press	Sterling Publishing1740
•	Enslow Publishers, Inc	Teacher Created Materials Library2031
Government Documents	Gale Cengage Learning1023	Tyndale House Publishers1643
NewsBank, Inc	Literacy Kits	Weigl Publishers Inc1510
PolicyMap1101	Noodle Tools2715	Wild Horse Media Group2722
Texas State Library & Archives	World Book, Inc1009	White Bird Publications2610
Commission1208		
Graphic Novels	Manga	Out-Of-Print Books
ABDO2022/2023	Little, Brown Books for Young Readers1632	Half Price Books2241
Abrams Books for Young Readers/	Microfilm/fiche	Paperbacks
Amulet Books/Abrams Appleseed1447	<i>Indus MIS, Inc.</i> 2332	Albert Whitman & Company1548
Andrews McMeel Publishing1647	Stars Information Solutions2338	Bear's Flower
BiblioLabs2333		Bellwether Learning
Bloomsbury Children's Books1440	Music/Music Reference	Ö
Candlewick Press	Texas A&M University Press2141	Big Timber Book Club2010
Capstone	Mystery Books	Bloomsbury Children's Books1440
	Albert Whitman & Company1548	Boyds Mills Press1630
Chronicle Books1832		Charlesbridge2440
Crabtree Publishing Company2009	HarperCollins Publishers1739	The Creative Company2015
Disney-Hyperion1640	Orca Book Publishers	Disney-Hyperion1640
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt1730	The RoadRunner Press2510	Firefly Books, Ltd1538
Lerner Publishing Group1222	Tor/Forge Books1448	HarperCollins Children's Books1738
Macmillan Children's Publishing Group1439	White Bird Publications2610	Holiday House1432
Orca Book Publishers1547	Nonfiction	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt1730
Perma-Bound Books1515	#1 Private Tutor2411	Lectorum Publications, Inc1135
Publisher Spotlight1422	#1 Tribate 141072411 ABC-CLIO2123	Little, Brown Books for Young Readers1632
Publishers Group West1339		• •
Rourke Publishing Group1231	ABDO2022/2023	Mackin Educational Resources
Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing1841	Amicus	Macmillan Children's Publishing Group1439
Unshelved2339	Annick Press	Maverick Books, Inc1043
	Arte Público Press1633	Norwood House Press2008
Instructional Books	Bayou Publishing2239	Orca Book Publishers1547
#1 Private Tutor2411	Bearport Publishing2039	Peachtree Publishers, Ltd1435
Brain Hive, LLC1648	Bellwether Learning1909	Penguin Young Readers Group1540/1543
Crabtree Publishing Company2009	Bellwether Media1909	Sylvan Dell Publishing2235

