TexShare
Texas State Library and Archives Commission

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TexShare is a cooperative program designed to improve service to Texans. Members include public libraries that belong to the regional library systems, academic libraries, and libraries of clinical medicine. TexShare enables libraries to offer a broader range of materials and services than any single library can provide for its constituents.

About TexShare

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TexShare Mission Statement

TexShare, a statewide consortium of academic libraries, public libraries, and libraries of clinical medicine administered by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, employs traditional and innovative strategies to resource sharing. Texshare is founded on the belief of Texas State officials and librarians that citizen health and well being is furthered by efficient information exchange in all communities and institutions where quality teaching, research excellence, and lifelong learning are valued. TexShare maximizes the effectiveness of library expenditures by enabling libraries to:

- share staff expertise.
- share library resources in print and electronic formats, including books, journals, technical reports, and databases.
- pursue joint purchasing agreements for information services.
- encourage cooperative development and deployment of information resources and technologies.

TexShare programs contribute to the intellectual productivity of Texans at the participating institutions by emphasizing access to rather than ownership of documents and other information sources.

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History

Texas academic library directors first proposed an academic statewide resource sharing project in 1988, which was first funded in FY94 under the **Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)**. The 53 publicly supported four year academic and medical libraries were the original TexShare members. Selected TexShare members and Amigos Library Services administered TexShare under contract to the THECB. The first biennium was devoted to planning and starting programs such as funding for Internet connectivity and Ariel workstations. Between 1994 and 1996 the online database, ILL protocol, card program, and TexTreasures programs were begun, as well as the TexShare web site and electronic mailing lists.

During the next biennium program development continued, and there was a strong TLA legislative program to increase funding and expand membership. This effort culminated in **HB 2721** (75th Session) that expanded TexShare membership to independent academic institutions and community colleges. In addition, TexShare was established as a program of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, although it continued to be administered by contract to Amigos and UT/Austin at this time.

The 1997-1999 biennium brought several changes. The courier and education programs were added to TexShare and during the 76th Session **HB 1433** was passed, which brought public libraries into TexShare. In September 1999 the State Library assumed full administrative responsibility for TexShare, with Amigos and UT/Austin continuing their roles as Strategic Partners, contracting to operate the TExpress courier service and TexShare technical support services respectively. Today TexShare is managing the transition from a resource sharing program focused on academic institutions to one that fosters resource sharing among academic and public libraries.

On June 15, 2001, 60 databases became available for both academic and public libraries through funding from a Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board (TIF) grant. The TIF grant provided the opportunity to build a premier, consolidated database program. A major goal was to deliver full text information 24 hours a day to the citizens of Texas.

A test project began in August 2001 which allowed Libraries to provide log-ins and passwords for patrons that wanted to access the databases from outside the library. This project became know as the Customized Gateway Program and provides libraries with a unique Web address, unique login and password, and unique Web page that includes the library's name, address, and reference desk telephone number.

September 2, 2001, the TexShare program expanded eligibility by enacting **HB 3591**. HB 3591 allowed Libraries of Clinical Medicine to become full members of TexShare.

Senate Bill 483
Senate Bill 483 goes into effect on September 1, 2005. The bill gives the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) the authority to negotiate group purchasing agreements on behalf of K-12 public school libraries. The bill does not make public school libraries eligible for TexShare membership. However, this legislation is a positive first step toward accomplishing that objective.

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