



PRIORITIES FOR THE 86TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Access to Affordable E-Books

The Texas Library Association's (TLA) 6,500 members represent academic, EC-12 school, public, and special libraries across the state.

TLA supports the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) exceptional item request to increase funding to provide access to quality, affordable e-books to libraries.

\$4.2 million for increased access to quality, affordable e-books through TexShare and TexQuest

Why e-books?

A recent Pew study found that Americans equate libraries with information and with the tools needed to acquire it in the digital age. Learners and readers of all ages expect to be able to access the information they need in the format they prefer, be that print or digital.

While demand for digital versions of books is increasing, there is not a corresponding decrease in demand for traditional formats. Therefore, libraries must purchase titles in multiple formats – print, large print, audio, and digital - which strains already tight collection development budgets.

Support Literacy & Learning (exceptional item #4) \$4.2 million to increase access to affordable e-books

Providing funds for TSLAC to leverage statewide buying power to acquire e-books and make them available through the TexShare and TexQuest digital resource programs at a deeply discounted cost to schools, public libraries, and colleges and universities throughout Texas would help bring more e-book resources to library users, and allow libraries more flexibility to customize collections to meet local needs.

Through statewide licensing, TSLAC can provide these vital resources for about 1/10th the cost if the same materials were purchased locally.

“Lewisville Public Library pays just \$3,086 in TexShare fees for access to \$279,343 worth of online resources.” *Carolyn Booker, Library Director, Lewisville Public Library*

“Fort Bend ISD pays \$20,324 in TexQuest fees, no more than 27 cents per student, for online resources that would cost \$2,087,375 if purchased directly from vendors.” *Suzanne Lyons, Coordinator, Library Media Services, Fort Bend ISD*

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