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Artists wanted to Recover the Classics for digital collections

Bexar County's all-digital library, BiblioTech, is joining a national effort to give classic literature a fresh, modern face. The Recovering the Classics calls on artists, graphic designers, illustrators and typographers to reimagine the book covers for 100 of the greatest works in the public domain. Recovering the Classics is part of an initiative by the White House and in partnership with the New York Public Library and the Digital Public Library of America; the "50x50" campaign is a celebration of the initiative by exhibiting 50 redesigned covers in 50 states — BiblioTech is hosting Texas's campaign.

Many of the greatest classics in the public domain have poorly designed or auto-generated covers that don't adequately relay what has made these books stand the test of time. The list of books includes titles such as "The Time Machine" by HG Wells, "War and Peace" by Leo Tolstoy, "Peter Pan" by JM Barrie, "Inferno" by Dante Alighieri, "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley, and "Moby-Dick" by Herman Melville.

Artists of all ages across Texas can contribute to BiblioTech's campaign. The selected designs will be announced on July 15, and will be printed and displayed at BiblioTech's branches through the month of August. The artwork also will be used to recover public domain ebooks that are borrowed from BiblioTech.

Interested artists can find the campaign guidelines and artwork specifications at http://bexarbibliotech.org/recoveringtheclassics.html. Entries will be accepted until July 1.