

K-12 TexShare Database Program Collection Development Policy

Approved by TexShare Advisory Board, January 26, 2007

TexShare is founded on the belief of Texas State officials and librarians that citizen health and well-being is furthered by efficient information exchange in all communities and institutions where quality teaching, research excellence, and lifelong learning are valued. The K-12 TexShare database program seeks to help meet the information needs of the K-12 students of Texas.

Objectives

For the purposes of this policy, the term “database resources” refers to any electronic material found in online databases with instructional content or function that is used for formal or informal teaching and learning purposes.

The primary objective of database resources is to assist, enrich, and support the implementation of curriculum standards in Texas schools. The K-12 TexShare database resources provide:

- Materials that are not only core to the curriculum, but that enrich and supplement the curriculum as well, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, learning styles, and maturity level of the students served.
- Materials that stimulate growth in factual knowledge, enjoyment of reading, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and societal standards, and that promote lifelong learning and reading habits.
- Materials that present various sides of controversial issues so that students may have an opportunity to develop skills in critical analysis and make informed decisions in their daily lives.
- Materials that represent many ethnic, religious, and cultural groups and their contributions to the national heritage and world community.
- A wide range of background information that enables students to make intelligent choices in their daily lives.

K-12 TexShare Databases

K-12 TexShare enables designated public school libraries to broaden the range of materials and services available to their students, teachers, and administrators. K-12 TexShare’s electronic full-text magazine and journal articles are not only considered core resources, but should also be used to supplement the curriculum at the local level. This electronic resources collection provides

access to broad multi-topic, authoritative, full-text content for all levels of K-12 students. Given the diversity of Texas schools, the program may not meet all electronic resource needs of all learners.

The K-12 TexShare electronic database resources are selected through recommendations of the TexShare Electronic Information Working Group (EIWG), which reviews products for the TexShare program, and solicits and reviews input from member libraries and school libraries. Membership in the Working Group is representative of TexShare member libraries and the K-12 library community. EIWG decisions are guided by these criteria when making decisions:

- Database user surveys
- Usage statistics
- Database content consistent with the State's educational goals
- Vendor reliability
- Best value

Individual school libraries can participate in the database selection process by:

- Submitting comments and recommendations to the [EIWG](#), the [TexShare staff](#), and/or the [K-12 Transition Task Force members](#)
- Filling out and submitting database surveys
- Sending comments throughout the statewide database trial period to the EIWG and/or TexShare staff

Statement of Responsibility

Professional librarians select the K-12 TexShare databases by a process involving a statewide effort over an extended period of time. The inclusion of electronic database resources by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in partnership with Education Service Center, Region 20 does not constitute an endorsement of the ideas or opinions expressed in the content of those databases. Use of all database resources is governed by local library policies and procedures.

Guiding Principles

The local school district, governed by local policies and procedures, makes the decision about limiting their students' access to any resources available through the databases. We encourage district staff to follow the guiding principles below when responding to challenges of database resources.

- Any resident or employee of the school district may raise objection to database resources used in a school's educational program despite the fact that the individuals selecting such resources were duly qualified to make the selection, followed the proper procedure, and observed the criteria for selecting database resources.
- A parent's ability to exercise control over reading, listening, or viewing matter should extend only to his or her own children.
- When database resources are challenged, the principles of the freedom to read, listen, and view should be taken into consideration as well.
- Restricted access to challenged database material during the reconsideration process is a decision made at the local district level.
- The major criterion for the final decision is the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use. Database resources should not be removed solely because of the ideas expressed therein.
- A decision to sustain a challenge should not necessarily be interpreted as a judgment of irresponsibility on the part of the professional involved in the original selection and/or use of the database resource.