

ADMINISTRATOR'S STATEMENT
80th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 8/10/2006
TIME: 12:12:00PM
PAGE: 1 of 4

Agency code: 306

Agency name: **Library & Archives Commission**

Commission Chairman's Statement

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission's (TSLAC) 2008-2009 Legislative Appropriations Request has been carefully scrutinized to reflect the priorities of our agency while achieving effective performance and fiscal responsibility for all revenues.

TSLAC's programs carry forward the State's mission to support state government operations, provide citizens with access to information, and further the knowledge based economy of the 21st century.

Preparing for the Sunset Review process in the 80th Texas Legislature has afforded us the opportunity for in-depth analysis and strategic planning. In addition, planned renovations to the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building position our agency to improve our efficiency, service delivery and security of state assets.

Our LAR includes two exceptional item requests: about \$11.6 million for the Loan Star Libraries grant program for Texas public libraries; and, almost \$22 million of bond authority for the renovation of the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building. In addition, our commission asks for authority to adjust the salary of our chief executive officer, the Director and Librarian, within the framework of the Schedule Exempt Position Salary Rates to the Group Three maximum, which is \$99,192. We also request the limit on per diem of our Commission be raised from \$1,080 to \$1,470 because the size of our Commission was increased from six to seven members.

Loan Star Libraries: Public libraries are essential to communities. Recent research suggests communities highly value public library service. Even those who do not use the library give public libraries an 'A' more than any other community institution covered in the research. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita further highlighted the strength and value of local libraries. After Katrina, Texas public libraries found themselves inundated with evacuees seeking information and assistance. People flocked to library computers to locate and communicate with loved ones and to access, fill out, and print government applications. Libraries were information clearinghouses for community relief resources and employment opportunities. Librarians and library staff made their libraries first responders to the crisis.

Since more than 25% of the Texas adult population functions at the lowest literacy level, strong libraries are critical. Texas must make a greater investment in libraries.

Loan Star Libraries grants help nearly every public library in Texas address the particular needs of their communities. The program is designed to maximize local government control and flexibility over the funds. The exceptional item request includes the restoration of the base budget and an increase in funds for library grants.

Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building renovation: The 79th Legislature approved \$15.5 million in general bond authority to renovate and expand the 45-year-old library. The building no longer adequately houses and protects the State Archives, an important asset to the State. Bailey Architects of Houston has designed a space fitting for a 21st Century library and archives. Although they used every possible measure to maximize the existing structure and save unnecessary expenses, the estimated cost to renovate the building adequately is about \$37.3 million. Without additional funding, we can only expect enough archival storage space to allow for five years of growth, and very minimal renovation or modernization to the rest of the building.

Our commissioners and staff are proud of our leadership role as the state agency promoting the essential place of libraries and archives in our society and in providing direct services to libraries and government agencies. Our LAR for 2008-2009 will provide library, archival and information resources to enrich the lives of Texans through economic and educational opportunities in our State.

Sandra J. Pickett, Chairman
Texas State Library and Archives Commission

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Texas State Library and Archives Commission Members and Terms of Office

Sandra J. Pickett, Chairman, Liberty	2004-2009
Sharon T. Carr, El Paso	2006-2011
Diana Rae Hester Cox, Canyon	2002-2007
Martha Doty Freeman, Austin	2004-2009
Cruz G. Hernandez, Burleson	2004-2009
Sandra G. Holland, Pleasanton	2002-2007
Sally Reynolds, Rockport	2006-2011

Administrator's Statement

In the next biennium, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission will celebrate 100 years of service to the people of Texas. For almost a century, we have cared for some of our state's most priceless resources – permanently valuable records that document the history and culture of Texas as a province, colony, republic, and state.

Over the century, we have taken on responsibility for supporting state and local government records management so that our state's history can continue to be told in its records instead of being destroyed by natural disaster or poor planning and management; expanding and nurturing the network of public libraries; promoting cooperation among all types of libraries and administering the statewide resource sharing consortium, TexShare; administering the Library Systems Act and the federal Library Services and Technology Act; and meeting the reading needs of Texans with disabilities. As the needs of Texas and Texans have diversified, so to have the programs and services of the Library and Archives Commission.

The agency's FY2008-2009 Legislative Appropriations Request at the base level reflects the requested 10% reduction. Since the agency's General Revenue Related Funds constitute only 50% of our overall budget, a reduction of this magnitude is not inconsequential. While we have reduced budgets across the agency's six strategies, we have concentrated the largest reduction in the Loan Star Libraries Program of direct state assistance to public libraries.

In FY02 TSLAC established the Loan Star Libraries Program as a partnership between the state of Texas and local political jurisdictions. This partnership is intended to:

- * Improve public library services statewide.
- * Ensure access to adequate public library resources and services for all Texans.
- * Provide an incentive to local communities to extend public library service without charge to those residing outside each public library's legal service area.
- * Build the capacity of each public library to serve as the information resource and lifelong learning center for their community.
- * Enhance the public library's ability to serve Texans in the "Digital Divide."
- * Improve each public library's ability to provide access points to e-government.

