TexQuest Digital Resources Collection Development Policy

TexQuest Collection Development Statement

TexQuest is a statewide digital resources program that provides anytime, anywhere access to high quality, authoritative digital resources to all educators, students, and students' immediate family members in Texas K-12 public schools and open enrollment charter schools. Supported, in part, by appropriations from the Texas State Legislature, TexQuest enhances student learning and success in schools by providing digital resources to meet the information needs of Texas K-12 students through a program available to all students statewide. The primary objective of TexQuest’s digital resources is to assist, enrich, and support instruction and independent learning in Texas K-12 schools.

TexQuest Digital Resources

The TexQuest program enables participating and eligible Texas K-12 public school libraries to broaden the range of materials and services available to their students, teachers, and community to supplement school curriculum. Given finite resources and the diversity of Texas’ numerous schools, the program may not meet the digital resource needs of all students. The program’s digital resources provide access to broad multi-topic, authoritative, full-text content for all levels of K-12 students.

TexQuest digital resources are selected and purchased through a competitive bid process for specific subject content. These are identified and prioritized by recommendations of the K12 Program Advisory Group, which reviews products for the TexQuest program, and solicits and reviews input from member libraries in the Texas school library community. Membership in the Advisory Group is representative of TexQuest member libraries. Advisory Group decisions are guided by the following criteria when making decisions:

- Membership surveys
- Individual school and district input (see details below)
- Usage statistics
- Subject content
- Digital resource content
- Vendor reliability
- Best value

Individual schools and districts can participate in TexQuest digital resources selection by:

- Sending comments and recommendations to the K12 Program Advisory Group
- Sending comments and recommendations to TexQuest staff (all comments are forwarded to the K12 Program Advisory Group)
- Sending comments and recommendations to Education Service Center, Region 20 (ESC-20 serves as the TexQuest Support Center: all comments sent to ESC-20 are forwarded to TexQuest staff)
- Filling out and submitting digital resource surveys
- Sending comments during the statewide digital resources trial periods to the K12 Program Advisory Group and TexQuest staff
 TexQuest eBooks

The TexQuest collection of ebooks is selected through recommendations of the K12 Program Advisory Group, which reviews products for the TexQuest program, and solicits and reviews input from member libraries. Ebook purchases are made on the basis of subject content and not title-by-title. Reconsiderations are governed by local library policy and practice. Ebook selection is guided by the following criteria:

- Membership surveys
- Individual school and district input (see section above for details)
- Usage statistics
- Subject content
- Content available from publishers for consortial purchase
- Publisher licensing allows libraries, schools and districts to share ebooks easily and provide reasonable access on a variety of devices and platforms.

Statement of Responsibility

The TexQuest digital resources offer access to a wealth of material to meet the information needs of Texas K-12 public schools and open enrollment charter schools. Professional librarians select the TexQuest digital resources by a process involving a statewide effort over an extended period of time. The purchase of digital resources and ebooks by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) does not constitute an endorsement of the ideas or opinions expressed in the content of those digital resources and ebooks. Use of all TexQuest digital resources and ebooks is governed by local library/school policies and procedures.

The American Library Association (ALA) encourages every school system to have a policy on the selection of instructional materials, from textbooks to digital resources. The ALA has published a workbook for selection policy writing for schools at http://www.ala.org/bbooks/challengedmaterials/preparation/workbook-selection-policy-writing.

Voluntary Product Accessibility Template

As is required by 1 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 213, TSLAC complies with the State of Texas Accessibilities requirements for Electronic and Information Resources.

TSLAC requires all vendors providing bids for Electronic and Information Resources to submit a Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT). Once received, TSLAC reviews VPATs for compliance with the State of Texas accessibility requirements, based on the federal standards established under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. VPATS that are not in compliance must provide a timeline for correction.