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BiblioTech Offers Online Solutions for Stay Home/Work Safe Order

BiblioTech, the nation's first all-digital public library, continues to offer innovative online solutions for Bexar County residents, both children and adults, throughout the Stay Home/Work Safe Order.

As parents continue to look for educational resources for their children, BiblioTech has levelled reading material for students available on its cloudLibrary shelves, with additional educational resources and enrichment material for students on the <https://bexarbibliotech.org/edu> page. This includes ebooks and materials in Spanish.

"BiblioTech has always been at the forefront in providing online learning resources to the public," stated BiblioTech Director Laura Cole. "But now, these much needed resources allow our community to comply with the Stay Home/Work Safe Order by reading, learning new skills, and even watching movies from home – all for free. Our team is committed to curating quality content and will be here for our patrons during this public health emergency and after it is over."

For March 2020, BiblioTech had an increase of 26 percent in checkouts of ebooks and audiobooks from cloudLibrary, and Universal Class, an active learning platform, has seen an increase in usage of 420 percent compared to last year. In fact, in order to facilitate the increase in users, more content has been purchased to provide new reading opportunities.

Because of the increased need for home internet, all internet hotspots currently in circulation have been reactivated for two weeks – so anyone who is not currently connected, but has a hotspot will be able to use it for the normal circulation period. A plan for curbside device check in/check out at BiblioTech branches for hotspots and kindles is under review for implementation.

Additionally, online chat hours have been expanded from noon to midnight, Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., on Saturday, to provide assistance to patrons with their account, or if they have resource questions.

Available for free to all Bexar County residents, registration is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at <https://bexarbibliotech.org/>. Once registered, users have access to thousands of e-books, movies, music, magazines, skills training, and more – located under the apps tab.

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