

TEXAS LIBRARY JOURNAL

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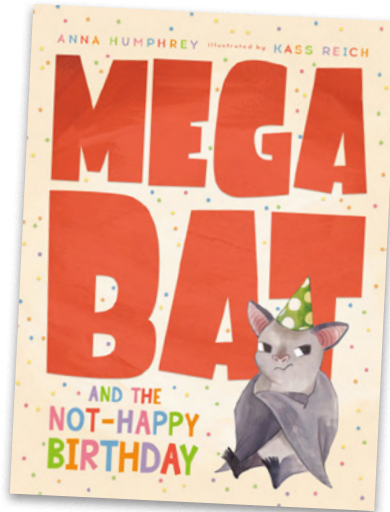
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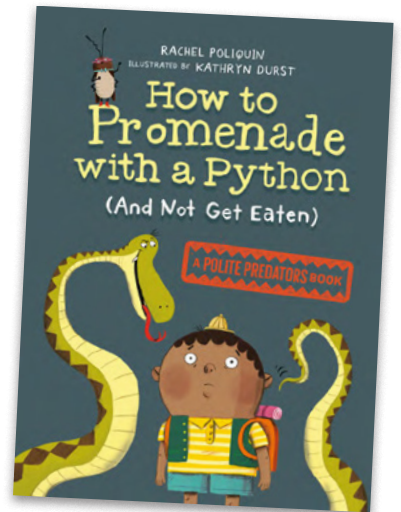
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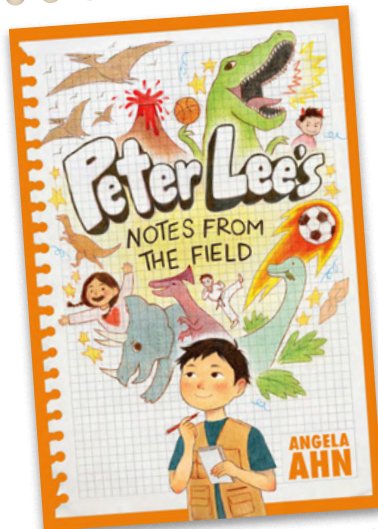
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President's Perspective

By Christina Gola

SPRINGTIME IS CONFERENCE TIME

Ah springtime...there is a lot I love about, and look forward to, during springtime. The warmer days, extended day light, bluebonnets, and spring break vacation. And of course, the TLA Annual Conference! What is not to love about TLA 2021, have you seen our lineup of speakers?

We have diverse voices, perspectives, messages, and more. This year's lineup reflects our conference theme to *Celebrate Differences* and *Empower Voices*. Each keynote brings insights into how we are different, and how we can build bridges. I hope that you are as excited as I am.

As you explore conference, April 22-24, I hope that you will enjoy the amazing virtual environment that offers chat rooms, a photo booth, and over 200 educational sessions. And I hope you won't miss the All Conference Read, headlined by our closing keynote, Attica Locke. Look for many opportunities to engage in conversation about Attica Locke's current novels, *Heaven My Home* and *Bluebird*, *Bluebird* throughout conference, and then join us on Saturday afternoon to reflect and hear about what her stories can teach us about the themes explored throughout conference.

SPRINGTIME IS ALSO ADVOCACY TIME

In addition to conference, this spring I am eager to remind you about another major benefit of your TLA membership, and that's the value of advocacy. Every two years, when the Texas Legislature is back in session, TLA advocacy kicks into high gear. Wendy Woodland, TLA's director of advocacy and communications, and members of the TLA Legislative Committee closely monitor Texas House and Senate bills that could potentially impact libraries. When we need to, we advocate in support of, or against bills. And we invite key members to comment or testify at hearings.

This year, we have a legislative agenda focused on Access, Education, and Economic Development. These three key areas were developed by the TLA Legislative Committee with input from other stakeholders. Interestingly enough, this agenda was formed prior to the impact of the pandemic. While these issues were important before the pandemic, the pandemic has heightened their importance. Particularly that of universal access to broadband and low-cost educational resources. The pandemic has made access a much more urgent issue



and is at the forefront of the minds of legislators and our community members. I am hopeful that we will see some progress come out of this year's legislative session.

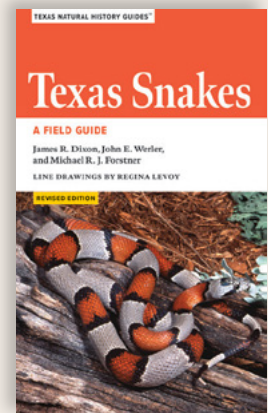
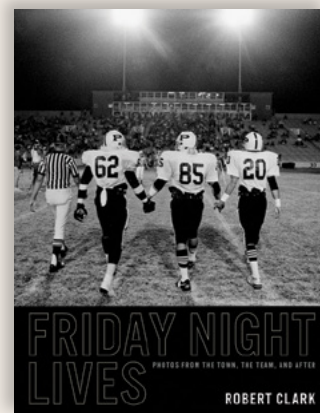
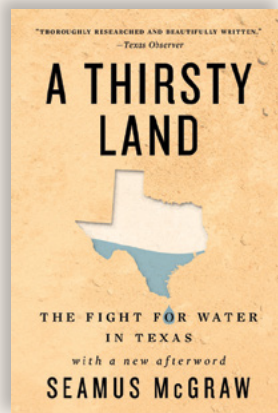
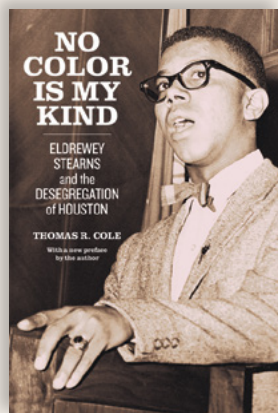
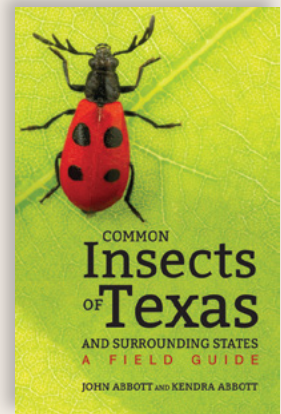
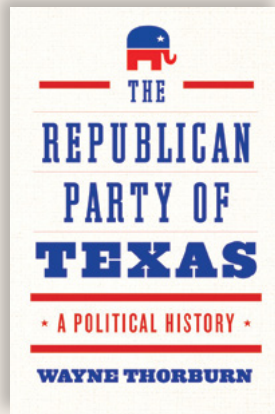
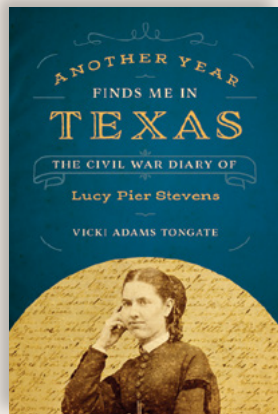
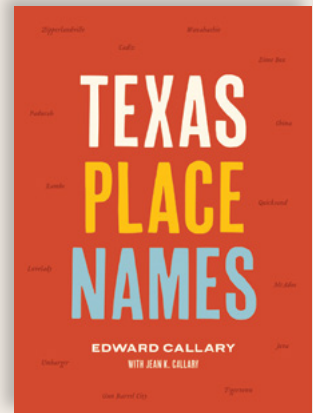
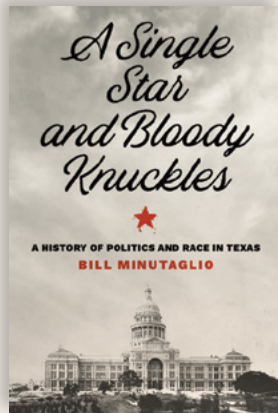
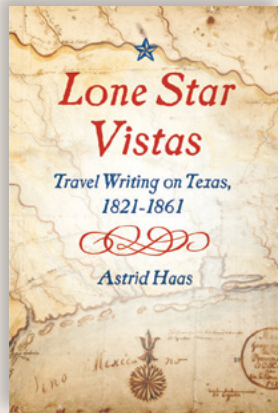
This is a great time to remind you that it is your stories that make advocacy successful. I know many of you provided access to broadband, e-resources, and open education resources during the pandemic to make up for school and building closures. These services have helped many people through the pandemic and exposed the inequities that our government leaders need to help address. It all starts with you. You can help by connecting with your local leaders, building relationships, sharing your stories, and helping us advocate for access!

AND TIME FOR THANKS!

Springtime also means a transition in TLA leadership. At the end of conference, I will transition to Past-President, and my dear friend and colleague Dan Burgard will assume the role of President. Certainly this last year did not go as planned and it has had its challenges. But it has also been a tremendously unforgettable and rewarding journey. And it has all been because of the amazing members and staff that drive TLA forward. More than any other year in TLA, members have exemplified the value and strength of our network. The pandemic created so many unknowns, with no playbook on how to respond. So many of you stepped up and shared your expertise and resources. We learned from one another through trial and error, we connected members with medical and safety tips and experts, and we shared resources openly and collaboratively. I can't thank YOU enough! For giving me an opportunity to serve you and lead this organization, to learn from you and become a better leader, and for this wonderful experience. Thank you TLA!

Christina H. Gola
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Texas on Texas



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TLA Legislative Update: What You Need to Know

By Wendy Woodland

THE PACE OF ACTIVITY AT THE TEXAS CAPITOL IS PICKING UP.

We've seen some movement on bills affecting Texas libraries and regarding broadband access. March 12 was the deadline to file bills and there are a little over seven weeks left until the 87th Legislative Session adjourns on May 31.

Here are highlights of some of the bills which **TLA is tracking**. For full text of the bills, visit [Texas Legislature Online](#).

SB 1, the appropriations bill, included \$71 million requested by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC). The agency had several exceptional items in their budget request, including one for \$3.75 million that would directly support Texas libraries.

The Senate Finance Committee recommended that the \$3.75 million request be put in Article XI, which means that it was not funded as part of the budget but was not rejected.

The House Appropriations Committee, however, included the \$3.75 million in the TSLAC budget. *This is a very positive step and one that would not have happened without the advocacy of TLA members who reached out to their elected officials serving on the Appropriations committee.*

HB 1381 would give TSLAC explicit authority to award grants for public library construction and renovation. Currently, the state library is statutorily prohibited from awarding grants for this purpose. TLA's Legislative Committee Chair, Gretchen Pruett, testified at the House hearing on the bill which was left pending in committee.

SB 5 and **HB 5** are the omnibus broadband bills which establish a statewide broadband development office, require a statewide broadband plan, direct the broadband office to create and publish a map identifying areas of the state where 80 percent of addresses have access to broadband (and those areas where they do not), and create a broadband development program to award grants, low-interest loans, and other financial incentives to expand access to and adoption of broadband.

Both bills have been passed by committee and are expected to be on the Senate and House floor the first week of April. TLA is a member of [Digital Texas](#) which is working broaden the scope/work of the broadband office and the broadband plan to address digital access, adoption, and readiness via floor amendments.

HB 220 establishes resource campuses to improve public schools that are not performing satisfactorily. We reached out to the bill's author, Representative Diego Bernal, to ask that certified school librarians are included as part of the



campus evaluation team and as a required staff position on the campus.

HB 1811 would require the State Board of Education (SBOE) to create standards for online school library resources purchased by TSLAC for primary and secondary schools. TSLAC would be prohibited from purchasing any online school library resources from vendors that do not certify compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). TLA strongly opposes this bill which establishes duplicative, inefficient, and unnecessary processes.

HB 749 would prohibit political subdivisions, such as school districts, cities, and counties, from hiring individuals who lobby or paying associations that primarily represent political subdivisions that employ lobbyists. As written, this bill does not technically seem to apply to TLA as our membership is not primarily political subdivisions; however, the risk is that if this bill passes those entities could decide not to pay dues to any associations which employ lobbyists. TLA is working with other associations in opposition to this bill.

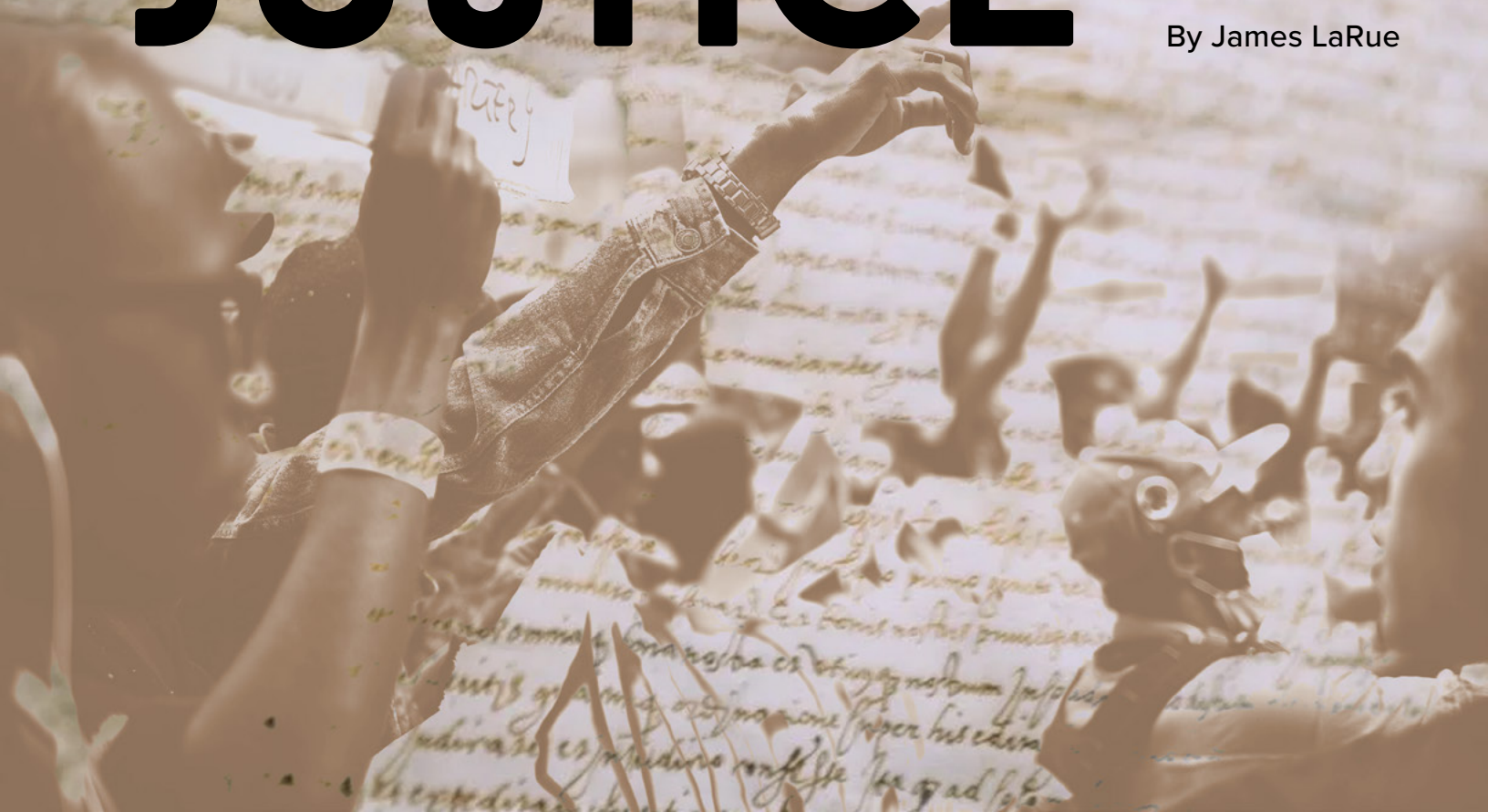
As bills continue to move through the process, TLA will reach out to you to ask for your advocacy and support. It is critical that legislators hear from us about the importance of libraries, and the essential role they play in all communities.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

- AND -

SOCIAL JUSTICE

By James LaRue



Many intellectual
freedom
aficionados also
value social justice.
Many avowed social
justice advocates
are fiercely opposed
to censorship. But
even when we share
those values, we
may not prioritize
them the same way.