Teacher Created Materials Library2031	Cherry Lake Publishing/	Annick Press2232
<i>Tor/Forge Books</i> 1448	Sleeping Bear Press2038	Arte Público Press1633
Tyndale House Publishers1643	<i>Springer</i>	Authors Tim Tingle and Greg Rodgers1830
Weigl Publishers Inc1510	Self Help Books	Big Timber Book Club2010
White Bird Publications2610	#1 Private Tutor2411	Bloomsbury Children's Books1440
	#1 1710ate 14107	Bound To Stay Bound Books1015
Poetry Books	Lectorum Publications, Inc	Candlewick Press1840
Bear's Flower	Peachtree Publishers, Ltd1435	Capstone1613
Boyds Mills Press		Cherry Lake Publishing/
Charleshiidae 2440	Small Press	Sleeping Bear Press2038
Charlesbridge	Arte Público Press1633	Children's Plus, Inc2514, 2515
HarperCollins Children's Books	Bayou Publishing2239	The Child's World Books2034
Norwood House Press 2008	By Grace Enterprises1652	Chronicle Books1832
Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing1841	Children's Plus, Inc2514, 2515	Cinco Puntos Press1931
Sourcebooks, Inc1132	Combined Book Exhibit1639	Collaborative Summer Library Program1809
Political Science Books	Gamadin Sci-Fi Adventure Book Series1927	The Creative Company2015
Parkhurst Brothers Publishers1941	Overlooked Books2522	Davidson Titles, Inc1309
Texas A&M University Press2141	Parkhurst Brothers Publishers1941	Delaney Educational Enterprises, Inc2133
Reference	The Penworthy Company1234	Disney-Hyperion1640
ABC-CLIO2123	The RoadRunner Press2510	DLB Educational Corporation1930
AtoZdatabases	Star Bright Books1742	Eerdmans Books for Young Readers1446
Bayou Publishing	Sports and Fitness Books	Egmont USA1646
Britannica Digital Learning1430	Bellwether Media	Enslow Publishers, Inc2035
Cavendish Square	Brainstorm 1909	Escue & Associates2000
The Child's World Books2034	James Lorimer & Company Ltd2240	Firefly Books, Ltd1538
Delaney Educational Enterprises, Inc2133	Norwood House Press	Gamadin Sci-Fi Adventure Book Series1927
DLB Educational Corporation1930	Rourke Publishing Group	Gareth Stevens Publishing, Inc2042
Firefly Books, Ltd	Tyndale House Publishers	Garrett Book Company1831
Gale Cengage Learning1023		Groundwood Books1339
Gareth Stevens Publishing, Inc2042	Subscription Agencies	Gumdrop Books2431
Gundrop Books2431	Basch Subscriptions Inc., A Prenax	Half Price Books2241
Infobase Learning2014	Company/The Reference Shelf2611	Harlequin Enterprises, Ltd1649
Junior Library Guild2315	EBSCO Information Services	HarperCollins Children's Books1738
Mason Crest, an imprint of National	Magazine Subscription Service Agency2531	Holiday House1432
Highlights Inc2007	Noodle Tools	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt1730
MyHeritage- WorldVitalRecords1932	WT Cox Information Services, Inc2231	Infobase Learning2014
National Federation of the Blind	Texana	James Lorimer & Company Ltd2240
of Texas, Newsline2340	Authors Tim Tingle and Greg Rodgers1830	Junior Library Guild2315
NewsBank, Inc1917	Debbie Leland1555	Keystone Books & Media1923
OCLC2130	The History Press2311	Lectorum Publications, Inc1135
Oxford University Press2527	Overlooked Books2522	Little, Brown Books for Young Readers 1632
Rainbow Book Company2109	Pelican Publishing Company1323	Macmillan Children's Publishing Group1439
Scholastic Library Publishing Digital 1622	Recorded Books, LLC1523	Mason Crest, an imprint of National
Sourcebooks, Inc1132	Rosen Publishing/Power Kids2030	Highlights Inc2007
Take Care of Texas2533	Texas A&M University Press2141	Orca Book Publishers1547
World Book, Inc1009	Texas Tech University Press1838	Peachtree Publishers, Ltd1435
Religion	University of Texas Press2134	Pelican Publishing Company1323
Eerdmans Books for Young Readers1446	VIS Enterprises1811	Penguin Young Readers Group1540/1543
Independent Publishers Group1141	Travel Books	Perma-Bound Books1515
Tyndale House Publishers		Publisher Spotlight1422
•	JGD Publishing LLC2313	Publishers Group West1339
Scholarly Books	University Presses	Rainbow Book Company2109
ABC-CLIO2123	the Book House, Inc2132	Random House, Inc
Independent Publishers Group1141	Oxford University Press2527	The RoadRunner Press2510
Oxford University Press2527	Texas A&M University Press2141	Rosen Publishing/Power Kids2030
SAGE and Adam Matthew1408	Texas Tech University Press1838	Rourke Publishing Group1231
Taylor & Francis Group1349	University of Texas Press2134	Scholastic Book Fairs, Inc1623/1723
Texas Tech University Press	Young Adult Books	Scholastic Trade Books
University of Texas Press2134	Abrams Books for Young Readers/	Sebco Books
Scientific and Technical Books	Amulet Books/Abrams Appleseed1447	Seizure of the Moment2710
the Book House, Inc2132	Albert Whitman & Company1548	Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing1841
	Amicus	Sourcebooks, Inc

