



Porter Henderson Library Faculty Newsletter



Important Notice from TexShare - Please Read



TO: Directors of TexShare Libraries & the Texas Library Community
Date: February 22, 2002
From: S. Joe McCord, Chair, TexShare Advisory Board (mccord@cl.uh.edu)

Dear Colleagues,

At the February meeting of the TexShare Advisory Board, everyone present – board members, State Library staff, and visitors – expressed serious concerns about sustaining TexShare services, especially the databases, in the future. As you know, the TIFB (Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board) provides funding for the TexShare databases through a grant to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. This funding is assured for another year, and might be available for a maximum of two additional years, but sooner or later another source of funding will have to be secured.

We are convinced that widespread public support will be essential in any effort made to secure future funding. Simply making the public aware of TexShare services is a significant factor in generating support.

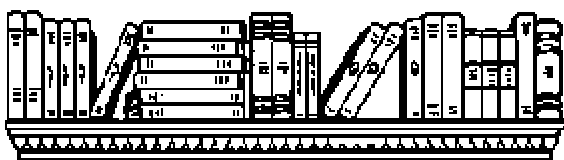
... The TIF funding has enabled TexShare to negotiate a price that averages only \$217 per year for each of the databases made available to your library users. If subscribing individually, TexShare libraries would each have to spend from \$170,000 to \$900,000 for the same database access. The estimated difference between the cost of statewide licensing and separate licensing by each TexShare library represents a saving, or cost avoidance, of \$150,000,000 per year!

... If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me or Beverley Shirley, Division Director, Library Resource Sharing, Texas State Library & Archives Commission, (512) 463-5433 FAX (512) 936-2306 bshirley@tsl.state.tx.us

The RamNet pages on the Library's web site are being revised to mark the TexShare databases with the logo above. You may view the list of all RamNet databases at <http://www.angelo.edu/services/library/ramnet/all.htm> to see what databases the Library receives through the TexShare program.

Orders Deadline

April 1st is the last day for submitting orders for new materials, using the balance of your library materials allocations. On April 2, the unused portion of the allocated funds will be transferred to the Excellence Fund. Under the direction of the Library Committee this fund will be used to purchase needed resources, including expensive items that departments normally cannot afford to order using their regular allocations. Please contact Javad Maher (2312 x227) if you have any questions.

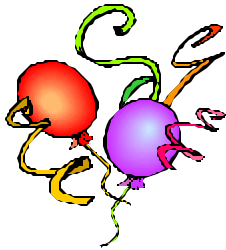


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Happy Birthday, Voyager!

Voyager, otherwise known as the “new” RamCat, came up live for public use one year ago this month, on March 18, to be exact. What changes have our users seen in the past year, especially within the



Library’s own web pages and online catalog?

Before Spring Break 2001, library patrons used the NOTIS-based online catalog. This text-based system could not include hyperlinks within the catalog records. If users noticed the subjects being used in records they were viewing and wanted to find what other titles were available on those subjects they had to retype, or copy and paste, the string of text after the appropriate command (*e.g.*, *s=water supply*). Now, all subjects, authors, and call numbers found in records in RamCat are hyperlinked. Clicking on such links performs another search within RamCat. A “revised” search is only one click away.

Records for online-only documents and resources could not be included in the text-based online catalog. If records for documents which were also available online were included (as in the case of many current government documents), and if the information even appeared in the catalog’s display, users had to retype or copy and paste the URL which might appear in the record into a browser search window. Most of the time the information did not appear in the public displays.

Now users can find records in RamCat for online-only and “online also” resources. They can click on the “Linked Resources” hyperlink and connect to the online resource. Examples of titles available in online-only format include: *Abraham Lincoln papers at the Library of Congress* (a part of the “American Memory” collection from the Library of Congress); *Budgeting for defense: maintaining today’s forces*; and *Selling justice short: juvenile indigent defense practices in Texas*. The location for these online-only resources is “Electronic Resource – Online only.”

