



Texas State Library and Archives Commission FY 2011 grant awards

Special Projects

Funds support programs that expand library services to all members of the library's community, enabling libraries to develop programs for populations with special needs. Programs involving collaboration are encouraged. Programs must emphasize improved services to library customers.

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*Making
information
work
for all
Texans*

Central Texas Library System – \$65,713

The Central Texas Library System Inc. received funding for the third year of its “Ready to Read” project, which provides early literacy classes to parents and teachers of Head Start and other local partner agencies so disadvantaged children have the best possible chance to succeed in school. Funding in 2011 will support expansion of the Ready to Read project to 15 new public library sites in three counties, in partnership with three multi-county Head Starts and other community agencies.

El Paso Community College – \$48,508

The Jenna Welch and Laura Bush Community Library, an academic/public partnership between El Paso Community College and the El Paso Public Library, will develop and implement the “Interactive Technology and Family Literacy Program” for young children and their parents. The project will address the low literacy levels and lack of familiarity with technology in the communities of northwest El Paso County.

North Texas Library Partners – \$75,000

In the “Homebound Program,” NTRLS plans to partner with three member libraries and two other entities to develop a program that will help libraries find ways to offer library services to the homebound. Funding will support pilot efforts in Alvarado, Denton, and Haltom City, all libraries serving different-sized communities, and will include a start-up effort, an expansion program and a program based on the Netflix model. The project will support the establishment of policies and procedures that can be shared with other library communities seeking to establish homebound services.

Arlington Public Library System – \$58,610

The Arlington Public Library will establish three community libraries located in Title I elementary schools, known as LibraryLINK sites. Building on previous successes in establishing LibraryLINK sites at other schools, grant funding will support the addition of two more libraries at two elementary schools and an unstaffed materials pickup point at one YMCA. The grant will also support improved circulation of materials to LibraryLINK locations through a more sophisticated and reliable web interface.

Alpine Public Library – \$5,445

Alpine Public Library will institute a “Basic Computer Literacy Training” project, a computer literacy training program targeted at adults seeking to improve their computer literacy and job marketability, in cooperation with the Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande agency in Alpine, (near Big Bend National Park).

Dallas Public Library – \$74,984

Dallas Public Library will expand the “La Familia Leyendo Juntos” project, which offers English language literacy instruction for parents and K-3 children together. Dallas Public Library will expand the project to three library branches serving large Hispanic populations.

Library Cooperation

Library Cooperation grants funds programs that promote cooperative services for learning and access to information. Programs involving collaboration are encouraged. Programs must emphasize improved services by the library to its customers.

Weatherford Public Library – \$ 51,821

Funding will support resource sharing and cooperation among rural libraries in Parker County (just west of and adjacent to Tarrant County). Four public libraries and one school library received prior LSTA funding to develop an interlibrary loan service, with courier service between the libraries, and they have forged a strong technological and interpersonal partnership emphasizing improved service to Parker County residents. Third-year funding will assist with technical support for long-term sustainability in the community.

Arlington Public Library System – \$73,749

As the first step toward a more regional resource-sharing arrangement, the “Regional Resource Sharing – Arlington and Mansfield” project will merge automation systems, offering residents virtually seamless library services between the libraries in Arlington and Mansfield through a shared catalog and patron database, courier services between the cities and shared customer service and technology training activities.

Texas A&M University–Commerce – \$73,966

The “HeirLoom: Something Worth Saving, Something Worth Sharing” project is a collaboration between the James Gee Academic Library of Texas A&M University–Commerce and rural libraries and historical associations in rural northeast Texas. This project supports archivists providing on-site training and technical assistance for rural libraries as they seek out historical materials and digitize special collections. Last year’s grant emphasized documenting and digitizing the African-American experience in the region. This year’s funding will support continued training and expansion of the Project into 20 counties.

North Texas Library Partners – \$75,000

The “Information Literacy” project will offer a series of information literacy classes using the latest technology, as well as acquire funds for its member libraries to receive a year-long subscription to Murals Online Resource, an online tool to introduce people to information literacy. Funding will support a literacy coordinator to administer and implement the program, as well as a contractor for workshops.

TexTreasures

The TexTreasures grant program provides assistance and encouragement to libraries to offer access to their special or unique holdings and to make these holdings available to all Texans.

Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at UT Austin – \$12,833

Funds will go toward digitizing additional materials from the Bexar Archives, the principal resource for the Spanish and Mexican history of Texas from 1717 to 1836, referred to by Texas State Historical Association co-founder Lester Gladstone Bugbee as “one of the great historical treasures of the American continent.” The digital images will be joined to to English-language translations and a research tool, the Bexar Archives Online, will be created.

