

## **2002-2004 Biennial Report**

Presented by  
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### **Introduction**

During the 2002–2004 biennial, TENN–SHARE made remarkable progress in its efforts to improve library services for Tennesseans. For this progress, TENN–SHARE participants can justly be proud; but they cannot rest. This progress was made through the combined efforts of many people working in myriad ways on numerous long and short–term projects of varying social, political, technical, and economic complexity. Some of these are outlined below. If you have not contributed, consider it. I have been extremely impressed by the willingness of a large number of people from all types of libraries to give their time, expertise, and money to TENN–SHARE activities.

### **Membership**

In 1998–99 TENN–SHARE membership stood at 193 after the two previous years in the 200's. Since the low in 1998–99, membership has grown consistently, due primarily to increases from school libraries. 2002–2003 membership stood at 394. There were 61 academic, 113 public, 193 school, and 27 special library members. In 2003–04 it increased again to 451 comprising 64 academic, 120 public, 239 schools, and 28 special. These numbers are important – members count with many constituencies from vendors to politicians. The large public libraries and the academic libraries have been the bedrock of TENN–SHARE for years in terms of finances and personnel. Support of these libraries is crucial for the continued success of TENN–SHARE.

### **TEL Phase II**

From the initial conversation at the retreat of the TENN–SHARE Board in the spring followed by member contributions at the Fall Conference in 2001, TEL Phase II has progressed more rapidly and in ways no one anticipated or

expected. The people and institutions involved made this happen. At the spring retreat, we said we could not wait for State funding, and we would not be deterred by the absence of it. Such funding is required for development in some areas, and it certainly would accelerate other projects. But TENN-SHARE will continue to pursue the TEL Phase II goals without State funding. For a detailed description of TEL Phase II, see the TENN-SHARE Website, [www.TENN-SHARE.org](http://www.TENN-SHARE.org). Here its goals, plans, organization, participants, and progress are detailed. Briefly, TEL Phase II, comprises six projects. These are: 1. one-step access to the collections of all libraries throughout the state, 2. rapid delivery of library materials, 3. expanded electronic resources through TEL, 4. a means to preserve and share Tennessee history and culture, 5. training in the use of information resources, and 6. marketing of TEL Phase II.

To usher these projects, an Advisory Committee and a Steering Committee have been appointed. To develop them, taskforces have been appointed. When asked to serve on a committee or a taskforce by the co-chairs of the Steering Committee, not one person declined. At the first meeting of the Advisory Committee, members pledged money to pay for SOLINET consultation regarding definition and development of TEL Phase II goals. After SOLINET did not charge for this service, the Advisory Committee said to keep the money for other TEL Phase II needs.

Bringing all these people to the organized pursuit of TEL Phase II and defining the charges of the taskforces was largely the work of the co-chairs, Cathy Evans, Director of Libraries for St. Mary's Episcopal School in Memphis, and Aubrey Mitchell, Associate Dean of Libraries for the University of Tennessee – Knoxville.

## **Fall Conference**

The Fall Conferences in 2002 and 2003 were held at the Nashville Public Library. Having the conferences here enhanced them greatly. The Library is beautiful, the meeting rooms excellent, the staff extremely helpful and accommodating; and the food from Provence Breads & Café savory and reasonably priced.

The programs were equal to this environment. In 2002, 132 registrants enjoyed programs with the theme “Maximizing your TENN–SHARE Membership.” Programs included: an Introduction to TEL Phase II, Use of the GAC for ILL, and Marketing TEL. TENN–SHARE conferences usually have programs where attendees participate. In 2002 such a program asked how member libraries could bring TEL II into being. Ingram Book Services and the GALE Group provided financial support for the conference.

The theme of the 2003 Fall Conference was “Sharing Tennessee: From Story Telling to Digitization.” Attendance grew to 168 participants. Lunchtime storytelling by Doc McConnell and Elizabeth Rose proved to be very popular. One breakout session was “The Power of Stories for Powerful Presentations.” Other breakout sessions covered topics on developing digital collections and the profession of librarianship. The plenary session was a report and demonstration by the taskforce charged with the TEL Phase II project to preserve and share Tennessee history. This taskforce has made remarkable progress. Corporate sponsors included: The GALE Group, Ingram Book, and EBSCO.

## **Tennessee Resource Sharing Award**

This award is sponsored by the Honors and Awards Committee of TLA and TENN–SHARE. The award is given in recognition of a person, an institution or an organization that has made an outstanding contribution to promoting resource sharing within and among Tennessee libraries. Cathy Evans, the 2002 recipient, is the Director of Libraries at St. Mary’s Episcopal School in Memphis. Jack Stacy, the 2003 recipient, is the Coordinator of Bibliographic Services and TEL at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Past recipients are listed on the TENN–SHARE Website.

## **Workshops**

TENN–SHARE continued to conduct TEL training across the State and sponsor a variety of summer workshops in the three regions of the State. TEL training has been ably organized by Marie Jones (ETSU) for several years. During the summer of 2003, TENN–SHARE scheduled seventeen workshops of which three were

cancelled. In 2003, 199 people attended these workshops. These workshops were shepherded by Marie Jones and Lori Buchanan (APSU). Serving as regional coordinators were: east — Connie Booker (Knox County Schools); middle — Sharon Parente (MTSU); and west — Bonnie Barnes (Memphis University School). In 2004, 205 attendees participated in twenty workshops after seven were cancelled. For these, Kathy Campbell (ETSU) worked with these regional coordinators: east — Janet Drumheller (Knox County Public Library); middle — Chuck Sherrill (Brentwood Public Library); and west — Priscilla Stephenson (UT-Memphis). Each year roughly an equal number of workshops were held in east, middle and west Tennessee. The complete schedule of topics, dates, and locations for the forthcoming summer is posted on the TENN-SHARE Website each spring. Two sources for topics are membership surveys from the fall conferences and the TENN-SHARE Listserv. The quality, proximity, and low cost have continued to make these popular. In our rapidly changing technical and social environment, continual development is a necessity. Such development has been and will continue to be an important component of the TENN-SHARE mission.