

Staff Report

by dona weisman, Director of Consulting & Training,
and Judy Daniluk, Director of Internet Services

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This report is being provided by staff rather than our Executive Director since Carolyn Brewer is on medical leave as we write this.

First the most important news: Paulina Waak was born November 11, 2012, weighing in at 6 lb, 6 oz. Congratulations to Paul and Paula! Paul will be taking parental leave starting December 4.

FY2013 Kick-off

NTLP officially began its 2013 fiscal year October 1 with 38 FY2013 library partners, about 2/3 of them pending payment since many of them could not spend their own FY2013 funds until after October 1. As of November 21, 2012 NTLP's membership has grown to 77 library partners, 13 of which are still pending payment. Staff continues to recruit library partners and hopes to continue building membership throughout the year. The Development Committee is reviewing the membership fee structure and considering changes aimed at drawing in more partners next year and simplifying the renewal process.

In the organization's first online voting process, FY2013 members elected Bobby Quinten and Tina Hager to NTLP's Board of Directors and approved all recommended changes to the nonprofit's bylaws.

Vendor Discounts Program

Since the beginning of this fiscal year, NTLP Vendor Contract Coordinator Samantha Simpson - who works under contract a very few hours per week - has added 7 new vendors to our vendor discount program, increasing the number of participating commercial partners to 34. The new additions include TumbleBooks, Mango Languages, Plymouth Rocket, home of EventKeeper - all of which had been requested by several of our library partners. In addition she effectively helped NTLP staff save money while making purchases for the NTLP booth at the Texas Municipal League (TML) Conference.

Geodesity (eBook Platform Project)

The eBook Platform project, partially funded by a Cooperation Grant from TSLAC, is now named Geodesity. Servers are in place with the licensed Adobe

software for managing digital rights. A customized version of the Evergreen Open Source ILS provides the staff interface for managing acquisitions and cataloging and the patron interface for finding ebooks and checking them out. (Some of the Evergreen software customizations are still in progress.) NTLP has developed an automated translator that will convert ONIX records supplied by the publisher into MARC records in the system's catalog, and NTLP is acquiring a set of Library of Congress authority records to assist in cataloging. NTLP has signed contracts with two publishers and is in the process of finalizing others. The NTLP contract templates provide for ebook purchase, ebook leasing, or a combination of the two ("lease to own").

Geodesity has received investment from the following founding libraries: Benbrook, Burleson, Fort Worth, Grapevine, Kennedale, Lake Cities, Ponder, and Sanger. When the project is opened up for more libraries to join, a percentage of the new participants' fees will go to the founding libraries as a return on their initial investment.

Since Geodesity did not receive the hoped-for investment from other large MetroPlex libraries, the project's staffing, timeline and scope have been restructured to match the actual level of investment. The revised launch date for the project is March 1, 2013. Staffing for the project has been adjusted by allowing the participating libraries to contribute staff time in exchange for development credit towards their future impact fee distribution. Four libraries have taken up the offer: Alvarado, Benbrook, Burleson, and Lake Cities.

NTLP Director of Resource Sharing Paul Waak, who is coordinating the project, has met with each of those four libraries to confirm that they understand and accept the tasks they have volunteered to take up. Each task has a lead library and one or two support libraries to improve the availability of people to work on it and to foster a pool of knowledge about the program. The tasks that have been spread out are: Acquisitions management, Cataloging, Development oversight, IT support oversight, and Publisher relations. Paul is currently preparing information packets for both the libraries and NTLP staff.

eReaders Labs Project

The eReader Labs project funded by the TSLAC Impact Grant is taking shape. The nine participating libraries have been selected, with a couple of other libraries opting to participate in the program at their own expense. NTLP is in the process of identifying the equipment that will be purchased for the libraries with grant funds and is arranging for Systems Librarian Mike Pullin and Outreach Librarian Andi Spencer from the UNT Health Science Center Library to conduct Train-the-Trainer sessions, teaching library personnel not only how to provide eReader petting zoos and related eReader programs but also how to provide programs, outreach and / or one-on-one assistance with mobile access

to health information.

Other Project Activity

Since the Executive Director's previous report, NTLP staff have:

- Met with the NTLP membership and other interested parties at the Annual Membership Meeting;
- Conducted consulting activities with libraries in Bowie, Howe, Whitewright, Palestine, and Krum;
- Assisted with Plinkit websites for the libraries in Springtown, Archer City, Forest Hill, Quanah, Saint Jo, Alvord, Chico and the North Texas Library Consortium (NTLC);
- Assisted the North Texas Libraries Overdrive Consortium to assist in negotiating a new contract with the vendor;
- Released three short PSA videos and a companion website encouraging public awareness of whether elected officials support their local library;
- Presented training sessions for library personnel in Green Bay, WI, plus *Who's Being Difficult? Coping Skills for Library Personnel* training in Benbrook and Grand Prairie; and an online training session for Public Library Assn. (PLA) conducted via Facebook;
- Facilitated two group training sessions featuring webinars from nationally recognized sources;
- Participated in the Fall meetings of TLA Districts 7 and 10, in the Texas Special Library Association (SLA) Conference, the annual national conference for the Assn. of Small and Rural Libraries (ASRL), technology training webinars, and training specific to nonprofit administrators;
- Participated in meetings of NTLP's Partner Advisory and Development Committees;
- Participated as exhibitors at the three-day Texas Municipal League (TML) Conference in Grapevine, speaking with many mayors, council members, city managers, assistant city managers and city department heads – plus several potential partners for future project and sponsors for future events;
- Created and sent out the second issue of NTLP's quarterly email newsletter;
- Revised the online event registration forms to allow for discount vouchers, and revised the online directory of library partners to provide more useful information with less maintenance effort.

In addition, during this period, the NTLP circulating collection of eReader devices was used for training events by the Whitewright Library, the Saginaw Library, the UNT Health Science Library (UNTHSC), and by TML Director's Assn. (TMLDA) at the Texas Municipal League conference. The collection is only available to NTLP Partner Libraries.