

TEXAS LIBRARY JOURNAL

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Library Renaissance: Quest for Renewal

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President's Perspective

By Elizabeth A.M. Howard

Amidst book bans, budget cuts, inflation, and turbulent politics members of the Texas Library Association (TLA) are pushing forward toward a library renaissance.

We are renewing our passion for the mission of librarians across the state. Together we are proving the value of all libraries and spreading the word about the important role we all play in our communities.

As 2024 comes to an end, we look forward to an unforgettable experience at the TLA 2025 Annual Conference in Dallas in April. Thousands of librarians will gather to connect and network with peers and industry experts, fostering valuable relationships along the way. Our educational programming, led by our fellow librarians and experts in the field, will empower attendees with cutting-edge knowledge and innovative strategies. The vibrant exhibit hall will showcase the latest in library resources and technology. TLA 2025 offers countless opportunities for personal and professional growth.

But before we kick off the new year, I want to reflect on some of our association's accomplishments this year:

- \$51,000 funded 190 stipends to help defray the cost of members' participation in TLA leadership and professional development events.
- \$375,000 was raised in the H-E-B summer check stand campaign, Summer at the Library. Funds will support summer programs in libraries.
- Our free online learning opportunities increased, and new online training courses were offered. District meeting attendance more than doubled in many cases as the events offered valuable education and networking.
- More than 840 volunteers dedicated their time and talents to TLA.
- Membership in the [Texans for the Right to Read](#) coalition grew to more than 3500, and those individuals supported libraries across the state facing challenges to books and new, restrictive policy proposals.
- The [Support Texas Libraries](#) public awareness campaign reached more than 1.4 million people via social media and more than 2900 supporters have signed the petition.



Our work with Texans for the Right to Read and the Support Texas Libraries campaign is extremely important as the 89th Legislature begins in January. The TLA Legislative Committee has been hard at work this fall, meeting to update the [TLA Legislative Priorities](#), offering a series of virtual discussions on a variety of advocacy topics, hosting a workshop at the Texas Capitol, and more.

Hundreds of TLA members have participated in these training opportunities. And I want to encourage everyone to be active advocates during the upcoming session. TLA's greatest strength is our membership, and we are

fortunate that our association includes all types of libraries who share a common mission of ensuring library excellence for all Texans.

Together we are stronger. I look forward to seeing you in Dallas at TLA 2025 as we learn together and celebrate the amazing work of all Texas libraries.

Elizabeth A.M. Howard

Elizabeth A.M. Howard
2024-25 TLA President

April 3, 2025
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TLA Legislative Priorities and Preparing for the 89th Legislature

By Wendy Woodland

MEMBERS OF THE TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (TLA) LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MET FOR TWO DAYS in September to develop the organization's legislative priorities for the next two years.

After reviewing TLA's mission, vision, goals and objectives to set a framework for the discussion, focus turned to TLA's existing legislative priorities, the changing legislative landscape and our vision for where to go from there. Day two, the group brainstormed legislative goals for the future and then outlined the final vision and legislative priorities.

TLA's vision for our legislative advocacy work is to unite and amplify the voices of the library community to ensure Texas libraries provide outstanding services and resources that support all Texans and contribute to the state's educational and economic success.

Our legislative priorities affirm the value libraries bring to their communities and the essential role they play in the future of Texas. The priorities fall into three categories; and specific areas are identified in each category that libraries contribute to and are engaged in; our legislative efforts will focus on those areas

FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

We advocate for and support legislative efforts that strengthen libraries' engagement in and contributions to:

- Career readiness.
- Early childhood literacy and lifelong learning.
- Emerging technologies and supportive infrastructure.

PARTNERING IN LEARNING

We advocate for and support legislative efforts that strengthen libraries' engagement in and contributions to:

- K-12 pathways to college, career and military readiness.
- Open Educational Resources (OER) and Open Access initiatives.

AMPLIFYING ACCESS

We advocate for and support legislative efforts that strengthen libraries' engagement in and contributions to:

- Freedom to read and access information and resources.
- Digital literacy, accessibility and opportunities.

CONNECT WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Now, before the session begins in January, is a great time to introduce yourself to your Texas Representative and Texas Senator. Find out who represents you by entering your home address in [this online form](#).

TLA created this [one pager](#) which has our legislative priorities on one side, and fillable space on the back where you can share interesting facts about your library and how it serves your community.

Your message is simple — I'm a librarian who lives in your district. I wanted to share the Texas Library Association's legislative priorities with you and share a little about the work our library does in your community. I am happy to be a resource for you and your staff if you have any questions about libraries during this session. Attach the one pager with highlights from your library and send.

Emails for Texas House of Representative members are in this format: firstname.lastname@house.texas.gov

Email addresses for Texas Senators are in this format: firstname.lastname@senate.texas.gov

You may not receive a response, or may receive an auto-response, but this is an important first step in connecting with your elected officials.

BILLS IMPACTING LIBRAIRES (as of November 25)

November 12 was the first day that legislators could file bills for the 89th Legislature. More than 1500 bills were filed, a record number for bills filed on the first day. TLA is tracking 30 bills which could have an impact on libraries and the association. As more bills are filed before the March 14 bill-filing deadline, we will continue to add those which affect libraries to our [online bill tracker](#).

STAY UP TO DATE DURING SESSION

TLA has scheduled webinars January 21, March 11, April 30 and June 10 to provide updates on the Legislative Session. These are free to TLA members. Links to register are available on txla.org/events.

The Legislative Committee is updating the tools and resources found on the txla.org/advocacy webpages to provide useful information to help librarians communicate effectively on legislative issues.

Look for the TexLine e-newsletter, email calls to action when bills begin to move through the process, and updates in TLA Engage and TLACast. Current TLA members will automatically receive this information.

If you have any questions, [please contact me](#). I look forward to working with you during the session and appreciate your support!



Librarian to Mayor

Q&A with Sullivan City Mayor Alma Salinas

By Priscilla Takyi

Alma Salinas, the former director of Library Services and Instructional Resources

at the La Joya Independent School District, was elected mayor of Sullivan City in 2021. In July 2024, the first public library in Sullivan City opened, thanks to the mayor's leadership. We wanted to learn how her experience as a librarian prepared her to serve her community in this new way.

How did your experience as a librarian influence and prepare you for running for office?

As teacher librarians, we network and stay updated with data that will help and guide us to better serve our community to become lifelong learners. At a FESTIBA Event at the University of Texas-Pan American 20+ years ago, former United States Representative, Ruben Hinojosa, who is an advocate for literacy pointed out in his presentation that the Lower Rio Grande has a 50% illiteracy rate. I was not happy with that information. Near the end of my career as a high school librarian, I started a parent book club and invited my fellow high school librarians to collaborate. The objective was to encourage families to read at home and have book discussions. After working with the district for 25 years, eleven of them as a high school librarian, I became the Director of Library Services and Instructional Resources.

I continued with my goals of [Fall and Spring Literacy Tertulias](#), [Little Free Libraries](#), "La Llave del Exito," and the Parent Book Club to name a few. Having worked for the La Joya ISD District for 33 years, 19 of them in the library world, has empowered me to use data analysis to find solutions, network to collaborate, and set goals for my community based on need and the enhancement of a better quality of life.

How does your library background inspire and inform your approach as mayor?

As a librarian, I made sure our campus library was the heart of the campus. Later as director, I ensured every campus had a healthy heart that promoted literacy and provided the resources that students, teachers, and parents needed. This was established by staying up to date with data and trends that our community of learners would benefit from. As mayor, I



continue to practice being updated and taking initiative with resources and opportunities that benefit our city and overall, our community.

What unique strengths do librarians bring to civic roles like yours?

Our goal as librarians is to support lifelong learning because it benefits: mental health, career advancement, personal growth, social connections, and adaptability. As a mayor, my goal is to provide a better quality of life for our constituents.

How can libraries and city leadership collaborate to benefit and advance libraries?

Libraries serve as hubs for learning, connecting, and providing presentations that will inform community members about available funding, resources, and

updated information on new trends. They are like businesses that provide free services.

As a former librarian, how do you advocate for the value of libraries in your role?

I define it as the heart of our city. It brings life, love, and support to all community members.

How can we fulfill our civic duty to ensure officials hear our voices and understand the importance and value of all types of libraries?

As librarians, it is our job and duty to advocate for our libraries with a vision. It can be communicated through social media, data on patrons' visits, presentations, activities, events, updated inventory, technology, etc. The possibilities are endless.

Under your leadership, Sullivan City opened its first public library. How did you accomplish this?

It has been 10+ years working on this idea. On May 7, 2018, La Joya ISD donated the land for a library and a park. Through Urban County funding, the project was initiated. We also had support from Senator Chuy Hinojosa, State Representative Oscar Longoria, and Hidalgo County Precinct 3 Commissioner Ever Villarreal, so many entities to be grateful to. Our community is very pleased and proud of our facility.

Priscilla Takyi is the Communications Coordinator at the Texas Library Association.



Navigating the AI Landscape

Enhancing Critical Thinking and Information Literacy in Higher Education

By Dawndrea Casey

AS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) BECOMES MORE INTEGRATED INTO OUR DAILY LIVES, ETHICAL DEBATES SURROUNDING ITS USE CONTINUE TO EVOLVE. Educators have expressed concerns about potential threats to students' critical thinking, creativity, and academic integrity (Warschaer et al., 2023). In response, many universities have banned AI to preserve academic standards. However, this approach risks leaving students unprepared for a workforce where AI is becoming increasingly integral. Educators and librarians should incorporate AI into curricula instead of prohibiting AI, teaching students how to use it responsibly while critically assessing its outputs.

Many students enter higher education with underdeveloped skills in evaluating information. In a landscape flooded with abundant but often unreliable content, they struggle to engage critically with academic materials, lacking the ability to gauge reliability and bias or to synthesize complex information. (Maddens et al., 2021). AI-generated content can further complicate the understanding of key research concepts. One way to address AI use and students' information literacy challenges is by integrating these two concepts into one-shot library instruction. These sessions can introduce students to the potential pitfalls of generative AI while strengthening their information literacy skills, guiding students in using AI tools

responsibly while fostering critical thinking, and promoting ethical, informed engagement in learning and research.

