



**NEWS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **FUTURIST STEPHEN ABRAM TO SHARE VISION OF ROLE, VALUE FOR LIBRARIES IN COMMUNITIES**

**AUSTIN** – Library futurist, blogger and “change agent” Stephen Abram will visit the Texas State Library and Archives Commission Feb. 24 at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the role and value of libraries in communities – a particularly relevant topic at a time when library dependency and usage is increasing throughout the state in a period of economic hardship. Abram’s talk is the second in the commission’s new TSLAC Speaker Series.

The event, at the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building, 1201 Brazos St., is free and open to the public; RSVPs are requested and may be made by e-mailing [rsvp@tsl.state.tx.us](mailto:rsvp@tsl.state.tx.us) or calling (512) 463-5460.

In speeches at information-industry conferences worldwide and in his blog, [stephenslighthouse.com](http://stephenslighthouse.com), Abram addresses issues facing libraries, library professionals and the patrons they serve as media formats and communication methods change and government funding declines. Designated as one of the library world’s 50 most influential movers and shakers by *Library Journal* magazine, Abram is out to change popular notions about the function and future of libraries in our rapidly evolving information age.

“Stephen Abram has much to say about information management and he’s never less than fascinating and insightful,” says TSLAC Director and Librarian Peggy D. Rudd. “He frequently challenges assumptions about the freedom of information in society and sparks lively discussions every time he speaks.”

Before becoming vice president of strategic partnerships and markets at Gale, a division of Cengage Learning, in 2009, Toronto native Abram was vice president of innovation at SirsiDynix and chief strategist for the SirsiDynix Institute. He also served as vice president of corporate development at Micromedia ProQuest and electronic information publisher for Thomson (now Thomson Reuters). Abram, who holds a master’s degree in library science, ran libraries for Coopers & Lybrand, Suncor, Smith Lyons Torrance Stevenson & Mayer (now Gowlings) and the Hay Group.

A winner of the Special Libraries Association’s John Cotton Dana Award and an SLA fellow, he also has been honored as Canadian Special Librarian of the Year and Alumni of the Year for the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Information Studies, where he is an adjunct professor. A frequent contributor to several publications, he is the author of “Out Front with Stephen Abram” (ALA Editions, 2009), a collection of his articles.

To arrange an interview, contact Derick Hackett at [dhackett@tsl.state.tx.us](mailto:dhackett@tsl.state.tx.us) or (512) 463-5514 or Lynne Margolis at [lmargolis@tsl.state.tx.us](mailto:lmargolis@tsl.state.tx.us) or (512) 463-5462.

### **ABOUT THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION**

*Formed in 1909, TSLAC is committed to giving Texans access to information and programs they can use to improve their lives and communities. We provide historical and genealogical search assistance, federal and state government documents, electronic research and library services to all Texans, including those who are unable to read standard print material because of physical or reading disabilities. For more information, visit [www.tsl.state.tx.us](http://www.tsl.state.tx.us).*

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