Embedding professional values takes time, and grows from social context

Professions are predicated on values. In 1892, the American Library Association (ALA) was guided by this modest motto: “The best books for the most people at the least cost.”¹

In 1938, Des Moines Public Library Director Forrest Spaulding noted that, “Today indications in many parts of the world point to growing intolerance, suppression of free speech and censorship affecting the rights of minorities and individuals.”² Among those indications was the rise of Hitler in Germany, Mussolini in Italy, and Stalin in the Soviet Union. Books under attack in Des Moines eventually included *Mein Kampf* (anti-Semitic) and *Grapes of Wrath* (communist). In response, Spaulding pitched a “Library’s Bill of Rights” to his board. In 1939, it was revised and adopted by the council of the American Library Association. Since then, it has been adopted by many libraries.

That marked the true beginning of intellectual freedom as a core value of librarianship. It also may have reflected a dawning social justice awareness: People had the right, and perhaps the obligation, to investigate what was going on in the world the better to prevent human tragedy and oppression.

Social Justice or Social Responsibility (an outgrowth of the civil rights movement and student activism) also has a long history in librarianship. The core tenets of Social Justice as a rising value in librarianship seem to trace their origin to Critical Race Theory (CRT). In the mid-1970s, CRT was proposed by African American legal scholars³ who argued that the history of race relations in the United States, poisoned by the enslavement of Africans, was so pernicious and systemic that it constituted a special case; First Amendment protections should not apply to racist speech. Eventually, this area of writing and research generated many of the terms we now use to discuss Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI): white privilege, unconscious bias, microaggressions, and systemic racism in many institutions, pointedly including the law. Critical Race Theory also included the need to transform society through principled resistance, through calling out racist or bigoted behavior, and through being better allies to marginalized people.

And just as intellectual freedom had the social context of World War II, followed by McCarthyism, followed by student protests against an unpopular war, so too did social justice. In the 21st century alone it ranged from anti-Milo Yiannopoulos protests at Berkeley to the Black Lives Matter protests following a series of high-profile murders of Black men, women, and teenagers by police.

Social justice, like intellectual freedom, now has official library committees that embrace the cause, boasts many professional speeches and writings, has established its own office (of Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services) at ALA, and shares emerging best practices.

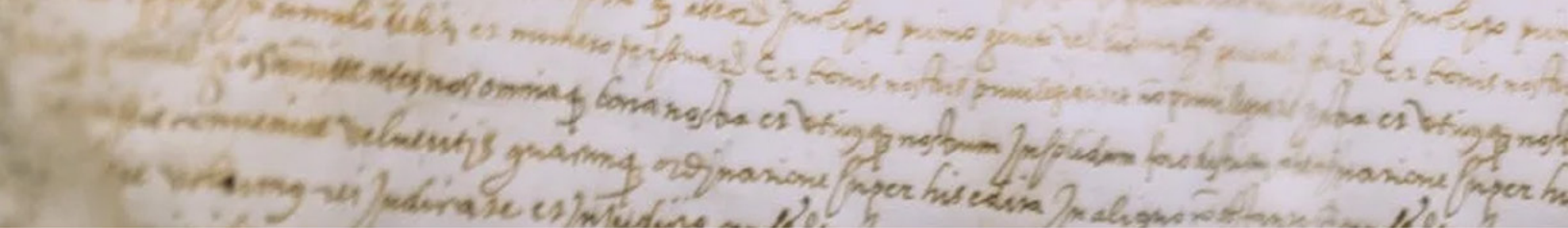
Is there room for two values in librarianship? Yes.

We can share values, and have different priorities

Many intellectual freedom aficionados also value social justice. Many avowed social justice advocates are fiercely opposed to censorship. But even when we share those values, we may not prioritize them the same way.

Our priorities can be driven by personal experience (being a Black or Queer librarian, for examples), by social context (what is happening as one comes of age), or community politics (municipal or county power struggles, or race relations, for instance).

But while there is certainly tension at times between the two values, I do not believe that they are really, at base, *opposed*. The purpose of free speech is greater individual and social freedom, and something we talk too little about these days: The Common Good. Before groups can advocate for a more just society, they must have the ability to meet, to speak, and to plumb both past and emerging literature. Indeed, that gathering and speaking is part of the advocacy. Others, of course, will advocate for their views, too.



In libraries, Intellectual Freedom serves Social Justice

I reject the idea that the First Amendment is a tool of oppression *in libraries*. One need only review OIF's annual "most challenged" list⁴ to see the stark truth: Overwhelmingly, challenges against American libraries tend to concentrate on works by or about traditionally marginalized populations. Works like *The Hate U Give*, *George*, or *Drama* which express sympathetic portrayals of Black and Queer experience, for example.

It is clear that those libraries that have adopted the Library Bill of Rights, that have a Collection Policy and a Request for Reconsideration process, that reach out for support from OIF, are better positioned to resist those challenges. In libraries, our policies and practices do not use the idea of intellectual freedom to suppress social justice--rather, to defend it. This has been the case since the OIF's founding.

Can we learn to
talk about the
issues with our
communities, and
with each other, in
ways that promote
understanding
rather than
confrontation?

How we talk to each other matters

When I became a librarian, the defense of intellectual freedom was suffused with righteous anger and indignation. Intellectual freedom heroes got awards. Librarians who backed down - when we knew about it (and usually we didn't) - could expect harsh criticism from other librarians.

Then I became a library director. My library wound up dealing with 250 challenges over the space of 24 years. In the process, I realized that a pugnacious free speech warrior stance, in my very conservative county, would be institutional suicide. I learned that you don't change people's minds by yelling at them. But you do lose their support. Moreover, after a lot of careful thought, I realized that times had changed. My library's challenges weren't always, weren't even usually, ideological. They were emotional, clustering around materials and services for children between the ages of 4-6, and 14-16.

By then I was a parent, too. Those ages are key transitions in the life of your offspring: from toddlerhood to childhood, and from childhood to adulthood. The unifying concern was love and loss and grief; parents stepped in defensively to "protect the innocence" of children they had trouble letting go of.

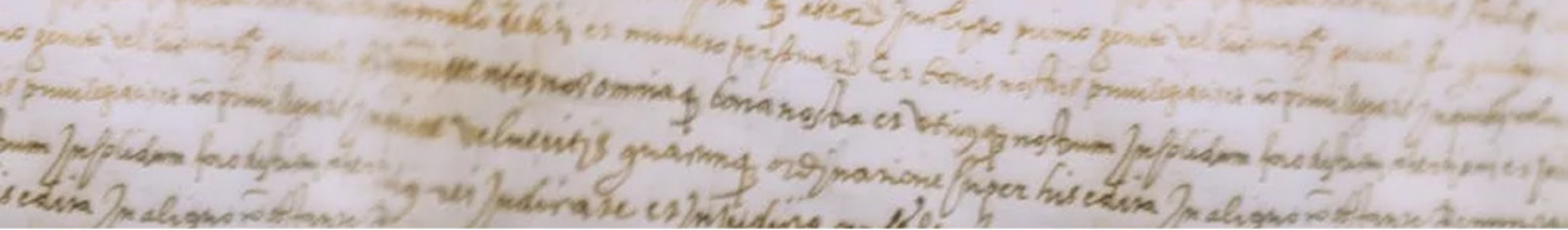
That realization of the emotional context of challenges profoundly changed the way I talked and thought about censorship. Now I could listen more deeply and compassionately to the parents, focusing more on reassurance than confrontation. Children do, mostly, absorb their parents' values. And it doesn't take much reflection to see that it's safer to prepare yourself for conflict by reading about it in the safety of the library, than encountering it for the first time on the streets.

Many new library directors, deeply passionate about social justice issues, wind up in rural public libraries, most of which trend conservative.⁵ Those communities don't like being lectured to, either. Can we learn to talk about the issues with our communities, and with each other, in ways that promote understanding rather than confrontation?

We must diversify our collections and staff

The conversation among librarians will probably continue with some tension, and that's ok. But maintaining professional courtesy and personal goodwill, as important as they are, are not as key as the two areas libraries must address in the next decade. Neither problem is new. Both problems have proven thus far intractable to our best efforts.

The first is the diversity of our collections.⁶ The Big Four publishers have many of the same problems as libraries. They hire people like themselves (mostly white) and



those people acquire books that appeal to themselves. Bottom line: our collections are not much more diverse than they were 20 years ago, although there is some modest progress at least in children's publishing.⁷ I believe the only solution is to ramp up our purchases from self-published authors, and cultivate those authors locally. People who can't find books about people like themselves conclude that libraries aren't relevant to them. As our communities continue to diversify, that becomes an existential threat to ongoing support. But we should be telling the whole human story anyhow.

The second is the diversity of our staff.⁸ Again, the less we look like our communities, the less likely it is that we matter to them. We need to appeal sooner and younger to people of color. It's just easier to recruit somebody early, and then help them get a degree, than to wait for them to run the gauntlet of library school and come looking for us.

Our culture needs us

I often tell the story of the Darby (MT) Community Public Library, in which the library director managed a controversial "Muslim Journey" program with great thoughtfulness.⁹ Her efforts were rewarded with participants that spoke of their thirst for meaningful conversation, and their gratitude for finding it at the library.

I also have spoken with a number of young librarians, entering the profession as advocates for social justice, who offer extraordinary programs, and in the process become both more expert, more inclusive, and less strident. That was my experience with IF outreach, too.

Many Americans are weary of endless culture wars, of perpetual outrage, and of a world view that focuses only on being right, instead of being kind, friendly, or curious.

Our culture, whether local, regional, or national, needs us. And we librarians need each other.

James LaRue is the owner of Denver-based consulting firm LaRue & Associates, and previously served as executive director of both the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, and the Freedom to Read Foundation.

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Advocacy in Action



By Nicole Robinson and Valerie Tagoe

The American Library Association (ALA) Policy Corps is composed of librarians from across the country, who work in school, public, academic, and special libraries and who are devoted to advocacy on library policy issues. The Corps goes beyond calling upon librarians writing and calling representatives to vote for a bill. The aim is to have a strong contingent of librarians across the profession who are actively advocating for library policy at the national, state, and local levels.

In 1938, Des Moines Public Library Director Forrest Spaulding noted that, "Today indications in many parts of the world point to growing intolerance, suppression of free speech and censorship affecting the rights of minorities and individuals."² Among those indications was the rise of Hitler in Germany, Mussolini in Italy, and Stalin in the Soviet Union. Books under attack in Des Moines eventually included *Mein Kampf* (anti-Semitic) and *Grapes of Wrath* (communist). In response, Spaulding pitched a "Library's Bill of Rights" to his board. In 1939, it was revised and adopted by the council of the American Library Association. Since then, it has been adopted by many libraries.

These librarians are equipped to speak to legislators and write about policy issues and cultivate a network of librarians who can help to ensure the

continuation and expansion of libraries as well as the vital services, programs, and resources that they provide throughout the nation. The Corps, which began in 2018 as an initiative of 2017-2018 ALA President Jim Neal, requires a five-year commitment to advocacy. After the first year, policy corps members may be called upon to approach key legislative decision from their respective states regarding library funding and other critical issues that libraries and library workers face.

ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the importance of libraries and the programs, services, and work they do in communities. Each sector of librarianship faces challenges and requires funding, resources, technology, tools, and support to carry the work of libraries forward. The work that the

“As a library professional, you can lead from wherever you are in the organization. No matter your title or tenure, everyone at any level, can contribute and effect change within their library and community.”

ALA Policy Corps does seeks to bring awareness to issues facing all types of libraries and how policy making, and legislative action can benefit libraries and the communities they serve. Legislators need to see the tangible, real-life, in-person benefits of the bills they sponsor and pass. Corps members spearhead that awareness making programs, initiatives, funding come to life through sharing stories and first-hand accounts about how library legislation, funding, and programs have made a difference in towns and cities across the country.

CONNECTIONS WITH KEY DECISION MAKERS

The Policy Corps helps library advocates identify who the key decision makers are or who they will be in relationship to various issues that will be tackled in the legislative agenda. The Corps trains cohort members to identify a key request (be it continued funding for IMLS, or support for new legislation such as the Build America's Libraries Act) and communicate how funding and legislation will impact their communities.

Legislators need to see and hear how funding decisions and legislation impact the people they serve. These connections are not only beneficial in the present, but are important in the future as when new technologies are developed, and additional needs and services are identified.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM ALA POLICY CORPS

The lessons learned from involvement with ALA Policy Corps have been many, but the most profound lesson is the knowledge that as a library professional, you can lead from wherever you are in the organization. No matter your title or tenure, everyone at any level, can contribute and effect change within their library and community. ALA Policy

Corps members represent all levels of the organizations they serve, and each member is critical in their role to elevate and accelerate advocacy efforts on behalf of libraries.

To effect that change, diverse representation and engagement is necessary year-round. Whether it is

organizing a train-the-trainer session for staff to become library ambassadors, attending a local council public session to advocate for more library resources or attending a local neighborhood community meeting where community priorities are being discussed – we need library staff to be engaged and represented to promote the value of libraries and the difference libraries make in the lives of the people they serve.

ALA Policy Corps is centered on deepening policy engagement at all levels of government and accomplishing this goal requires diverse representation. Diverse representation

The Opportunity to Advocate is Always There

By Nicole Robinson

Being a member of ALA Policy Corps has empowered me in a multitude of ways and I am grateful for the experience and the infusion of learning, which has greatly enriched my advocacy journey in support of libraries. In addition to understanding that leadership in advocacy can happen no matter what level you are employed at in the library, I have learned many other valuable lessons. One lesson that I have put into action as a policy corps member is that the opportunity to advocate is always knocking, you just have to be in position and ready to open the door!

For example, in September 2020, a pivotal period during the pandemic (the beginning of the school year) where the inequities of the digital divide were amplified and exposed the harsh reality of that disparity's impact on the education of millions of Texas students, Texas Senator John Cornyn wrote an op-ed addressing this issue.

In brief, the op-ed highlighted the bipartisan ACCESS the Internet Act he authored which would provide critical emergency broadband relief. A key component of the op-ed was the acknowledgement of libraries and our role in promoting connectivity and the inclusion of funding to libraries to further this work. The op-ed served as an opportunity to elevate the critical role that all libraries, including the 875 public libraries in the state of Texas, have played in the last three decades, in constantly advancing digital equity.

Thus, at the request of the ALA Public Policy & Advocacy Office, I provided a response letter to Senator Cornyn inviting him to partner with libraries to explore how libraries can be included as part of the evolving broadband public agenda. Thanks to the support network of the ALA Public Policy & Advocacy team and cohort members coupled with the policy corps training and resources, I was able to build on my expertise which put me in position and ready to respond to this opportunity. The outcome was a request from Senator Cornyn for me to spearhead the convening of library leaders across Texas for a future virtual assembly to discuss this proposition.



This is a Pivotal Time for Libraries

By Valerie Tagoe

I was appointed to the ALA Policy Corps at the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. Most of our work has been through virtual monthly meetings where librarians discussed access to broadband, funding for digital textbooks for K-12 schools, the digital divide and other issues related to the pandemic. We also participated in a study of the book *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies* 2nd Edition by John W. Kingdon which outlines policy formation.

This was extremely informative as there are many opportunities for policy formation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In January 2021, a school library working group was created with members of all three ALA Policy Corp cohorts to discuss an advocacy agenda for school libraries. I am looking forward to seeing what the school library working group will accomplish, and the organizations that we will partner with to create proposals.

This is a pivotal time for libraries and the transformative power we possess to advance equity and education, and advocacy is at the heart of these efforts. While there is strength in our collective impact, it is important to remember that no matter the total number, it all starts with one. The time is now to get involved. Let's represent Texas in the next ALA Policy Corp cohort!



in the type of libraries engaged in the work, the geographic footprint of those libraries, and even more importantly, in the individuals from those libraries engaged to do the work. To support application of this premise, ALA Policy Corps empowers and equips policy members to utilize their knowledge, skills, and abilities to advance library priorities in a way that is meaningful locally, regionally, and nationally.

The effort begins with the passionate and dedicated team of experts from the ALA Public Policy & Advocacy Office who, among other roles, serve as policy mentors and navigators and help guide policy corps members through the nuances of the political system. Interactive workshops and webinars from subject matter experts focus on the key national library policy areas. These sessions provide strategic information and resources that enhance

knowledge on public policy issues, in turn fostering a more robust, targeted response in addressing those issues.

Engagement with other policy corps cohorts facilitate the exchange of shared strategies that strengthen and support advocacy efforts. Finally, legislative alerts, templates and tools help to equip policy corps members with the evidence-based research, real-time data and information about state and federal legislation that is needed to strategically cultivate and encourage stakeholder engagement among key groups and help to increase awareness and visibility of libraries as community partners. Significant to note, the latter are resources that are available not just to ALA Policy Corps members, but to any individual advocating for libraries.