AI-GENERATED TEXT TO REINFORCE CRITICAL THINKING

A key component of information literacy is evaluating sources for credibility, relevance, and accuracy. AI tools like ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, and Google Gemini can generate content that appears coherent and authoritative, but students must understand that AI is not infallible. AI-generated material can contain factual inaccuracies or incomplete information. One way to boost critical thinking is through one-shot library instruction where librarians guide students in evaluating an AI-generated essay. Librarians could help students identify the thesis and supporting points and then demonstrate how to use the library's discovery system to search for evidence that supports or refutes the AI-generated claims—teaching students to discern the accuracy of written information. This process also teaches students to recognize claims that require evidence and proper citation—fundamental principles of academic writing that AI often fails to do well.

In addition to understanding what constitutes reliable information, librarians can introduce research strategies to help students refine their search terms, use filters and facets to narrow results, and critically assess the quality of sources. By

comparing AI-generated content with stronger, more reliable sources, students can develop a more discerning approach to all materials, fostering the skills necessary to engage with AI outputs and academic resources.

USING GENERATIVE AI TO INTRODUCE BIAS

In one-shot instruction, librarians can use AI-generated text to teach students about bias. Librarians can show students AI-generated content on controversial or complex topics (e.g., climate change, politics, social issues) and guide them through the process of identifying where bias might arise in the AI's presentation. Since AI algorithms are trained on vast datasets, they often perpetuate and amplify existing societal biases (Schwartz et al., 2022). For example, when prompted about fraud in welfare and food stamp benefits, ChatGPT frequently cites claims that fraud is disproportionately high among immigrant populations despite no credible research supporting these assertions. This example of obvious bias offers a valuable teaching moment, allowing students to identify and critically analyze how biases manifest in AI-generated content.

By using AI-generated content as a case study, librarians can help students recognize different types of bias — such as cultural, gender, racial, or ideological — that can appear not only in AI outputs but in other research materials as well. Through direct comparison with credible sources, students can better spot how biases show up in academic journals, news articles, and other sources. Librarians can teach students to ask critical questions like: Are the sources representative or do they reinforce stereotypes? What would an unbiased, evidence-based perspective look like?

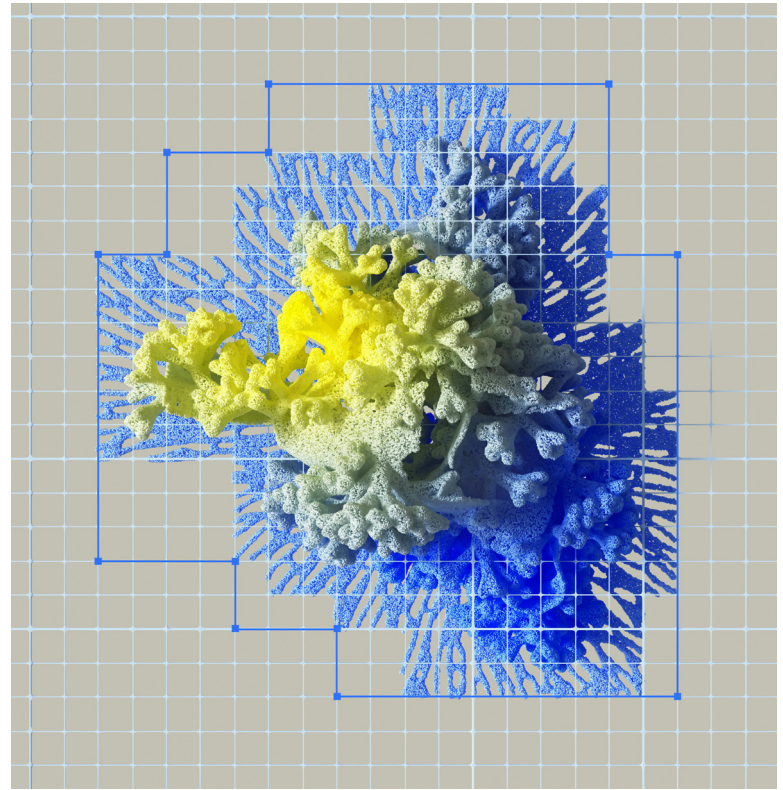
This process helps students develop a more critical approach to all types of information. By teaching them to spot bias in AI outputs where it can often be more easily identified, librarians equip students with the skills needed to navigate a complex information landscape, making them more informed and responsible consumers of both AI-generated and traditional sources.

ENCOURAGING AI AS A TOOL FOR ENHANCING LEARNING, NOT REPLACING IT

One of the major concerns about generative AI is that it could reduce the active cognitive effort students put into tasks like analyzing, synthesizing, and critically evaluating information—processes that deepen understanding and foster critical thinking. When AI tools generate responses, essays, or solutions quickly and easily, students may be tempted to rely on these outputs without fully engaging with the material. To avoid this thinking trap, librarians can show students how to use AI to enhance their learning without replacing it.

In a one-shot session, librarians can guide students through exercises where AI helps with brainstorming, outlining, or summarizing materials, complementing traditional research methods rather than being a substitute for them. For example, librarians can have students use generative AI to create an outline for a research paper, which learners can refine further through traditional avenues of research, analysis, and citation.

This process emphasizes the role of AI in the organization and creativity phases of research while encouraging students to remain actively engaged with the content and focus on higher-



order skills, such as synthesis and interpretation.

As generative AI becomes an increasingly powerful tool in academia and industry, educators and librarians must guide students in navigating its complexities. One-shot library instruction sessions provide an ideal setting for introducing AI tools, equipping students with the skills to evaluate, use, and engage critically with all kinds of source material. By integrating AI literacy into lessons, librarians can help students avoid the pitfalls of AI tools while promoting academic integrity and critical thinking. Through this approach, students will develop essential skills for academic success in a digital world shaped by AI.

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GETTING THE MOST OUT OF GOAL SETTING

By Dana Gerberi

Devising worthwhile goals in the workplace can be challenging in any profession. Employees may not fully comprehend the purpose of goal setting on top of regular demanding job duties. Furthermore, it can be stressful when tasked with setting multiple new goals each year as part of annual performance reviews. With a better understanding of the intent of workplace goals and how to approach the process, the task of goal setting becomes easier, more deliberate and potentially life changing.

Although some organizations have recently moved to individualized learning plans and employee coaching with regular feedback, annual appraisals are a reality in most organizations as the primary method of performance management. Irrespective of the model used, goals are key aspects for employee development. With roots in organizational psychology, goal setting theory sets forth the notion that individuals reach higher performance levels when aiming toward specific goals compared to those lacking goals or just trying their best (Locke, Latham 2006). Goals provide direction and act as a mechanism to objectively measure employee performance based on the results achieved. At the same time, goals encourage employee engagement as well as the advancement of organizational objectives (Armstrong 2017).

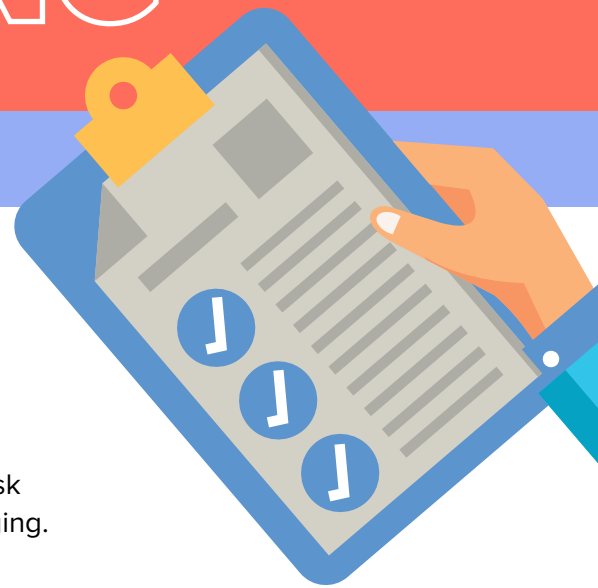
Goal setting is enmeshed with

a growth mindset which is about “believing that developing and making progress is the point of what you’re doing” (Grant 2022, 2). A growth mindset embraces challenges, reflects upon constructive feedback, and recognizes that abilities and knowledge are developed over time through effort, persistence and learning from mistakes. Taking opportunities to stretch oneself is vital to self and professional development.

Goal setting also harmonizes with continuous improvement and the concept of kaizen, the Japanese philosophy that changing for the better is a way of life. Implemented by Toyota in the 1950s and ‘60s and later embraced by broader industry to increase efficiency and quality, kaizen encourages those who do the daily work to harness creative ideas to make implementable improvements (Graban

and Swartz 2022). Employees feel a sense of satisfaction when involved in their own change. An improvement idea has the potential to lead to innovation with a multi-level effect on an individual employee (making work easier and more interesting and/or building knowledge and skills), the department (saving time and resources, improving workflow and employee satisfaction), the organization (improving outcomes, productivity or costs), patrons (improving experience and customer satisfaction), and even the community and greater society (educating and reducing waste).

When tasked with setting new goals, where should library staff begin? A starting point is to review the overall library mission, vision, values and strategic goals as well as any goals of the work unit and think about ways to support these overarching objectives. While directly contributing to broad



tenets and targets is ideal, goal setting tied to performance reviews does not always coincide with the timing of organizational strategic goal implementation. For other inspiration, employees should give thought to the regular obstacles and inefficiencies faced on the job by staff or library patrons. Everyday hindrances present opportunities for improvement in line with kaizen. As an example, library staff from different branches might plan to trial a new practice of coordinating book orders using a shared spreadsheet for collaborative collection development aiming to boost resource discovery, avoid unnecessary duplicate purchases and streamline centralized processing of new materials. When viewing problems as challenges that can be transformed into positive experiences, goals meld with problem-solving innovations.

Another consideration is to delve further into individual talents and interests to explore ways to incorporate innate strengths into professional work. Are there existing skills that aren't being utilized? Examining what truly excites oneself at work is likely to stimulate new and creative goal ideas. For instance, a librarian with a passion for history might plan a pop-up library featuring resources centered around a historic theme or character as a goal for an outreach-related target. Combining talents and interests with goal setting heightens the rewards of



the ensuing efforts and achievement. Employees may glean useful insights from peers and others about where they naturally excel. Obtaining feedback from supervisors also ensures goals are relevant and well-rounded.

Expanding one's range of competencies offers an additional pool of goal ideas. Increasing proficiency with new online tools and software is a necessity with ever-changing technological advances and new ways of working. Participating in educational sessions to gain knowledge and skills through offerings from professional associations, educational institutions, state-based consortiums and other sources are staples of professional development. Specialty certifications and self-study are alternative learning routes.