Southwest Book Company2.	138 Bretford Manufacturing	1910	The Penworthy Company	1234
Sterling Publishing1	746 Brodart Company	1423	Piel Canela Peru Fair Trade	
Texas A&M University Press2			Organization	2727
Texas Tech University Press16			Stop Falling Productions	2731
Tor/Forge Books14			Rubber Stamps	
Townsend Press, Inc			•	2/12
White Bird Publications20			JP Cooke Company	2413
	Cayland Russ Inc		Security Systems	
<u>Equipment, Furniture, & Supplies</u>	S Hidell Associates Architects		3M Library Systems	1209
ADA Equipment			Demco	1713
Cultural Surroundings1	INDECO Sales / Maco Ma		DEMCO Interiors	
Spacesaver/Southwest Solutions Group1	224		Envision Ware	
Vance Hunt Libraries1	0/1		Library Interiors Of Texas	
	Biothing interiors of iemis.		mk Sorting Systems	
Archival Products	The Library Store, Inc		TRACSYSTEMS, inc	
BiblioLabs2		1247		2)50
CoLibri System North America Inc24	434 – Russwood Library Furnitur	re2623	Shelving	
DLSG at Image Access14		ions Group1334	A. Bargas & Associates, LLC	1426
Gaylord Bros., Inc1		2114	Bretford Manufacturing	1910
IImage Retrieval, Inc20		2423	Children's Factory	1807
KAPCO Book Protection1	• • •		Cultural Surroundings	
SAGE and Adam Matthew14			DEMCO Interiors	
University Products Inc	225		Gaylord Bros., Inc	
	Elbrary Fromononari		INDECO Sales / Maco Manufacturing	
Bookmarks/Reading Promotional Gift	ts Demco	1713	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Collaborative Summer Library Program16	809 Gale Cengage Learning	1023	Library Design Systems	
iREAD Summer Reading16	835 iREAD Summer Reading	1835	Library Interiors by Hoffman	
JP Cooke Company2-	413 JP Cooke Company	2413	Library Interiors Of Texas	
LibrarySkills, Inc1			The Library Store, Inc	
ReadingRacers.com2			Libra-Tech Corporation	
SJB Productions2			Russwood Library Furniture	2623
Spirit Monkey2-	_		Spacesaver/Southwest Solutions Group	1334
Upstart10			TESCO Industries, Inc	2114
Young Adult Library Services Association2	441	cs 11330ciuii0112 11 1	Trinity Library Resources	2423
10ung Aduli Library Services Association2	Microfilm Equipment		Vance Hunt Libraries	
Bookmobiles	Indus MIS, Inc	2332		
INDECO Sales / Maco Manufacturing1	131 Stars Information Solution.	s2338	Signs	. /
Book Repair	Zytron Imaging Services		Cultural Surroundings	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	, , ,		LibrarySkills, Inc.	
CoLibri System North America Inc2			Libra-Tech Corporation	
Cover One			Vance Hunt Libraries	1041
Demco	3		Specialty/Personal Items (Jewelry/	/
Gaylord Bros., Inc1		2626	Accessories/Misc.)	
KAPCO Book Protection1	MODILE STOLUTE		•	273/
University Products Inc1	335 A. Bargas & Associates, LL	C 1426	Amber Way Jewelry Company	
Carpet & Floor Coverings	Camcor, Inc		Claire Lynn Designs	2/38
DEMCO Interiors1			Majeza Jewelry Cleaner & PYT	27/2
	INDECO Sales / Maco Ma		Styling Tools	
Clothing	I:L	-	Karen & Company, LLC	
Frozen Light2	735 Library Design Systems		Seizure of the Moment	
The Gift Solution2	741 Library Interiors Of Texas		Silpada Designs Jewelry	
Maverick Books, Inc10	043 Libra-Tech Corporation		Silverleaf Resorts	
Piel Canela Peru Fair Trade	MultiCharger-X		Stop Falling Productions	2731
Organization2	727 Spacesaver/Southwest Solut	ions Group1334	Storage Systems	
Spirit Lala2,		ppiers.	A. Bargas & Associates, LLC	1426
Stop Falling Productions2,	731 Telephones, Fax)	J. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.	INDECO Sales / Maco Manufacturing	
	Electronics for Imaging – E	TEI 25/18	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Decorative Items – Artwork/Posters/			Library Design Systems	
Miscellaneous	FaxScan24 Fax & Scan Se		Spacesaver/Southwest Solutions Group	1334
Frozen Light2			Supplies	
LibrarySkills, Inc1		2530	Brodart Company	1423
Spirit Monkey24	435 Puppets		Children's Factory	
Furniture	Children's Factory	1807	CoLibri System North America Inc	
720 Design1	_ , , , _ ,		Demco	
A. Bargas & Associates, LLC1-			Gaylord Bros., Inc	
11. Durgus O 113301111183, LLC	120		Guywia Dios., 111	111)