In a statement last spring, then-ALA President Wanda Brown said, "As the number of Policy Corps members

grows, so does the power and strength of our overall network for library advocacy across all library types. As our libraries--and the nation--struggle to respond to the current COVID-19 crisis, we know our advocacy for libraries and our values will be even more critical in the months of economic shock and recovery that will certainly follow."

In 2021, the role of the Corps continues to be an important and relevant one. To learn more about participating in the Corps, visit the [ALA Policy Corps website](#).

Nicole Robinson is the Deputy Director of Administration, Strategic Partnerships & Initiatives at Houston Public Library, and a member of the 2019 ALA Policy Corps.

Valerie Tagoe is the librarian at Wilmer-Hutchins High School in Dallas and a member of the 2020 ALA Policy Corps.

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Special thanks to **Terri Harkey** at Furr Elementary in McKinney, TX., **Krista Britton** at Wright Elementary & Williams Intermediate School, Perryton, TX., **Jenny Sprague** at Sycamore Springs Elementary in Austin, TX., **Darby Pilgrim** at Willow Bend Elementary in Lubbock, **Margaret Resendez** at Bebensee Elementary in Arlington, TX., and to **Jacqui Bridges-Sheppherd** for bringing *THE PUMPKIN WAR* to all their students!

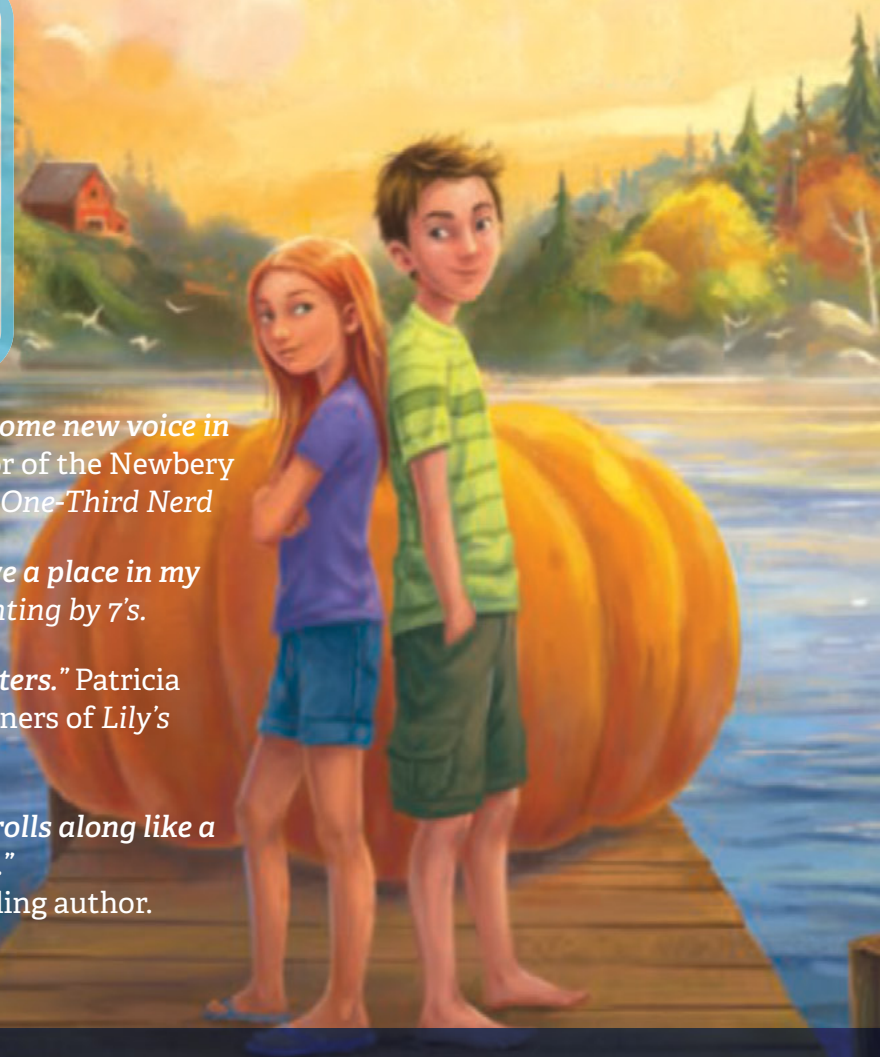
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In this undated photo from the HCPL Digital Archive, a woman and young children read in front of Garden Villas Branch Library. Photo credit: HCPL Digital Archive

Harris County Public Library Celebrates 100 Years

By Michele Chan Santos

HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY (HCPL), WHICH SERVES THE HOUSTON AREA AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES, WAS FOUNDED IN 1921 when Lucy Fuller, its first head librarian, was given \$6500 to stock library shelves in post offices, schools, businesses and private homes. This year, HCPL celebrates its 100th anniversary. In the century since its founding, the library system has grown to encompass 26 branches, two technology service centers, two partner locations, five mobile outreach vehicles and a total collection of more than 1.8 million items. The most recent census data shows that Harris County is now the third most populous county in the United States, with a population of more than 4.7 million.

HCPL librarians began planning more than 18 months ago to celebrate this important anniversary. Things were going smoothly – and then the pandemic hit, requiring organizers to do a great deal of re-planning. The resultant all-virtual celebrations are a feat of creativity and accessibility that honor the past decades of the various branch libraries as well as encouraging participation from across the Houston area.

Linda Stevens, HCPL division director of programs, partnership and outreach shared that, once the pandemic hit, “We realized we had to make the whole thing digital.” “We started writing scripts. In our administrative offices much of the space is now a video studio. Each month in 2021, we celebrate a decade and do a

video to go along with that.”

Through social media and the HCPL web site, patrons can view the monthly videos marking each decade, monthly musical performances (also in conjunction with the decade theme), and a digital archive featuring photos and materials from all the branches from the 1920s through now.

For example, in February, composers Damien Sneed and Paul Cornish wrote a special piece of music commemorating HCPL’s 100th anniversary and celebrating Black History Month. Houston-based visual artist Phillip Pyle created digital art to go with the music, and the resultant program, “Centennial Jubilee” was presented by the Apollo Chamber Players in partnership with HCPL. Houston Ebony Opera Guild

The resultant all-virtual celebrations are a feat of creativity and accessibility that honor the past decades of the various branch libraries as well as encouraging participation from across the Houston area.

vocalists Kenneth Gayle and Crystal White joined as featured performers. This **energizing performance** was recorded and broadcast through Facebook Live.

Jennifer Schwartz, HCPL programming services manager shared that public reaction to the broadcast live music performances, as well as staff-created videos, has been very positive. For January's 1920s jazz theme, a local group named Boomtown Brass Band performed, and "people said they were dancing in their living rooms. It's been a wonderful response," Schwartz said. The staff had a lot of fun making a "silent film" that aired before the band performance. You can [view the full video here](#).

As the year progresses, the librarians will evaluate whether it's safe to add an in-person audience to the live



HCPL staff pose in costume for a 1940s-style music video at the 1940 Terminal Museum. Photo credit: Harris County Public Library

music performances, depending on distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine and patrons' comfort level with attending in person events.

DIGITAL ARCHIVE: TRACING THE EVOLUTION OF COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

Cecilia Williams, HCPL technical services manager and head of the digital archive worked with other librarians to create an archive that offers a fascinating look into HCPL's past, going back to the days when people borrowed books from 1930s bookmobiles. The archive has been very popular, with more than 3,000 unique site visits in the first month it went online. From the archive:

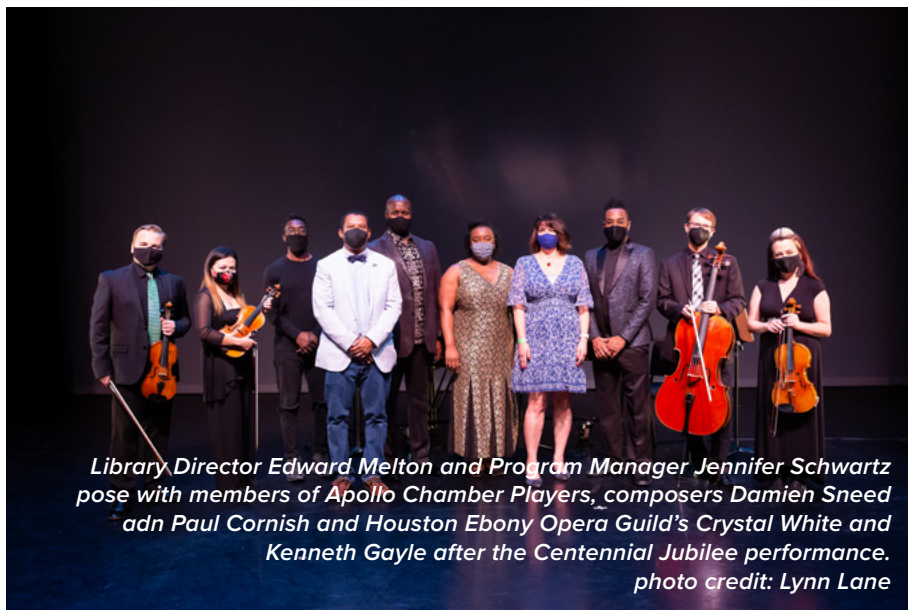
Prior to the first custom-built bookmobile in 1937, librarians transported books in "book wagons," basically open cars with the books housed in portable hard, pasteboard boxes. In 1925 money was found to purchase an Essex Coach, a vehicle with a roof, which greatly improved the comfort of the librarians traveling throughout the county. By August 1937 bookmobile routes and stops were established and proved a great success. Library workers brought the volumes on shelves rather than in boxes, making the patrons almost as happy as the staff.

HCPL is notable among large urban library systems for not having a central branch, Stevens said. As a result, the history of the library is really the history of the branches throughout the Houston area.

For Williams, one of the most rewarding parts of collecting and displaying historical information and photos online was learning the histories of the many librarians who built HCPL from the ground up.

"I love all the stories that we've been able to share," Williams said. "And spotlighting these librarians, mostly women, who worked really hard in the 1920s, 30s, 40s and onward. They have passed away now, but through the archive we are able to stitch together a little bit of their story and tell it, to carry on the work that they have done."

"Most of these branches were run by one person who dominated that one branch," Williams explained. "One



Library Director Edward Melton and Program Manager Jennifer Schwartz pose with members of Apollo Chamber Players, composers Damien Sneed and Paul Cornish and Houston Ebony Opera Guild's Crystal White and Kenneth Gayle after the Centennial Jubilee performance. photo credit: Lynn Lane

woman worked for 20 years at a branch and when she got sick, her daughter-in-law and granddaughter helped run the library while they were finding a replacement. These librarians lived in these communities and were close to their communities. It's really inspiring to see that relationship."

In addition, the librarians are collecting oral stories from the community about the history of HCPL. "We are taking those stories as one-on-one interviews via Microsoft Teams," Schwartz said. "People can connect to their local library branch and we are recording one-on-one appointments and hopefully eventually integrating these into the web site. We are getting some great stories from former employees, volunteers and customers. One of the common themes is the growth and evolution of the library."

ADVICE FOR LIBRARIES WITH UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES

Any tips for other libraries who might have a big anniversary coming up? "You can't start too early," Stevens said, laughing.

HCPL did not have a large budget for anniversary celebrations, so the staff has been very creative, partnering with other Houston organizations (like Apollo Chamber Players) for their events. Many people who are working with the library staff are donating their services or finding economical routes for the library to take, Stevens said.

Schwartz recommended developing programs tailored to your community, events to get them interested in the history of the library.

One example of this: distributing postcards to the public that are individualized to each branch, to collect stories from the community. Patrons can write on the back, sharing a memory of the library and mail it in. HCPL created lovely postcards with designs specific to each branch that they have been distributing.

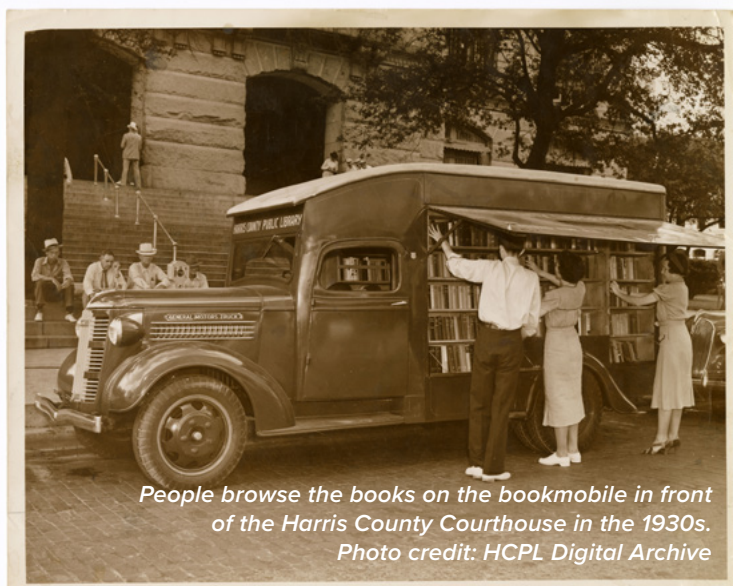
Williams is working on an interactive map that will show all the different branches and their evolution over the first 100 years, something she is looking forward to sharing with patrons.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION

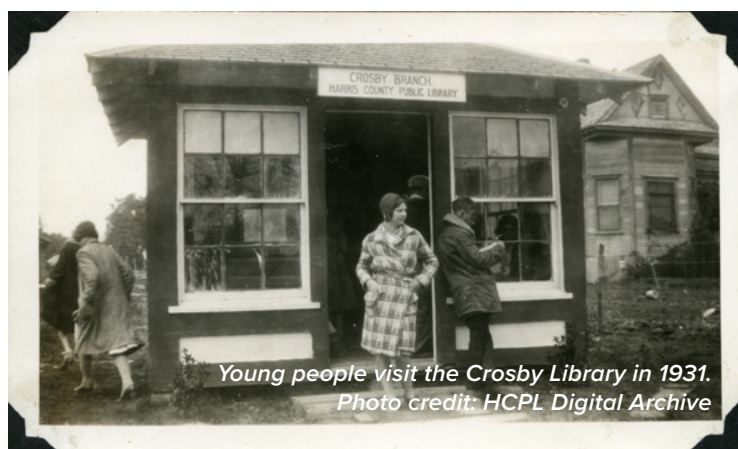
One of Schwartz's favorite aspects of the centennial events is seeing the talents of their staff on display. "These videos are written, directed and produced by our staff. The staff wrote an anthem for National Library Week."

Stevens agreed. Despite the troubles of the past year, "to be able to get together with co-workers and do something creative, has been very rewarding."

Michele Chan Santos is the marketing specialist at the Texas Library Association.



People browse the books on the bookmobile in front of the Harris County Courthouse in the 1930s. Photo credit: HCPL Digital Archive



Young people visit the Crosby Library in 1931. Photo credit: HCPL Digital Archive



Young men in Goose Creek, with a row of school girls behind them, hold large stacks of books tied together with string for their school in 1933. Photo credit: HCPL Digital Archive

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- News You Can Use Sessions with updates that highlight new research, innovations, and advances in libraries
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- COVID-19 information for libraries
- Discussion Groups
- Presidents' Programs
- Livestreamed presentations
- Leading authors
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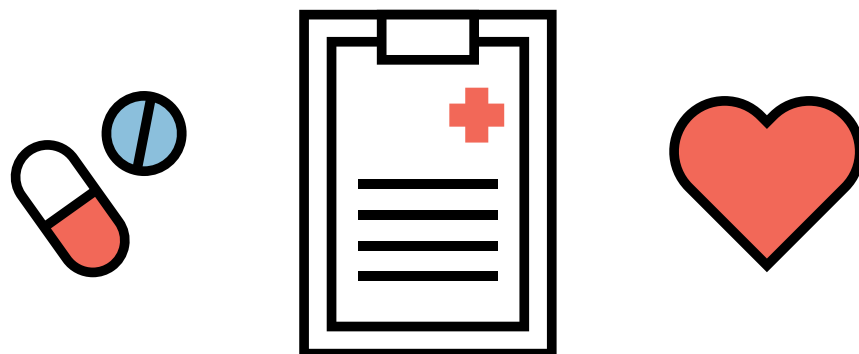


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INTERLIBRARY LOAN

Saying Yes Matters

By Elizabeth S. Speer



Mention Interlibrary loan (ILL) to someone outside of the library world and you will most likely get a blank stare. You know the one; the same dazed and confused look that we get when we try to explain electronic resource management or the importance of literacy instruction. But, within the library world, we know that ILL is invaluable, and in some cases...it might save a life.

