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Rod Bland's term as president of PLANT will come to an end Dec. 31, 2012. The director of the Burleson Public Library has served in this post for the Public Library Administrators of North Texas for one year. He is one of more than half a dozen City employees who are currently elected to top leadership positions in regional, state or national associations.

More than 70 libraries are members of PLANT. The 501 (c)(6) professional development organization is for public library directors in the North Texas area who are dedicated to assisting each other toward excellence in the library profession and offering mutual support.

Since its inception in 1965, PLANT has fostered support, communication, and cooperation among the directors of the member libraries, as well as aided in the development of "best practices" solutions to problems affecting public libraries in the region.

Prior to his presidency, Bland served as vice president/president elect of PLANT. He has also served as webmaster for the PLANT website and oversaw the operation of the email listserv for the group.

Currently, Burleson's director is co-chair of the events planning committee of the local arrangements committee for the upcoming Texas Library Association annual conference to be hosted in Fort Worth in April 2013.

Bland was hired by the City of Burleson as the director of library services in October 2009. Bland's library career includes driving a bookmobile for the Salt Lake City Public Library; assistant department manager in the Salt Lake County Library System, then branch librarian; librarian for the Utah State Youth Development (youth prison serving ages 14-19); children's librarian in Wisconsin; assistant branch manager/children's librarian for the Dallas Public Library; library director for the Richland Hills Public Library, Weatherford Public Library, and North Las Vegas Library District; branch manager for the Dallas Public Library; library director at Haltom City Public Library and Rowlett Public Library; head of adult services for the Hurst Public Library; and library director for the Corsicana Public Library.