

2000-2002 Biennial Report

Presented by
Cathy Evans

Since its beginnings in 1992, TENN-SHARE has evolved into a very vibrant and successful organization guiding Tennessee's library community into the 21st century. Through TENN-SHARE efforts, we have seen multi-type library cooperation grow and flourish. It is rewarding to look-back over the last two years and reflect on our most recent accomplishments.

- TEL Training: TENN-SHARE took the lead in training k-12 public school librarians in the use of the Tennessee Electronic Library databases. In collaboration with the Gale Group and the Tennessee State Department of Education, a TEL Training Manual was developed and distributed throughout the state and made available on our website. The manual worked so well it became the model from which the Gale Group developed training materials in other states. TEL trainers trained over 800 librarians and teachers in workshops held in all parts of the state. Plans are underway to update the Manual and continue statewide training.
- TEL Phase II: At the 2001 fall conference it became clear that TENN-SHARE members were ready to move forward with a more diverse Tennessee Virtual Library. One year later we are well on our way in planning for what is now known as TEL II. Steering and advisory committees are in place, planning sessions have been conducted with SOLINET's Kate Nevins as the facilitator, a basic planning document has been developed and funds are committed toward future developments for TEL II. Concepts include: one-stop access to and rapid delivery of materials; expanded electronic resources; preserving Tennessee's history and culture through digitization projects, and training and marketing. Libraries will soon be asked to endorse the concept of TEL II.
- Workshops: Professional growth opportunities through TENN-SHARE workshops continues to be one of our strongest programs. Over the past two years a needs survey has been developed and distributed and members are giving us valuable

feedback for planning these sessions. More diverse topics are being offered and attendance is steadily increasing.

- **Membership:** 2001–2002 membership was at an all-time high of 363 libraries. The membership committee worked very hard in contacting libraries who had not renewed membership for one or more years, and through this effort, 81 rejoined us. There has been a large increase in the number of school library members as well. In the last two years we began our program of recognizing and profiling every 50th library which sends in membership dues. A revised membership form now includes all pertinent information already printed on the form.
- **Database Offerings:** Currently TENN-SHARE is working with nine vendors including Wilson, Grolier, Ebsco, and Gale, to provide electronic database subscriptions for member libraries at reduced pricing. Many libraries have recognized substantial savings through this program. Members continue to take advantage of Ingram discounts of 15–42% on books and free shipping. A proposal has been made by the Collection Development committee for TENN-SHARE to hire a part-time database coordinator. Centralized billing would bring even bigger savings to our members. TENN-SHARE will continue to explore ways to implement these plans and investigate other ways to expand and improve electronic database access for libraries.
- **Constitution:** Last year the constitution was streamlined by removing items that really are not constitution issues. Most of the items related to operational and procedural matters that should not require a constitutional amendment vote in order to make changes. A separate procedures manual is being developed.
- **GAC:** In June of 2001 the Board approved a proposal for TENN-SHARE to become an Affiliate Member of SOLINET. This membership makes us a Group Access Capability agent and allows members to participate in the OCLC ILL system and to purchase services from SOLINET at the Affiliate Member rate without paying the annual membership charge. Our payment of \$250.00 covers all TENN-SHARE members.
- **Website:** Over the past two years we have seen many revisions and enhancements on the TENN-SHARE website. The look has changed and content is more complete. We started experimenting with online forms and are working toward making forms such as Board member nominations interactive.

- Advocacy: Our Executive Director, Penny Frere, continues to promote TENN-SHARE and its programs across the state. She has represented TENN-SHARE at International Coalition of Library Consortia conferences; been instrumental in the planning of the annual Library Legislative Day, attends all TLA board meetings, and works closely with the Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL) and the Tennessee Association of School Librarians (TASL). Through her efforts we developed the TEL birthday bashes and the TEL letter-writing contest for schools.