

# **Texas State Library and Archives Commission**

## **K-12 Public School Library Online Databases**

### **Fact Sheet – August 8, 2007**

#### **Background**

In 2005, the Texas State Legislature passed Senate Bill 483, authorizing the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) to negotiate online database pricing on behalf of public school libraries.

TSLAC and Education Service Center, Region 20 partnered to meet the needs of the K-12 library community. A general content database package is currently available for K-12 public school libraries. Details are available at <http://web.esc20.net/texshare/>.

During the 2007 session, the Texas State Legislature added Rider 88 to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) budget. Rider 88 directs the Commissioner of Education to transfer amounts not to exceed \$2.5 million in each year of the 2008-2009 biennium to TSLAC for the purpose of acquiring "online research and information resources for libraries in public schools, and for administrative expenses."

The provisions of TEA Rider 88:

- Funds are to come from TEA's technology allotment.
- The funding amount shall not exceed \$2.5 million per year.
- TEA will enter into an interagency contract to transfer funds to TSLAC.

#### **Current status of implementation**

TSLAC and TEA have formed a partnership to purchase electronic resources for K-12 public school libraries in Texas.

With the recommendation and approval of an advisory group of school library professionals (See [www.texshare.edu/k12/ttf\\_roster\\_2005\\_12.html](http://www.texshare.edu/k12/ttf_roster_2005_12.html) for the roster), the partnership has built an online database package consisting of EBSCO general content resources and an encyclopedia. The package contains full-text reference materials covering topics pertaining to K-12 curriculum for all Texas public schools. Three Spanish language databases will also be available.

No fee will be charged to qualifying school districts to access the database package. School superintendents should look for a joint announcement from TSLAC and TEA with information on all aspects of the K-12 database package.

The EBSCO general content databases will be available on September 1, 2007. In mid-August, an open call for bids began for an online encyclopedia component. We anticipate having an online encyclopedia in place by December 1, 2007.

Funding for the database package, technical support, and training comes from TEA's technology allotment budget. Specific information on enrollment procedures, training opportunities, and other announcements will be shared on the TexShare, TEA, and the TLC

electronic mailing lists. Information will also be available on the TexShare, TEA and ESC 20 Web sites at:

<http://www.texshare.edu/k12/index.html>

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/imet/libraries>

<http://web.esc20.net/texshare/>

### **Who qualifies for the program**

To qualify for the TSLAC / TEA program (from TSLAC's administrative rules (13 TAC §§8.1 – 8.5):

- A library must be part of a public school (accredited under Education Code Subchapter D Accreditation Status (§§39.071-39.076))
- The school must have a public school library—an organized collection of printed, audiovisual and/or computer resources in a public school or public school campus (elementary or secondary). A public school library makes resources and services available to all students, teachers, and administrators.
- The public school library must be managed by or report to a certified school librarian or other certified staff member in the public school or on the public school campus.

### **For more information**

- ❖ Questions and comments on the program may be sent to the following:

K-12 Database Consultant  
Texas State Library and Archives Commission  
512-463-0188  
[databases@tsl.state.tx.us](mailto:databases@tsl.state.tx.us)

- ❖ For technical support contact:

Education Service Center, Region 20  
210-370-5623  
[k12help@esc20.net](mailto:k12help@esc20.net)