Library employees might also look for ways to assist others, whether colleagues or patrons, when pondering possible goals. Helping a coworker could be as simple as learning the ropes to take responsibility for an existing task that would enable them to focus on other needs. On a larger scale, assessing and addressing patron needs generates goal opportunities. For example, a public services librarian in an urban public library might set a goal of establishing a partnership with social workers to refer patrons in need to local resources for shelter, healthcare, and other community services.

Regardless of the goals selected, they must be meaningful to individual employees, imbued with some level of personal significance and/or clearly tied to the library's core values, to instill autonomy (Kubiak 2022). Supervisors can help employees refine goals and identify where they fit into the big picture. While supervisors have a responsibility to offer input and encouragement in the goal setting process, including providing support for dedicated time to work on goals and the needed resources, library employees must accept a stake in ownership. Employees involved in setting their own goals are invested in achieving them;

if, however, genuine interest is lacking, problems are present from the start.

Once goals have been identified, they should be specified. SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable/Action-oriented, Relevant/Realistic, Time-bound), developed by business consultant George T. Doran, is a widely used framework to define goals (Doran 1981). Structuring goals by focusing on relevant, clear and realistic intentions that can be objectively measured within an appropriate time frame provides a good footing for follow through. Of note, Doran remarked that quantification of outcomes is not always applicable for an objective and a general indicator of progress could suffice when it comes to the measuring criterion.

An example of a SMART goal an academic librarian might choose for the upcoming semester to expand graduate student utilization of business databases could be formatted as:

SPECIFIC (WHAT WOULD SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?):

Example: Increase usage of business databases among graduate students enrolled in Introduction to Business via a course-integrated in-person library orientation and promotion through multiple communication channels including flyers, emails, social media and signage.

MEASURABLE (HOW WILL IT BE KNOWN THIS HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED?):

Example: Achieve at least a 50% increase in the number of business database online hits during the Spring semester.

ACHIEVABLE/ACTION-ORIENTED (IS THERE CONFIDENCE THAT NEEDED BEHAVIORS OR RESULTS CAN BE REALIZED?):

Example: Targeted outreach will be conducted through an interactive in-person session as well as promotional flyers, emails, social media and signage.

RELEVANT/REALISTIC (IS THIS RELATED TO THE WORK NEEDING TO BE DONE AND IS IT REACHABLE?):

Example: Enhance the academic research capabilities of graduate students by ensuring they are aware of business resources.

TIME-BOUND (WHAT IS THE DEADLINE TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL?):

Example: Implement outreach initiatives early in the Spring semester.

In sentence form, this SMART goal could be stated as 'graduate student use of the library's business databases will increase at least 50% after providing a coordinated in-person library orientation and multi-channel communication campaign.' The intention is bound to be more effective than vaguely stating that efforts will be made to promote the library's business databases. If planning a goal as part of a larger team effort, be sure to specify your individual role within the project since full responsibility lies with multiple players.

According to Doran, SMART is most successful when combined with a plan of actionable steps. Focusing on one goal at a time may be the most manageable approach. Posting a goal where it is visible keeps it in the forefront. It is important to visualize doing the work and reframe unpleasant tasks. Early gains will build confidence and help sustain momentum. Self-awareness and time management are key to supporting goal achievement. Habits must align with priorities for goals to be successful. Individuals need to be honest with themselves about what might be holding them back if they are struggling. If hurdles are experienced, inspiration can be drawn from past successes or seeking a cheerleader for encouragement and accountability. The focus should remain on forward movement rather than perfection.

Setbacks beyond anyone's control,

such as short-staffing, budget cuts or a personal or family health matter, may throw goals off course. These may be only temporary dilemmas, or they may cause a goal to be placed on hold longer term. When a barrier arises, sometimes, pivoting and trying a different approach or altering the aim will still lead to a positive result. Ideally, two-way feedback with a supervisor should be scheduled at set intervals to discuss whether employees feel they're making progress, need help or need to defer for some reason. Regular communication assists with keeping both parties on track and adapting if disruptions occur.

At the end of the goal period, it's important to take time to reflect and think about the process and outcomes. Looking back, employees might be surprised at how much was accomplished. Were any lessons learned from mistakes made or revealed from feedback? What improvements are still needed?

Besides devising annual goals, employees should keep long-term goals in mind based on their current career stage and aspirations. With some forethought, incremental short-term goals can help reach long-term goals. For example, colleagues collaborating on a special project based on a novel idea might think ahead of a goal for the following year to write up their experience and submit it for a conference poster and/or as an article in a professional journal. Additionally, it is wise to think about the acquisition of transferable skills useful for one's career trajectory (McNevin, 2023). A librarian interested in a leadership position in the next five years might map out current gaps in skills and experience and intentionally set goals over the upcoming years to become more adept in the realms of strategic planning and conflict management, for instance, as well as pursue activities such as serving on a community board or volunteering within the local chapter of a professional library association.

Working toward new goals yields a host of benefits including reinforcement

of positive habits, a record of accomplishment that showcases hard work and contributions, increased expertise and self-efficacy, stronger relationships with colleagues, and opportunities for career advancement and possibly higher compensation. The same sort of goal strategies can be applied to other areas of life for greater personal fulfillment. Goal setting provides an opportunity to invest in oneself and shape career paths. Library employees who understand and thoughtfully approach goal setting possess the means to participate in their own success as well as the overall success of the library.

Dana Gerber is a librarian at the Mayo Clinic Libraries in Minnesota.

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24-Hour Library

By Justin Swink

In the 2023-2024 budget, the Town of Little Elm Council approved the purchase of a 24-hour library kiosk for the community.

THE KIOSK WAS PURCHASED FROM ENVISIONWARE AND INSTALLED IN JULY 2024. It holds up to 340 items and is available to card-holding patrons 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. At the time of writing this article, the Little Elm Public Library (LEPL) is the only library in North Texas to own and operate one of these machines (and only the second library in Texas). But with as much interest and attention as this machine has already garnered, LEPL will certainly not be the last.

The 24-hour library was purchased to help the library reach more patrons in our community. The Town of Little Elm is unique in that it has around 66 miles

of shoreline (Lake Lewisville) within the city limits, and while access to water has its advantages, it also brings natural impediments to quick access to our single branch library. At this time LEPL has no plans for a second branch, but as a booming community — with many others in our immediate service area — we decided to place the kiosk on the opposite side of the town from our main library. In that location, the kiosk provides patrons convenient access to checkout items, and allows them to return items that belong at the library without having to travel out of their way. And since LEPL issues library cards to any Texas resident, the 24-hour library

serves many of our patrons in the dozen or so communities around Little Elm, and North Texas.¹

The addition of the kiosk essentially turned LEPL into a multi-branch library overnight, and as a result, staff have faced a learning curve. Integrating our ILS (Koha) with the Envisionware programs that run in the kiosk, specifically ensuring that our ILS is set up for multi-branch functioning; rethinking strategies for budgeting and ordering materials to stock and rotate collections available in the kiosk; and time-management for staff to travel to the kiosk in order to restock items and bring back returned items — all had to



be worked out. We also had to plan for practicalities such as coordinating a vehicle from the Town for use by library staff on a regular basis in order to make the half-hour trek (one way) to the kiosk. Additionally, we worked with our Town marketing team to develop a new webpage for the kiosk, purchase a vinyl wrap for the kiosk, and get the word out via social media and our website. Town engineers also coordinated the work required for the necessary pad site the kiosk sits on, arranged for professional electrical hookup, and contracted to get an awning built over the machine — an integral feature to protect the kiosk from Texas weather.

The kiosk was purposely installed at one of the Town's fire stations in order to provide a safe place for patrons to visit, day or night. Another advantage to that location was the ability to use pre-existing infrastructure for the electricity and network cabling required. Construction of the awning was simplified by extending the roof of the existing fire station to cover the kiosk. This saved the library thousands of dollars that would have otherwise

gone into building a stand-alone, covered structure for the kiosk.

In August 2024 LEPL soft-launched the kiosk for about a month so that we could work through any technical and logistical problems that might come up. Finally, on September 25, 2024, the LEPL 24-Hour Library officially launched with a grand opening. In the two months since it opened patrons from Little Elm and a handful of surrounding cities have been using the kiosk. Many of these are repeat users who have quickly taken advantage of the convenience of returning their materials at the kiosk and placing items on hold. While the number of unique patrons using the machine is currently modest, each month patron utilization grows as word of the kiosk spreads. LEPL anticipates use of the kiosk to increase during the spring and summer months when we see seasonal upticks in collection circulation. Currently children's books comprise the majority of checkouts and returns to the kiosk, while adult material is frequently what is placed on hold.

If your library is considering a 24-

Hour Library, or if you are just curious and have questions, please feel free to reach out to [Justin Swink](#) or visit the [24-Hour Library webpage](#).

Justin Swink is the Reference/Tech Services Librarian at the Little Elm Public Library.

¹ Little Elm (population 55,357) is located in Denton County. It has nine contiguous bordering cities, six of which are within a few miles of the kiosk. Of the 32,033 card-holding LEPL patrons, 22% (7,294) belong to citizens of one of the six neighboring cities. These figures include both active and non-active cards.





STANDING UP FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

A CASE STUDY

By Leila Green Little

As this major election season winds down, Texas is gearing up for the next legislative session. Unfortunately, libraries are very likely to see legislation introduced that will negatively impact our ability to serve patrons. Libraries of all types, more than ever, need us all to be informed citizens and voters, and effective advocates. We must stand up for the rights of all our patrons to access the information they seek. Intellectual freedom is a core value of librarians and library associations like the Texas Library Association. My hometown has been ground zero in the fight against censorship in public libraries, and I hope that our story will inspire you to take action.

WHAT HAPPENED IN LLANO, TEXAS?

I'm one of seven plaintiffs in *Leila Green Little, et al., v. Llano County, et al.*, a federal lawsuit that addresses censorship in my local public library system. The facts of this case date back three years, and it's a complex situation. To summarize,

- Citizens, government employees, and elected officials colluded and removed books from the public library because they did not agree with the content and viewpoint in the books.
- Our library board was dissolved and reconstituted solely with political appointees.
- Access to digital e-books was terminated, because *certain titles and topics targeted by those in power* could be accessed via OverDrive/Libby.

The county attempted to turn the library building over to the City which wanted to turn it into a new city hall. The seven plaintiffs spoke publicly, wrote letters, sent emails, made phone calls, and still our County would not stop its censorship campaign against our public libraries. Our last hope was to turn to the legal system and sue the county. The lawsuit was filed in April 2022. There was a two-day evidentiary hearing where a federal judge ruled in our favor and issued a preliminary injunction, requiring the seventeen books at issue in the case be returned to the catalog and library shelves. Less than two weeks after this ruling was issued, the County held a meeting to consider closing our library system altogether, rather than comply with the ruling. Thankfully, public outrage ensued, and our libraries were kept open and operating.

