BIBLIOTECH
BEXAR COUNTY DIGITAL LIBRARY

BiblioTech Celebrates Five Years in Bexar County

Bexar County's BiblioTech, the Nation's first all-digital library, will be celebrating its fifth year anniversary with a community event, this Saturday, Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. to noon, at its South location on 3505 Pleasanton Road.

Concurrent celebrations will be occurring at the West Side location, 2003 S. Zarzamora, and the East Side location, 1203 N Walters St.

Since the doors of the first branch opened on Sept. 14, 2013, BiblioTech has actively worked to bridge literacy and technology gaps in San Antonio and surrounding areas by establishing a community presence at the physical locations, as well as an online presence through the digital collections and resources.

"Throughout the last five years, BiblioTech has grown immensely thanks to our donors and dedicated staff," stated Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff. "Many of our patrons have grown up knowing they can count on the resources available to them here. Whether they have been with us since the beginning, or just signed up for membership, we welcome everyone and encourage them to share how to join."

As a digital resource for everyone in Bexar County regardless of income, anyone can virtually check out any one of the more than 100,000 e-books in their collections, e-readers, or mobile internet hotspots.

"BiblioTech has become a household name here in my precinct," stated Precinct 1 Commissioner Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez. "In the last five years, constituents have been able to faithfully depend on services offered here, and not only further their education, but count on fun events from the outreach teams. From GED classes to learning new software, BiblioTech offers unlimited possibilities to our constituents who might not have otherwise had the opportunity."

With more than 140,000 registered users, there have already been 690,685 e-books circulated, almost 2 million website hits, and e-readers have been checked out 19,660 times, in the last five years. In an effort to bring internet to patrons at home, mobile hotspots have been added, available to checkout. The hotspots have been checked out almost 2,000 times already.

BiblioTech focuses programming to support STEM/STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math) education, which encourages students in creative problem solving. BiblioTech also offers

GED testing and IT Certification Classes and testing free of charge and other educational opportunities that prepare young people for college or the workforce.

With generous grants from Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas, BiblioTech has also been able to offer GED testing vouchers for more than 507 adults, to help prepare themselves for higher education or increased employment possibilities.

"Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas is honored to partner with the Bexar BiblioTech locations to offer GED testing and scholarships," stated Melissa Sparks from Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas. Ensuring our community is educated and ready to take on the jobs available to them is a goal we both share and will continue to work toward in the future."

Additional Facts:

- Current programming includes Robotics, Introduction to Coding, Music Theory using digital technology, Tiny Techolotes Story Time, GED testing, Network+ Certification; a prerequisite for Rackspace Open Cloud Academy.
- Implemented reading program at Bexar County's Juvenile Detention Center, both Juvenile and Adult Probation Programs, and MATCH; a program dedicated to helping incarcerated mothers become better parents.
- Computer stations for the visually-impaired allowing access to all the e-books in the collection.
- Integrated BiblioTech resources at the Warrior and Family Support Center at Fort Sam Houston and the military base libraries at Randolph AFB, Fort Sam Houston, and Lackland AFB.
- Established BiblioTech kiosks at the University Health System hospital to bring resources to hospital users.
- Partnered with VIA to bring resources to the traveling public with the "Ride and Read" program; fitted various VIA transit centers throughout the county with BiblioTech kiosks.
- Established a satellite BiblioTech location in the Central Jury Room at the Historic Bexar County Courthouse*.*

For more information on how to register for a free BiblioTech membership, or branch locations, please visit www.bexarbibliotech.org.

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