# CPLA Management of Technology, LE@D

**Instructor:** Carson Block

Carson has lead, managed, and supported library technology efforts for more than 15 years, working with public, school, academic, and special libraries of all sizes, ranging from direct technology support to large-scale projects.

His colleagues refer to him as a "geek who speaks English."  He enjoys acting as a bridge between the worlds of librarians and hard-core technologists.  "I feel my calling is to demystify technology for the uninitiated, and to help IT professionals understand and support the goals of libraries."

As IT Director for the Poudre River Public Library District in Colorado, he has led multiple technology projects and project teams (including network infrastructure overhauls, a conversion to RFID, patron self-service kiosks, and technology design and construction for new library construction), and contributed to the successful effort to create a library district.

**Sponsoring Institution:** University of North Texas, Lifelong Education @ Desktop online program (LE@D), Denton, TX

**Course Fee:** $300

**Course Structure/Delivery: [Note: Next session begins June 1, 2011]**

The course runs for eight continuous weeks.  It is offered completely online in an asynchronous ("when you want"), collaborative environment.
You and your classmates will start the course on the same day, login at multiple times of your own choosing each week, work with classmates on lessons, and advance together week-by-week.

You'll use your web browser to access the course through the WebCT Vista Learning Management System, hosted by the University of North Texas, a leading purveyor of online education in the U.S. You will NOT meet in person and will NOT be required to attend synchronous events scheduled at a particular day or time, such as live chats or webinars.

This course is rich with collaborative encounters with your classmates. It focuses on openly sharing knowledge, experiences, and learning, and providing support to each other.  You'll participate in assigned discussions that include focused topics, results of individual study, and peer review and

feedback. You'll be fully supported for technical issues. (We like problems!) The instructor, Carson Block, will be visible and actively involved in the course, offering assignment clarification, feedback, and assessment each week, and available for private discussion as needed.

This course is offered in spring and fall of 2011. **[Note: Next session begins June 1, 2011. Space is limited, so please register now at http://www.leadonline.info.]**

**Course Description:**

This course puts the full power of information technology into the hands of library's managers and leaders. You'll start with a clear vision and an understanding of technology policy. Next, you'll consider the nuts and bolts of managing technology. Technology planning is next (which is so important we'll devote two weeks to learning good approaches), followed by technology implementation, and finally, evaluation. The course is presented in plain language with many concrete examples and exercises.

Topics include: connecting your library's goals to technological possibilities, monitoring and administrating technology budgets, assessing resources, drawing a line between efforts and impacts, evaluating those efforts and making course corrections, and understanding and using emerging technologies.

You will assemble your own Technology Planning Kit, which will help you create your own library technology plan. Course tools include spreadsheet and tally sheet templates for you to download to evaluate budgets, inventory populations served and electronic services provided, inventory hardware and software, and calculate the relationship between the cost and value of a technology investment.

**Enrollment Process:**

http://www.leadonline.info/index.cfm?pf=/2009/Courses&pfs=filtered&GroupID=1

**Please contact Kevin Haney, LE@D director, with your technical and financial questions at Kevin Haney, kevin.haney@unt.edu**

As a resource for course activities, learners are asked to have the following ready to use, if available:

- The library's long-term goals
- An inventory of the technology currently being used by the library
- The library's current capital budget
- The existing technology management plan, if one exists

**Technology Requirements:**

You'll need a personal computer with Internet access, a Java-enabled Web browser, and Adobe Reader, plus have access to a printer. You will need to be able to turn off your pop-up blocker.

**We can help you test your computer hardware and software before you begin the course at "Browser and Computer Settings" at https://ecampussupport.unt.edu/index.cfm?M=Student_Resources&PF=../Support/browser_plugins#two:**