JP Cooke Company	2413	Bookfair Services		Interlibrary Loan Services	
KAPCO Book Protection		Book Festivals of Texas	2443	Zytron Imaging Services	2626
The Library Store, Inc	2106	Scholastic Book Fairs, Inc		Libraries & Library Organizations	
University Products Inc	1335	Southwest Book Company		Austin Public Library	1310
Toys, Games, and Puzzles		Collection Development		CTLS, Inc	
Blocks Rock!	2535	Baker & Taylor/ YBP Library Seri	rices 2223	Harrington Library Consortium	
Children's Factory		BiblioLabs		LearningExpress, LLC	
Evanced Solutions		Brodart Company		Storybook Theatre	
iREAD Summer Reading		Davidson Titles, Inc		•	
Maverick Books, Inc		Follett		Library Schools	
ReadingRacers.com		Ingram Content Group		Sam Houston State University - Department of Library Science	1926
Spirit Monkey		Junior Library Guild		Texas Woman's University - School of	1/20
Upstart		OverDrive Inc		Library and Information Studies	1735
Services		Consultants		University of North Texas College of Information	2/26
Architects		720 Design	1331		2420
720 Design	1331	AWE		Library Promotion	
Dewberry Architects Inc		CTLS, Inc		EasyBib.com	
Godfrey's Associates, Inc		Dewberry Architects Inc		Half Price Books	2241
Hidell Associates Architects		Elizabeth Ellis, Storyteller		H-E-B Read 3: Grow Young Minds,	1021
Komatsu Architecture		Godfrey's Associates, Inc		Read 3 Times a Week	
Pro Forma Architecture, Inc		Harrington Library Consortium		LearningExpress, LLC	
		Hidell Associates Architects		ReadingRacers.com	2343
Associations		Library Interiors Of Texas		Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators - Texas Chapters	1942
Young Adult Library Services Asso	ciation2441	Libra-Tech Corporation			,1)72
Author Visits		mk Sorting Systems		Literacy & Teaching Aids	
Authors Tim Tingle and Greg Roa	lgers1830	Pro Forma Architecture, Inc		AWE	1409
Book Festivals of Texas	-	Storyteller, Dan Gibson	1500	Billingual Storyteller, Consuelo	1/01
Debbie Leland	1555	Texas State Library and Archives		Samarripa	
Debra Frasier	1700	Commission	1208	EasyBib.com Evanced Solutions	
Gamadin Sci-Fi Adventure Book		Vance Hunt Libraries	1041	H-E-B Read 3: Grow Young Minds,	1707
JGD Publishing LLC		Database Conversion		Read 3 Times a Week	1031
Julian Franklin-Library Rat		L4U Library Software	2242	Humanities Texas	
Lucas Miller, Singing Zoologist		Mitinet Library Services		iREAD Summer Reading	
Martha Hannah, Medieval Come		Database Preparation		LearningExpress, LLC	
& Stand-Up Historian		MARCIVE, Inc	23/12	Matthew Gollub Books & Dynamic	
Matthew Gollub Books & Dynam Author Assemblies	iic 1/52	Mitinet Library Services		Author Assemblies	1452
SJB Productions			2 44 2	National Federation of the Blind	22/0
Society of Children's Book Writers		Facilities Management		of Texas, Newsline	
llustrators - Texas Chapters		720 Design		Noodle Tools	
Sue Young, Bilingual Storyteller		Envision Ware		Recorded Books, LLC	
Sunflower Seeds Press		Pro Forma Architecture, Inc	1241	Renaissance Learning	
TeachingBooks.net		Financial Services		TeachingBooks.net	
Wow Productions		Frost Insurance	1102	Vocabulary.com	2191
Book Binderies		Mergent, Inc	2335	Moving Companies	
Cover One	1024	Foreign Language Program		Library Design Systems	
Northern Micrographics		Mango Languages	_	Vance Hunt Libraries	1041
5 .	24,72	Sue Young, Bilingual Storyteller		Nonprofit Organization	
Book Wholesalers	. 2222			Book Festivals of Texas	
Baker & Taylor/YBP Library Serv		Fundraising	2010	Boy Scouts of America	
Big Timber Book Club		Big Timber Book Club		Collaborative Summer Library Program	
Brodart Company		Deanan Gourmet Popcorn		CTLS, Inc	
Children's Plus, Inc		Gamaain Sci-Fi Aaventure Book S Hidell Associates Architects		Education Week	
		Komatsu Architecture		FamilySearch	
Follett		NameFrames		Garcia Vasquez Enterprises	
Garrett Book Company				iREAD Summer Reading	1835
Ingram Content Group Junior Library Guild		Pearls With Purpose Foundation ReadingRacers.com		National Federation of the Blind of Texas, Newsline	22/0
OverDrive Inc		Silpada Designs Jewelry			
The Penworthy Company		Southwest Book Company		National Library of Medicine Pearls With Purpose Foundation	
ine i chworing Company	1434	Sounder Dook Company		1 cars with 1 arpose 1 ounaution	2/70

