

# The TLA Newsletter

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## Online Learning Continues!

Register now for the online webinar, “Embrace The Dark Side: Using Wikipedia to Teach Information Literacy” to be held Wed., Dec. 5th from 1 to 2 pm.

In many classrooms, Wikipedia is seen by students as their best resource and by teachers as a barrier to thoughtful and in-depth research. The presenter, Jean Cook, sees Wikipedia as an incredibly effective and relevant tool for instruction and research. This webinar will feature many techniques that promote critical thinking and the importance of information literacy to students. Attendees will leave with practical ways to incorporate Wikipedia into instruction through the use of discussions, demonstrations, active learning exercises, and more. Register now at <https://m360.tnla.org/ViewEvent.aspx?id=65263&instance=0>

## President’s Point of View

As we all know, much of the written word is being offered in electronic format. Much concern has been expressed over what that will mean to libraries. Why will customers still frequent the library when they can check out books and access informational databases online? The answer is as simple as this: libraries and staff can offer one thing that online sources cannot...care and comfort, the human touch.

The connection we make with our patrons is what will cause them to become advocates for the library and this could mean our survival!

That connection will not be made with “business as usual” customer service. We must elevate our service to the “knock-their-socks-off” level. Conversations with patrons should never end with “I don’t know” or “Sorry, we don’t have that.” Each patron should leave our facilities with the information they seek or at least be one step closer to it. Our motto should be as Mother Teresa said, “Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier.”



Many of our customers come to the library because it is the one place they will receive a friendly smile and the feeling that someone actually cares about their needs. During the holiday season, many people feel especially lonely. Let us be sure and reach out during this time and make that special effort to put a smile on the face of each customer.

To stay relevant to our patron’s needs, libraries will need bifocals as we evolve.

—Dinah Harris,  
TLA President

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## TEL Trainer of the Year Award Presented to David Hajdik

Each year, hundreds of Tennessee librarians volunteer their time and talents to spread the word about TEL. Thank you all so much for what you do for TEL!

This year's TEL Trainer of the Year Award was sponsored by Learning Express Library and presented at the Tenn-Share Fall Conference on Friday, September 28. David Hajdik, the Distance Learning and Reference Librarian at Volpe Library of Tennessee Tech University, was presented with the award. David traveled more than 341 miles to conduct TEL training sessions with the help of his 1994 Honda Civic that has more than 300,000 miles on it!

—Wendy Cornelisen, TEL Coordinator,  
Tennessee State Library & Archives



## 2013 TLA Annual Conference

Make plans now to attend the 2013 TLA Annual Conference! The Conference Committee is currently receiving program proposals, soliciting vendors for the Exhibits spaces, securing sponsors and scheduling meal events. The conference dates are April 24 – 26, 2013 and our theme is Libraries out of the Box. The conference will be held at the Chattanooga Convention Center and the adjoining Chattanooga Marriott. Keep an eye on the email list serve and your mailbox for more details in the coming months. Until then, start thinking out of the box!

—Submitted by Cathy Farley and  
Valarie Adams, Conference Co-Chairs

# Libraries out of the Box



April 24 – 26, 2013  
Chattanooga, TN

## SELA Conference Update

On October 3-5, 2012 a joint conference of the Georgia Council of Media Organizations (GaCOMO), a consolidation of Georgia Library Association, Georgia Association for Instructional Technology, Inc., and Georgia Library Media Association, Inc., and the Southeastern Library Association (SELA) was held in Macon, GA. The theme for this conference was Macon It Happen @ Your Library and very well attended.

In the exhibit hall of the Marriott Macon Centreplex there were 120 vendors, COMO, and the SELA membership table which featured the winning books from the Southern Book Competition. Librarians build communities in Macon, which is an outreach program in Macon, GaCOMO selected Loaves and Fishes as its partner this year where attendees were able to make a monetary or food contributions to help.

Wednesday started with three featured pre-conferences on Youth services programming, a Genealogy workshop, or a workshop on GALILEO, Georgia's virtual library. Later in the afternoon SELA, COMO, roundtables and other groups conducted board meetings. That evening, a special treat of Library Movie Night featuring the classic movie "Desk Set" with Hepburn/Tracy was shown. There was no admission charged and popcorn and treats were sponsored by ProQuest & Thomson Reuters West and enjoyable to see.

Throughout the conference the concession stand on the exhibit floor featured a "grab-n-go" for breakfast and lunch hours with low cost coffee, etc. with quality you would expect to



find at a good restaurant and a fraction of the cost. Also featured were free rides on a trolley that continued in a loop to downtown restaurants until 10 p.m. each night. As a joint conference with SELA, there were attendees from Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina and Georgia.

There were 24 posters submitted and divided into two sessions in which I presented in session #2. Although located at the end of the complex, all posters were very well attended. The topics ranged from using mobile devices; LIB 101; African-American collection; iPad uses; renovation/expansion of libraries; cataloging techniques; resumes; information literacy; digital humanities; QR codes, and so much more.

There were two prominent keynote speakers in two general sessions with an additional 139 concurrent sessions ranging in topics from: expectations that users bring to the library, collection development, information literacy, building a virtual library, outreach and programming, cataloging and metadata, student workers at the reference desk, job seeking, school libraries in the southeast, RFID, storytelling, creating quality projects using free online tools, bathroom stall

newsletter, library education in 21st century, and so many more titles and topics just too numerous to list. If you would like to know more feel free to contact me. All sessions were fully attended and any of these topics or something similar may inspire you to submit a program proposal for the next TLA conference.

The GA scholarship raffle of over 100 donated gift items were drawn and approximately 50 gift cards for gas or restaurants were to be drawn later and mailed to winners, a huge success for their scholarship fund. The evaluations were available online in an easy survey format of 15 questions and the capability for write-in comments and responses we included as well. A table was set up with a two iPads and someone to help if needed before leaving. A good time was had by all.

—Submitted by Sue Knoche,  
TLA-SELA Representative

## Grant Opportunity

The Frances Henne/YALSA/VOYA Research Grant Committee, a group within the Young Adult Library Services Association of the American Library Association. Our committee is seeking applicants for a \$1,000 research grant to support projects related to the YALSA Research Agenda. Additional information is available at: <http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/frances-henne-award> and applications are due by Dec. 1st.

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## TLA Renewals Go Electronic!

Renew your TLA membership for 2013 now on the TLA website [www.tnla.org](http://www.tnla.org). Click on Join TLA in the blue menu bar at the top right of your screen. Follow the instructions on the resulting webpage.

You will be able to pay online using a credit card or request to print an invoice which you can then mail with a check to the TLA address.

All members with email addresses in the TLA membership database will receive a renewal notice in mid-

November. Persons whose messages bounce back and those persons who do not have an email address on file with TLA will receive a renewal notice by USPS in November.

Reminder: Membership must be renewed by January 31, 2013 to be eligible to vote in the TLA elections during February/March.

—Annelle R. Huggins,  
Executive Director, TLA

## Membership Update

The TLA membership committee would like to thank the 365+ individuals who submitted their thoughts via the Member/Non-Member Survey this past spring! Full results can be downloaded from: <http://tnla.org/associations/5700/TLA12Mem-Non-MemSurvey.pdf>



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