

AMIGOS LIBRARY SERVICES
4006 Belt Line Road, Suite 125
Addison, Texas 75001-4371

CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM: MARK SMITH
 Amigos Library Services Board of Directors

CANDIDATE TITLE & INSTITUTION		
Title	Retired	
Institution	Formerly, Director of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission	
Mailing Address	804 Cardiff Drive	
City, State, Zip	Austin, Texas 78745	
Phone	909-938-0117	
email	Msmith.riverside@gmail.com	
EDUCATION (MOST RECENT FIRST)		
Degree	Institution	Dates
MLIS	University of Texas at Austin	1981-1982
BA with Honors in English	University of Texas at Austin	1974-1979
POSITIONS (FIVE MOST RECENT POSITIONS OR INSTITUTIONS)		
Position	Institution	Dates
Director/State Librarian	Texas State Library and Archives Commission	2013-2021
Vice President/West Coast Operations	Library Systems and Services, LLC	1999-2013
(note: in this capacity, I served as the Administrator of the Riverside County, California, Library System and managed operations of 9 other public library systems in California and Oregon)		
Director of Communications	Texas Library Association	1997-1999
Library Systems Administrator	Texas State Library and Archives Commission	1991-1996
Director	Plainsboro (NJ) Public Library	1990-1991
HONORS, AWARDS, PRIZES, MEDALS, CITATIONS		
TLA Texas Library Champion, 2024		
California Library Association Member of the Year, 2003		

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Currently:

Member, Texas Library Association
Member, Austin Library Commission (since 2021, chair 2022-2024)
Member, Tocker Foundation Board of Directors

Previously:

Member, American Library Assn, Public Library Association, California Library Association
Served on numerous ALA committees, including Committee on Legislation and Publications

PUBLICATIONS/ PRESENTATIONS

Presentations: Many, but most recently in 2023 and 24, a series of 10 workshops across Texas presented by the Tocker Foundation on how to prepare for censorship challenges.
Books: *Training Library Staff and Volunteers to Provide Extraordinary Customer Service*. (Co-authored with Julie Todaro.) New York: Neal-Schuman, 2006.
Editor, *Managing the Internet Controversy*. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2000.
Internet Policy Handbook for Libraries. New York: Neal-Schuman, 1999.
Articles, numerous, including:
"Six Ways to Build a State Library Platform for Family Engagement" in *A Librarian's Guide to Engaging Families*. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 2021.
"Texas State Library and Archives Commission and Digital Inclusion." *Texas Library Journal*, 94, n. 3 (Fall 2018).

STATEMENT OF CONCERN

I am excited about the opportunity to serve on the board of Amigos Library Services. I have been familiar with Amigos most of my career and at times have interacted with that work. Former Amigos director Bonnie Juergens was an early mentor and colleague for much of my career and I have known and admired Miguel's visionary work since his days at ALA. While I was director at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), we used various Amigos services, including the courier as a backbone for statewide resource sharing. But among our areas of cooperation, I was most proud of our partnership with Amigos to establish the E-Read Texas e-book project using the SimplyE application for small public libraries across the state. Christine Peterson and I worked together with other members of the TSLAC staff to refine that project and I regard the launch of E-Read Texas as one of my greatest successes at TSLAC. Though TSLAC has since moved to a different application for E-Read Texas, Amigos was key to the early success of that project and I know Amigos continues to provide valuable support for libraries using the SimplyE app as their e-book solution.

I have always believed that successful library service depends upon access to up-to-date technology solutions, innovative and effective resource-sharing, and authoritative training and technical guidance. Amigos has long been a key component in all three of these critical support areas and I look forward to actively participating in efforts by Amigos to use these strategies to advance library services. I am concerned that small and rural libraries are not left behind as they actively work to fulfill their role as educational, economic, and cultural anchors in their communities. I worked hard at the state library to bring broadband services to rural libraries and that work has continued since I left. Thanks to the efforts of many in the library community, including Amigos, local libraries are seen as key players in delivering networked information throughout the state. I believe Amigos can be part of a broad-based effort to build the capacity of all libraries to deliver authoritative information to local communities. Libraries now face a variety of significant challenges and I would like to help Amigos grow its longstanding role as a solution to meeting those challenges.

Mark Smith

3-13-2025

Signature

Date