Records for many current congressional hearings and other government publications include URLs for online versions, too. The library holds the documents

in paper or microfiche, but access to the online version(s) as well is only a click away. Links may be to a PDF version, an ASCII text version, an HTML version, or to a separate web page.

This semester the Library’s RamCOPS service has been improved, too. Within each RamCOPS list of periodical titles users will find titles owned and held by the Library in paper format. Until this semester the information on these titles just included the word “Library.” There were no hyperlinks connecting to the online catalog, no holdings information readily available. Now, not only is there a link to RamCat a “canned search” is performed as well, taking the user directly to the record and holdings information for the title. There is no need to open RamCat, retype the title, choose the search type, and scan through the results to find the title.

The “Selected New Government Documents” lists, beginning with the November 2001 issue, also include canned subject searches. Users browsing these lists, which are organized by subject, may click on the hyperlinked subject heading to perform a search to see what other titles the Library owns on that particular subject.

Plans are now underway to obtain and load records for the electronic books (or, eBooks) the Library has access to through netLibrary, available as part of TexShare. To learn more about netLibrary and eBooks check the “netLibrary” link found on any RamNet page.

All of this online access to resources from within RamCat, and from links to RamCat on other web pages, would have been unthinkable a year ago. These improvements would not have been possible were it not for Voyager’s appearance on campus last spring and the library staff’s increasing expertise and understanding of the possibilities inherent in the new system.



Fort Chadbourne Display and Reception

This year is the 150th anniversary of the founding of Fort Chadbourne on the hills overlooking Oak Creek in Coke County. Located about eleven miles from Bronte the fort was once a central outpost in the line of defense along the Texas frontier. The Butterfield Overland Mail stopped there from 1858 to 1861.

Garland and Lana Richards own the fort and the property has been in the Richards' family since 1876. Now, the post is taking on new life with the creation of the Fort Chadbourne Foundation to protect and preserve the historic site.

A display with artifacts, maps, photographs, drawings and information about the fort and the role it played in the settling of West Texas will be featured at the West Texas Collection from late March through mid-May. The Friends of the Library will sponsor a reception on April 18 highlighting the display.

Executive Order 13233 “Further Implementation of the Presidential Records Act”

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to establish policies and procedures implementing section 2204 of title 44 of the United States Code with respect to constitutionally based privileges, including those that apply to Presidential records reflecting military, diplomatic, or national security secrets, Presidential communications, legal advice, legal work, or the deliberative processes of the President and the President's advisors, and to do so in a manner consistent with the Supreme Court's decisions in Nixon v. Administrator of General Services, 433 U.S. 425 (1977), and other cases, it is hereby ordered as follows: ...

And so begins Executive Order 13233, “Further Implementation of the Presidential Records Act,” signed by President George W. Bush on November 1, 2001, an order which restricts access to the records of former presidents. Executive Order 13233 revokes Executive Order 12667 of January 18, 1989, and effectively invalidates the Presidential Records Act (PRA), passed in 1978 in the wake of the controversy over former President Richard Nixon's attempt to control access to his documents and the infamous tape recordings made in the Oval Office. The PRA decreed that the records of presidents and vice-presidents are public property, which must be made available to historians, journalists and the public no later than 12 years after the president or vice-president leaves office.

The following paragraphs are from a March 1, 2002, news release issued by the American Library Association:

The PRA has permitted historians and journalists to provide the public with an extraordinary understanding of major events in American history by highlighting the role

presidential policy decisions have played in shaping contemporary American society. President Bush's executive order permits any sitting president, past president or relative of a president to prevent the release of a former president's papers for an indefinite period of time by claiming “executive privilege,” even if the claim is legally invalid.

