Current State Funding: $8 million/biennium
Status: All state funding eliminated.
Action needed: Restore state funding.

What is TexShare? The TexShare Library Consortium is a resource-sharing program for public and academic libraries to enhance public access to content and is administered by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The TexShare database program is the most widely-known component of this program.

Who participates in TexShare? All of the state’s public libraries, 4-year public and private universities, community colleges, and libraries of clinical medicine participate in TexShare (a total of 677 libraries).

What is the current funding? TexShare databases are funded over the biennium with state ($8 million) and federal ($3 million) funds, which are also in jeopardy. Libraries contribute an additional $3.1 million in fees.

What does this program do?
- supports education, innovation, workforce development, and research and development;
- provides PROVEN savings in costs for libraries and higher education;
- equals learning resources across all communities and educational institutions;
- addresses the information needs of small businesses, the health industry, and others target groups; and
- allows many institutions of higher education to meet resource requirements for accreditation.

What kinds of subscriptions or publications can the consortium buy? Electronic full text journals, reference materials, and subscription resources like Business Source Complete, Health Reference Center, Academic Search Complete, and the Science and Technology Collection.

How much money does the TexShare save? Through centralized statewide purchasing, TexShare offered almost $14 worth of subscriptions for every $1 spent in 2010. In fact, the just-released Report of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on Higher Education Cost Efficiencies to the Governor recommends an increased investment in TexShare. From the report: “The THECB should work with other entities to expand TexShare, the current online library system, to include additional materials as identified by institutions of higher education.”

Why increasing fees won’t work and the budget proposal threatens the viability of the program. The draft state budget directs TSLAC to charge libraries additional fees to cover state funding. Given the already-devastating local cuts, many institutions are struggling to pay current fees. Libraries simply cannot afford additional fees. With the added loss of federal dollars (about $3 million/biennium go to TexShare), the program will have very limited (if any) federal support. A core state investment is needed to establish a core of resources that make it cost effective for institutions to leverage their dollars for statewide benefit.

What will happen without TexShare? Institutions of higher education and public libraries will lose access to critical information. They will pay more to get substantially less, and communities and institutions in Texas will once again grapple with inequitable access to quality online library information – a problem for which the state and Texas libraries found a solution through TexShare almost 20 years ago. We will lose two decade of progress.