Houston Public Library – \$20,000

Houston Public Library plans to digitize and transcribe additional interviews with prominent Houstonians and provide additional access points to its Houston Oral History Project, a multi-faceted collection of archival oral histories from Houston Metropolitan Research Center and newly recorded video oral histories. Prior funding supported the digitization of a large portion of its audio oral histories.

University of North Texas – \$25,000

For the project “Early Texas Newspapers II,” the University of North Texas Libraries and the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History intend to build on a previously funded TexTreasures grant to digitize

and provide free public access to the earliest Texas newspapers. Historic newspapers will be digitized from previously microfilmed newspaper titles, and UNT will provide free internet access to 22,038 pages of early Texas newspaper pages.

University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center – \$20,000

The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Research Medical Library will use funding for the "Making Cancer History" oral history project, bringing the story of M.D. Anderson to life and providing Texas health-care consumers with a better understanding of the world of cancer medicine. The project will digitize 48 interviews and provide written transcripts that chronicle the history of M.D. Anderson and provide insights into important social, medical, political and scientific developments related to cancer, its treatment and impact.

Southern Methodist University – \$20,000

SMU will digitize approximately 2,500 19th-century photographs in the Lawrence T. Jones III Texas Photographs Collection, which depicts Texans from a variety of ethnic groups and locations throughout the state and are not available elsewhere.

University of Texas at El Paso – \$19,540

The University of Texas at El Paso Library, the El Paso Public Library and the El Paso County Historical Society hold unique and scarce materials documenting the history of the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920) on the U.S.-Mexico border and the military buildup that occurred on the U.S. side during those years. These resources will be made more accessible via creation of a bibliography, scanning of selected documents and photographs and placement of materials on easily accessible websites.

University of Houston – \$19,863

The University of Houston Libraries hold more than 500 open reels of filmed programming produced from the 1950s through the 1970s by KUHT, Houston's public television station. UH plans to migrate significant programming onto sustainable and accessible digital media. KUHT has agreed to partner with the UH Libraries by providing content identification, priority information and copyright permission. The first phase of the project will focus on 22 programs recorded on 24 reels.

Helen Hall Library, League City – \$4,000

The library plans to digitize 500 photographs from its Local History Archives, which focus on the Bay Area. The photographs document the city's transition from a rural to urban area, shed light on the history of pioneer cattlemen in the salt-grass area and portray the lives of Japanese and Italian immigrants.

Victoria College – \$17,225

The Victoria College/University of Houston-Victoria Library will collaborate with the Museum of the Coastal Bend in Victoria on the planned March 2011–January 2012 exhibit, "Ranching in the Coastal Bend, 1845–1920." The library will digitize and provide Internet access to items that will accompany and augment the exhibit, highlighting photographs and objects of historical significance.

Sam Houston State University – \$8,000

This project will highlight and document the remarkable lives of Texas military veterans through a collection of 63 hours of video oral histories in which they recount their experiences living and serving in Texas and their activities in war. Most of the histories were recorded under the auspices of the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. The remaining oral histories were donated by the HEARTS Veterans Museum of Texas.

Texas Reads

Texas Reads grants fund public library programs that promote reading.

Longview Public Library – \$1,042

Funds will go toward the "Read to Animals" program, which enhances reading skills among kindergarten through sixth-grade children by having them read aloud to animals, who provide a willing, non-critical audience.

Harlingen Public Library – \$521

The Harlingen Public Library will support early literacy development through an "Every Child Ready to Read" program. The children's services librarian will facilitate lapsit story times and information sessions through partnerships with the Early Head Start, Valley Baptist Medical Center and Harlingen CISD.

Alpine Public Library – \$1,100

The "Toddler Time" program at the Marathon/Alpine Public Library will enhance its program with bilingual materials to encourage reading and increase developmental skills in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten-through third-grade children.

Bastrop Public Library – \$2,361

The Bastrop Public Library's "Book Club in a Bag" makes it easy and convenient for book clubs to borrow multiple copies of selected books for their members. Information is also provided about best practices for conducting book discussions.

J.R. Huffman Public Library – \$3,000

J.R. Huffman Public Library's children's summer reading program generates excitement and a love for reading. The theme of 2011 session is "Sock It to Me."

Allen Public Library – \$3,000

"ALLen Reads" is a "one-book" program specifically designed for the Allen community.

Sachse Public Library – \$2,980

"Neighbors Read" is a six-week community event sponsored by the cities of Wylie and Sachse.

Helen Hall Library – \$3,000

Helen Hall Library will purchase materials for a seven-month program titled "The Important Club," which will focus on reading important books and watching important movies.

Watauga Public Library – \$3,000

Watauga Public Library will host a One Book One Community event during the summer of 2011 to encourage people to develop a lifelong love of reading.