IFLA Public Libraries Satellite: Public library futures in a global digital world

12-13 August 2014
Library of Birmingham, UK
Keynote: Bexar County BiblioTech - Bringing the library to the public

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HISTORY

Brainchild of Judge Nelson Wolff
- Designed for – not adapted to – the digital age

2 Primary Goals
- Break down barriers to reading
- Meet needs of low income communities

$2.2 Million in Capital Expenditures – Start Up
- Savings from other capital projects
- Private donations

11 Months from concept to launch
- Doors opened September 14, 2013
MISSION

Provide all Bexar County residents technology access to enhance literacy, promote reading as recreation and equip residents of our community with necessary tools to thrive as citizens of the 21st century.
WHY IT MATTERS

True literacy extends beyond the ability to read
  – skills to gain meaning
  – effectively communicate

Digital literacy is more than knowing how to use technology
  – locate, organize, understand, evaluate, and analyze information using digital technology
  – Lack of these skills = functional illiteracy

Through BiblioTech, we are able to advance traditional and digital literacy
WE’RE ALL ABOUT ACCESS

First of its kind, BiblioTech offers a digital alternative to traditional public libraries.

Instead of public going to the library, BiblioTech e-library brings the library directly to the public.

No physical barrier to access.

No financial barrier to access.
READING IN YOUR HANDS
NOT BEHIND OUR WALLS
DIGITAL VS. PHYSICAL

Digital libraries are uniquely positioned to serve disadvantaged users

- Disabled
- Patrons in Rural Areas
- Elderly

Bricks and mortar libraries more than book repositories

- “Third Place”
- Learning Hubs
- Community Gathering Space
- Distribution Site
PILOT

County-Owned facility located 3505 Pleasanton Road
• Opened to the public September 14, 2013
• Approximately 4,800 sf

Configuration:
• Digital reading room
• 2 group study rooms
• Children’s area
• Lounge
• Café

Equipment includes:
• 48 desktop computers
• 200 children’s readers
• 600 e-ink readers for external circulation
• 45 Ipads available for internal use
• 10 laptops available for internal use
• 4 surface tables
• Adaptive technology
LIBRARY RESOURCES

E-books
Audio Books
Databases
Movies
Music
TV Shows
Magazines
Comics and Graphic Novels
Language Learning
Software Learning
Adaptive Technology
Live Chat

AMAZING STAFF!
PROGRAMMING

• Blogging for Seniors
• Genealogy
• Music Theory
• Virtual Book Club
• Robotics
• Coding for Kids
• 90 Second Newberys
• ACA Enrollment
• Tiny Techolotes
EMPHASIS OUTREACH
MEET TECHOLOTE!
Bexar County AR App
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

HEB

Local Schools

SA Reads

San Antonio Spurs Foundation

San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind
ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Betina

VIDEO LINK

Christian
EXTENDING OUR REACH

• 1st BiblioTech satellite in Central Jury Room January 15, 2014

• MATCH Program

• Juvenile Probation

• Warrior and Family Support Center BiblioTech

• Overseas Military

• School E-reader Rollout
PROGRESS…

- Over 29,000 registered patrons
- 83,950 on-site patrons
- 154 outreach events
- Outreach impact 61,765
- 6,464 devices circulated
- 53,190 e-books circulated
- 249,594 website visits
www.bexarbibliotech.org