At the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) the ILL crew consists of three people, me and two library technicians one of whom is a backup for emergencies only. Honestly though, ILL at UNTHSC is Megan Horn. Don't get me wrong, we all have our place in the process. I make policy decisions, run and track statistics, and supervise. Maria Balduf, our trusted and valued backup, fills in when Megan needs to be off. But Megan is the backbone of our ILL processes. She literally is ILL and her work helps save lives.



I know that it probably sounds like I am exaggerating. But over the last year Megan has filled thousands of ILL requests. As a university we provide ILL services to our medical students, research faculty, support staff, and local health care providers. Every time Megan says yes to a request or reaches out to allow another library to say yes,

Every time Megan says yes to a request or reaches out to allow another library to say yes, we place medical information into the hands of the people who will determine treatment for a patient.

we place medical information into the hands of the people who will determine treatment for a patient.

It is easy to forget how important saying yes can be. ILL is often an overlooked or dismissed service. It isn't flashy or glamorous. We use it to determine holes in our collections, to maximize our budget, or to justify cancellations. Even those that process the requests do not always see the effect of the behind-the-scenes efforts that take place. Megan gets a request, she says yes or solicits another library to say yes, and then she passes on the item normally never knowing what happens or if the article was helpful or used. But not in March. In March, Megan may have

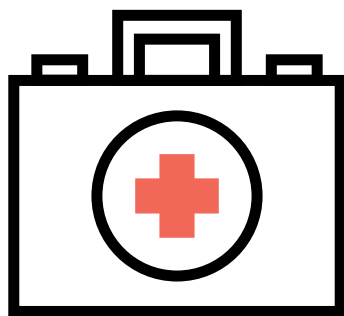
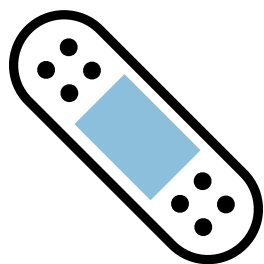
helped save a life. And best of all, we know she did.

In early March, UNTHSC received a request from a health care provider. In our system that means anyone who works in the health care industry that is not affiliated with UNTHSC. This particular doctor uses our services often enough that Megan recognized his name. And so, she did what she always does, she said yes, and she sent out the call so that others could say yes. When the article arrived, Megan sent it out to our community doctor friend. Normally that is where our story ends. Task complete. We take pride in completing those requests. We do it fast enough that we have been recognized by OCLC as a top lender. But this time, we got to take pride in the work for a different reason.

Upon receipt of the article Megan received a personal email from the doctor who made the request. It turns out that he was going to be performing cancer surgery on a patient within the next days. The article that Megan was able to send to him because libraries say yes was about the most cutting-edge technology for this type of surgery. He wanted to thank her and show his appreciation of our library for allowing him to have the opportunity to review new medical literature that will help save his patient's life. Megan's work in ILL helped determine the best course of treatment for a person in our community. Her work just gave doctors on the surgical team the best information available for helping their patient. A patient who I am sure was scared and had put their trust into their medical team. A medical team that put their trust in HSC and ultimately, in Megan Horn.

ILL matters. Saying yes to providing services to the community matters. You never know, your yes might help save a life today.

Elizabeth Speer is the electronic resources and acquisitions librarian at the University of North Texas Health Science Center Gibson D. Lewis Library.





The telehealth setup at Pottsboro Public Library has strong lighting, allowing physicians to view their patients clearly. Photo credit: Pottsboro Public Library

Libraries as Telehealth Providers

A RURAL CASE STUDY

By Michele Chan Santos

FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES, TELEMEDICINE IS BECOMING MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER BEFORE. In a time when the COVID-19 pandemic made many physician appointments virtual, and when many small towns lack health care providers, access to a strong internet signal and a computer may mean the difference between consulting a physician or not seeing one at all.

The Pottsboro Public Library, in tiny Pottsboro, Texas (population 2,500), is piloting a telemedicine program that could be a model for many rural communities around the state and the nation. Lessons learned in Pottsboro can be applied to telemedicine efforts at libraries in any community, even on a much smaller scale. Resources and grants used to launch this effort are available to other libraries as well.

The genesis of this effort began when Dianne Connery, special projects

librarian in Pottsboro, realized that many people were coming into the library to have virtual appointments with their physicians on the library computers.

“Because of the lack of internet in our area, we have stayed open throughout the whole pandemic,” Connery said. When she realized patrons were talking about personal health concerns, “I would put people in my office so they could have privacy for those conversations.”

Fast forward a few months, and thanks to a \$20,000 grant from the Network of the National Library of Medicine, South Central Region, the Pottsboro Public Library now has a room with its own entrance that has been outfitted for telemedicine visits. This former storage room has been converted to a telehealth space with a private computer, good lighting (important for telehealth visits) and a

special HEPA filter that keeps the air clean. Appointments have 15-minute gaps between them, to allow surfaces to be disinfected and the air filter to run before the next patient enters.

In addition, the library has a formal arrangement with the physician practice group from the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) in Fort Worth. Physicians there are available to treat patients through virtual visits, accessed through the Pottsboro library. The health science center serves as the managing health care partner for the telehealth visits; they have extensive telemedicine expertise and advised Connery on the equipment and processes needed for a library space to effectively serve as a patient care visit room.

This is how it works: patients call a number to make an appointment. They complete their pre-visit check-in electronically (on their own device, or at

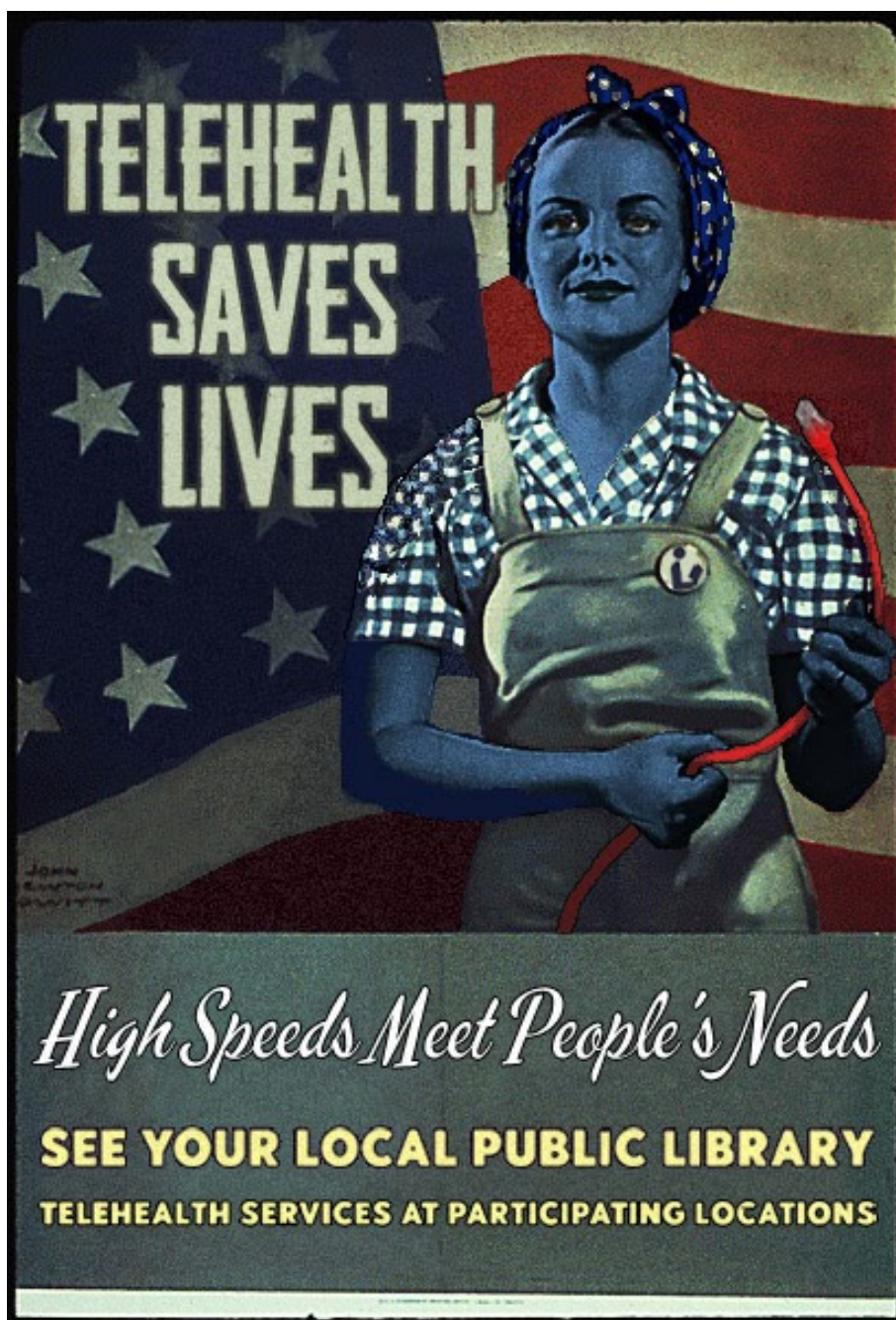


Photo illustration: Henry Stokes, Chair, TLA Innovation & Technology Round Table, and Library Technology Consultant, State E-rate Coordinator for Libraries, Texas State Library and Archives Commission

a kiosk located just outside the library.) Librarians are not told the reason for the visit, just the time the person is coming in.

Twenty-four hours in advance, patients must get a COVID-19 screening. If they are at risk of having COVID-19, it's recommended they go somewhere else (besides the library telehealth room) for their visit.

When the patient arrives, Connery helps them log into the system and

provides any other technical assistance they need. Then she leaves the room so they can speak privately with the health care provider.

After the patient leaves, the room is disinfected. Health sciences center staff "made gallons of specially formulated disinfection liquid," Connery said. "They taught me how to put that on surfaces and how long to leave it on."

The virtual visits with UNTHSC physicians are paid for in the same

way the patient usually pays for their medical visits. Private insurance, if they have it, and if they do not, "there is an automatic 50 percent discount of what their normal fees are," Connery said. "They take Medicare and Medicaid; ability to pay is not a barrier."

The program just launched this spring; now the challenge is getting patients to try this new way of accessing health care.

"We've sent out mailers, we posted flyers at pharmacies, the post office, other local businesses, we have posted extensively on social media. We are working on yard signs," Connery said. She's also talked with the local public school and with other community groups. The room could be utilized for counseling/mental health visits, as well as medical appointments.

The Texas Library Association's Innovation Technology Round Table (ITRT) presented a [webinar](#) in February which was hosted by Henry Stokes, Texas State Library & Archives Commission library technology consultant. Connery presented and was joined by Jessica Maack Rangel, the vice provost of the Division of Academic Innovation at UNTHSC.

Rangel discussed how efforts in telemedicine help us to rethink how providers can reach people. "At UNTHSC, we sit in the heart of Fort Worth and we have lots of services available," Rangel said. "What we sometimes forget as a community is the number of rural community hospitals that have closed. There has been an overall shift from inpatient care to people staying home. That's where we want to be. But in doing that, rural hospitals have closed at a catastrophic rate, leaving many rural communities without any access to health care." (The full recording of the webinar is available [here](#).)

Dan Burgard is the vice provost of scholarly information management and university librarian at UNTHSC; he's also the president-elect of TLA. "It's not a coincidence that our physician group was working up all their telehealth capabilities," Burgard said. "My guess is that other physician groups could have a similar plan; that part should be replicable around the state. Most

Free Webinar April 14 Telehealth in Rural Public Libraries

The Network of the National Library of Medicine South Central Region is presenting an upcoming free webinar about telemedicine.

Speakers are Dianne Connery of Pottsboro Public Library and Jessica Maack Rangel of the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

Title: Telehealth in Rural Public Libraries

Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Time: 10:00am–11:00am CT

For more information and instructions on how to join the meeting: <https://nnlm.gov/scr/training/connections>

physician groups were working on that (telemedicine) before the pandemic hit.” Federal regulations have recently loosened in the area of telemedicine, which “allows better payment for telemedicine visits,” Burgard said. “That’s made the whole thing blossom even more. There’s a huge opportunity in every state for improved telehealth opportunities in rural areas.”

HOW TO INTRODUCE TELEMEDICINE AT YOUR LIBRARY

“Telemedicine in a rural library can mean a whole range of things,” Burgard said. “It could be someone chatting on a computer with their clinician, nurse practitioner or doctor, anything from that to what Dianne has in place now (the separate telehealth room and arrangement with a physician group). It is a continuum of possible arrangements. All can be OK and provide a great service.”

Connery recommended seeking guidance from Brian Leaf, the executive director of the Network of the National Library of Medicine South Central Region.

“The very first step is to take some of the training Brian has available through the National Library of Medicine. NNLM has so much **available information**, certifications you can get for consumer

health information, all kinds of webinars and training,” Connery said.

Leaf encouraged librarians to contact him. “We offer a wide variety of continuing education and grant funding,” Leaf said. “We can’t fund every rural library in the state with telehealth funding, but this (Pottsboro) is our pilot, and we are trying to take these lessons we are learning from Pottsboro to extend to other locations as telehealth sites. We will continue to have funding in the future.”

Leaf explained, “What telehealth looks like, it might look different for each community, organization or library. The grants we give out are for health programming, community programs, health programs. We are all about health information.”

The Pottsboro pilot is an exciting one, and Leaf hopes to see more telemedicine efforts in libraries.

“The type of partnership we have with Dianne, she has an incredible amount of energy, it’s been absolutely amazing, the type of innovation she is coming up with,” Leaf said. “We like innovative partnerships like this. If people have innovative things they want to do to serve the public, we are here for it.”

Michele Chan Santos is the marketing specialist at the Texas Library Association.

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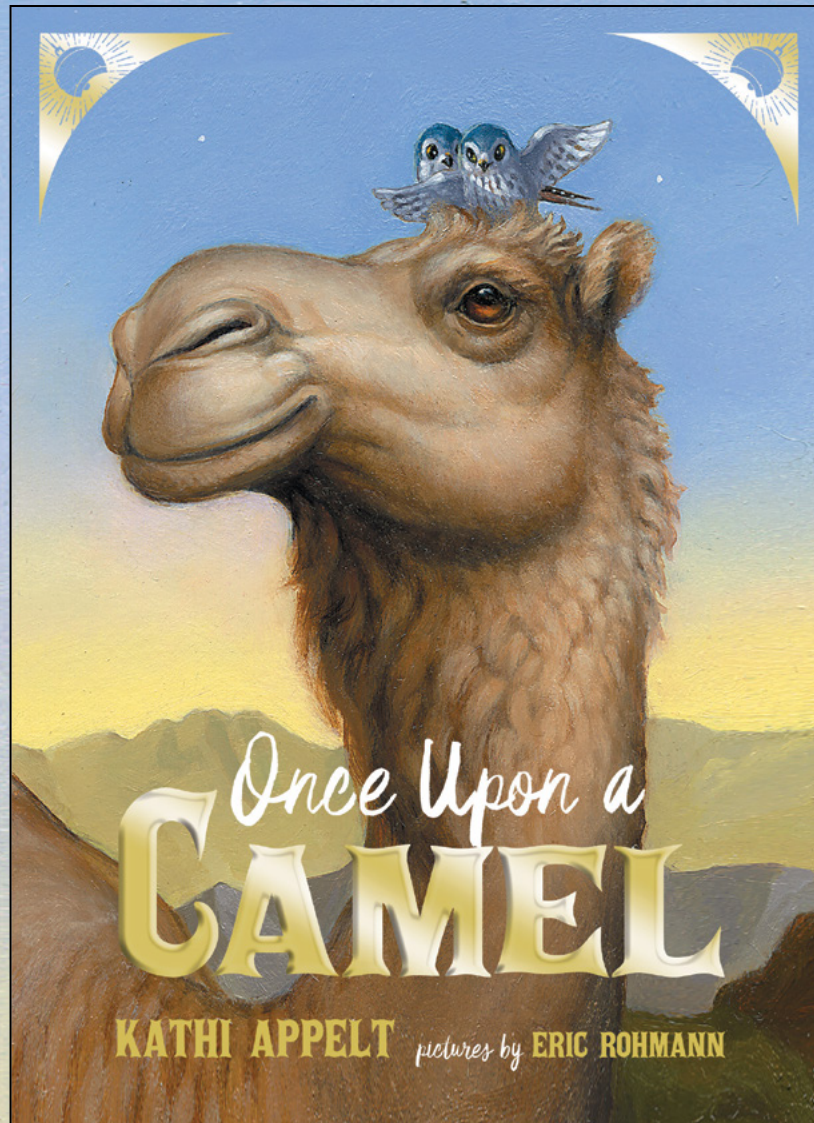
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*This flyer was distributed in Pottsboro area to let people know about the telemedicine program.
Photo credit: Pottsboro Public Library*

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Dallas Public Library

Looking Ahead: **PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN A POST-VACCINE WORLD**

By Michele Chan Santos

*What will life in public libraries look like this summer once millions of Texans have received the COVID-19 vaccine? We asked three library leaders to share their thoughts: **Eric Lashley**, executive director, CTLS (Central Texas Library System); **Jo Giudice**, director of the Dallas Public Library and **Amanda Barrera**, director of library services for the City of Amarillo. Below is an edited version of their responses.*

With (hopefully) millions of Americans having received a COVID-19 vaccine by summer, what will public library reopenings and “returns to normal” look like?