Public libraries in Texas are supported primarily by local funding sources. In FY2004, the most recent reporting year, local communities spent almost \$343 million for the operation and maintenance of their public libraries. The average per capita expenditure is \$16.69, while the median is only \$13.77. As a result, a few communities benefit from adequately supported public library service while many other communities receive a modicum of service. Total operating expenditures per capita for Texas public libraries rank us 44th in the nation. (Texas average per capita = \$16.69; U. S. average per capita = \$28.94)

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Varying levels of local funding for public libraries in Texas result in variations in hours of operation, staffing, collections, formats of library materials, outreach, and programming. While public library service is primarily a local responsibility, the state has the responsibility to see that collections and services are adequate to meet local needs where local resources are not sufficient to achieve that adequacy.

No public library can have all of the resources required to meet local needs. The state has a vested interest in supporting increased networking and resource sharing among libraries and to provide an incentive for local political jurisdictions to eliminate barriers to access.

Increasing amounts of state and local government information are available electronically, and public access to this networked information and digital publications is critical. Increasingly, state government has migrated more of the business transactions between the people and their government to the Web. The expanding e-government initiatives are unprecedented and welcomed; however, availability of computers and information literacy training are critical to the success of these efforts.

In its first four years, the Loan Star Libraries Program has distributed over \$13 million to Texas public libraries to improve library service statewide. Although the state's investment has been relatively modest, it has accomplished a great deal.

In FY2001, before the Loan Star Libraries Program was implemented, 61% of the 538 eligible public libraries served non-residents free of charge. That number has risen to 80% since the inception of Loan Star Libraries. Ninety-four public libraries eliminated their non-resident fees between FY2002 and FY2006. The number of public libraries that joined the reciprocal borrowing TexShare Card Program rose from 13% in FY2001 to 70.8% in FY2006. This means that the people of Texas have access to unlimited information and library materials in our public, academic, and medical libraries.

In addition, Texas public libraries have been able to greatly increase the number of hours that they are open to the public. As a result of Loan Star Libraries funding, Texas public libraries were able to open an additional 1,786 hours in FY05.

TSLAC supported public libraries in each year of the current biennium with \$2.65 million in Loan Star Libraries Program grants. This is less than 1% of the amount spent by local governments on their public libraries (\$343 million).

In the agency's Exceptional Item Request, we ask for the restoration of \$1,276,154 to the Loan Star Libraries Program base in Strategy 1.1.2 and an additional increase in Loan Star Libraries of \$8,100,000. This would increase the total amount available in this public library grant program to \$15 million, or approximately 4% of what local communities will dedicate to their own libraries.

These funds will help public libraries purchase books and other library materials, as well as computers and advanced telecommunications capacity. Public libraries will be able to establish and expand adult and family literacy programs, English as a Second Language programs, reading programs for adults and youth, afterschool programs for students, and outreach programs to those who are homebound, disabled, or need special assistance in order to use the library. Public libraries will be able to support local businesses and meet local and regional government information needs. The state's investment in its local public libraries will reap large and sustained benefits for the people of Texas.

Population shifts, changes in federal law, and service population needs have prompted us to consider major changes to the Library Systems Act. The Act is one of the issues being examined by the Texas Sunset Commission. We propose to focus the ten Regional Library Systems on their core functions of consulting and continuing education training, with the anticipation that additional resources in Loan Star Libraries will meet some of the other needs of local communities. The flexibility and local government control afforded by Loan Star Libraries to local communities allow libraries to meet the specific needs of their users, and embodies the State's philosophy that local governments know best what local governments need.

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TSLAC's second and last Exceptional Item Request is an additional \$22 million to fund the expansion and renovation of the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building, to be financed with general obligation bonds through the Texas Public Finance Authority. At the direction of Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst, the Texas Building and Procurement Commission (TBPC) conducted a study of the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building in 2002-2003 to determine the comparative cost effectiveness of expanding and renovating the current facility and of constructing a new building. The study concluded that the most cost effective alternative was to modernize and renovate the Zavala building, which would meet the agency's needs for an additional 20 years.

The 79th Legislature appropriated \$15.5 million for this project. TBPC assigned a project director and administered competitive procurements for architectural and engineering services (Bailey Architects) and construction management services (Harvey Cleary). Bailey Architects is working currently on schematic drawings, and construction is set to begin late this calendar year. We anticipate a construction period of 36-42 months and believe that the construction can be handled in phases with staff relocation within the existing facility. Although every measure was taken to minimize costs, the projected total for the renovation is \$37 million, more than double the original appropriation.

In modernizing and renovating the Lorenzo de Zavala building, the agency plans to add environmentally controlled space for the storage of archival materials (the agency currently has no available space for current archival acquisitions and has stored 20,000 cubic feet of permanently valuable records at the State Records Center); to combine public service areas for improved public access to collections and staff; to update wiring to support 21st century technology and telecommunications; to modernize space for the processing of archival materials for inclusion in the agency's collections and for digitization; and to offer better public access to and space for support and volunteer services.

The agency's flagship building was dedicated on April 10, 1962. In his dedication remarks, Governor Price Daniel, who had spearheaded the construction project, spoke eloquently of his vision for the building as a monument to our great state's history.

"It is my hope and belief that this building and its contents will be a constant inspiration to those who study and visit here. This is a measure of its real importance to our State and to our people."

We look forward to working with the 80th Legislature and the Governor's office to arrive at an appropriation for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission that fully recognizes the agency's many and varied customers, the complexity of its mission and goals, and its outstanding record of service to the people of Texas.

Peggy D. Rudd
Director and Librarian