

Comments Received on draft LSTA 5 year plan 2018-2022

Comment 1:

We need more funding in school libraries as well as a commitment that ALL schools provide CERTIFIED librarians in all schools.

Truthfully, if all superintendents were made aware of what librarians are capable of doing, this push that I've been seeing to hire technology people over librarians would end. I've fought till I also have zero drive left to prove that we are technology and Library together. Can those at TLA not see what's happening to school librarian's???

Comment 2:

Lack of jobs has removed our tax base. How can the State Library financially help small libraries with non-technology initiatives or burdens?

Comment 3:

As a Law Librarian, I find this report very positive for community awareness, accessibility, shared resources, and partnerships. I was disappointed that the recent TLA conference did not have workshops to advance Librarian's knowledge of special libraries in TX and what is offered for potential partnerships. This report offers a better strong-hold on the idea of partnering for expanded resources which could highlight special libraries. PLs have the ability to advance public knowledge of special library services through outreach and networking. For instance, I partner with our county PLs which advances availability and supports complimentary and professional Librarian intelligence. County law libraries are open to the public and have very expensive, current, reading room collections; as well as, on-line legal subscriptions including Pro Se accommodations-- something PLs can't afford nor would ever want to pay for (I find most PLs have superseded titles shelved). Law libraries are widely unused by PL patrons b/c community librarians are usually unaware of the resource or choose to by-pass the recommendation which is unwise. Librarians should NOT give legal guidance, not even to define a term. Law Librarians are trained to answer questions without compromising the rule. Coincidentally, our TX Legislature is preparing to pass HB 1021 (currently in the Senate, passed by the House) which attempts to narrow the legal gap by allowing counties to choose to join their law library with another outside the county seat (those with poor funding); as well as, to create "self help centers." These amendments should help local patrons to better access legal assistance / research portals, yet most people tend to go to their community PL or attempt legal assistance (a service base for the low-income bracket). Also, special Libraries use traffic statistics to support use of funding just as PLs use borrower / traffic statistics for funding—vis-à-vis, we need each other to promote patron use. County Law Libraries are only one example, yet other ideas include music libraries (ex: TX St Univ. Schneider Music Library *which can be used with a TXShare card), art libraries (*The Witliff Collection / TX St Univ., or UT libraries), The Legislative Reference Library (Capitol), etc. Finally, it might be appropriate to add a 6th goal that Librarians assist the public by continually expanding their network base to include special libraries in their community, and TX wide, to properly and "effectively respond to community needs." Public libraries are now acting as central concierge services for their communities which should include recommending local special public libraries that are usually off the community radar. The five year plan could benefit this need. Thank you, Ganelle Pifer-Cannon / Law Librarian, Comal County Law Library / 178 E. Mill. St., Ste. 103 / New Braunfels, TX.

Comment 4:

Excellent list of goals! I have two suggestions. Thanks for reading and considering them.

1. Many public libraries have become Family Place Libraries by attending training in NY. Why not develop a Texas-based training program so that libraries who may not be able to afford long travel can benefit from the program?
2. We need a TSLAC-based high-school diploma program that can be implemented through public libraries. Currently, there is at least one vendor offering this service, but most libraries cannot afford the cost of the service.

Comment 5:

Thank you for this information. We appreciate you including the small libraries and communities.

These specific goals and program will help us in re-evaluating our own 5 year plan.

I especially like the focus on help with e-Rate, partnerships with Workforce, and support activities in early childhood and family literacy.

We could not operate a summer program without your continued help. Thank you.

Our Seniors are in need of digital literacy training, just a thought. The professional development is essential for me, as I pass this knowledge to my community.

Keep up the great work,
Sherry Brecheen, Library Director, Onalaska Public Library

Comment 6:

Availability of faster broadband speed is an issue in the rural areas. Either the State Legislature needs to encourage private companies to expand the infrastructure necessary to support the expansion of broadband so rural areas can get the speeds their urban counterparts take for granted or the legislators need to be convinced that tax dollars are needed to create this infrastructure because access to faster broadband speeds is this century's farm to market highway system. I am not sure how the State Library could help with achieving the goal of faster Internet for the folks in the rural areas of Texas but it is a goal worth tackling.

Comment 7:

My only suggestions are edits to copy. In the second paragraph of Needs Assessment:

In contrast, many rural areas in west and east Texas having [should be have] declining populations.

The Governor has identified education and economic development as priorities. [rearranged for clarity]

Besides that, I think it is a strong plan that all libraries can support.

Comment 8:

Looks fantastic!