Lashley: Three words we have been hearing since the pandemic started: I don’t know. I hope that people do take the vaccine and we are back to normal by summer. Going back to normal won’t be like flipping a light switch.

Giudice: We are gearing up just to have people back in the building. We are doing curbside and outreach, but we don’t have people in our buildings yet. The goal is to get the public back in our buildings safely. I think that – if normal is back to how we were living before the pandemic, I don’t think we’ll be back to that by the summer. People will still be hesitant to come in large groups. I don’t think we will have large

programming events – I don't think people will be comfortable being in a room with 40 or 50 other people like we used to do.

Barrera: I think it's going to depend on the particular situation in your area. Cases have been dropping in Amarillo; we are progressing to lower levels of our COVID status. We are on orange and ready to transition to yellow. The libraries just have to take a look at what's going on in their particular community, how comfortable they feel opening, get recommendations from their local health authorities. We recently reopened again to the public. We were closed beginning in November, curbside only, then reopened in early February. We have reduced hours and we are not allowing outside groups to meet in our libraries. People are able to come into the buildings and check out their own items.

Do you think it will be back to the same procedures that we followed before the pandemic, or will some things – plexiglass barriers, six feet apart in line, hand sanitizer stations – be here to stay?

Lashley: I think masks will be common for seniors and those with health problems. Masks and plexiglass will be used more commonly during flu season. Obviously, hand sanitizer will continue to be here.

Giudice: I think that hand sanitizer will be around. I think people will keep themselves six feet apart. We are so attuned to staying six feet apart. I think we are all getting self-trained to do that. I think it will be a while before it will look the same. Plexiglass barriers will stay in place until everyone is vaccinated, or we receive instruction from the health department that those aren't needed. Hand sanitizer will stay far past that. The big thing for libraries is all the manipulable pieces - the blocks, the Legos, the play kitchen, all those fun things we usually have out. Those will be off the floor when we do come back.

Barrera: I think to some extent – just thinking about the common cold and flu, those went down, since people were wearing masks and using hand sanitizer. As far as the hand sanitizer and our staff wiping down surfaces -- we've obviously seen some benefits from that, certain aspects of that will continue.

How about summer reading programs? I know most of those went virtual last summer. Do you think most public libraries will opt for an online summer reading program again, just to be safe, or do you think the vaccine timeline might allow for some in person (outdoor?) gatherings?

Lashley: Virtual summer programs will be here this summer. Some libraries will be able to do some reading programs outdoors. A lot of them will be move toward to outdoor

programming. Some families and children are tired of virtual programming. Summer reading programs can meet in parks and if their library has outdoor space, they can meet outside. It's much safer to have in-person programming outdoors. There will be very few libraries with in-person programming. If they do in person, it will most likely be outdoors.

Giudice: Right now, our summer reading program is virtual with hopefully an outdoor component.

Barrera: Our youth staff is currently getting feedback from some of the families that they know participated, what we are looking at is a mix of online and in person, doing outside programs as much as possible. Because of the heat, they will probably take place early in the morning or later in the evening. People will feel more comfortable outdoors. A lot of our most successful programs are outside already, whether it's launching rockets or hanging out with Matt the Cow Pony; we are able to accommodate more families if we hold programs outside.

Is curbside checkout here to stay?

Lashley: Yes and no. The problem with curbside is that it's a safe service for patrons and staff but it's extremely labor-intensive. You have to be set up for that. Most public libraries are too busy to do curbside (once pandemic restrictions ease up). Many may offer it for seniors and those who have health issues. It's just a luxury most libraries cannot afford once we reopen. In the future, libraries may be designed with drive-up windows. It will require a lot of forethought and efficiencies. I think it's a wonderful service that is too labor-intensive to continue (in a widespread way).

Giudice: Curbside checkout will stay for us. We were doing curbside checkout in two of our locations prior to COVID-19. They were high-volume locations for senior citizens. Moving forward, we will have curbside in almost all of our locations. It might not be for the whole day, it might just be a certain time every day, but we are planning to keep it.

Barrera: At least for now, it will be around for us. As a service overall, we will probably discontinue it once there are minimal outbreak concerns. It's something we could consider in the future on case-by-case basis, for patrons who are immunocompromised or have limited mobility. Wind chills can fall below zero here in winter, and it's very hot in summer; but the way our buildings and parking lots are configured makes it challenging to provide curbside as a matter of course.



This large stuffed dog greets families in Amarillo's downtown library and encourages mask wearing in the building. Photo credit: Amarillo Public Library



In Amarillo, Reference Librarian Cindy Wallace (l) and Reference Assistant Kim McCarty (r) organized periodical archives while the library was closed to the public during the pandemic.

What are some good things that came out of adaptations public libraries made during the pandemic? Are more patrons now comfortable with eBooks than before?

Lashley: We had higher usage of eBooks and other online services. People did get familiar with catalogs, databases and eBooks. That was probably the only increase in service levels. eBooks and virtual programming. Georgetown Public Library, (where Lashley was the director before moving to CTLS) has a home delivery service for patrons. We have a library van and a staff member dedicated to delivering materials. It kicked up during the pandemic because of increased demand. It's a great service and a safe service.

Giudice: Our eBook usage went up over 35 percent. And we started calling our seniors 65 and over to make sure they were OK, and then spent majority of our time with them connecting them with technology. We spent hours on the phones to help people download books. That will probably continue. We are budgeting to increase materials on the electronic side.

We are helping people get registered for vaccinations. We have people who are dedicated to over-the-phone vaccination registration. Forty-two percent of people in Dallas don't have internet in their homes. Even if people know how to do it, they may not be connected. It can be quite cumbersome to do those on your phone. You can call any location for this service.

Barrera: I agree, people have become more comfortable with eBooks. The first month we had closed (in spring of 2020) our use of eBooks jumped 30 percent. It's remained at a much higher level than pre-pandemic. Just from an awareness standpoint, people are more aware of the online resources.

Do you think the public values libraries more now, since so many people relied on libraries for Internet access during the pandemic months?

Lashley: Definitely. For internet access, the public definitely values libraries more. For printing service, information, tutoring, story times, all those wonderful things libraries did, that sense of community, people are really missing it. Not

having meeting rooms. Name a public space that is free: there are very few public spaces that are free. Where all are welcome, regardless of age, sex, background. That is the wonderful thing about the public library.

Giudice: We have a renewed place in the community. People who maybe forgot about the library became aware of programs we are doing virtually. For Black History Month, we featured three black chefs in Dallas who are all vegan chefs. It's a pretty specific topic but it got picked up by network TV; we had a series that was three Saturdays in a row and it was very popular. We teach free music lessons (guitar, violin and piano) and we went online with our music lessons. We have the recitals every quarter via Zoom. At the last recital we had over 200 attendees watching. That's more than we could fit in our auditorium, so it was great.

Barrera: Overall I'd say the awareness of the broad depth of services that the library provides has improved during the pandemic. We've always been fortunate in Amarillo to have a community that supports its libraries. As far as people becoming more aware of what all we offer, that's been one benefit. Our Wi-Fi extends into the parking lot and is on 24/7 and a lot of families utilized our Wi-Fi when online schooling was more prevalent here.

What are you most proud of, when it comes to Texas public library's response over the past year to the challenges of the pandemic?

Lashley: I'm proud of how creative and flexible libraries have been during the pandemic. The fast pace of change was extremely stressful, but librarians rose to the occasion. They had to pivot quickly to curbside, grab-and-go, home delivery. They were willing to serve people as safely as possible. I'm proud they wanted to continue to serve during stressful times.

Giudice: I'm most proud of how fast we pivoted to online programming. We have a very robust English language learning program where we offer GED classes in English and Spanish. We were mid-semester when COVID shut us down. We were very anxious about those students. We moved to Zoom within two weeks. We will probably continue doing our adult education online. We have more students than when we were doing it in person (it's more accessible, people don't need childcare to attend.) We have 3,000 hotspots in circulation, we had 900 when the pandemic started. We used some additional city funding to buy another 2100. We are getting ready to roll out 100 Chromebooks and we will be circulating 1200 laptops beginning of April. We are targeting job seekers and adult language learners (for the Chromebooks and laptops.)

Barrera: I'm most proud of the staff. They have worked so hard to overcome all the challenges they faced. They displayed a lot of flexibility and creativity in facing these challenges and continue to do so.

Michele Chan Santos is the marketing specialist at the Texas Library Association.

New Middle Grade Novels from Your Favorite Authors!



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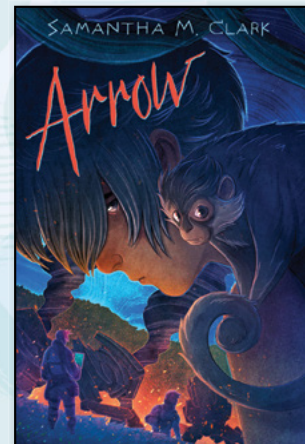
The Chosen One
James Riley
9781534425842
On Sale March 2021



Golden Gate
James Ponti
9781534414945
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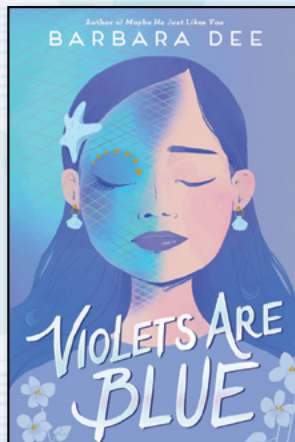
The Memory Thief
Jodi Lynn Anderson
9781481480215
On Sale March 2021



Arrow
Samantha M. Clark
9781534465978
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The Okay Witch and the Hungry Shadow
Emma Steinkellner
9781534431492
On Sale July 2021



Violets Are Blue
Barbara Dee
9781534469181
On Sale September 2021



Frankie & Bug
Gayle Forman
9781534482531
On Sale October 2021

LIBRARIES IN ACTION DURING WINTER STORM URI

By Michele Chan Santos

Across Texas beginning on Valentine's Day weekend, 2021, a massive winter storm plunged the state into chaos: freezing temperatures, icy roads, power outages, water breaks and food shortages. Many people had no power, heat or water in their homes for days, and some communities continue to suffer with no water, weeks after the storm has ended.

Texas librarians and libraries across the state opened their doors and hearts to help those in need. Hundreds of libraries helped by opening as warming shelters and distributing water and food. Here are some examples of how libraries continued to offer support to their communities during the recent winter storm. Thank you to all the librarians in Texas who have helped their residents and patrons during and after the winter storm!

At the University of Texas at San Antonio, the **John Peace Library** became a warming station for UTSA students, faculty and staff in need of a place to warm up, recharge their phones and laptops or access Wi-Fi service. "With my good fortune, my staff and I designated our main library, JPL, to be a community warming station. Some of my staff and I are sleeping here and will be here until Friday at midnight," said Dean Hendrix, Dean of Libraries at UTSA.



In Edinburg in the Rio Grande Valley, the **Dustin Michael Sekula Memorial Library** opened as a 24-hour warming center. Residents had access to the library's WiFi and computers and were encouraged to charge their electronic devices. City officials asked residents to bring their own bedding, medication, and food. To ensure the safety of all, residents were screened, and temperatures were checked at the door and all social distancing guidelines were strictly enforced and face coverings were required. Police and fire department personnel were always present in case of emergencies. More than 220 residents without electricity turned to the library to warm up and charge their cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices or stayed through the night. To make the space as normal as possible, children were given free books to read and had the opportunity to enjoy movies and complimentary snacks. "Not one staff member questioned if we could or should assist, they just did what they had to do to help those in need," said Letty Leija, Director of Library and Cultural Arts for the City of Edinburg. "That personal contact with the community reminded us all why we are here...and that's to serve."



In Keller, located in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, **Keller Public Library** served as a warming center.

Keller Public Library 
February 17 at 11:43 AM · 

The Library remains closed but the building is open as a Warming Station. If you are without heat or electricity, come by and get warm and power up your devices.

Stay safe everyone!



In Garland, northeast of Dallas, staff from the **Garland Public Library** distributed water to residents with no running water. Watch a video of their water distribution.

In Pottsboro, in far Northeast Texas, staff from **Pottsboro Library** helped provide free hot meals to residents without power or water. Working with community volunteers, they served 133 meals prepared by Bay at the Lake, a local restaurant. The library also provided cases of bottled water to residents.

Dinner is cooking. Who needs a warm meal with no dishes to wash?
Pick up to-go dinner at the Pottsboro Library - Monday, February 22.
To-go dinner will be available at the Pottsboro Library for the first 100 people who call in their names. Bay-At-The-Lake is preparing steak fingers/mashed potatoes and beefy macaroni. You must be on the list to pick-up. We'll let you know time. No charge.
https://www.facebook.com/BAY-at-the-Lake-101520194772045/?ref=page_internal



At the **Dallas Public Library**, nine locations were open as warming centers during the week of the winter storm. Even as of mid-March, DPL staff continued to distribute bottled water, as well as buckets of water (to use for washing dishes and bathing) to residents in apartment complexes who still did not have water because of broken pipes and damage from the storm. "We have five locations that are doing that in targeted neighborhoods that are still without a lot of water service," said Jo Giudice, director of the Dallas Public Library.

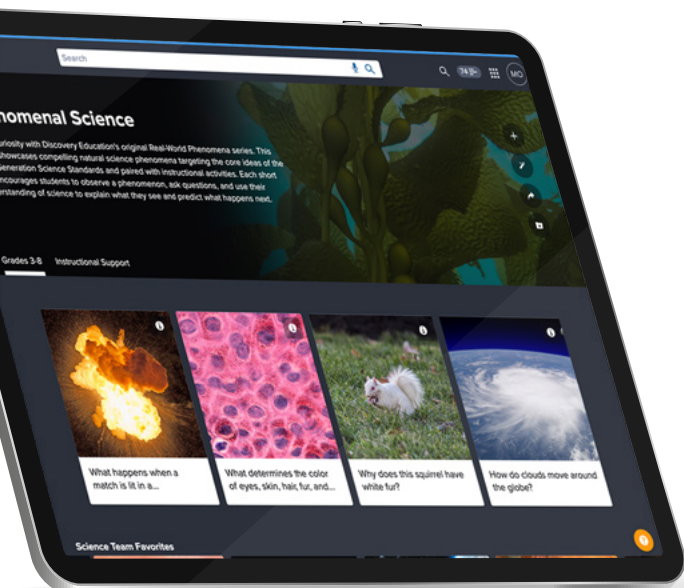
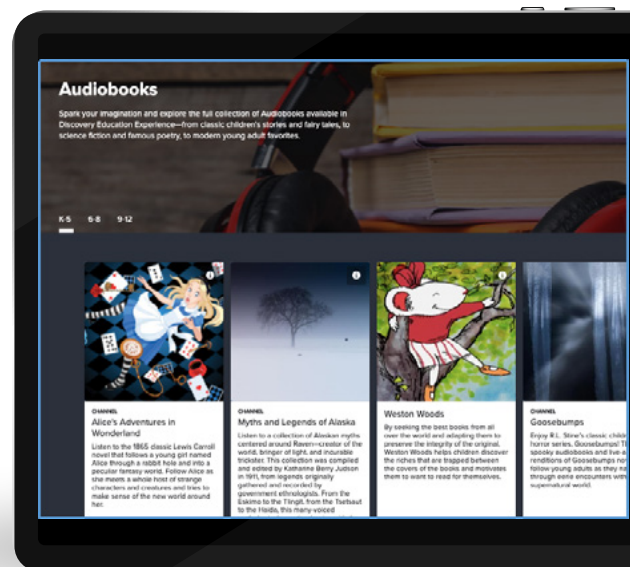
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Congratulations to the 2021 Texas Bluebonnet Award Winner

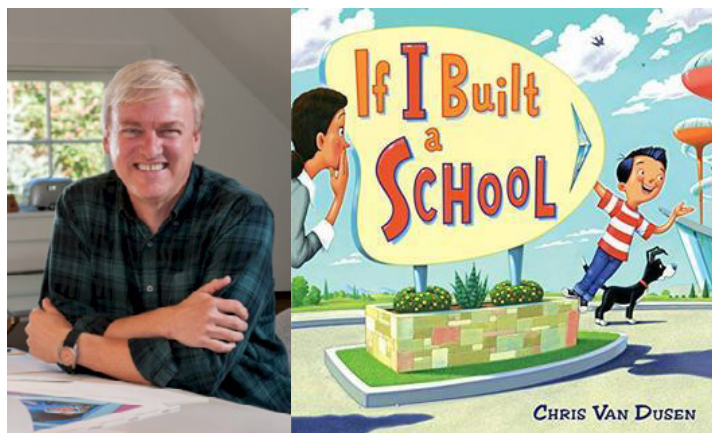
Thousands of children voted across Texas and the results are in - the winner of the 2021 Texas Bluebonnet Award is *If I Built a School*, written and illustrated by Chris Van Dusen.

