



Summary of Texas Public Library Accreditation Criteria

Minimum Standards for Accreditation of Libraries

13 TAC §1.71-§1.87 <http://tinyurl.com/TACaccreditation>

- §1.71 Population formulas, assigned by State Library staff, based on sources of local government funding, using most recent US Census data.
- §1.72 Library services for the public are provided without charge or deposit. There are some allowable charges.
- §1.73 Library must be legally established as department of city, county or contractual combination, a library district, or a non-profit corporation. Non-profit libraries must have current contract(s) with local government funding source.
- §1.74 Maintenance of Effort (MOE) met. This is the three-year average of local operating expenditures.
- §1.77 Local government support of at least half of library operating expenditures, meeting minimum per capita requirement.
- §1.81 Minimum per capita local operating expenditures.
- §1.81 One item per capita or expend 15% on collection materials.
- §1.81 Electronically searchable catalog and 1% of collection published within last five years.
- §1.81 Minimum number of hours open for service.
- §1.81 Minimum number of hours head librarian/director employed in library duties.
- §1.81 Above 25,000 assigned population, minimum number of ALA-MLS librarians on staff.
- §1.83 Published phone number and current, functional website (not Facebook).



- §1.83 Photocopier for use by staff and public.
- §1.83 Internet-access computers for staff and public, at least one of which you can print/copy from.
- §1.83 Participation in statewide interlibrary loan; live on OCLC Navigator.
- §1.83 Ten hours of continuing education taken annually by director.
- §1.83 Long-range (5-year) plan approved by governing board, updated in last 5 years. Must have technology and collection development components.
- §1.84 Definition of Professional Librarian, for libraries with over 25,000 assigned population.
- §1.85 Public Libraries Annual Report requirement and due dates.
- §1.86 Only for libraries operated by public school districts, institutions of higher education, units of local, state, or federal government, accredited non-public elementary or secondary schools, or special or research libraries.
- §1.87 Emergency Rule to allow a waiver of certain criteria due to circumstances beyond library's control.

Benefits of Accreditation

Libraries that are accredited are eligible for certain services from the Texas State Library.

Accredited libraries are eligible to participate in the statewide [Inter-Library Loan program](#) (ILL). It allows other libraries' patrons to request materials from your collection and allows your library patrons to request materials from participating libraries. The Navigator ILL program also provides a reimbursement to libraries for each loan through Navigator. They are also eligible for a subsidy towards the total TExpress statewide courier subscription costs should they choose to participate in this program.

Accredited libraries are eligible to apply for [E-rate](#). To be eligible for E-rate discounts, a library applicant must meet the statutory definition of library or library consortium found in the 1996 Library Services and Technology Act (Pub. L. 104-208) (LSTA) and must be eligible for assistance from a state library administrative agency under that Act. For purposes of LSTA, the State Library has discretion regarding the eligibility of applicants. In Texas, a public library must be accredited.

Accredited libraries can apply for any of the State Library's [competitive grants](#). These are generally programmatic in nature and can vary from year-to-year.

Accredited libraries are members of the TexShare consortium and can participate in the [TexShare databases](#) program for a modest fee. The TexShare databases are electronic database resources that are available to over 600 public, academic, and libraries of clinical medicine throughout the state at a significant cost savings. There are 68 databases currently available. Accredited libraries pay a formula-based participation fee to gain access for their patrons. The databases are available 24 hours a day in the homes or offices of registered patrons of participating Texas libraries. They provide full-text articles from journals, newspapers, magazines, and many other sources. Entire books can be read online. Database topics include homework help for students, health information, business information, biography, and genealogy, as well as literature and archival information. Examples are Chilton Library, Job & Career Accelerator, Learning Express, Hobbies & Crafts, Home Improvement, and Consumer Health Source. The cost savings is very large for a community having these resources through TexShare as opposed to paying for them as an individual library. See the library's TexShare Value Report for more details.

The [TexShare card](#) program is a reciprocal borrowing program. It is designed to allow the registered users of participating institutions, which could be public or academic, directly borrow materials from other participating institutions.

In both the ILL and card program, libraries set policies and procedures regarding lending and borrowing.

Finally, the State Library occasionally offers additional programs or project opportunities for accredited public libraries. Currently, the State Library is offering libraries an opportunity to participate in the Family Place Project. The Project helps public libraries address early learning with an aim of ensuring that all children enter school ready and able to learn. The agency also launched a Tech Academy this year to assist libraries in technology planning. Both programs include a funding component.

There are also benefits outside of what the State Library offers. For some libraries, it is a quality-of-life marker. It is also a way to be connected to other libraries in the state. We do hear from libraries that their communities consider an accredited library to be a way to market their community.



Texas State Library Webpages to Bookmark

Continuing Education	https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/workshops/index.html
Training Calendar	https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/librarydevelopments/?page_id=34
Look for Annual Report webinars in mid-January and early April	
Watch for Grant, ILL, and E-Rate webinars, as well.	
Face-to-Face workshops	https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/workshops/facetoface/index.html
Archived webinars	https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/workshops/webinars/archived.html
Online courses	https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/onlinecourses/index.html
All of the live webinars are recorded. Many end up as self-paced courses, or are archived for viewing at your convenience.	
Grants and Funding Opportunities	https://www.tsl.texas.gov/landing/libfunds.html
Interlibrary Loan (ILL)	https://www.tsl.texas.gov/landing/ill.html
Library Technology Resources	https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/tech
Library Science Collection	https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/lsc
Small Library Management Program (for libraries less than 25,000 population)	https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/workshops/slm/index.html
TexShare Consortium	https://www.tsl.texas.gov/texshare/index.html
Texas Public Library Annual Report	https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/annualreport
Texas Public Library Statistics	https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/statistics

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Library Developments blog	http://tinyurl.com/LibDevBlogFeed
TexShare news list	https://www.tsl.texas.gov/texshare/maillinglists.html