The County appealed the ruling to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and our case was heard by a three-judge panel in June 2023. That panel issued its ruling, again in our favor, in June 2024, and the County once again appealed this decision.

WHERE DOES THE CASE STAND NOW?

In September 2024, our case was heard by the en banc panel of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. This

means that a group of eighteen judges will now decide if the protections of the First Amendment apply to public libraries, or if content will be considered "government speech", allowing governments and elected politicians to determine what can and cannot be read by their citizens. This is not hyperbole. Eighteen state attorneys general and Llano County's counsel argued that the books on the shelves of public libraries are government speech and are therefore not subject to Constitutional protections. The implications of this are no less than profound, and regardless of the outcome, this case law will undoubtedly determine the role and function of all our state's public libraries.

The Court could rule at any time. While we await the ruling, the original preliminary injunction remains in effect, the seventeen books at issue in our lawsuit remain on the shelf of our public library, and our library is currently prohibited from removing any books.

HOW YOU CAN COMBAT BOOK BANNING

Fighting back against book bans is incredibly hard and necessary work. It is often thankless, can result in personal attacks, and has social and financial consequences. My fellow plaintiffs and I felt it was imperative for us to speak up and take action, and I'm so proud that we did. Without a small group of us fighting back in Llano, I shudder to think of what would have become of our libraries' collections. Multiple appointees to our library advisory board advocated for the removal of hundreds of books from our libraries, and I am thankful we have provided a bulwark against this.

Librarians and allies must contact their elected officials and speak against actions that negatively affect the profession. We must uphold the rights of patrons and abide by our professional code of ethics. We must engender the support of our patrons.

For those who feel they cannot speak up, there's still a role for you to play. Read and support journalists who cover stories about book banning. Donate to non-profit organizations that fight

censorship. Use your library card and read banned books. Attend your local government and library board meetings. Thank your librarians and others who fight the fight.

IS THERE A WAY OUT OF THIS?

The freedom to read a wide variety of materials from our public libraries, the protection of librarians and the profession, and the very existence of our libraries are threatened. One way to protect our First Amendment rights and our libraries is by voting for candidates at the state and local level who support funding libraries and oppose book banning. Litigation is another way out of the current anti-library movement. Across the country, citizens and library advocates have filed lawsuits challenging laws which violate the freedom to read. Three states (Maryland, Illinois, and New Jersey) have passed legislation to prohibit book banning. Litigation such as the Llano County case and the lawsuit against HB 900 (thank you to plaintiffs BookPeople and Blue Willow Bookstore!) will help establish case law that prohibits unconstitutional acts and legislation.

As imperative as voting and legal action are, however, these alone will not save our public libraries and our profession. It was not the lawsuit ruling that saved our library from closure - it was collective community support of our libraries. Currently, our libraries are open, but there is a dearth of programming, new book purchases, continuing education of our library employees, and we are unaccredited with the State for the first time in fifty years. Only a supportive slate of county commissioners can have a positive impact on my community's libraries.

I don't wish what has happened to our libraries on any other community. Please, learn from us and take action to prevent it from happening in your community. Contact your local and state elected officials to express your support of your local libraries. Join coalitions like Texans for the Right to Read and watch for advocacy updates from TLA. We need you to take action.

Leila Green Little received her MLS from the University of North Texas and is a library advocate.

CELEBRATING

Hispanic Heritage Month

IN COMPLIANCE WITH SENATE BILL 17

By Rachel Kramer





SENATE BILL 17, effective January 1, 2024, prohibits public colleges and universities in Texas from having diversity, equity, and inclusion offices and restricts certain DEI activities.¹ Institutions that violate the law risk losing their funding.² In addition to Texas, twenty-seven states have either passed (11) or introduced (16) similar bills.³

The new law has created confusion and uncertainty as colleges and universities work to implement the requirements. In this environment, library workers' impulse to self-censor — or avoid creating displays and offering programs that could lead to challenges or negative press — can be powerful. Librarians deeply committed to DEI principles in their librarianship practice may experience anxiety about becoming the target of harassment for elevating marginalized voices and struggle to find ways to serve all students within the framework of the new SB 17 requirements.

Nevertheless, it is possible to engage in heritage celebrations while complying with the law. This article describes my experience chairing a committee that produced a library-wide celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month in the Fall 2024 semester. I hope to inspire other library workers to engage in similar celebrations within the law.

I work at a community college with 8,000 students, 36% of whom are Hispanic. Library Services occupies the entire top floor of the Learning Technology Center. Historically, library employees have volunteered to create five monthly displays on a variety of topics, including Black History Month and Hispanic Heritage Month. In Fall 2022, before Senate Bill 17 was introduced, my colleague Cynthia Soll proposed creating a larger, library-wide celebration for Black History Month in February 2023.

Cynthia led a committee that produced a beautiful celebration of Black History Month which included educational exhibits spread throughout the library. The most popular exhibit was a historical timeline that traveled our staircase and highlighted 50 people, places, and events in our city's Black history. We also featured faculty, staff, students, and community members in a series called *Making History Now*, which emphasized the idea that tomorrow's history is happening today. We created a large mural as well as smaller displays about different aspects of Black history. Finally, there was an interactive display about microaggressions.

These exhibits were very well received, especially by employees. After Black History Month concluded, I was asked to chair a committee to create a similar celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month 2023. The committee included many of the employees who produced the first celebration, and we excitedly began planning an even bigger celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month.

That spring, Senate Bill 17 was introduced and ultimately passed. Much of the bill's original language was vague, and neither I nor my colleagues knew how it would affect our practice, especially the celebration of heritage months. Out of caution, the college's Leadership Team told the committee to put the project on hold while we waited for clarification on the law's specifics. Therefore, Library Services created a standard small display for both Hispanic Heritage Month 2023 and Black History Month 2024.

In Fall 2023, the Community Colleges Division of Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) released a guiding document on the law that specifically addresses heritage month celebrations, stating

A community college may recognize holidays and celebrations surrounding a particular race, sex, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, or sexual orientation if the programming is open to all without preference for a certain group. The college must not require employees and students to participate in any of the programming or risk violating the SB 17 prohibition in mandatory DEI training. The programming should be consistent with the college's educational mission, such as addressing the history of the holiday and its cultural significance.

The TASB guidance aligns with how libraries generally operate — they are open to all, yet no one is obligated to go to the library or participate in programming. The college's Leadership Team relied on the guiding document to inform their decision to allow our Hispanic Heritage Month celebration to proceed; the Team also recommended that instructors not offer extra credit to students for attending, as it could represent an obligation on the student.

With this guidance, the committee resumed planning, and together we created an incredible fifteen educational exhibits:

- Community *ofrenda* honoring our deceased loved ones
- Historical timeline featuring 50 people, places, and events in our city's Hispanic history
- *Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program* poster display

from the Smithsonian Institution

- *Making History Now* series featuring local leaders
- *What does Hispanic Heritage mean to you?* slideshow on library monitors
- Mural celebrating visual artists
- Mini-museum featuring Hispanic art and artifacts
- Bunting of flags from Spanish-speaking countries, with explanations of each flag
- Interactive display about Hispanic identities
- Hispanic leaders in our college's six pathways
- Banned books by Hispanic authors
- Indigenous peoples of Latin America
- Culinary migration: Hispanic heritage of food
- Celebrate family, faith, tradition, and culture
- National Hispanic Heritage firsts

These educational exhibits were available from September 15 – October 15, 2024, any time the library was open. We hosted a grand opening reception on September 16 and created a completely accessible [LibGuide version of the exhibits](#).

Hispanic Heritage Month 2024 was very well received, especially by students, with many Hispanic students sharing how much it meant to them to see their culture represented. Students took pictures, read display information, checked out books, and contributed to the *ofrenda*. To date, we have received no complaints from any parties.

For library workers interested in creating similar celebrations, our committee has this advice:

- **Know your institution's policies and communicate early and often with administration.** You should clearly understand your institution's policies regarding heritage celebrations, and your administration must support your work. You do not want to spend hours on a project only to learn it will not be allowed to move forward.
- **Partner with student organizations.** Student organizations may engage in heritage celebrations without violating SB 17. We reached out to our Hispanic Student Association on this project and received their enthusiastic support, but they were in a rebuilding phase and unable to provide hands-on assistance this year.



- **Emphasize that your celebration is open to everyone, yet no one is obligated to participate.** Originally, our invitations to contribute to the event were sent to individuals who identified as Hispanic. But our Leadership Team recommended we change the wording on our invitations to contribute, specifically for the exhibits *Making History Now* and *What does Hispanic Heritage mean to you?* to invite everyone, regardless of ethnicity, to contribute.
- **Do not encourage your instructors to offer extra credit for engaging with your celebration.** Even optional extra credit may be considered an obligation on the student and may violate Senate Bill 17.
- **Emphasize the educational nature of the celebration.** We did this in all of our emails to faculty and staff.
- **Consult with your institution's legal advisor, if available.**

I hope our experience inspires other library workers to undertake heritage celebrations in compliance with the law. I can be reached [via email](#) or (254) 299-8390 with questions or comments. ¡Ánimo!

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Rachel Kramer is a Research Librarian at McLennan Community College.



"I chose to serve because I'm passionate about libraries and the value of school librarians."

– Brooke K., Librarian

Get Involved with TLA

Your pathway to growth and giving back

As a library professional, you're already shaping the future of learning and community. Now, take it to the next level by volunteering with TLA where your skills, ideas, and passion can make an even bigger impact.

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- **Expand Your Circle:** Collaborate with like-minded trailblazers.
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TLA Awards Nominations Now Open

TLA awards honor excellence in, and contributions to, the library profession.



Nominate a deserving librarian or yourself for a TLA award. Submit your nominations by January 15, 2025.

Distinguished Service Award

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Librarian of the Year

Honoring extraordinary leadership and service within the library community.

Wayne Williams Project of the Year

Honoring a project exemplifying the highest level of achievement and professional standards.

Benefactor Award

Honoring substantial donations to libraries.

Lifetime Achievement

Honoring a long standing TLA member who has had an exemplary career in librarianship.

Libraries Change Communities Award

Honoring a collaborative effort to promote innovative library-based initiatives involving the community.

Outstanding Service to Libraries

Honoring an individual or organization for outstanding lay advocacy.

