Bringing the Library to the Public

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@bexarbibliotech  Bexar BiblioTech

www.bexarbibliotech.org
Brainchild of Judge Nelson Wolff

• Designed for – not adapted to – the digital age

2 Primary Goals

• Break down barriers to reading
• Meet needs of low income communities

$2.2 Million in Capital Expenditures

• Savings from other capital projects
• Private donations

11 Months from concept to launch

• Doors opened September 14, 2013
HISTORY

3 Foundational Pillars

✦ Access

✦ Resources

✦ Education
MISSION

Provide all Bexar County residents technology access to enhance literacy, promote reading as recreation and equip residents of our community with necessary tools to thrive as citizens of the digital age.
Digital libraries are uniquely positioned to serve disadvantaged users:
- Patrons with Disabilities
- Patrons in Rural Areas
- Senior Citizens
- Low-Income Communities
- Incarcerated

Bricks and mortar libraries more than book repositories:
- “Third Place”
- Learning Hubs
- Community Gathering Space
- Distribution Site
VERSATILITY PROMPTS
PARADIGM SHIFT

Keeper to Liberator
Preserver to Cultivator
LIBRARIAN

Custodian to Navigator
EMPHASIS OUTREACH
ALL ABOUT ACCESS

Betina

Christian
BIBLIOTECH EDU
OPENING DOORS WITHIN

MATCH (Mothers and Their Children) PROGRAM

JUVENILE DENTION

ADULT PROBATIONERS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO
MEET TECHOLOTE!
Bexar County AR App
GOING PLACES!

VIA Ride & Read
IMPACT

• Framing of Accountability Shift in Metrics

• Outcomes vs. Outputs

• Narratives vs. Numbers
IMPACT

UTSA Research Partnership

BiblioTech as “safe” space

Increased attention to academics

Staff relationships

“Home-away-from-home”

Social opportunities

“Freedoms” and “Responsibilities”

Digital world access
LESSONS LEARNED
EMBRACE OUR IDIOSYNCRACIES
90 Second Newbery San Antonio Screening
The patron is ready and willing - not always able
We can spread wide, but not thin
No cookie-cutter solutions
GROWING OPPORTUNITIES

Locally
★ UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM
★ SAN ANTONIO TRI-CENTENNIAL
★ BIBLIOTECH EAST
★ CAST ACADEMY

Globally
★ INTERNATIONAL DIALOG
★ INFLUENCE DIRECTION
★ UNIVERSAL STANDARDS
THANK YOU!

WWW.BEXARBIBLIOTECH.ORG