

## REPORT

# TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

San Antonio, TX  
April 12-14, 2007

At this point, it's no secret that the Texas Library Association is regarded as not only the best state show in the US, but also as one of the best library shows in the entire country. Garnering exhibitors who usually save their travel expenses for national shows like ALA, TXLA is always full of excited attendees, always happy to see the exhibits—especially the Combined Book Exhibit.

Over eight thousand attended this year's show in San Antonio, with an estimated 75% of which were school librarians. Our booth was popular as always drawing attendees who wanted to see more than just one publisher at a time like they found at other booths. Non-conflict time was obviously the busiest time of each day of the show for our booth, but stragglers made their way through even while panels were taking place.

As such a big show, we took the opportunity to debut two new features (and hopefully future mainstays) at our exhibit. The first of which was a display from the American Library Association, showing off all of the services that they have to offer. This display was popular with attendees who are going to be sure to keep up with their ALA information.

The second new edition to our exhibit was our special Graphic Novels showcase featuring popular comics like **Bone** as well as newcomers like **Summ Publications** and foreign publishers like **Ponent Mon/Fanfare**. Each publisher's books were viewed and reviewed by attendees, and even their individual catalogs were taken en masse, leaving us with none to giveaway! This is just a showcase in development, but it looks like it will be a popular part of our exhibit as we debut it in new venues this coming fall.

Aside from the previously mentioned newcomers to the exhibit, our current mainstays such as **Omnigraphics**, **Holtzbrinck** and the small press **Kidwick Books** all received rave reviews and attention from attendees. And, with a large population of school librarians in attendance, our children's collection was popular as always.

Booth representative was Peter Birch. The 2008 TXLA conference will be held in Dallas from April 15-18.