In this whimsical, beautifully illustrated book, schoolboy Jack imagines a fantastic school with its own zoo, trampoline basketball, hover desks, a robo-chef, field trips to outer space and more.

A total of 54,784 students, from 1275 registered institutions (school and public libraries, and homeschooling groups) submitted their votes.

This was an impressive number, considering the many challenges to TBA voting this year, including school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as school closures due to Winter Storm Uri and the subsequent power and water outages experienced across the state. Voting deadlines were extended three times to make sure as many students as possible were able to vote.

Watch the [official video announcement](#), including a message from Chris Van Dusen. And join students representing 10 Texas school districts as they present the award at the Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session Saturday, April 24 at 12:15pm during the [TLA 2021 Annual Conference](#).



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW TLA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

TLA's new executive board members, including incoming President Dan Burgard, University Librarian and Vice Provost for Scholarly Information Management at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, will take office at the close of the TLA 2021 Annual Conference.

President-Elect

Mary Woodard, Director of Library Services, Mesquite ISD

"This is a time of great uncertainty in our world. Things are changing all around us, and while it can be scary, it can also be exciting as we all figure out new and different ways to get things done. A changing world brings us the opportunity at TLA to re-examine our role, refresh people's perceptions of libraries, and reinvent the way we do things," Woodard said.



Representative-at-Large (Academic Libraries)

Elizabeth Howard, Director, Eunice & James L. West Library, Texas Wesleyan University

"The executive board will be making some challenging decisions in the upcoming years. I am committed to supporting and growing the Association and having those difficult conversations about how we can best serve our members in the future," Howard said. "I want to listen to what you have to say and be there to help you understand how, together, we will continue to grow and support all of our members."



Representative-at-Large (Public Libraries)

Roosevelt Weeks, Director, Austin Public Library

"Libraries are faced with many challenges in the coming years. Funding, navigating in a post COVID-19 environment, racial and social unrest, and changing perception of libraries are just a few of the challenges that we must overcome. As we face these external and internal forces, we must be flexible, innovative, and nimble in order to survive and flourish. We can no longer do business as usual, as we provide services and programs to our customers. We must address the inequities and social justice issues that are inside and outside of our libraries," Weeks said. "The library can play an important role in making sure all voices are heard and programs/services are provided in an equitable fashion. We can do this when we work together as one."



American Library Association (ALA) Councilor

Dorcas Hand, Advocate, Students Need Libraries in HISD

"Currently, TLA and ALA face enormous organizational challenges," Hand said. "The TLA Executive Board must apply its collective knowledge, talent and experience to consider paths forward to strengthen and rebuild our library communities. I will take TLA concerns to the ALA Council and return to TLA with new insights into problems shared by many state associations. I know that we can find a way to meet the issues we face."



In Memoriam: Linda Allmand

Linda Allmand, TLA past-president (1987) and TLA Librarian of the Year (1985) passed away in November 2020. She was a long-time supporter of the association, and a passionate library advocate. In 1981, Linda was named director of Fort Worth Public Library. Her work was definitely cut out for her as many of the branches and Central Library were in need of renovation. Linda immediately jumped in and did a long-range plan for the library system. The Friends of the Fort Worth Public Library were revived, and the membership grew from 50 to over 600 during her tenure as Director. In 1987, the Southwest Regional Library opened, Diamond Hill/Jarvis opened in 1989, and the East Regional Library opened in 1996. One of Linda's major accomplishments was partnering with the Amon Carter Foundation and the City of Fort Worth to automate the entire Fort Worth Public Library holdings. In addition to being a professional librarian for over forty years, she was also a library building consultant approved by the American Library Association, served on the board of the Dallas City Employees Credit Union, and taught at both Dallas Community College and the University of North Texas.

TEXAS TO RECEIVE \$8.4 MILLION IN FEDERAL LIBRARY FUNDING

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) received \$200 million, the largest single increase in the agency's 25-year history as part of the \$1.9 trillion [American Rescue Plan Act](#) (ARPA) of 2021 passed by Congress and signed by President Biden on March 11, 2021.

Of the \$200 million for IMLS, \$178 million is allocated for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and will go to state library administrative agencies on a population-based formula. Texas will receive \$8.4 million in LSTA funds and will distribute ARPA funding according to state priorities, to maintain and enhance library operations and services.

BUILD AMERICA'S LIBRARIES ACT

The federal [Build America's Libraries Act](#) was introduced in the U.S. Senate in January, and in the U.S. House of Representatives in March. The legislation would fund upgrades to the nation's library infrastructure to address challenges such as natural disasters, COVID-19, broadband capacity, environmental hazards, and accessibility barriers. This groundbreaking legislation would pave the way for new and improved library facilities in underserved communities across the country.

Funding would be distributed through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to state library agencies. State libraries would then award grants on a competitive basis to libraries in each state. Funding would be prioritized to libraries serving marginalized communities, such as high-poverty areas. Additionally, IMLS would provide funding directly to tribal libraries.

[Learn more](#) about this important initiative and how you can advocate for this legislation!

TLA STAFF UPDATE

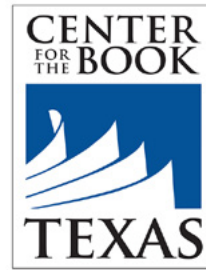
The Texas Library Association family is growing! We are thrilled to welcome Catherine LaPoint and Christy Reynolds to the TLA team. As the new administrative services manager, Catherine will support district finances, scholarships and stipends, budget and financial reports, and accounts payable and receivable. Most recently, she was the administrative coordinator at the Texas Society of Association Executives.

Christy is the new membership coordinator. She will manage memberships and event registration, support TLA unit officers, and coordinate TLA awards, elections, and other member benefit programs. Christy joins TLA after working as a program coordinator at Texas Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

Michelle Cruz has been promoted to meetings and events manager where she will be responsible for conference and event logistics, annual conference speakers, and annual assembly planning.



Texas Center for the Book Invites Communities to Join Statewide Read on “Recovery” Theme



Read Across Texas: Recovery kicked off in March, with libraries signing up to facilitate reading and discussion opportunities exploring what “recovery” could mean within their communities.

Read Across Texas: Recovery offers libraries a broad canvas for convening individuals and groups to explore the unique questions, challenges and solidarity that can occur in communities throughout the state. During a period of extreme difficulties, isolation, and loss, the Texas Center for the Book (TCFB) recognizes the importance of sharing our stories to build understanding and support. Literature can be one of the many routes to recovery. This year’s campaign features four book selections that will give communities a platform to engage in challenging, insightful, and transformative conversations

Things You Would Know if You Grew Up Around Here by Nancy Wayson Dinan considers questions of history and empathy and brings a pre-apocalyptic landscape both foreign and familiar to shockingly vivid life. This title will be available for Texans in e-book format in May and June.

All of a Sudden and Forever: Help and Healing after the Oklahoma City Bombing by Chris Barton, illustrated by Nicole Xu, considers

tragedy, hope and healing and was released to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing. This title will be available for Texans in e-book format in May and June.

We Fed an Island: The True Story of Rebuilding Puerto Rico, One Meal at a Time by José Andrés with Richard Wolfe describes how a network of community kitchens activated real change in the face of disasters both natural and man-made, offering suggestions for how to address a crisis like this in the future. This title will be available for Texans in e-book format in May and June.

What Unites Us: Reflections on Patriotism by Dan Rather and Elliot Kirschner documents Rather’s witness to historical change, offering a map to trace where we have been and what might be a way forward to heal division.

Activities for Read Across Texas began in March, but participating organizations may conduct programs throughout the spring and summer. The TCFB will host an online author panel on May 18. Additionally, organizations can access an online step-by-step facilitator toolkit that includes materials such as a how-to guide, additional recommended titles, digital resources, and links to recovery specific discussion questions. The toolkit along with the program registration form and details are available at www.tsl.texas.gov/readacrosstexas.



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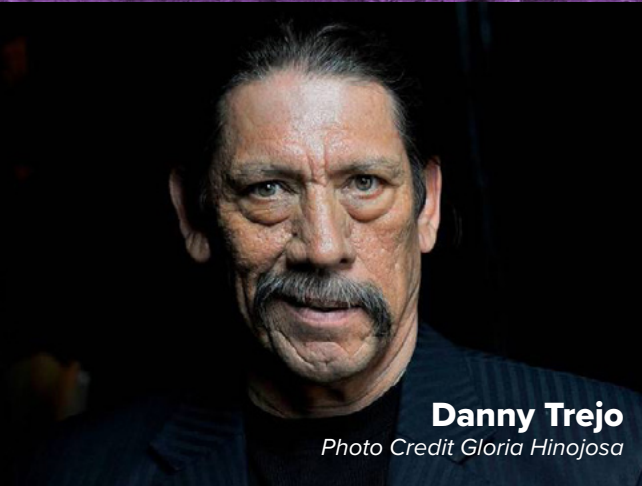
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Matthew McConaughey
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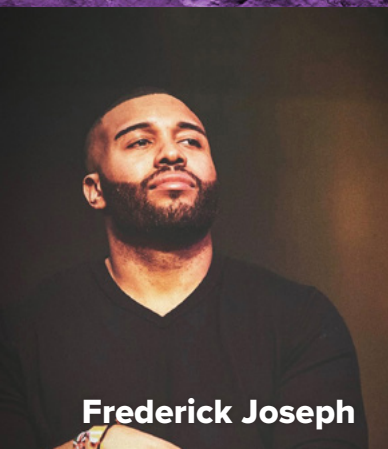


Isabel Wilkerson

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Frederick Joseph



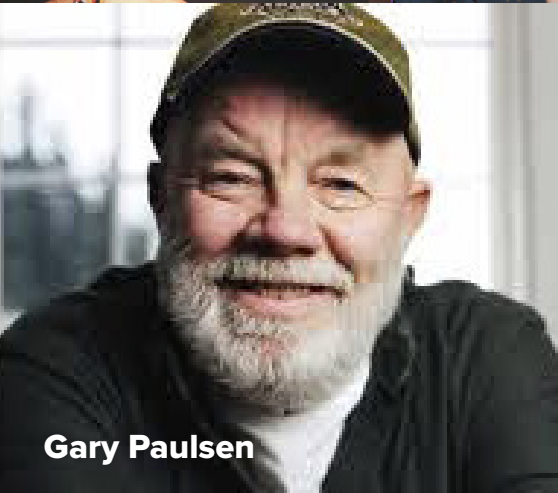
Linda Sue Park



Ilyasah Shabazz



Dwayne Reed



Gary Paulsen



Attica Locke



Tiffany D. Jackson

2021 Program Highlights

The TLA 2021 Annual Conference is only two weeks away – April 22 to 24 – and we can't wait to see y'all in TLA's fully virtual, most accessible and most affordable conference ever.

The TLA 2021 interactive platform is a powerful one. You'll experience live speakers, question-and-answer sessions, chat rooms and virtual social events. Don't miss our amazing TLA After Hours on Thursday evening. Make sure to check out our fantastic exhibit hall where you can interact with reps from companies and meet authors.

There are so many opportunities to learn from experts and your fellow librarians, and everything will be recorded and available to view through June 22. We have more than 200 educational sessions spanning a wide variety of topics and with sessions for every library type.

Here are some things you don't want to miss when planning out your time at TLA 2021. The following sessions are all LIVE:

General Session I with Frederick Joseph

Thursday, April 22, 8:30 – 10 AM

Frederick Joseph is an award-winning marketing professional, media representation advocate, and writer who was recently selected for the Forbes 30 Under 30 list. Librarian **Zinnia Bayardo**, known as ZtheLibraryChica on Twitter, will join Frederick in conversation.

General Session II with Isabel Wilkerson

Friday, April 23 at 9 AM

Isabel Wilkerson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Humanities Medal, has become a leading figure in narrative nonfiction. She is the author of *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and an Oprah's Book Club selection, which is long listed for the National Book Award.

General Session III with Linda Sue Park

Saturday, April 24 at 9 AM

Linda Sue Park is the author of the Newbery Medal-winning *A Single Shard* and the best-seller *A Long Walk to Water*. Linda Sue will discuss her latest novel, the highly praised *Prairie Lotus*, a middle-grade historical novel about a half-Asian girl growing up in a small town in the U.S. in 1880.

Spotlight Author Session with Matthew McConaughey

Thursday, April 22 at 11:30 AM

Matthew McConaughey, Academy Award-winning actor and author, will discuss his #1 *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *Greenlights*.

TLA After Hours with Danny Trejo

Thursday, April 22 at 6:30 PM

Danny Trejo is one of Hollywood's most recognizable, prolific, and beloved character actors. The actor will discuss his memoir *Trejo: My Life of Crime, Redemption, and Hollywood* (out July 6).

Black Caucus Round Table Author Session with Ilyasah Shabazz and Tiffany D. Jackson

Thursday April 22 at 1:45 PM

Ilyasah Shabazz is an author, motivational speaker and community organizer. She is the daughter of Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz.

Tiffany D. Jackson is the critically acclaimed author of YA novels including the NAACP Image Award-nominated *Allegedly* and *Monday's Not Coming*.

The Library Friends, Trustees & Advocates Author Session

Friday, April 23 at noon

Dwayne Reed is America's favorite rapping teacher from Chicago who spreads his message of inspiration and empowerment to more than 50,000 followers, subscribers, readers, listeners, and fans.

Gary Paulsen is the author of *Hatchet*, which won him the Newbery Honor Award. Paulsen has written more than 100 books for children and teens. His newest book is *Gone to the Woods: Surviving a Lost Childhood*. Gary will be in conversation with author and illustrator **Jarrett Krosoczka** (the *Lunch Lady* series).

Closing Author Session/All Conference Read with Attica Locke

Saturday, April 24 at 3 PM

Attica Locke's latest novel *Heaven, My Home* is the sequel to Edgar Award-winning *Bluebird, Bluebird*. Her third novel *Pleasantville* was the winner of the Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction and was also long listed for the Bailey's Prize for Women's Fiction. Attica will join us in conversation with award-winning journalist **Brooke Lewis**.

All Conference Read:

The TLA 2021 All Conference Read selection is *Bluebird, Bluebird* by Texas author **Attica Locke**. Be sure to check out all of the [All Conference Read](#) activities scheduled prior to and during conference.

2021 Program Highlights

Other notable sessions:

Black Caucus Round Table Author Session

Thursday, April 22 at 1:45 PM

Author and community organizer Ilyasah Shabazz is the daughter of Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz. She joins celebrated YA author Tiffany D. Jackson (*Allegedly, Monday's Not Coming*) at the Black Caucus Round Table Author Session to discuss their new book, *The Awakening of Malcolm X: A Novel*.