For the list of awards and submittal form, visit www.txla.org/awards

Meet the Executive Board Candidates



The TLA 2025 elections will open on January 13 and close on February 14 at 11:45 pm CST. You must be a current 2025 member by January 31 to vote in the election. The positions available for the 2025 election are President-Elect and Representative at Large (School). Learn more about the candidates [here](#).

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Nicole Cruz

Membership growth across diverse populations would be my pivotal goal for TLA. I believe that collaboration between library divisions—school, public, academic, and specialized—fosters a unified front, strengthening our collective voice and leveraging community support for funding.



Melissa Rippy

TLA is, and should be, our safe space for connection, support and learning. I believe in the power of people. I believe in the core work of librarians. I believe that we truly are better together. By fostering community among ourselves, we can better fulfill our core mission of providing access to accurate and relevant information.



REPRESENTATIVE-AT-LARGE

Heather Hornor

Advocacy remains a crucial component of our association as we navigate challenges such as budget cuts, evolving library roles, emerging technology like AI, and challenges to the intellectual freedom rights of the community members we serve. It is more important than ever for TLA to remain a strong organization for our members and the vital role libraries play in our communities.



Brooke King

The most critical issues facing our Association and the Texas Library Community include censorship attempts, especially those targeting diverse voices, inadequate funding for all types of libraries, and a lack of understanding of what library personnel do and how libraries work. We must form relationships with stakeholders at both the state legislative level and in each community. We must share our stories and communicate the value of libraries. We must all work together to protect intellectual freedom.



TLA GRANTS

Applications for the [Jeannette and Jim Larson Grant](#) (mystery genre), the [Woll Memorial Fund](#) (collection development grant, children's literature), and the [Demco/Upstart Innovative Programming Award](#) grant are open. [Apply today!](#)

TLA Awards

TLA Awards recognize and honor excellence and contributions in and to the library profession. Nominations must be received by January 15. [Nominate someone today!](#)

- **Librarian of the Year:** Honoring extraordinary leadership and service within the library community.
- **Distinguished Service:** Honoring superlative leadership and service to the library field.
- **Lifetime Achievement:** Honoring a long standing TLA member who has had an exemplary career in librarianship.
- **Outstanding Services to Libraries:** Honoring an individual or organization for outstanding lay advocacy.
- **Wayne Willians Library Project of the Year:** Honoring a project that exemplifies the highest level of achievement and professional standards.
- **Libraries Change Communities Award:** Honoring a collaborative effort to promote innovative library-based initiatives involving the community.
- **Benefactor Award:** Honoring substantial donations to libraries.

TLA Scholarships

TLA offers several scholarships and stipends to support library professionals and students in Texas:

- **Ray C. Janeway Scholarship** for graduate students pursuing library education,
- **Vivian Greenfield Award** for TLA members advancing youth-focused library work,
- **Walter H. Escue Memorial Scholarship** for graduate students specializing in technical services,
- **TLA Summer School Scholarship** for MLS students enrolled in summer courses.

Additionally, the Escue Conference Stipend supports Texas library paraprofessionals attending conference.

The deadline to apply for a TLA scholarship or stipend is January 15. Learn more and apply [here](#).

UNIT AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND STIPENDS

Many of TLA's units offer [awards and scholarships](#) to support your work and library education. They also provide [stipends](#) to help defray the costs of conference. [Apply today!](#)

BRANDING IRON AWARD DEADLINE JANUARY 15

Whether they have substantial marketing funds and staff, or a shoe-string budget and marketing is among 'other duties as assigned,' librarians are creating amazing work to promote their services, programs, and events. TLA's Branding Iron Awards honor this inspiring and creative work with awards presented in several categories, and one overall Best of Show winner. [Enter today!](#)

TEXAS BLUEBONNET AWARD 2025-2026 NEW LIST

The Texas Bluebonnet Award (TBA) 2025-2026 List was announced at the Texas Book Festival in Austin on Saturday, November 16, 2024. The [Texas Bluebonnet Award List](#) is one of the most distinguished children's literature lists in the country. Each year, more than 63,000 third-through-sixth graders from across Texas vote for their favorite title from the list. "Read 5, then decide" is a slogan known by school librarians, public librarians, and homeschooling parents across the state.

The TBA 2024-2025 [voting deadline](#) is January 21, 2025. The Award winner will be announced in the spring and will be honored at the TLA 2025 Annual Conference in Dallas in April.

SAM G. WHITTEN INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AWARD

This award is presented annually to an individual or organization in the library community who actively promotes intellectual freedom in Texas. Individuals or organizations can be recognized for their work over an extended period of time, or for work done in response to a particular situation or circumstance within their community. [Nominations are open through January 15.](#)

Upcoming Events

YOU CAN DO MORE WITH THE STAFF YOU HAVE

January 16 | 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Determining the right staffing levels can be challenging, whether you're considering visitor numbers, program attendance, or task volume. In this webinar, we'll explore various strategies for making informed staffing decisions and effectively managing your team's reactions to those decisions. Gain practical insights to optimize your staffing approach and enhance overall efficiency.

Free for members.

\$25 for non-members.

[Register here](#)

TLA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

January 21 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Members of the TLA Legislative Committee and staff will provide an update on the 89th Texas Legislative Session and bills impacting libraries. This session is free, exclusive to TLA Members, and will not be recorded. Registration closes at 11:30 am on the day of the webinar.

[Register here](#)



Conference Highlights

LIBRARY RENAISSANCE
OUR QUEST FOR RENEWAL

TLA★ **2025**

TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

DALLAS ★ APRIL 1 – 4



Conference Welcome



Welcome to TLA 2025!

I am thrilled to extend a personal invitation to each of you to join us at the 2025 TLA Annual Conference.

Our conference is more than just a gathering; it's a call to embark on a professional growth and renewal journey that will revitalize you and spark ideas to ignite a library renaissance.

The TLA 2025 theme, "Library Renaissance, Our Quest for Renewal," is very meaningful to me and members of the Conference Planning Committee.

Like Renaissance creators, librarians are multifaceted individuals who excel in various disciplines, from education and research to community engagement and technology.

Our goal is to unite all library workers in fostering individual growth for community benefit through knowledge, information, and services, while celebrating the diverse expertise of library professionals and embracing the current library renaissance for growth, renewal, and innovation

I encourage you to attend the 2025 Annual Conference and join a movement shaping the future of libraries. I look forward to seeing your journey begin.

Elizabeth A.M. Howard

Elizabeth A.M. Howard
TLA President 2024–2025

TLA 2025 MICROSITE AND FULL CONFERENCE PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE

Check out the full conference program available on the [TLA 2025 microsite](#). You can search by audience type and topic to find the education sessions and events of interest to you. With more than 200 education sessions, a vibrant exhibit hall, hundreds of authors signing their latest books, and fun social and networking opportunities, there is something for everyone. Need a printable version of the program? Download the full conference program [here](#).

TLA 2025 Schedule-at-a-Glance

SCHEDULE AT-A- GLANCE

TLA 2025 will be at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in downtown Dallas. Visit the [TLA 2025 microsite](#) for the full program.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

7:00am – 6:00pm	Registration open
9:00am – 1:30pm	Education Sessions (60 minutes)
11:00am – 12:00pm	TLA Council I
11:00am – 1:30pm	Speed Dating the Texas Bluebonnet Award List (ticketed event)
12:30pm – 1:30pm	TLA Past President's Luncheon (invitation only)
2:00pm – 5:00pm	Exhibit Hall Grand Opening & Welcome
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Evening with the Authors (ticketed event)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

7:00am – 5:00pm	Registration open
8:15am – 9:45am	General Session I
10:00am – 12:00pm	Texas Tea Meet & Greet (ticketed event)
10:00am – 12:15pm	Black Caucus Round Table Author Session (ticketed event)
10:00am – 5:00pm	Exhibit Hall and Authors Area Open
10:00am – 4:00pm	Education Sessions (60 minutes)
11:00am – 1:00pm	Poster Sessions
12:15pm – 1:45pm	Opening Author & Awards Session (ticketed event)
2:30pm – 4:30pm	A Toast to Library Pioneer Pat Smith (ticketed event)
3:00 – 4:00pm	Letters About Literature
3:00pm – 5:00pm	TLA Unit Business meetings (dates/times for those units holding meetings will be listed in TLA 2025 microsite)
4:00pm – 5:30pm	Storytelling Round Table Concert
4:15pm – 5:15pm	Battledecks presented by Library Leadership Round Table
4:15pm – 5:45pm	Illustrator's Sketch Off

TLA 2025 Schedule-at-a-Glance



THURSDAY, APRIL 3

- 7:00am – 5:00 pm Registration open
- 7:30am – 8:30am Reading List Coordination Committee Breakfast (invitation only)
- 8:00am – 10:00am Teacher Day @ TLA (ticketed event)
- 8:00am – 10:00am TLA Unit Business Meetings (dates/times for those units holding meetings will be listed in TLA 2025 microsite)
- 8:00am – 3:00pm Education Sessions (60 minutes)
- 9:00am – 3:00 pm Exhibit Hall & Authors Area Open (last day)
- 11:45am – 1:00pm Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session (ticketed event)
- 2:00pm – 3:00pm Texas Youth Creators Award Ceremony
- 3:30pm – 4:30pm General Session II
- 4:30pm -5:00pm TLA Membership Meeting

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

- 7:00am – 12:00pm Registration open
- 8:00 – 10:30am Education Sessions (60 minutes)
- 11:00am – 12:00pm General Session III
- 12:15 – 1:15pm TLA Council II

Keynote and Featured Speakers

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



GENERAL SESSION I TAYLOR JENKINS REID

Wednesday, April 2 | 8:15 – 9:45am

TAYLOR JENKINS REID is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of eight novels, including *Carrie Soto Is Back*, *Malibu Rising*, *Daisy Jones & The Six*, and *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and their daughter.

GENERAL SESSION II

Thursday, April 3 | 3:30 – 4:30pm

We are confirming new amazing speakers every day! Look for an announcement on the General Session II speaker soon.

GENERAL SESSION III

Friday, April 4 | 11:00am – 12:00pm

We are confirming new amazing speakers every day! Look for an announcement on the General Session III speaker soon.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



KWAME ALEXANDER is a poet, educator, publisher, Emmy® Award-winning producer, and #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of 40 books, including *This is the Honey*, *Why Fathers Cry at Night*, *An American Story*, *The Door of No Return*, *Becoming Muhammad Ali* (co-authored with James Patterson), *Rebound*, which was shortlisted for the prestigious UK Carnegie Medal, and *The Undefeated*, the National Book Award nominee, Newbery Honor, and Caldecott Medal-winning picture book illustrated by Kadir Nelson. He is also the Executive Producer, Showrunner, and Writer of the Emmy-award winning series *The Crossover*, based on his Newbery-Medal winning novel of the same name, which premiered on Disney+ in April 2023.

