

Chambers County Library System

Mission Statement

The Chambers County Library System, utilizing a knowledgeable staff trained in current library trends, will attempt, within its financial means, to collect, organize, make accessible, and distribute library materials to meet the informational needs of individuals and groups of diverse backgrounds, to facilitate informal self-education, to encourage positive recreation and constructive use of leisure time, and to act as a supplemental resource in the formal education of the children and young people in the community.

Chambers County Library Advisory Board

May, 1996
Rev., 2007
Rev., 2010
Rev., 2012
Rev., 2013

Long Range Plan, 2014-2016

Goal I: To train knowledgeable staff

Library services are changing at a more rapid pace than ever before. Much of this is technology-driven as e-readers, apps, cell phones and other handheld devices become more popular. Other changes involve dealing with altered demographics, usage of the library, the public's view of the library as it fits in the community and developments in the way library services are funded. In order to stay on top of these changes, library staff members need to have access to both formal and informal training.

Objective 1: Utilize workshops offered by the Texas State Library, or other sources to develop staff skills and knowledge of current library trends. Examples include TechSoup online training, SABLE/ABLE supplemental online training programs, Online Command Spanish for Librarians, WebJunction, and training sessions offered by OverDrive, one of our online databases.

Objective 2: Seek funding for staff development and training.

Objective 3: Encourage staff to attend local, state, and national association meetings as funds allow. [District 8, Texas Library Association, American Library Association]

Objective 4: Provide in-house support and training for staff members seeking to understand and/or implement new technologies through formal training from other staff members, outside consultants, or other means at our disposal.

Goal II: To collect

Although the printed book continues to be the primary medium for reading, the public is rapidly adapting to digital media. The Library needs to be in the forefront, providing the public with reliable, authenticated sources of information.

The Library also needs to be aware of new technologies and methods of delivering recreational and informational content, and to adapt the collection development policy as needed.

Objective 1: Expand and increase job center collection. Develop a basic workplace readiness collection.

Objective 2: Continue acquisition of all material types: increase audio-visual acquisition, e-book content, and foreign language materials.

Objective 3: Continue to explore new products, such as downloadable video, audio, and language programs.

Objective 4: Consider quotes to purchase a platform allowing digital access to the magazine collection.

Goal III: To organize

Objective 1: Revise library system technology plan.

Objective 2: Consult with Historical Commission to provide a resource for professional cataloging of the collection housed there.

Goal IV: To make accessible **Physical accessibility**

Objective 1: Renovate the Chambers County Library in Anahuac and investigate the purchase of a portable or permanent building (2000 sq ft) to be used for programming and meeting space in Winnie.

Objective 2: Improve parking situations via land acquisition and property improvements. Improve lighting situations in parking lots at Anahuac and Winnie.

Objective 3: Continue to utilize the Chambers County Library System's brand that is recognized throughout the community. Create a complete marketing program to help the system move beyond traditional methods of publicizing its services and programs.

Virtual accessibility

Objective 1: Continue to digitize local history materials and make available on the webpage.

Objective 2: Explore ways of exporting library programming through social media, screencasts, and monitoring changing technologies in order to better advertise library programs and services.

Objective 3: Consider virtual reference service.

Goal V: To distribute library materials

Objective 1: Increase outreach services: Develop formal deposit collections as needed and/or requested. (ex: wellness center, jail, juvenile and adult probation)

Objective 2: Continue to build relationships with community groups and organizations.

Goal VI: To meet the informational needs of individuals and groups

Objective 1: Identify and target needs of special groups: Viet, Spanish, teens, others.

Objective 2: Track demographic changes of non-English speakers to meet community needs.

Objective 3: Continue working with United Way and their pilot program to provide transportation for Anahuac middle school students to the library.

Goal VII: To facilitate informal self-education

Objective 1: Develop basic life skills collections, geared to patrons with basic literacy issues. Maintain awareness of literacy needs and continue to provide a space and support for literacy programs.

Objective 2: Increase access to databases and e-books provided through Texas State Library and the Houston Area Digital Media Catalog consortium. Increase County purchase of databases for patron access.

Objective 3: Expand promotion of English language acquisition and citizenship for Spanish speaking population.

Goal VIII: To encourage positive recreation and constructive use of leisure time

Objective 1: Continue to present educational, cultural, and recreational programs for kids, youth, and adults.

Objective 2: Increase adult/bilingual programming at the Chambers County Library System.

Objective 3: Continue movie licensing for public showing of DVDs.

Objective 4: Continue Children's Programming staff committee.

Objective 5: Continue outreach services in the community by offering library tours as well as staff visits to local day cares, schools, community/civic organizations.

Objective 6: Create system-wide events (housed at one site, but attended by citizens from around the county) to promote library usage.

Goal IX: To act as a supplemental resource in the formal education of the children and young people in the community

Objective 1: Continue work with local schools and homeschool groups to support the curriculum, by providing orientation tours, and encouraging long-term loans for the classroom.

Objective 2: Utilize library webpage to provide access to school websites and other library collections and resources.