Director's Symposium

Friday April 23 at noon

The 2021 Director's Symposium features American Association of School Librarians President **Kathy Carroll**, Westwood High School (SC); **Melanie Huggins**, Executive Director of the Richland Library (SC); and **Martha Whitehead**, Vice President and University Librarian, Harvard Library (MA).

Your Public Library Presents: Andrew Aydin

Friday, April 23 at 3:00 PM

An Atlanta native, Andrew is a Turkish American who was raised by a single mother and grew up reading comic books. He is the creator and co-author of the graphic memoir series, *MARCH*, which chronicles the life of Congressman and civil rights icon John Lewis.

A Conversation with Neal Shusterman

Saturday, April 24 at 10:15 AM

Neal Shusterman is the *New York Times* best-selling author of over thirty novels for children, teens, and adults.

The 2021 Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session

Saturday, April 24 at 12:15 PM

Chris Van Dusen, the author and illustrator of *If I Built A School*, accepts the TBA Award in a presentation featuring Texas schoolchildren from across the state.

Social Events

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

Bites with LIRT (Library Instruction Round Table)
.....12:30 - 1:30 PM

New Member Round Table Social5:15 - 6:00 PM

Small Community Libraries Round Table Social
.....5:15 - 6:00 PM

TALL Texans Social5:15 - 6:00 PM

University of North Texas College of Information
Reception5:15 - 6:00 PM
RSVP to LIS-info@unt.edu

University of Texas iSchool Alumni Reception
.....5:15 - 6:00 PM

SCLRT Dessert Social5:15 - 6:00 PM

Battledecks 2021.....7:30 - 8:30 PM

Evening with the Authors7:30 - 8:30 PM

Storytelling Concert: Empowering Voices
.....7:00 - 8:30 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

Public Libraries Division Membership Party
.....5:00 - 6:00 PM

Sam Houston State University (SHSU) Alumni
Reception5:00 - 6:00 PM

Texas Women's University Reception
.....5:00 - 6:00 PM

Latino Caucus Round Table Social ...5:00 - 6:00 PM

Queers & Allies Round Table Social
.....5:00 - 6:00 PM

Black Caucus Round Table 31st Anniversary
Celebration: State of African American Librarians
and Libraries6:00 - 7:30 PM

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Director's Symposium Breakfast, Teacher Day @ TLA

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Library Division Membership Party, Small Community
Libraries Round Table Social

TASLA - TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARY ADMINISTRATORS

School Administrators Conference, TALL Texans Institute,
Teacher Day @ TLA

3branch

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American Library Association

www.ala.org

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American Psychological Association

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Bernhardt

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Bloom's

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Blue Dot Kids Press

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Booklist

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Harper Focus

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Leading Spanish language book distributor in the U.S. One-stop shopping for all your Spanish language needs. Children, young adult, adult fiction/nonfiction, and reference (dictionaries, encyclopedias, and atlases). Ask about our collection development plan.

Leland

See Library Interiors of Texas

Lerner Digital

See Lerner Publishing Group

Lerner Publisher Services

See Lerner Publishing Group

Lerner Publishing Group

www.lernerbooks.com

Lerner Publishing Group creates high-quality fiction and nonfiction for children and young adults. Founded in 1959, Lerner is one of the nation's largest independent children's book publishers with fourteen imprints and divisions: Lerner Publications, Millbrook Press, Carolrhoda Books, Twenty-First Century Books, Graphic Universe™, Darby Creek, Kar-Ben Publishing, Carolrhoda Lab™, Hungry Tomato™, LernerClassroom, ediciones Lerner, First Avenue Editions, Lerner Digital™, and Lerner Publisher Services.

LIAT

See Library Interiors of Texas

Libraries Unlimited

See ABC-CLIO

Library Ideas, LLC

www.libraryideas.com/

Library Ideas is home of the very popular Vox Books and our newest product iVox. Both products are audio enabled products that read the book out loud for 3–8-year old's. Whether as a motivational tool for young readers or simply to add a bit more magic to the reading experience, Vox Books and iVox are learning/literacy tools for both public libraries and schools. We have books in English, Spanish and Mandarin. We also offer Immersive Reality books with engaging STEM titles for 5–10-year old's with cutting edge Virtual Reality/Augmented Reality components which are great for public libraries and schools. And don't forget about our innovative e-resources

including Freegal Music, Freading eBooks, Online Book Club and Rocket Languages. There are more than 5,000 libraries and schools in over 20 countries around the world utilizing our state-of-the-art products.

Library Interiors of Texas

www.libraryinteriorsoftexas.com

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

Library Journal

See Junior Library Guild

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

www.lbyr.com

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers began publishing books for children in 1926. We publish a diverse, carefully curated list of the finest books for young readers of all ages and backgrounds. LBYR has the distinct honor of being the first and only publishing division to have won the Caldecott Medal, the annual award for the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children, three years in a row. We have four imprints: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers publishes our core list of literary and commercial books, LB Kids produces novelty and licensed titles, Poppy is comprised of commercial titles for teens, and NOVL spans original digital content for teens. Our mission is to inspire a lifelong love of reading.

Live Oak Media

See Publisher Spotlight

Lucas Miller, Singing Zoologist

www.singingzoologist.com

Science author, songwriter and YouTube sensation Lucas Miller teaches about metamorphosis, symbiosis, ecosystems and more in his legendary, multimedia school presentations.

Lynn Draper

See Storybook Theatre of Texas

Mackin

www.mackin.com



For over 37 years, Mackin has provided library and classroom materials for grades PK-12. Known the world over for exemplary service and a stringent attention to detail, we have access to over 18,000 publishers and an available collection of more than 3 million printed titles. The development of MackinVIA, our free, award-winning digital content management system, has been instrumental for tens of thousands of schools and provides access to over 9 million students worldwide. To date, our digital catalog boasts close to 3 million PK-12 age-appropriate titles in eBook, audiobook, read-alongs, video, and database

formats. Reaffirming our technical superiority and usefulness in the classroom and library, MackinVIA was named as one of Tech & Learning magazine's Prestigious Education Technology products for 2015-2017, Best In Show at ISTE 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2020, and was a recipient of Modern Library Awards Platinum Award in 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2021, along with the distinguished designation as 2019 Product of the Year.

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

www.mackidsschoolandlibrary.com

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group publishes award winning trade books for grades PreK-12. Imprints include Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR, Feiwel & Friends, First Second Books, Henry Holt BFYR, Roaring Brook Press, Square Fish and Priddy Books.

Macmillan Publishers

www.macmillanlibrary.com

Adult trade titles in hardcover and paperback from publishers Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Henry Holt, St. Martin's Press, Griffin, Tor/Forge, Celadon, Flatiron, and Minotaur. YA from Wednesday Books + Flatiron Books YA.

Magic Wagon

See ABDO

Magination Press/American Psychological Association

www.maginationpress.org , www.apabooks.org

The American Psychological Association (APA) publishes the bestselling APA Publication Manual style guide, as well as an expansive collection of books, journals, videos, digital resources, and other products. Magination Press, the children's book imprint of APA, publishes award-winning and bestselling books for toddlers through teenagers, including Something Happened in Our Park, Something Happened in Our Town, the What-To-Do Guides, The Feel Better Books, The Terrific Toddler series, the Bentley the Bee books, the Jacob books, and many more helpful titles that are written and/or vetted by psychologists. See our current catalog at www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/apa/maginationcatalog_springsummer2021/.

Magnetic Press

See Publisher Spotlight

The Mailbox

See Infobase

Manga Classics

See Publisher Spotlight

Media Flex - OPALS - CERF

www.mediaflex.net

OPALS Open-source Automated Library System is a powerful cooperatively developed, Web-based, open source program. This alternative technology provides Internet access to information databases, library collections and digital archives. The "total cost of ownership" of this standards-based, Web-based, feature rich software is demonstrably and undeniably sustainable.

Media Technologies

See Library Interiors of Texas

Meescan Inc.

www.meescan.com

For librarians who spend too long behind the checkout desk and not enough time doing what they were trained for and love, Meescan sets them free. It's a self-checkout system and smartphone app that's simple to install and effortless for patrons to use. It allows librarians to get on with what they do best: organizing the library's database, reaching out to their local community, helping people track down information, and engaging with patrons.

Midwest Tape

www.midwesttapes.com

Midwest Tape is Here for Libraries. For more than 30 years, Midwest Tape has been dedicated to serving the unique physical and digital media needs of Libraries and their patrons. The company is the leading source for Video, Audiobooks, and Music on disc and other physical formats to Public Libraries. Midwest Tape is also the innovative source for the leading all-in-one digital experience of hoopla digital that features more than 950,000 digital titles that Libraries can offer on-demand to their patrons, and the award-winning Library-First publishing and distribution content of Dreamscape Media.

Millbrook Press

See Lerner Publishing Group

Miller, Lucas, Singing Zoologist

See Lucas Miller, Singing Zoologist

mk Solutions Inc

www.mksolutions.com

mk Solutions provides reliable RFID and Barcode library automation technologies. mk is a single source and global company with headquarters in York, PA. We are an industry leader known for its durable equipment and world-renowned software. mk believes that all libraries no matter how big or small should be able to take full advantage of technology that will help them grow their circulations, patrons, and streamline daily workflows. Consequently, helping the library focus on their patron and community initiatives.

MSI Information Services

See Junior Library Guild

Muzo

See Library Interiors of Texas

Network of the National Library of Medicine, South Central Region

www.nlm.gov/scr

NNLM's South Central Region is part of the field force of the National Library of Medicine and our mission is to help improve access to health information and improve health literacy in Texas and the surrounding states. We partner with libraries and community organizations to do this. We offer grant funding and free training opportunities for organizations. Become a member today!

Nature Conservancy

See Lucas Miller, Singing Zoologist

Nienkämper Library

See Library Interiors of Texas

Nobrow/Flying Eye Books

www.nobrow.net

Nobrow and Flying Eye Books are home to the finest work from illustrators all over the world. From graphic novels to children's picture books and unique objets d'art, we've always been on the frontiers of publishing expertly printed art with compelling stories you won't find anywhere else. We believe that nothing compares to the thrill of holding a beautiful book in your hands and watching a story come to life in front of your eyes, and we work to make sure that every story looks amazing!

Norton Young Readers

See W. W. Norton & Company

NovelList

See EBSCO Information Services

NubeOcho

See Publisher Spotlight

OFS Brands

See Library Interiors of Texas

OPALS - CERF - Media Flex

See Media Flex - OPALS - CERF

OverDrive

www.overdrive.com

OverDrive strives to create "a world enlightened by reading." Serving a growing network of 65,000 libraries and schools in 84 countries, OverDrive – and its K-12 division, OverDrive Education – delivers the industry's largest digital catalog of ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, and other content through award-winning apps. The Libby reading app for libraries is one of Popular Mechanics' 20 Best Apps of the Decade, while the student reading app Sora is one of TIME's Best Inventions of 2019. Founded in 1986, OverDrive is based in Cleveland, Ohio USA and was named a Certified B Corp in 2017.

Owlkids Books


www.owlkidsbooks.com

Owlkids is an independent publisher of award-winning books and magazines for children. With high quality art and design, curriculum and reading levels, and key themes like #OwnVoices, inquiry, STEAM, and social-emotional learning, we create beautiful, kid-approved picture books, nonfiction, chapter books, and graphic novels to help enrich your library. Stop by to see our new spring 2021 list!

Page Street Kids

www.pagestreetpublishing.com

Page Street Kids is the children's division of Page Street Publishing. Page Street Kids publishes art-led narrative picture books, picture book biographies, visually driven concept books, and selectively distinct board books by new talent. The mission of the Page Street Young Adult list is to focus on finding and



developing talent, who create believable and diverse characters, while telling stories that connect with teens by reflecting the intricacies and challenges they face in their modern world. The list includes stories that will resonate with teens who are reading at all levels and comprises everything from truly epic in scope fantasy, to laugh-out-loud romantic comedies, to thrilling edge-of-your-seat sci-fi thrillers, to realistic contemporary. Page Street Publishing is distributed by Macmillan.

Palmer Hamilton

See Library Interiors of Texas

Palmieri

See Library Interiors of Texas

Peachtree Publishing Company

www.peachtree-online.com

Peachtree Publishing Company is a trade book publisher, specializing in quality children's and young adult literature; consumer references in health, education, and parenting; and regional guides to the American South. Our mission is to captivate and educate with well-crafted words and powerful illustrations.

Penguin Random House Adult Library

www.PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com

The mission of the Penguin Random House Library Marketing Department is to put great books and audiobooks into the hands of librarians before they are published, as well as to provide resources to assist with Readers' Advisory, event programming, and Book Club planning. Visit us online at PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com and BooksOnTape.com, plus connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, Instagram, and Issuu under PRHLibrary.

Penguin Young Readers

www.penguinclassroom.com

Penguin Young Readers is a global leader in children's publishing with preeminent imprints such as Dial Books, Dutton Children's Books, Penguin Workshop, Philomel, G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, Razorbill, Viking Books for Young Readers, Flamingo Books, Nancy Paulsen books, and Kokila. Visit PenguinClassroom.com for free discussion guides, virtual author appearance information, and more!

Perma-Bound Books

www.perma-bound.com

An industry leader, Perma-Bound Books is a division of Hertzberg-New Method Inc., a family-owned business in Jacksonville, Ill. For more than 66 years, we've been a leader in the library binding and educational services industry. We provide durable library-bound books, eBooks, and teaching materials to thousands of Pre-K through 12 schools and libraries throughout North America, Latin America, and Asia. With millions of books from more than 1,000 publishers—as well as more than 300,000 eBooks, audiobooks, interactive eBooks, and databases from leading educational publishers—we offer personal and comprehensive service to the PreK-12

curriculum and library market, and we offer online catalog ordering, complete cataloging and processing, and collection development/analysis. Perma-Bound is the exclusive sponsor of the Texas Topaz and Texas 2x2 reading lists and is the proud conference sponsor of the Texas Lone Star and Tayshas lists.

PGAL

www.pgal.com

Founded in 1946, PGAL is an international design firm specializing in architecture, interiors, engineering, and planning for a diverse portfolio of public and private sector clients. We focus on projects that enhance communities; hence, our particular interest in Public and Academic Library Design. Our services include needs assessment; programming; master planning; vision/brand development; architectural, interior & graphic design; audio-visual & technology consulting; and furniture/shelving layout & selection. Recent Texas projects include the 34,000 SF Plano Gladys Harrington Public Library Renovation & Addition; 40,000 SF Pearland Shadow Creek Library; 42,000 SF Cedar Hill Public Library; 65,000 SF Round Rock Public Library; 43,000 SF Seguin Public Library; renovation and addition to the Fretz Park Branch of the Dallas Public Library; 8,500 SF Joann Cole Mitte Memorial Library (2011 D/AIA Community Design Award Winner); 53,500 SF Allen Public Library & Civic Auditorium; 11,000 SF Lake Travis Community Library; Bee Cave City Hall & Library Master Plan; and Sammy Brown Library in Carthage and on the books - Dripping Springs Public Library.

Piñata Books

See Arte Público Press

Pop!

See ABDO

Power Kids

See Rosen Publishing/Power Kids

Praeger

See ABC-CLIO

ProQuest

www.proquest.com

ProQuest is a trusted partner to people and organizations across the spectrum of research and learning. Committed to collaboration, it applies its expertise on research roles, content requirements and workflows to create information solutions that inspire endless possibilities for productivity and success.

Prufrock Press

See Sourcebooks

Publisher Spotlight

www.publishersspotlight.com

Featuring publishers including Albatros Media, Blair Publishing, Blue Dot Kids Press, Britannica Books, Child's Play, Cicada Books, Diamond Book Distributors, Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, Live Oak Media, Magnetic Press, Manga Classics, NubeOcho, Readers to Eaters, Tiger Tales, Tiny Owl Books, Toon Boos & What on Earth Books.

Publishers Weekly

www.PublishersWeekly.com

Publishers Weekly is the international news and reviews platform of book publishing. Founded in 1872 and published weekly, the magazine boasts 1.23 million social media followers; publishes 10 e-newsletters, BookLife (a website and monthly supplement), two blogs, podcasts, a mobile edition, digital editions, and apps; and features a thriving website that reaches 14 million unique visitors annually.