Piel Canela Peru Fair Trade Organization2727
PolicyMap1101
Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators - Texas Chapters1942
Seminars, Conferences and Speakers
Amigos Library Services2230
Book Festivals of Texas2443
Elizabeth Ellis, Storyteller1943
Frost Insurance
Martha Hannah, Medieval Comedienne
& Stand-Up Historian1301
National Library of Medicine1915
Renaissance Learning
Society of Children's Book Writers
and Illustrators - Texas Chapters1942
Storybook Theatre
Storyteller, Kim Lehman1943
Sue Young, Bilingual Storyteller2211
Sunflower Seeds Press1655
Texas Book Festival
Unshelved2339
Special Collections
The Creative Company2015
FamilySearch2422
Northern Micrographics2432
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
Commission1208
State/Government Agencies
Texas State Library and Archives
Texas State Library and Archives Commission1208
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
Texas State Library and Archives Commission1208
Texas State Library and Archives Commission

T.A.K.S. Presentations	
Billingual Storyteller, Consuelo	
Samarripa	1401
Storybook Theatre	1602
TLA Units & Events	
TLA 2015 Austin	2639
TLA Black Caucus Round Table	2541
TLA Exhibitor Round Table (ERT)	1700
TLA New Members Round Table	2542
TLA Public Libraries Division	2641
TLA Reference Round Table	2539
TLA Small Community Libraries	
Round Table	2540
TLA Texas Authors and Illustrators	
Interest Group	2526
-	

Training & Teacher Inservices	
Billingual Storyteller, Consuelo	
Samarripa	.1401
Elizabeth Ellis, Storyteller	.1943
Martha Hannah, Medieval Comedienne	
& Stand-Up Historian	.1301
Renaissance Learning	.1322
Storybook Theatre	
Storyteller, Kim Lehman	.1943
Sue Young, Bilingual Storyteller	
Sunflower Seeds Press	.1655
TeachingBooks.net	
Texserve	.2330
U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services	.2642
Young Adult Library Services	
Association	.2441

POST-CONFERENCE RESOURCES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON WWW.TXLA.ORG