These new restrictions impose an enormous burden on the process of writing and analyzing history and public policy. Some of the significant works of biography and history made possible by the PRA include: Robert Caro's three-volume biography of Lyndon Johnson, David Herbert Donald's *Lincoln*, David McCullough's *Truman*, and Peter Bourne's *Jimmy Carter*, as well as works on the Vietnam War, Watergate and contemporary U. S. foreign policy. Had the order been in effect over the last two decades, at least 47 biographies and histories might not have been published.

At risk currently are works in progress examining the Reagan administration, the Iran-Contra scandal, the support given to the Afghan

mujahedin by the Reagan and (senior) Bush administrations, and other critical issues affecting and informing U.S. public policy.

Some 68,000 pages of the records of former President Ronald Reagan should have been released last January (2001) but the White House first directed the Archives to wait eight months while it studied the issue. Then in November, 2001, the White House promulgated the new executive order. (On March 15, 2002, the Archives released more than 59,000 documents, more than a year after they were due for release.)

On November 28, 2001, Public Citizen filed suit in federal court in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the National Security Archive, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, and eminent presidential historians Hugh Graham and Stanley Kutler to overturn the order. The suit also seeks to compel the National Archives to abide by the terms of the PRA and release to the public the Reagan papers. A number of publishing and other organizations have filed an amicus brief supporting the plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment and in opposition to the defendants' motion to dismiss.

The text of the Presidential Records Act Executive Order 13233 is available in many places on the Internet. These include the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* via GPO Access at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/nara003.html> (search the 2001 Presidential Documents for "executive order 13233") and the White House web site at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/11/20011101-12.html>

For additional information please check the following online resources. These are only a few of the many documents and information available online.

Various organizations have mounted news releases, court briefs, and other information pertaining to the Executive Order. Some examples follow.

American Library Association. "Executive Order 13233" (<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/executiveorder13233.html>) and "Ongoing List of Historical Works That Would Have Been Affected by Executive Order 13233" (<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/historicalworks.html>)

Association of American Publishers. News release, February 28, 2002. "Publishers Seek to Overturn

Bush Executive Order on Presidential Papers" (<http://www.publishers.org/press/pr022802.htm>)

National Archives and Records Administration.

"Access to Presidential Records" (http://www.nara.gov/nara/vision/presidential_records/)

National Security Archive. News release, November 28, 2001. "Historians, Public Interest Groups Sue to Stop Bush Order: Say New Restrictions on White House Files Violate Presidential Records Act: 'Bush Order Attempts to Overturn the Law, Take the Power Back'" (<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/news/20011128/>)

Public Citizen. News release, November 28, 2001.

"Public Citizen Sues to Block Implementation of Executive Order on Presidential Records" (<http://www.citizen.org/pressroom/release.cfm?ID=941>)

Public Citizen. News release, February 8, 2002. "Court Should Order National Archives to Open Presidential Records to the Public President Bush's Executive Order Violates Law, Should Not Be Implemented, Public Citizen Says in Court Filing" (<http://www.citizen.org/pressroom/release.cfm?ID=1020>)

Public Citizen. News release, March 11, 2002.

"National Archives Still Withholding Nearly 60,000 Pages of Reagan Presidential Records Despite Bush Authorization for Their Release. Public Citizen Asks Archives to Release Documents" (<http://www.citizen.org/pressroom/release.cfm?ID=1050>)

Public Citizen. "Complaint for Declaratory, Injunctive and Mandamus Relief" (<http://www.citizen.org/litigation/briefs/FOIAGovtSec/articles.cfm?ID=6515>)

Public Citizen. "Memorandum of Points And Authorities in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion For Summary Judgment" (<http://www.citizen.org/litigation/briefs/FOIAGovtSec/articles.cfm?ID=7116>)

Society of American Archivists. "Call to Action on Executive Order 13233" (<http://www.archivists.org/news/actnow.asp>) (includes links to other news articles, editorials, and correspondence providing context and background information on this complex issue)

White House News Room. Office of the Press Secretary (November 5, 2001). "Presidents Bush Protect America with Executive Order 13233" (<http://www.whitehouse.org/news/2001/110501.asp>)