



## PRIORITIES FOR THE 85<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### *Access to Affordable STEM E-Resources*

The Texas Library Association's (TLA) almost 7,000 member librarians support the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) exceptional item 2 budget request for funding to address the growing need for quality, online resources in STEM areas to support high school and college curricula, and to meet public demand.

**\$8.4 million for quality, affordable STEM e-resources for high school, college, and public libraries**

#### The Need

In today's knowledge-based economy, access to information is vital to success. Texans need access to broad educational resources to help them fill the growing number of STEM jobs.

Shared online content is a proven effective means of providing access to digital content for students and the public.

Quality and current digital resources, especially in the areas of science and technology, are among the most expensive materials needed in public libraries, high schools and colleges.

#### **Affordable E-Resources for Education and Workforce Readiness (exceptional item #2)**

**\$8.4 million for quality, online STEM resources**

#### A Solution

Libraries are a cost-efficient and effective channel for wholesale learning opportunities. They play a vital role in providing digital resources and experiences to learners of all ages.

TSLAC leverages buying power to acquire access to databases and other e-resources to make them available through the TexShare and TexQuest digital resource programs at a deeply discounted cost to schools, public libraries colleges and universities throughout Texas

Think of it as a Costco-like program for libraries. TSLAC uses statewide licensing to maximize purchasing power, turning less than 15 cents per capita into almost \$40 million worth of STEM e-resources.

Libraries 'join' TexShare and/or TexQuest, pay to be 'members', and gain access to quality online information at about 1/10<sup>th</sup> the cost of purchasing those same materials locally, thereby giving millions of Texans access to the information they seek on a myriad of subjects.



Without the State Library's collective purchasing agreement, it would cost my library just short of \$114,000 to purchase access to all the resources in TexShare. I'd like you to take a guess at what we actually pay. Our invoice for this year was \$569.58. Less than \$600 for \$114,000 worth of valuable digital resources our customers demand!

*- Rebecca Sullivan, Terrell Public Library*

## Last Word

Through TexShare and TexQuest, libraries support homework completion, college preparation, research, job searches, test preparation and instruction.

Enabling TSLAC to increase access to quality science and technology digital resources ensures libraries of all types will be able to access these e-resources at reduced costs to benefit their customers/students.

### For more information contact:

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