- Handouts
- Buyers Guide
- 2015 Housing
- Conference Evaluation

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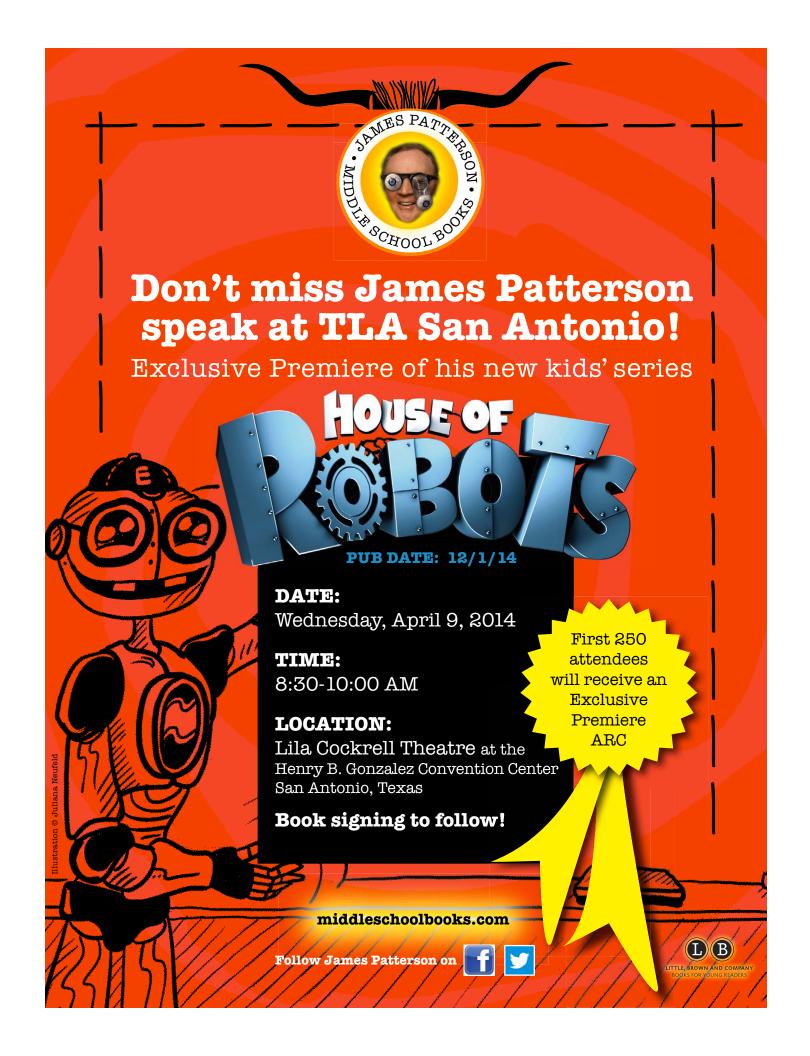
Make room on your calendar for:

APRIL 14-17



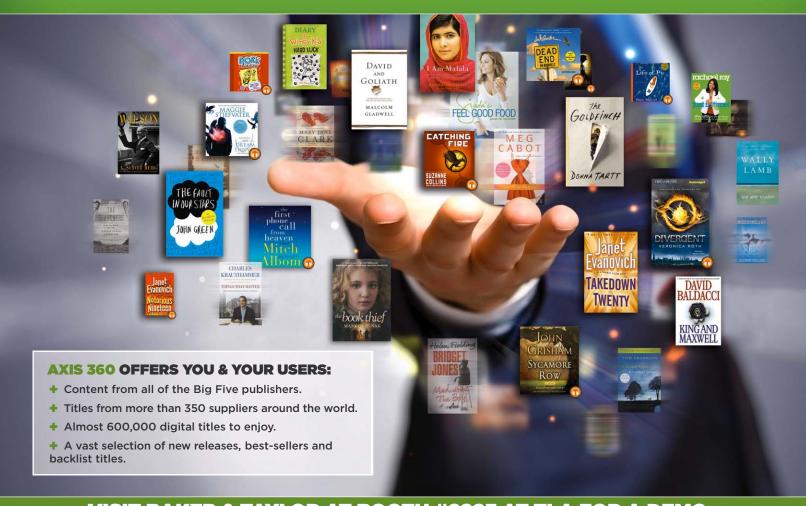
TLJ 90:1 Advertisers

AASL	Inside Front Cover
Albert Whitman & COompany(воот	тн 1548)4
Baker & Taylor/YBP Library Services (BOOT	тн 2223) Outside Back Cover
Boyds Mills Press(BOOT	тн 1630)3
Carpets for Kids	13
Lerner Publishing Group(воот	тн 1222)19
Little, Brown / James Patterson(BOOT	тн 1632) Inside Back Cover
NFB of Texas, Newsline(воот	тн 2340)15
On the Avenue Marketing	17
PBS	14
Penguin Young Readers Group (воотн 15	540/43)2
Роіісу Мар(воот	тн 1101)5
Texas Woman's University(BOOT	тн 1735)9
University of Texas Press(BOOT	тн 2134)7



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