



Press Release

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For more information, contact:
Gloria Meraz, gloriam@txla.org
Director of Communications
512-328-1518

James Patterson, Ron Suskind, Henry Winkler, and Others Address Educating Youth and Creating a Nation of Readers in Today's Digital World

April 8 - 11, 2014 in San Antonio's Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center

AUSTIN – Libraries are at the forefront of changes in educational technology, digital publishing, and community initiatives for literacy and workforce development. The Texas Library Association's annual conference, taking place in San Antonio, April 8 – 11, examines innovative strategies libraries are using to advance education, literacy, and robust digital citizenship.

The convention features a talented array of experts and leaders in all areas of information and library services. Sessions at TLA will cover issues such as scholarly communications, ebooks and epublishing, learning strategies for physical and digital classrooms, development of cooperative community partnerships, privacy, and makerspaces, as well as the latest in literary materials and books.

Some of the featured authors include international best-selling author James Patterson, Pulitzer Prize winning reporter Ron Suskind, director and actor Henry Winkler, writer Maggie Stiefvater, Poet Laureate of Texas Rosemary Catacalos, best-selling author James Rollins, Lemony Snicket, Greg Iles, and many others. A full list of the 100 plus authors as well as session details on the over 300 programs and events is available through the show's website: www.txla.org/annual-conference. Most authors will be available for signing autographs in the exhibit hall.

The exhibit hall will also feature the [largest state library trade show](#) in the nation. The showcase features almost 400 vendors demonstrating educational technologies. Many publishers will be on hand showcasing forthcoming works.

Links

[Conference website](#)
[Conference program](#)

Some Conference Events Highlights

Tuesday, April 8

- ***Bringing Little Free Libraries to Your Community***, 4:00pm. It's a "take a book, return a book" gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. In its most basic form, a Little Free Library is a box full of books where anyone may pick up a book (or two) and bring back another to share. Learn about this national movement.

- ***Empowering the Digital Youth: Meeting the Ever Expanding Ecology of Literacy***, 4 pm. Explore how educators and design programs for today's tech-savvy youth that incorporates multiple literacies and leverages cooperative inquiry methods.

Wednesday, April 9

- ***General Session I with James Patterson***, 8:30 am. International best-selling author James Patterson, the first author to achieve 10 million ebook sales, discusses his works and the changing nature of publishing.
- ***When the Trolls Come Knocking: The Role of Academic Freedom***, 10:15 am. University librarian Dale Askey recounts his personal legal battle after a publisher sued both his university and himself for comments he made on his personal blog criticizing the publisher's works.
- ***Transitional Collections in Transitional Times: Aligning Digital Collections with Evolving Student Needs***, 1 pm. The shift to digital content in libraries and classrooms is changing materials selection policies. This session explores solutions to help build diverse collection for the future.
- ***Teens and Libraries in Today's Digital World***, 2:00 pm. Younger Americans exhibit a fascinating mix of habits and preferences with it comes to reading, libraries, and technology. Learn about the latest research and trends.
- ***Latino Bookfest: A Celebración of the Best in Latino Literature for Youth***, 2 pm. Explore award-winning literature celebrating Latino cultural experiences with authors, who focus on the inspirational themes of family and overcoming adversity.
- ***Prepare to do BATTLEDECKS! Rumble on the Riverwalk***, 6:30 pm. Witness this Olympics of Oratory as librarians from around the state prepare to do battle. In this competition of extemporaneous speaking, librarians will have four minutes to speak on 10 (unrelated) slides which they have never seen before. Hilarity ensues. A panel of judges will select the 2014 Champion.

Thursday, April 10

- ***The Future of Libraries***, 8am. Explore the latest research from the Pew Internet & American Life Project on the changing roles of libraries and library users in the digital age.
- ***Bully Busters: Books to Help Children Understand, Cope, and Heal***, 10 am. Authors and librarians have teamed together to develop bibliotherapy, a means to use quality books on the topics of friendship, kindness, and conflict resolution.
- ***Lariat Adult Fiction Reading List***, noon. Celebrate five years of reading selections for adults in this special presentation of Texas Librarians' specialized reading list for the post teenage group.
- ***Texas Bluebonnet Award***, noon. This nationally-recognized children's book award program selected a top winner every year. Voted on by almost 200,000 Texas children, the TBA award is among the most coveted literary honors in the nation.
- ***The Future of the Book Is the Future of Society***, 3 pm. Boundaries between reading and writing are becoming ever more porous. Explore how forms of expression are changing and learn how to maximize new electronic media to promote knowledge and ideas.
- ***General Session II with Ron Suskind***, 4 pm. This award-winning writer shares his most personal story, *Life, Animated, A Story of Sidekicks, Heroes, and Autism*. He is the author of the critically acclaimed, *A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League* and was the senior national affairs writer for *The Wall Street Journal*, where he won the Pulitzer Prize.
- ***Crunch! An Evening with Zombie Authors Dinner***, 6:30 pm. Join fellow thrill-seekers for a night of terrifyingly tasty tales and dishes. Zombie-themed works will leave you hungry for more as

authors share their BRAINS (metaphorically, of course!). Authors include Paolo Bacigalupi, John Campbell, Jonathan Maberry, Diana Rowland, and David Wellington.

Friday, April 11

- ***Keeping Texas Competitive: Workforce Development and Libraries***, 8 am. Workforce development is one of the state's highest priorities, and libraries of all types provide frontline resources and services.
- ***Author Session with Lemony Snicket***, 8 am. The noted author will ponder the eternal question: Why is it fun to read about kidnapping but hardly any fun at all to be kidnapped?
- ***Robots in the Library – Building STEM Skills***, 11 am. The FIRST Lego League Robotics programs offer fun and serious STEM skills. Designed for kids of all ages, the program teaches kids to learn real world teamwork and problem-solving skills.
- ***Mystery Writing with Greg Iles***, 12:30 pm. Join this bestselling author as he discusses the continuation of his series.
- ***General Session III with Henry Winkler***, 1:30 pm. Actor, producer, and author Henry Winkler discuss his works and advocacy for children. He is the author of the well-known series of book featuring Hank Zipzer, a 4th grader who is dyslexic.

The Association also develops [reading lists](#) for all ages. These lists are created to promote a love of reading. Conference will feature authors and educators discussing the diverse 2014 lists.

- [Lone Star Reading List](#) (for sixth through eighth grade), Thursday, April 10, 8:00 am
- [Tayshas List](#) (High School), Thursday, April 10, 10 am
- [Texas Bluebonnet Award](#) Winner (list for third through sixth grade), Thursday, April 10, noon
- [Lariat List](#) (Adult Fiction), Thursday, April 10, noon
- [Spirit of Texas Reading Program](#): (for middle school),
- [Maverick Graphic Novel List](#) (for sixth through 12th grade), Thursday, April 10, 1 pm.
- [Texas 2X2 Reading List](#) (for ages two through second grade), Thursday, April 10, 8:00 am
- [Tejas Star Book Award](#) (for grades K-6 to promote bilingualism and multilingualism)

Day passes to the tradeshow are available for purchase onsite. The public is welcome to attend the conference and trade show, and tickets may be purchased online through April 1. There are a variety of ticket options available, and all meal functions require preregistration purchase. Anyone can register onsite. For more information call (512-328-1518) or email (tla@txla.org).

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Members of the media may request press passes.

About the Texas Library Association

TLA is the largest state library association in the United States with almost 7,000 members who work in public, school, academic, and special libraries and who support educational institutions. TLA offers a wide range of services, including advocacy, continuing education, research, and public relations. For more information, see www.txla.org or call 512-328-1518.