LIBBA BRAY is the *New York Times* bestselling author of The Gemma Doyle trilogy (*A Great and Terrible Beauty*, *Rebel Angels*, *The Sweet Far Thing*); the Michael L. Printz Award-winning *Going Bovine*; *Beauty Queens*, an L.A. Times Book Prize finalist; and The Diviners series. She is originally from Texas but makes her home in Brooklyn, NY, with her husband, son, and two sociopathic cats.

Featured Speakers



Amal El-Mohtar



Dr. Ibram X. Kendi



Grace Lin



Kate Messner

Photo credit: Andy Duback



Julie Murphy

Photo credit: Danielle Nicole Portraits



Andrea Davis Pinkney

Photo credit: Christine Simmons

BRYAN BURROUGH is the author or co-author of seven books, four of them *New York Times* bestsellers, including the Wall Street classic *Barbarians at the Gate*. A longtime correspondent at *Vanity Fair* and now editor at large at *Texas Monthly*, he lives in Austin. His new book, *The Gunfighters: How Texas Made the West Wild* will be released in June 2025.

New York Times bestseller author **AMAL EL-MOHTAR** is an award-winning writer of fiction, poetry, and criticism. Her stories and poems have appeared in magazines including *Tor.com*, *Fireside Fiction*, *Lightspeed*, *Uncanny*, *Strange Horizons*, *Apex*, *Stone Telling*, and *Mythic Delirium*; anthologies including *The Djinn Falls in Love and Other Stories* (2017), *The Starlit Wood: New Fairy Tales* (2016), *Kaleidoscope: Diverse YA Science Fiction and Fantasy Stories* (2014), and *The Thackery T. Lamshead Cabinet of Curiosities* (2011); and in her own collection, *The Honey Month* (2010). She is co-author, with Max Gladstone, of the *NYT* bestselling and multiple award-winning *This is How You Lose the Time War*. Her articles and reviews have appeared in the *New York Times*, *NPR Books* and on *Tor.com*. She has been the *New York Times*'s science fiction and fantasy columnist since February 2018.

DR. IBRAM X. KENDI is a National Book Award-winning author of books for adults and children—including *New York Times* bestsellers like *Stamped From the Beginning*, *Stamped for Kids*, *How to Raise an Anti-Racist*, and *Goodnight Racism*. He is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in Humanities at Boston University, and the director of the BU Center for Antiracist Research. Dr. Kendi's latest book, a middle grade work of nonfiction, *MALCOLM LIVES*, publishes in May 2025. Created with the Malcolm X Estate and published 100 years

after his birth, it is a powerful middle grade biography for young readers and a new classic.

GRACE LIN is the award-winning and bestselling author and illustrator of *Chinese Menu*, *When the Sea Turned to Silver*, *Starry River of the Sky*, *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, *The Year of the Dog*, *The Year of the Rat*, *Dumpling Days*, and *Ling & Ting*, as well as picture books such as *The Ugly Vegetables*, *A Big Bed for Little Snow*, and *A Big Mooncake for Little Star*. Grace is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and lives in Massachusetts. Learn more about Grace at [her website](#).

New York Times bestselling author **KATE MESSNER** is passionately curious and writes books that encourage kids to wonder, too. Her titles include award-winning picture books like *Over and Under the Snow*, *Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt*, *Over and Under the Pond*, *The Brilliant Deep*, and *How to Read a Story*; novels that tackle real-world issues like *Breakout*, *Chirp*, and *The Seventh Wish*; mysteries and thrillers like *Capture the Flag*, *Eye of the Storm*, and *Wake Up Missing*; the Fergus and Zeke easy reader series; the popular Ranger in Time chapter book series about a time-traveling search and rescue dog; and the History Smashers series, graphic nonfiction aimed at smashing historical myths.

JULIE MURPHY lives in north Texas with her husband who loves her, her dog who adores her, and her cats who tolerate her. After several wonderful years in the library world, Julie now writes full time. When she's not writing or reliving her reference desk glory days, she can be found watching made-for-TV movies, hunting for the perfect slice of cheese pizza, and planning her next great travel adventure. She is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Dumplin'*, and in her new chapter book series called *Catty Corner*, she introduces readers to a big-hearted girl who happens to be half-cat; the natural next read for fans of *Junie B. Jones*, *Ivy & Bean*, and *Judy Moody*.

ANDREA DAVIS PINKNEY is the *New York Times* bestselling and award-winning author of nearly 50 books for children and young adults, including *The Red Pencil* and *Bird in a Box*. She has also produced several collaborations with her husband two-time Caldecott Honor-winning artist Brian Pinkney, including *Sit-In*, *Martin & Mahalia*, and *Hand in Hand*, winner of the Coretta Scott King Author Award. Ms. Pinkney has been recognized by *Children's Health* magazine as one of the "25 Most Influential People in our Children's Lives," and has been inducted into the *New York State Writers Hall of Fame*. She lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Featured Speakers

JOHN SCALZI is one of the most popular science fiction authors of his generation. His debut, *Old Man's War*, won him the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer. His New York Times bestsellers include *The Last Colony*, *Fuzzy Nation*, *Redshirts* (which won the 2013 Hugo Award for Best Novel), *The Last Emperox*, and 2022's *The Kaiju Preservation Society*. Material from his blog, Whatever (whatever.scalzi.com), has earned him two other Hugo Awards. He lives in Ohio with his wife and daughter.

DAVID SHANNON is the internationally acclaimed creator of more than 40 picture books, including *No, David!*, a Caldecott Honor Book and his second New York Times Best Illustrated Book of the Year, and four more David picture books. His bestsellers include *A Bad Case of Stripes*, *Duck on a Bike*, and *Too Many Toys*. His most recent book was the New York Times best-seller *Grow Up, David!*

NEAL SHUSTERMAN is the New York Times bestselling author of more than thirty award-winning books for children, teens, and adults, including the Unwind dystology, the Skinjacker trilogy, *Downsiders*, and *Challenger Deep*, which won the National Book Award. *Scythe*, the first book in his series Arc of a Scythe is a Michael L. Printz Honor Book. He also writes screenplays for motion pictures and television shows. Neal is the father of four, all of whom are talented writers and artists themselves. Visit Neal at StoryMan.com and Facebook.com/NealShusterman.

MYCHAL THREETS is a librarian, literary ambassador, and the library's number one fan (according to himself, admittedly). He was raised in his local library as a home-school kid. He got his first library card at the age of five and was hooked on libraries from there. He got his first library job as a library shelver at the library he grew up in and worked his way up to become Supervising Librarian of that very same library. He talks about mental health in hopes that it'll help others in their mental health journey. He is a recipient of the 2024 "I Love My Librarian" award from the American Library Association, is one of School Library Journal's 2024 Movers and Shakers, and is one of TIME Magazine's 2024 Next Generation Leaders.



John Scalzi



David Shannon



Neal Shusterman

Photo credit: Gaby Gerster



Mychal Threets



Adriana Trigiani



Martha Wells

ADRIANA TRIGIANI is the New York Times bestselling author of twenty books in fiction and nonfiction. She has been published in 38 countries around the world. The New York Times calls her "a comedy writer with a heart of gold," her books "tiramisu for the soul." She wrote the blockbuster *The Shoemaker's Wife*, the Big Stone Gap series, the Valentine trilogy and *Lucia, Lucia*. Trigiani's themes of love and work, emphasis upon craftsmanship and family life have brought her legions of fans around the world. Adriana is the host of the hit podcast, *You Are What You Read*, sponsored by Book of the Month, and an award-winning playwright, television writer and producer, and filmmaker.

MARTHA WELLS has been Science Fiction/Fantasy writer since her first fantasy novel was published in 1993. Her work includes The Books of the Raksura series, the Ile-Rien series, The Murderbot Diaries series, and other fantasy

novels, most recently *Witch King* (Tordotcom, 2023). She has also written media tie-in fiction for Star Wars, *Stargate: Atlantis*, and *Magic: the Gathering*, as well as short fiction, YA novels, and non-fiction. She has won Nebula Awards, Hugo Awards, Locus Awards, an Alex Award, and a Dragon Award, and her work has appeared on the World Fantasy Award ballot, the Philip K. Dick Award ballot, the BSFA Award ballot, the USA Today Bestseller List, the Sunday Times Bestseller List, and the New York Times Bestseller List. She is a member of the Texas Literary Hall of Fame, and her books have been published in thirty languages. Martha is also a consulting producer on the Murderbot series for Apple TV+.

TLA 2025 Annual Conference

REGISTER FOR TLA 2025

Early bird registration ends January 31. [Register](#) before rates increase on February 1.

	Early Bird Rates October 1 – January 31	Regular Rates February 1 – March 14	Late and Onsite Rates March 15 – April 4
Members – Full conference	\$398	\$470	\$570
Nonmembers – Full conference	\$740	\$810	\$870
Student, retired, associate members – Full conference	\$175	\$199	\$225
Members – Single Day	\$269	\$300	\$349
Nonmembers – Single Day	\$420	\$435	\$449
Youth (age 10–17) – Full conference	\$125	\$125	\$125
Exhibits Only – Multiday	\$90	\$125	\$150
Exhibits Only – Youth (age 10–17)	\$30	\$30	\$30
Exhibits Only – Single Day <i>Available onsite only, no online purchase</i>			\$50

MAKE YOUR CASE TO ATTEND

Secure your spot at TLA Annual Conference with our easy-to-use Make the Case to Attend Toolkit. Inside you'll find these resources to help you explain the benefits of attending to your supervisor. [Download the template.](#)

- For Supervisors or Management: Why Send Your Team to TLA 2025
- Welcome from TLA 2025 Conference Planning Committee Co-Chairs
- TLA Helpful Links
- Template Letter to Supervisor to Attend
- 5 Tips for a Great Conference Experience

TLA 2025 Conference Planning Committee

Thank you to the members of the 2025 Conference Planning Committee for their dedication and hard work. Many, many hours went into planning the TLA 2025 Annual Conference and we are grateful for their commitment.

