

# Digital Conversations



In collaboration with the Texas Library Association and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission

“At a time when almost 60% of Texans experience some sort of digital distress, libraries hold a unique and powerful role in helping to bridge the digital divide.”

– TSLAC,

“Texas Public Libraries”

## Why are we talking about this?

Texas libraries play a vital role in increasing digital equity across their communities. *Digital Conversations* seeks to open the dialogue on how public libraries are instruments for learning, equip people with information resources, and offer access to technology.

## Who's invited?

Anyone interested in or involved in expanding digital access or literacy and the role that libraries can play in this effort, including librarians, civic leaders, broadband suppliers, and workforce advocates. These events are free. We'll discuss how to build and strengthen relationships to better serve our communities.

## When/where are the meetings?

**May 9, 2024**  
**9:30-11:30 am**  
Brazosport Center  
for the Arts  
400 College Blvd.  
Clute, TX 77531

**May 31, 2024**  
**9:30-11:30 am**  
Sul Ross Library  
400 N. Harrison Street  
Alpine, TX 79832  
Entrance 3  
In the library, the room  
is WML 201.

**June 7, 2024**  
**9:30-11:30 am**  
The Forum  
2120 Speedway Ave.  
Wichita Falls, TX 76308



Scan this code  
to register

# How Funding for Increased Digital Access Helps Communities

To enhance digital access in their communities, libraries across Texas are pioneering innovative programs and partnerships. This brief overview of case studies is a jumping-off point for identifying types of programs that you can implement in your town and in your library.

## Lubbock Public Library

In 2021, Lubbock Public Library received a Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) Digital Navigator Grant of \$70K. The library launched an 8-week computer skills class available to Lubbock residents, taught by trained digital navigators. Additional classes were offered in collaboration with private education organizations, local community colleges and businesses; the library also loaned Chrome laptops to South Plains College and Literacy Lubbock.

## Midland County Public Library

Midland County Public Libraries received a \$58K TSLAC grant for a digital outreach project. They used the funds to provide digital literacy training for seniors, empowering seniors to use telehealth, connect with friends and family, and avoid isolation.

## Disaster and Weather Relief

### Brazoria Public Library Collaboration Keeps Citizens Safe

During the record-breaking heat of Summer 2023, Brazoria Public Library worked with other community organizations to establish cooling centers and provide free transportation for residents.

The library staff have also collaborated with the city to provide portable generators and hotspots during disasters, developed a phone app for citizens and more. Year-round, the library's incredible "Library of Things" includes pressure washers, wet/dry vacs, pole pruners, bounce houses and a myriad of other things for patrons to check out.

## Workforce Assistance

### Port Isabel Public Library – "Need a Job? We can help!"

The Port Isabel Public Library received \$38K in funding from TSLAC to provide weekly classes to teach patrons how to use a computer for job searches online and to register with the Texas Workforce Commission. Classes included a resume writing section.

### Dallas Public Library and The Cardboard Project

Dallas Public Library worked with The Cardboard Project to offer job assistance two nights a week. The Cardboard Project is a nonprofit established in 2016 "to bridge the digital gap and educate our under-resourced communities." The library offered free sessions for adult job seekers and helped them with online job applications, resumes and more.

## Telehealth

### McAllen Public Library "Care4Me Telehealth Booth"

At McAllen Public Library, the telehealth booth provides a quiet and confidential space for patrons to conduct virtual visits with their healthcare providers with high-speed Internet access, a ring light, and medical peripherals such as a blood pressure cuff, touchless thermometer, and a blood oxygen oximeter. This project was funded through TSLAC's Texas Telehealth Grant Program.

### Pottsboro Public Library

Recognized as one of the top three small libraries in the country, Pottsboro is a pioneer in telehealth. They provide a dedicated, private space where local citizens can communicate with medical providers. In addition, Pottsboro Public Library's Digital Navigator Program focuses on older patrons – the digital navigator staff member travels regularly to assisted living facilities to help elderly citizens in person with their devices. The library also offers 24/7 internet access in their parking lot; citizens can use available tables and benches or park in the lot while using the free Wi-Fi.



Scan the QR code to find additional resources on the **Digital Conversations** page on [txla.org](https://txla.org).

Questions? Call (512) 328-1518

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Keep the conversation going! Share the latest updates on new initiatives at your library.

**#txladigitalconvo**



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