Random House Children's Books

www.rhcbbooks.com

Quality books from hardcovers to paperbacks, pre-school through Young Adult, including the imprints of Alfred A. Knopf, Anne Schwartz Books, Crown, Delacorte Press, Doubleday, Ember, Golden, Laurel-Leaf, Make Me a World, Random House, Random House Studio, RH Graphic, Step into Reading, Stepping Stones, Underlined, and Yearling.

Readers to Eaters

See Publisher Spotlight

READsquared

www.readsquared.com

Encourage habits that instill a life-long love of reading with fun, easy-to-use logging and challenges that inspire reading. Implemented in hours and branded for your library or school, READsquared provides participants with an easy, fun way to log their reading at home, the library, school, or on the go.

Reference Solutions

www.referencesolutions.data-axle.com

Reference Solutions is the leading provider in business and consumer research. Offering a full-service platform, Reference Solutions helps users create marketing plans, conduct competitive analysis, raise funds, and locate people.

Reycraft Books

www.reycraftbooks.com

Reycraft Books is a collection of fiction and nonfiction trade books for children and teens with a focus on diversity and #OwnVoices authors and illustrators. We publish original and licensed works from Authors and illustrators around the globe who have unique stories to tell. These are books children will want to read again and again - providing them with mirrors, windows, and sliding doors to the world.

The RoadRunner Press

www.TheRoadRunnerPress.com

The RoadRunner Press specializes in thoughtful page-turning picture books and juvenile fiction and nonfiction for both avid and reluctant young readers. We also offer select adult nonfiction and fiction titles with characters you won't soon forget. Our books have always reflected our world in all its diversity, and one of our specialties is Native American tales (both historic and contemporary). We believe reading should be a multi-sensory experience for you, so much attention is paid to the quality and beauty of the physical book as well as the story it carries. In trying to do our part to

help during the remote learning brought on by the pandemic, we are proud to announce our first writing prompt activity book by author and librarian Sherri Maret: *The Book of Untold Stories*. We hope you'll come hear Ms. Maret talk about the book.

Rosen Publishing / Power Kids / Cavendish Square

www.rosenpublishing.com , www.rosendigital.com

The Rosen Publishing Group resources offer award-winning K-12 content featuring Teen Health & Wellness, the very timely Spotlight on Global Issues interactive eBooks, and much more. Greenhaven and KidHaven Publishing deliver unique perspectives that allow learners to discuss opposing viewpoints, current controversies, and global issues. Cavendish Square is committed to the changing needs of students, featuring the best-selling *Cultures of the World* series and CSQ Digital, the best curriculum-related content available for online researchers.

Rourke Educational Media

www.rourkepublishing.com

At Rourke Educational Media, our collection of resources is designed to help you build a dynamic, 21st century library and media center, all while helping your students to achieve success. From traditional Library Bound books and technology and assessment tools to e-books and reference sets—and with the added benefit of easy ordering and reordering options—we have all the tools and services you need to run an engaging library that fosters learning and creativity. Rourke Educational Media is dedicated to supporting you in the most important task of all: Helping students to learn and grow.

Russwood Library Furniture

www.russwood.com

Design assistance through the job's entire process: pricing, specifications, layout design, installation, product questions, etc. Our products include, but are not limited to: collaboration furniture, circulation desks, tables, laminate, metal and wood shelving, Titan™ mobile shelving, tables with a variety of styles & shapes, computer furniture and workstations, display furniture, office furniture, teacher's desks, and a selection of seating and lounge furniture.

SafeSpace Concepts

www.safespaceconcepts.com

Safe Space Concepts has focused on quality since 1989. We strive for quality and making sure infants and toddlers receive the best soft-play. We're in Childhood centers, Children's Museums and Libraries. We work with local suppliers, and all of our items are made in the USA.

Sam Houston State University - Department of Library Science

www.shsu.edu/libraryscience
Library Education

Santillana/Vista Higher Learning

www.loquleo.com/us

Santillana USA is now part of Vista Higher Learning, the leading language-learning publisher in the US market for higher education, with a strong presence in the secondary education market. Together we're now the only PreK-20 specialized world language publisher in the U.S., offering schools an even wider range of language solutions. Santillana is a leading educational publisher in the Spanish-speaking world with offices in 20 countries. Santillana has been doing business in the US for almost 50 years, specializing in textbook programs to teach Spanish in Dual Language, Heritage Speakers, and World Language settings, as well as children's and young adult literature suitable for classroom use.

SBT - Storybook Theater

See Storybook Theatre of Texas

SCBWI - Texas

See Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators - Texas Chapters

Scholastic, Inc.

www.scholastic.com

Scholastic, the global children's publishing, education and media company, has a corporate mission supported through all of its divisions of helping children around the world to read and learn. Recognizing that literacy is the cornerstone of a child's intellectual, personal, and cultural growth, for nearly 90 years Scholastic has created quality products and services that educate, entertain, and motivate children and are designed to help enlarge the understanding of the world around them.

School Library Connection

See ABC-CLIO

School Library Journal

See Junior Library Guild

SchoolLife

www.schoollife.com

Increase Independent Reading with TLA Reading List Brag Tags®. Full Color Double Sided Brag Tags Enhance any Reading Program. We manufacture our Brag Tags in Houston Texas, along with Custom Bookmarks, and other Custom Wearable Incentives that Motive and Inspire Reading.

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators - Texas Chapters

www.scbwi.org

The Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators acts as a network for the exchange of knowledge among writers, illustrators, editors, publishers, agents, librarians, educators, booksellers and others involved with literature for young people. We are currently more than 22,000 members worldwide, in over 70 regions, making us the largest children's writing organization in the world. Texas hold five SCBWI chapters: Austin, Houston, Brazos Valley, North Texas and Southwest Texas.

Sebco Books

www.SebcoBooks.com

Sebco Books has dedicated itself to providing schools and libraries with the finest books, eBooks and audio books available. We believe our responsibility is to make our customers' job as easy as possible by helping to save time, money and work.

Shadow Mountain Publishing

www.tinyurl.com/y57sxpvo

Shadow Mountain is trade book publisher for children and adults, best known for the *Fablehaven* and *Dragonwatch* series in middle grade fantasy by Brandon Mull, our award-winning empathy-building titles such as *Moustaches for Maddie*, *A Monster Like Me*, *Stella*, and *Real*, our *Proper Romance* series and *New Voice in Nonfiction* titles. Our children's and YA titles are clean content.

Simon & Schuster, Inc.

www.simonandschuster.com

Aladdin Paperbacks, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, *Libros para niños*, Little Simon, Little Simon Inspirations, Margaret K. McElderry Books, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, Simon Pulse, Simon Scribbles, and Simon Spotlight. Children's trade hardcover and paperback books, board books, novelty books, and book and audio packages for grades pre-K through 12.

SirsiDynix

www.sirsidyndix.com

SirsiDynix is the global leader in strategic technology solutions for libraries-vital institutions whose primary mission is to make sense of the vast world of information for people and communities. This is an exciting role as libraries assist people in discovering and using knowledge, resources and other valuable content for their educations, jobs and entertainment. In concert with key industry partners, SirsiDynix supports this strategic role for libraries by offering a comprehensive integrated suite of technology solutions for improving the internal productivity of libraries and enhancing their capabilities for meeting the needs of people and communities including library management systems (LMS) and search and discovery solutions. SirsiDynix has approximately 4,000 library and consortia clients, serving more than 300 million people through more than 20,000 library outlets in the Americas, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific.

Smith System

See Library Interiors of Texas

Sourcebooks

www.sourcebooks.com

Sourcebooks is an independent publishing company dedicated to innovation and the belief that books change lives. We publish 300 new titles each year in the children, young adult, adult, nonfiction, gift, and education categories.

South Texas School Furniture

www.texaslibrary.com

Library Furniture: Furniture design and layout with service throughout Texas. 25-year warranty on library furniture. Soft Seating, shelving, circulation desks, chairs, tables and much more are all made in the USA. All furniture includes delivery and installation by our trained professional staff. We will meet in person and take measurements, show samples and other personal services that make this a smooth process.

SparkPress

www.gosparkpress.com

An award-winning hybrid publishing imprint for female and male authors. We are a mission-driven, female-run company with a strong vision, passion, and work ethic. Our roster of impressive, accomplished authors speaks for itself, and we're proud of being an industry game-changer.

Spotlight

See ABDO

Star Bright Books

www.starbrightbooks.com

Star Bright Books is an independent publishing company dedicated to producing the highest quality board books, hardcover, and paperback books for children from birth to twelve. We believe that all children should see themselves in print and we make a concerted effort to include children of all colors, nationalities, and abilities in our books. In addition to seeing themselves, children should also hear familiar language in the books they choose. In pursuit of that goal, we publish engaging books in thirty languages.

State Bar of Texas Law-Related Education

See Driving on the Right Side of the Road

Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.

www.sterlingpublishing.com

Sterling books cover a broad range of subject areas including current events, cookbooks, crafting and home decorating, wellness and personal growth, popular culture, history, music, and everything in between. Sterling Children's Books publishes both fiction and nonfiction. Our list includes picture books, joke books, classics, and board books, as well as middle-grade and young adult fiction.

Storybook Theatre of Texas

www.sbttheatre.com

'30' amazing years, encouraging young people! Winner of the Excellent Play award, 4th Annual China Children's Festival in Beijing, China. National Endowment of the Arts "Best in the Arts" American Masterpieces award winner and selected once again for the touring roster of Texas Commission on the Arts. Storybook Theatre is a high-energy touring children's theatre group that brings stories to life! Costumes, props, exaggerated voices, and lots of interaction with the audience are standard in these live performances. All stories are age appropriate for the audience, pre K-6th grade.

An encouraging message or lesson enhances each program. Storybook Theatre will get your students excited about reading! If not, we will adjust your fee accordingly. Ask about funding up to 50% available through TCA!

SVS Press

www.svspress.com

Founded in 1968, St Vladimir's Seminary Press is the largest and most active publisher of Orthodox Christian books in the English language, with more than 500 titles in print. SVS Press has achieved a reputation for permitting a free expression of ideas within the breadth of the Orthodox faith, tradition, and history, while insisting on works of theological excellence. In addition to titles about theology, history, ecclesiology, ecumenism, hagiography, iconography, spirituality, scriptural studies, music, pastoral theology, Christian education, philosophy, biography, and patristics, SVS Press produces children's books, CDs, video and audio programs, and greeting cards.

T2 Design

See Library Interiors of Texas

Take Care of Texas

www.TakeCareOfTexas.org

Take Care of Texas offers FREE print materials to educate Texans of all ages on ways to conserve water and energy, keep our air and water clean, and reduce waste. Materials include activity books, bookmarks, field guides, stickers, posters, and more!

TCEQ

See Take Care of Texas

Tech Logic

www.tech-logic.com

Tech Logic is an American owned family business focused exclusively on serving libraries through software, technology and automation systems. As the leader and pioneer in library automated material handling (AMH), we provide the most innovative, reliable and cost effective AMH & self-checkout library solutions. Our truly American designed, patented and manufactured products deliver safe, streamlined, people centric business value enhancing the user experience for all.

Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission

www.thgc.texas.gov

The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, coalesced in 2009 by Senate Bill 482, was established to ensure that resources are available to students, educators, and the general public regarding the Holocaust and other genocides. It is a desire of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission to forge a relationship with interested parties to coordinate or modify courses of study and awareness programs, and coordinate commemorative events to further pursue their mission.

Texas Municipal Courts Education Center

See Driving on the Right Side of the Road

Texas SmartBuy/Texas Comptroller

www.TxSmartBuy.com, www.comptroller.texas.gov

The Texas SmartBuy Membership Program, the State of Texas Cooperative Purchasing Program empowers public libraries, colleges, universities, higher education entities, academy and charter schools, ISDs, and library districts access to the same best value, competitively bid and awarded state contracts as our state agencies. Find over 2.5 million items available for purchase including library items, such as fiction and nonfiction books, both paper and hard back varieties, digital audio and video books, and music or audio cd's. We also have a wide array of furniture, paper goods, office and art supplies, digital signage, audiovisual equipment, bar codes and scanners, display cases, organization and storage items and many more!

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

www.tsl.texas.gov

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission provides support to all types of Texas libraries through programs, continuing education, library resource sharing, consulting services, and grant awards of state and federal funding. With programmatic areas including services to the blind and physically disabled, archives and preservation, and state and local government records, TSLAC oversees a broad deployment of statewide information policy, practices, and resources.

Texas Woman's University - School of Library and Information Studies

www.twu.edu/slis

The School of Library and Information Studies prepares students for leadership roles in the information professions, including careers in librarianship and as information specialists in a variety of roles in private and public agencies. The school offers graduate programs including Master of Library Science, Master of Arts in Library Science, Dual Library/Health Studies Degree, School Librarian Certification, and Certificate of Evidence-Based Health Science Librarianship.

TexQuest

See TexQuest Support Center at ESC-20

TexQuest Support Center at ESC-20

www.texquest.net

Education Service Center, Region 20 serves as the Support Center for TexQuest (texquest.net). TexQuest provides statewide access to quality research resources for K-12 public and open-enrollment charter schools in Texas.

Theatre, Storybook

See Storybook Theatre of Texas

Thorndike Press

www.gale.com/thorndike

Thorndike Press publishes large print books — including the most bestsellers and bestselling authors — in fiction genres like romance, mystery, and western to nonfiction sub-genres such as biography, history, and lifestyle in an

easy-to-read format.

Tiger Tales

See Publisher Spotlight

Tilbury House

See Publisher Spotlight

Tim Tingle, Author and Storyteller

www.timtingle.com

As an award-winning Choctaw author and storyteller, Tim Tingle offers inspiring programs, both virtual and live, for all age levels, with a focus on K-5 plus middle grade audiences. As a storyteller he has performed across the United States and Europe, including the Kennedy Center and the Smithsonian. Accompanied by his Native American drum and flute, he performs historical tales from his 24-plus books, including Bluebonnet Finalist Crossing Bok Chitto, winner of many state and national awards. His How I Became A Ghost series is very popular with middle grade readers, and he has co-authored three books with Doc Moore, including More Spooky Texas Tales. The year 2021 will feature three new book releases.

Tim Tingle, Choctaw author

See Authors Tim Tingle and Doc Moore

Tiny Owl Books

See Publisher Spotlight

TLA 2022 Fort Worth

www.fortworth.com

Get ready for TLA 2022! Visit Fort Worth will be providing city information on things to see and do for TLA attendees.

TLC - The Library Corporation

www.TLCdelivers.com

TLC is a family-owned company with a singular commitment of serving libraries worldwide. From our innovative automation and cataloging solutions to our award-winning customer service and support, TLC is the one-stop resource for all your library automation needs.

Today's Business Solutions

www.tbsit360.com

TBS providers of high-tech library solutions; enhancing patrons experience with computer reservation, SaaS mobile printing, print management, scan stations, Fees/Fines Payment with PCI Compliant Credit/Debit Card solutions.

Toon Books

See Publisher Spotlight

Tor/Forge Books

www.tor-forge.com , www.torteen.com

Tor/Forge Books is a publishing division of Macmillan specializing in science fiction and fantasy. We also publish a wide range of genres including westerns, thrillers, historical fiction, horror, general fiction, classics, and children's and young adult books. Imprints include Tor.com, Tor Teen, and Starscape.

Trinity Library Resources

www.trinitylibraryresources.com

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Twenty-First Century Books

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Tyndale House Publishers

www.tyndale.com

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University of North Texas College of Information

See University of North Texas Department of Information Science

University of North Texas Department of Information Science

www.informationscience.unt.edu

The Department of Information Science at the University of North Texas prepares information professionals to meet the needs of the global information society. The department offers nationally recognized programs at the bachelors, masters and doctoral levels in Library Science, Information Science and Data Science. We also offer School Library Certification and Graduate Academic Certificates. The ALA-accredited Master of Science with majors in Library Science or Information Science program is also offered completely online.

University of Texas Press

www.utexaspress.com

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Upstart

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Vista Higher Learning

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W. W. Norton & Company

www.norton.com

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What on Earth Books

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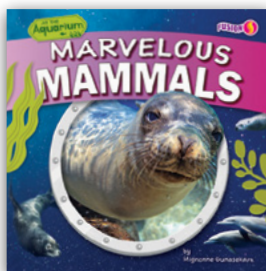
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Illustrations from the Mouse Books by Monique Felix

A close-up photograph of an agave plant, showing its thick, green, pointed leaves with serrated edges. The plant is the central focus of the image, with its leaves radiating from the center. The background is slightly blurred, showing some other plants and a wooden structure.

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