Zinnia Bayardo, Co-Chair, Northside ISD

Erica Richardson, Co-Chair, Benbrook Public Library

Miranda Bauer, Benbrook Public Library

Celeste Bleu, Harris County Public Library

Rebecca Calderon, Yselta ISD

Kate Carter, University of Houston

Julie Crisafulli, Arlington Public Library

Laquita Dedmon, Texarkana Public Library

Meredith Derrick, Klein ISD

Nancy Edge, Texas Wesleyan University

Victor Gonzalez, Azle Memorial Library

Jorge Gonzalez, McAllen Public Library

Jessica Hedrick, Port Isabel ISD

Jana Hill, Fort Worth Public Library

Brandon Hodge, Lone Star College

Heather Hornor, Richardson ISD

Tracy Hull, Texas Christian University

Chari Kauffman, Galena Park ISD

Amy Keyes, Beaumont Public Library

Armando Loera, El Paso ISD

Howard Marks, Ector County Library

Angela Martinez, Dawson County Public Library

Elizabeth Nebeker, Lone Star College

Johana Orellana Cabrera, Arlington Public Library

System

Holly Polasek, Pawnee ISD

Lorrie Roussin, Northside ISD

Carrye Syma, Texas Tech University

Elsa Trevino-Dominguez, Northside ISD

Regina Vitolo, Lone Star College

Audrey Wilson-Youngblood, Tarrant County College

Natasha Zinsou, University of Texas at Dallas

Code of Conduct

The Texas Library Association (TLA) is dedicated to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone engaged with the association at events and on social media channels, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, age, ethnicity, military status, race, or religion. We do not tolerate harassment in any form at any TLA events or activities, or on any TLA social media channels, including those managed by TLA units.

We encourage productive and constructive discussion and participation. Be kind to others. Do not insult or put down others. Behave professionally. Remember that harassment, and sexist, racist, or exclusionary jokes are not appropriate.

Harassment includes offensive comments or actions related to gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size,

age, ethnicity, military status, race, or religion. Sexual images in public spaces, deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate physical contact, unwelcome sexual attention, online bullying, cyberstalking, name calling or humiliating or disparaging language is not tolerated. Individuals asked to stop any harassing behavior at events or online are expected to comply immediately.

If an individual engages in harassing behavior, TLA may take any action deemed appropriate, including warning the offender, expelling them from the event, banning them from future events, hiding or deleting comments, and/or blocking the offender from any TLA social media channels.

TLA 2025 Annual Conference



BOOK YOUR HOTEL TODAY!

TLA has secured room blocks for attendees and exhibitors at a variety of hotels to meet all tastes and budgets. These participating hotels provide discounted rates to you based on a guaranteed percentage of attendees staying in these official conference hotels. When you book your room with OnPeak, you will receive an immediate email acknowledgement of your reservation; peace of mind that you have a reservation at an official TLA hotel at the discounted rate; and the ability to cancel or change that reservation if needed.

[Book your room today](#) to get the best price at your preferred hotel!

TLA 2025 VOLUNTEER SIGN UP OPENS IN JANUARY

Volunteers are the backbone of TLA's annual conference, making everything from arrival to departure a seamless and enjoyable experience for all attendees. Anyone who is registered for the conference can sign up to volunteer for as little as 2-4 hours during the TLA 2025 conference.

Want to help check people in and pass out name badges? Consider signing up to volunteer in registration, exhibitor registration, or hospitality. Want to have all

the answers to help people find their way? Meeting room assistance, information, or transportation may be your calling. Do you have what it takes to wrangle signing lines for the most popular authors? Sign up quick because authors area shifts are typically the first to fill up.

The volunteer sign-up form will go live in January – watch for a link to sign up in your email and on the annual conference web site. We can't wait to see you in Dallas in April!

TRANSPORTATION AT TLA 2025

New this year! TLA is going green and offering a more flexible transportation option for attendees staying at official TLA conference hotels more than 0.1 miles from the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center. All registered attendees staying at specified hotels booked via onPeak will receive \$30 in Lyft credits to use during the conference. Credits are valid April 1 – 4 and are to be used only in downtown Dallas for transportation to and from your hotel and official conference events.

[Learn more.](#)

President's Programs

Hidden gems of interest
selected by
TLA President
Elizabeth Howard.



Tuesday, April 1

A Lifelong Love Affair: (Re-) Engaging Adult Library Users

10:30 - 11:30 AM

How do you transform adults' nostalgic fondness for libraries into active utilization and engagement in your library today? Public librarians will offer insights and applicable solutions for building vibrant and successful adult programming—no matter your budgetary or staffing constraints! Learn how to renew your community's perception of the library as a vital hub for lifelong learning, personal enrichment, and social growth.

Jennifer Hentzen, Temple Public Library

You Only Get One-Shot: Assessment for Academics

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Do you find the idea of assessment daunting? It may seem impossible to build time in for it but quick assessments are easier than you think, and are a great way to engage students. Learn how to use different methods, applying tools and techniques to assess student learning before, during, and after one-shot library instruction sessions.

Audrey Wilson-Youngblood, Tarrant County College District and Robyn Reid, Texas Christian University

Count It and Cull It: Inventory and Weeding Teams

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Does conducting an annual inventory of your entire collection sound like an insurmountable task? Does your library staff struggle to stay on top of weeding? Librarians from a mid-size library system will share how they manage vital elements of collection maintenance using inventory and weeding teams.

Rachel Reeves and Trey Ford, Denton Public Library

Wednesday, April 2

Nuestra Misión: Bringing Bilingual and Monolingual School Librarians Together

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Serve your bilingual community with new ideas for programming and activities using the Tejas Star and Texas Bluebonnet Award reading lists, STEM activities, and read-aloud lessons. Get new Spanish and bilingual book recommendations and network with your fellow school librarians.

Carolyn Slavin, Leander ISD and Crystal Doucette, Texas Woman's University

Alchemy Academy: Transforming Weeded Books into Programming Gold

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

All libraries must occasionally discard books, which could instead be repurposed into art and more. This sample rich, entertaining show-and-tell program highlights captivating, easy projects for programming, decorating, and fundraising. Need eye catching luncheon centerpieces? Can do! Book art programming that patrons will love? Yes! Bookish Christmas ornaments? Absolutely! Gift ideas for library employees? Covered! You got this!

Julia Ousley, Friends of the New Braunfels Public Library and Sharon Amastae, Library Friends Trustees and Advocates Round Table

Integrating AI into Academic Library Operations to Improve Workflows and Ease Workloads

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Explore a year-long journey of AI integration within an academic library's reference and instruction department. Discover how AI enhanced everything from common writing tasks to faculty and institutional research. It also transformed library guide design, assisted in the creation of information literacy materials and presentations, and streamlined video content production, significantly boosting productivity and easing workload.

Cynthia Soll, McLennan Community College

President's Programs

Mentorship Reimagined: Cultivating the Next Generation of Library Workers

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Mentoring is one of the most popular forms of staff development. Explore alternative models of mentoring from the transformative potential of an MLS student group to program-related peer coaching, to supporting staff participation in professional organizations. Delve into practical strategies for fostering mentorship relationships, providing leadership opportunities, and facilitating meaningful engagement for all library job types.

Jaime Eastman, Sarah Deay and Benjamin Baron, Plano Public Library

Thursday, April 3

Unlocking AI: Librarian-Led Training for Educators

12:30 - 1:30 PM

In the ever-changing landscape of education, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) has opened exciting possibilities for professional development. Explore how librarians can lead the way in providing professional development to campus teachers by teaching how leveraging AI tools can enhance teaching efficacy, save valuable time and prevent burn-out, all while reducing their anxiety about this new technology.

Alexandra Cornejo, Harlingen CISD and Karina Quilantan-Garza, Pharr San Juan Alamo ISD



Friday, April 4

Retaining Quality Staff in the Library

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Low morale, quiet quitting, and burnout in libraries have become a major concern in the post-pandemic workplace. Presenters will share information on current trends related to these concepts and share results from recent studies. Discover ways to improve library worker morale and employee engagement and techniques for cultivating mindfulness and resilience when dealing with challenging and stressful situations in the workplace.

Yvonne Dooley and Coby Condrey, University of North Texas

Cultivating Renewal: The Librarian- Administration Partnership

9:30 - 10:30 AM

School librarians play a dynamic role in today's educational landscape, beyond bookkeeping yet many administrators may overlook their potential impact. Learn how to reframe school librarians as vital educational partners for administrators and discover tools and talking points to help communicate the value of librarianship on a campus level. By opening minds to this partnership's potential, we can enhance student learning and enrich the entire school community.

Shannon Whiteley and Amanda Werneke, Lewisville ISD

TLA 2025 Annual Conference Highlights



CAREER ADVANCEMENT NETWORKING EVENT

Thursday, April 3, 1:00 – 2:30pm

Ready to boost your career and make meaningful connections? Join us for a free, come and go, informal networking event designed to support your professional growth! This session is open to all attendees and will feature engaging discussions on how to leverage your TLA membership for job searches, career development, and growth opportunities. It's the perfect chance to share experiences, gather new ideas, and learn strategies from colleagues. Plus, enjoy complimentary water, coffee and tea while you network.

UPDATE YOUR HEADSHOT

Elevate your professional presence with a fresh headshot! We're offering a free headshot photo opportunity on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't miss this chance to update your profile with a polished, high-quality image. Stay tuned for more details coming in the new year!

NEW MEMBER & NEW ATTENDEE EVENTS

Join Texas Library Association New Members Round Table and Conference Planning Committee members at three new events that offer the chance to connect and network with other first time conference attendees and new TLA members.

First Timers: Your Quest Begins Here Meet and Greet

Tuesday, April 1 | 12:30 – 1:30pm

Newbies Brewing Connections Coffee Hour

Wednesday, April 2 | 7:00 – 8:00pm

Newbie Renaissance Feast: Brown Bag Lunch

Wednesday, April 2, 12:30-1:30pm

CALL FOR TLA 2025 POSTER SESSIONS

Graduate students, junior faculty, librarians, and independent researchers are invited share their research with conference attendees at the TLA 2025 Conference Poster Session which will be Wednesday, April 2 from 11:00am – 1:00pm. The deadline to submit a poster session is January 13, 2025.

[SUBMIT A PROPOSAL](#)

Ticketed Author Sessions & Celebrations

Tickets for these events must be purchased online by March 18.

Author information as of December 1, 2025. Additional authors may be added to these events. Visit the [TLA 2025 microsite](#) for the most up-to-date information.

Evening with Authors

Tuesday, April 1, 6:00 – 8:00pm

\$75 members; \$85 nonmembers

Join us for a convivial evening featuring authors in conversation with one another. Attendees will enjoy a delicious meal, and then sit back to enjoy listening to a fun and literary conversation. Free books for all attendees!

Authors: Libba Bray, Julie Murphy, John Scalzi and David Shannon

Black Caucus Round Table Author Session

Wednesday, April 2, 10:00 – 12:15pm

\$60 members, \$68 nonmembers

A special event that has spanned almost two decades, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Ibram X Kendi as our special guest this year. Dr. Kendi will share insights into his process and latest work. Additionally, the Ashley Bryan Award, honoring a Black author for their body of work, will be presented to Kwame Alexander.

Authors: Dr. Ibram X. Kendi and Kwame Alexander

Opening Awards and Author Session

Wednesday, April 2, 12:15 – 1:45pm

\$65 members, \$75 nonmembers

Featuring a panel of popular bestselling authors who will share their insights, stories and experiences, this is a must-attend event for literature enthusiasts. In addition to celebrating literary success, the event honors library supporters with the presentation of the TLA Benefactor Award. Presented by the TLA Library Friends Advocates Trustees Round Table (LiFTA).

Authors: Bryan Burrough, Neal Shusterman, and Adriana Trigiani

A Toast to Library Pioneer Pat Smith

Wednesday, April 2, 2:30 – 4:30pm

\$40 members, \$50 nonmembers

Join us for this annual wine and cheese reception honoring a Texas library pioneer. This year we celebrate Texas library Champion Pat Smith. A beloved friend and colleague to many, Pat served as TLA Executive Director for 35 years, transforming the organization into a nationally recognized professional network. Pat's leadership fostered professional growth, strategic planning, and camaraderie. Her legacy has shaped the landscape of Texas libraries

today and for years to come. Presented by the TLA Retired Librarians Round Table.

Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session

Thursday, April 3, 11:45am – 1:00pm

\$59 members, \$69 nonmembers

Experience one of the most prestigious children's choice literary awards in the nation—the Texas Bluebonnet Award (TBA). This premier event showcases the winning TBA author, celebrating creativity and the power of young readers' voices. By attending this inspiring session, you are center stage at the heart of a beloved literary tradition witnessing students demonstrate their love of reading.

Texas Bluebonnet Award Speed Dating

Tuesday, April 1, 11:00am – 1:30pm

\$55 members, \$65 nonmembers

Join us for this exciting event to meet authors and illustrators whose works are included on the 2025-2026 Texas Bluebonnet Award List. Authors and illustrators will share their experiences and inspirations, while committee members present best practices and book-specific resources to promote a lifelong love of reading.

Limited quantities of some of the books will be made available by publishers to attendees on a first come, first served basis. Full sets of the TBA books will not be provided.

Texas Tea with the Authors

Wednesday, April 2, 10:00am –

12:00pm | \$43 members, \$53

nonmembers

The Texas Tea is a wonderful time to gather together to meet an impressive array of YA authors, hear all about their latest releases, and connect with other YA librarians. Similar to a speed-dating event, authors move between tables to book talk and chat about their book(s).

Teacher Day@TLA

Thursday, April 3, 8:00 – 10:00am

\$35 for librarian attending conference; \$155 for teachers (includes access to exhibit hall and conference sessions that day)

Join the Texas Association of School Librarians for this event celebrating collaboration between teachers and librarians! The goal of Teacher

Day@TLA is for classroom teachers, who experience this event and a TLA conference, to return to their districts as library advocates and collaborators – and perhaps become librarians themselves.

Keynote Speakers: Grace Lin and Kate Messner

TLA UNIT SOCIALS

(Information current as of December 1; check TLA 2025 microsite for the most current schedule and additional information)

Library Leaders Round Table Social

Tuesday, April 1 4:30 – 5:30pm

Ticketed event, \$5 for all, free for TALL Texans graduates with coupon code

Latino Caucus Round Table Social

Tuesday, April 1, 6:00 – 8:00pm

Ticketed event, \$10 members, \$15 nonmembers

College and University Libraries Division Social

Wednesday, April 2, 4:30 – 5:30pm

Ticketed event, \$10 members, \$20 nonmembers

Innovation and Technology Round Table Party

Wednesday, April 2, 6:00 – 8:00pm

Ticketed event, \$15 for all

Public Libraries Division & Small Community Libraries Round Table Party

Wednesday April 2 6:00 – 8:00pm

Ticketed event, no cost to attend

Black Caucus Round Table Reception and Award Presentation

Thursday, April 3, 6:00 – 7:30pm

Ticketed event, no cost to attend

Exhibit Hall Information



2025 Exhibits Grand Opening

TUESDAY, APRIL 1 – 2:00 P.M.

Kick off TLA 2025 with a ribbon cutting, entertainment, and complimentary snacks. With multiple entrances to Halls D & E on the second floor of the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, you'll have easy access to explore over 275 exhibitors—featuring your annual favorites as well as exciting new vendors you won't want to miss. The exhibit hall is packed with fantastic exhibitors ready to connect with you at TLA 2025!

TUESDAY, APRIL 1
2:00 – 5:00 PM
Exhibit Hall Grand Opening

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Exhibits Open

THURSDAY, APRIL 3
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Last Day for Exhibits

AUTHORS AREA

Author signings will be taking place throughout the Exhibit Hall in the Authors Area and at exhibitor booths during exhibit hall hours. The Authors Area schedule will be live on the TLA 2025 microsite in February.

EXHIBITOR SHOWCASES

These educational sessions in the exhibit hall will introduce you to new products, services, and concepts that you can take back to your library. Look for more information in the TLA 2025 microsite and be sure to add them to your personal schedule.

Exhibiting Companies

As of November 25, 2024

720 Design

ABC-CLIO an Imprint of
Bloomsbury

ABDO

ABRAMS

Adobe

Age of Learning

Alexandria

Andrews McMeel Publishing

Annick Press

Arte Publico Press

Astra Books for Young
Readers

Aurora Storage

Authors and More

Baker & Taylor

BattleQuestions.com

Beanstack

Beech Street Books

Benbrook Library District

Bibliionix

Bibliotheca

Blackstone Audio Inc. dba
Blackstone Publishing

Bloomsbury Children's
Books

Book Systems, Inc

Bound to Stay Bound Books

Brainfuse

Britannica Education

Broadcast Made Easy

Brodart Co.

Brown Books Publishing
Group

BRW

Candlewick/Holiday House/
Peachtree

Capstone

Carpe Librum

Charlesbridge

Cherry Lake Publishing

Child's Play

Chronicle Books

Clarivate

CoLibri System

College and University
Library Division - TLA Unit

Commons Press

Crabtree Publishing
Company

Cultural Surroundings

Data Axle

Delaney Educational
Enterprises, Inc.

Demco

Demco Upstart

Demco's Book Doctor

Disney Publishing
Worldwide

DK

EBCSCO Information
Services

FE Technologies

Firefly Books

Flutterbee Education Group

Follett Content Solutions

Gale

Garrett Book Company
Global Vending Group, Inc.

Golden Cross Ranch LLC

Greysone Books

Groundwood

Gumdrop Books

Hachette Book Group

HarperCollins Children's
Books

Indeco

Independent Publishers
Group

Ingram Content Group

InterVarsity Press

Junior Library Guild/Media
Source

Komatsu Architecture

Lectorum Publications, Inc

Lerner Publishing Group

Libraria

Library Comic

Library Interiors of Texas

LibraryPass

Literati Book Fairs

Little, Brown Books for
Young Readers

LOTE4Kids

Lyngsoe Systems

Mackin Educational
Resources

Macmillan Adult

Macmillan Children's
Publishing Group

The TLA Exhibit Hall features the latest library-related products and services. Be sure to allow plenty of time to visit and connect with the exhibitors. Check out the [online exhibit floorplan](#) to plan your time in the exhibit hall.

Mad Cave Studios

Marble Press

Media Flex - OPALS

Midwest Tape / hoopla
Digital

Millonex LLC

Mitinet Library Services

Mosaico

Nook Wellness Pods

North Star Editions

NorthSouth Books

Novel Effect

OCCL

OverDrive

Penguin Adult

Penguin Random House -
Grupo Editorial USA

Penguin Young Readers

Penworthy Company

Perma-Bound Books

PGAL

Progressive Rising Phoenix
Press

Publisher Spotlight

Quarto

Rainbow Book Company

Ranch House Press

Random House Children's
Books

Read-A-Thon

Reader Zone

Reycraft Books

Romeo Music

Rosen Publishing

Salem Press

San Jose State University -
School of Information

ScannX

Scholastic

School Library Journal/
Library Journal

School Life

Sebco Books

Shadow Mountain Publishing

Simon & Schuster

SirsiDynix

Smith System

Sourcebooks

Spanish Publishers, LLC

Sphero, Inc.

StackMap

STEMfinity, LLC

Swank K-12

Texas SmartBuy
Membership Program -
Texas Comptroller of Public
Accounts

Texas State Library and
Archives Commission

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

TexQuest Support Center

The Child's World

The Creative Company

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Today's Business Solutions

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Double Diamond

H-E-B READ 3

Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session, TLA Reception at ALA Annual

MACKIN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

General Session I, Park Benches and Water Stations, Teacher Day @ TLA, Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session Travel Stipend

Diamond

BOUND TO STAY BOUND

Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session

LIBRARY INTERIORS OF TEXAS

Black Caucus Round Table Ashley Bryan Award, Conference Mobile App and Information Center, Officer Governance Training and Workshop, Recharge Lounges and Author Stage Furniture, The Lawn, Selfie Wall

Platinum

CAPSTONE

Attendee Badge and Lanyard, Black Caucus Round Table Author Session

GALE

General Session II, Public Library Division Events and Public Library Pavilion, Teacher Day @ TLA, Officer Governance Training and Workshop

JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD/MEDIA SOURCE

Aisle x Aisle Coupon Book, Authors Area Signing and Author Interview Stage, Junior Library Guild - Diversity and Inclusion Conference Stipends

Gold

BIBLIONIX

Biblionix/Public Library Division Stipend, Biblionix/Small Community Libraries Round Table Travel Stipend, Public Libraries Division Membership Party, Small Community Libraries Round Table Social

BRODART COMPANY

General Session III

EBSCO INFORMATION SERVICES

Conference Mobile App and Information Center, Innovation and Technology Round Table Social, Officer Governance Training and Workshop, The Lawn, Selfie Wall

FOLLETT CONTENT SOLUTIONS

TLA After Hours

Silver

MIDWEST TAPE / HOOPLA

Evening with the Authors

PERMA-BOUND BOOKS

2x2 Reading List and Conference Session, Tejas Star Reading List Session, Topaz Reading List and Conference Sessions

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