RANGER CITY LIBRARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH PLAN

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Introduction

Ranger, Texas is in Eastland county about 61 miles east of Abilene and 81 miles west of Fort Worth, Texas. The population was 2,584 at the 2000 census. During the 1920s, Ranger, like nearby Cisco, Eastland, and Desdemona, were petroleum boomtowns.

Historical, Current, and Future Roles of the Library
The Ranger City Library, though small serves a variety of interests. The library's collection offers old and new materials in several formats.   The library's nine public access computers with high-speed internet connections are a valued and highly used resource. The library's long range plan indicates an ongoing focus on providing current information sources, assisting individuals with federal websites for applications for services, cooperation with Head Start to offer early literacy, and continued use of the Community Room by civic groups.

Existing Programs
The library plans to continue current programs. These programs are summer reading clubs for young children and teens, interlibrary loan services, exam proctoring. The library also provides information and referral service linking community members with city resources.

Identified Needs
The community needs identified include: economic development to draw in more businesses; skills development opportunities for local residents, and recreational opportunities for families, children, and teens.

Identified Assets
Community assets include Ranger College, the Ranger ISD, Texas Workforce Commission Office, the local thrift shop, and the local newspaper, *Ranger Times*. Area civic groups include: the American Legion, Kiwanis, Lions, and Citizens' Task Force.

Thank You Statement
Our library appreciates the support of the City Council and the citizens of Ranger. Because of their encouragement, our small community enjoys the benefits of a rural library. The library extends its thanks to the Robert and Ruby Priddy Charitable Trust for funding the University of North Texas PEARL project and the library's participation in it. The library also recognizes and thanks President Campion and Ranger College for assistance with this project.

Community Profile Narrative
Ranger's colorful history began in a luxurious valley in an area approximately two miles northeast of the present town. This place was Ranger Camp Valley, so named because the Texas Rangers set up camp before 1879 and prior to the coming of the railroad through Eastland County in 1880. Then came the famous day in October 1917 when the oil gushed from the

McCleskey No. 1 Well which produced in excess of 2,000 barrels per day. The oil boom, noted "the boom that won the war" (WW1), earned Ranger the reputation of "the city of flowing gold".

In Ranger, 90% of commuters drive to work. Ranger is more walk- and bicycle-friendly than most places its size. The Ranger Antique Airfield (F23), established in 1928, is the third oldest airport in Texas. Amelia Earhart landed at the field in 1931 in her Pitcairn Autogyro. Ranger College, a community college, is the second largest employer in the community.

The Ranger Citizens Task Force meets weekly in the Community Room which adjoins the Ranger City Library. They have resurrected the "Roaring Ranger Day" community festival and hosted seven "Get 'Er Done Days" which are community clean-up days. They have purchased and replaced over 125 street signs.

Main Geographic Features
Community Features
Assets and Challenges
 A geographic asset is that Ranger is located just off Interstate Highway 20. Ranger is surrounded by cattle ranches, orchards, horse ranches, farmland and oil fields. For recreation the city has public parks, rodeo grounds, tennis courts, public swimming pool, campgrounds and a municipal golf course. Transportation in the area includes nearby major highways, local airfield, and railroad lines.

The main geographic challenge for Ranger is that the nearest large town, Fort Worth, is 81 miles.

Library Features
Assets and Challenges
The library's main geographic assets are that is shares a building with the American Legion and is located close to the public swimming pool and a park.

The library's main geographic challenge location is that it is not in the downtown area. It is some distance from the main part of town

Community Demographics
In the 2000 Census, the population was 84.83% White, 6.73% African American, 0.66% Native American, 5.65% other and 1.70% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race was 13.51% of the population.

There were 989 households out of which 28.0% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 43.7% were married couples living together, 14.7% had a female householder with no husband present, and 37.7% were non-families. 34.5% of all households were made up of individuals and 18.7% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.33 and the average family size was 3.00.

In the city 22.7% were under the age of 18, 17.4% from 18 to 24, 20.9% from 25 to 44, 19.4% from 45 to 64, and 19.7% were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 36 years. For

every 100 females there were 97.1 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 93.8 males.

The median income for a household in the city was $22,500, and the median income for a family was $28,255. Males had a median income of $24,333 versus $15,946 for females. The per capita income for the city was $11,698. About 14.4% of families and 18.3% of the population were below the poverty line, including 19.1% of those under age 18 and 17.8% of those aged 65 or over.

Library Profile Narrative
The Ranger City Library was founded by the 1903 Club. In 1919 the library had 4,000 books. Today the collection has expanded to approximately 12,000 volumes, circulating 3,000 items per year to its service population of 3,600 patrons.

It is funded by the City of Ranger, and supplemented by Eastland County. RCL is a member of the Big Country Regional Library System and an affiliate member of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine.

Most Important Library Statistics
In 2010 use of the library's nine public access computers during the library's 41.5 hours open each week totaled 5,730. The library serves 957 registered borrowers. Borrower accounts are usually created for the household rather than accounts for each family member. The library is supported by 400 volunteer hours annually. There is one full-time employee.

Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives
Vision Statement
The people of the Ranger area think of the library as the heart of the community that connects and unites the people of the community by providing the services and support needed for success at school, at work, and in their personal lives.

Mission Statement
The mission of the Ranger City Library is to become the center of community life, offering opportunities for people of all ages to learn, know, gather and grow.

Goals and Objectives for the Library
    1. Enhance community life
- Promote community events by providing a space to display posters and flyers.
- Make the community room available to civic groups.
- Offers space for elections programs.
- Communicate to the community through a weekly newspaper column and the library website.
- Provide referral services for individuals with questions about community services.

    2. Provide current topics and titles
- Reduce the average age of the library collection by removing old unused materials and purchasing newly released materials.

- Announce newly obtained materials on the library's website and in newspaper column.

    3. Help information seekers find reliable sources of information.
    - Assist users in their use of the library's reference materials and databases.
    - Teach internet searching techniques and tools to individuals as needed or upon request.

Goals and Objectives for Outreach Program
Goal: As part of the library's goal to help information seekers, the library will offer three formal computer training classes.

Objective: To provide basic computer literacy skills for adults.

Outreach Programs
The library staff routinely assists library users with very basic computer skills and has frequent questions about available computer training in the area. The program is a trial program to gauge acceptance and participation in classes directed to adults offered at the library. The library has nine computers that can be used for the basic computer skills programs.

The project will consist of a series of three classes offered on consecutive Monday evenings presented by a trainer from Ranger College. Session One content will include the very basics of using a mouse, opening windows and files. Session Two will include creating and using web-based email accounts. Session Three will introduce students to web search engines and search techniques.

Statement of need
An "Adult Computer Skills Interest Survey" was distributed throughout the community to civic and religious groups as well as publicized in the local newspaper and inside the library. Ninety-two percent of the forty-two surveys returned indicate awareness of the library. The forty-two responses returned indicate one-third of the respondents are interested in basic computer skills classes. Results of the survey distributed to various civic groups show that 25 of the 42 responders would attend or maybe attend this training. The survey also shows that up to 24 of the responders are free to attend a class at the Monday evening time suggested by the librarian.

Description of the larger audience or target group the library wants to reach
These sessions are designed for adults; the Ranger City Library serves just over 2,000 adults within the City limits.

Description of the specific segment of the target group the proposed program will serve
The 25 people who filled out the survey saying they would be interested in this type of program are the target group.

Estimated number of potential participants
The library has nine computer workstations that will be used for each class. The library anticipates having nine participants per class for a total of 27.

Description of the characteristics of the audience (age, gender, interest, where they live, transportation issues if any, best hours for a program, etc.)
It is anticipated the participants for these initial programs will be local residents of Ranger aged 35 to 85. The library's computers will be reserved for the training class.

List potential partners based on your assets assessment
Ranger College will work with the library to provide the trainer and detailed course program. The local newspaper, *Ranger Times*, will promote these training sessions.

List available library resources that could contribute to the success of the program
The library's computers will be used for these classes.

Detailed Action Plan
The Ranger City Librarian has determined from an "Adult Computer Skills Interest Survey", as well as from feedback from patrons and the public that there is a need in the community for computer classes, offering educational opportunities for adults to learn basic computer skills, set up email accounts, and learn how to conduct basic searches on the Internet. Library staff will coordinate with the Ranger College President to provide a teacher to teach three classes, one each Monday for three consecutive Mondays. A workshop evaluation will be given to each student at the beginning of the three week session and at the end to assess the project.

Action Plan Goal(s):
Goal
The goal of the action plan is to:
1. Develop the program.
2. Promote of the program.
3. Implement the program.
4. Evaluate the program.

Action Plan Objective(s):
1. Work with Ranger College to get a teacher.
2. Create and distribute promotional materials.
3. Book the program.
4. Develop, administer, and analyze evaluations.

Action Plan Table
The table below gives the library's action plan for the computer classes.

Ranger City Library Community Outreach Plan

IMPLEMENTATION			EVALUATION	
Action What action, activity, or task needs to be done?	**Name and Date** Who will do it, and by what date will it be done?	**Resources Needed** How much time, money, materials, and personnel are needed?	**Measurement** How will progress be measured (#, % of participation or attendance)?	**Analysis** How and when will data be gathered and analyzed to determine success?
Contact Ranger College for teacher	Library Staff by Nov 1	Time-10 min $ & materials-none Personnel-1	Have names of potential instructors	Identify desired instructor
Gain commitment from instructor to offer programs	Library Staff by Nov 1	Time-1 hr $ & materials-none Personnel-1	Agreement from instructor to offer programs	Confirmation email indicating agreement
Establish schedule of classes	Library Staff by Nov 8	Time-5 min $ & materials-Community calendar, library calendar of events Personnel-1	Select three dates for classes	Three dates selected for classes
Design class flyer	Library Staff by Jan 2	Time-20 min $ & materials-Computer, printer, paper Personnel-1	Flyers designed	Count # of flyers
Publicize in newspaper column	Library Staff immediate and ongoing	Time-20 mins adapting paragraph for each of 6 issues $ & materials-Computer, printer, paper 20 mins adapting paragraph for each of 6 issues Personnel-1	Write and submit column	Count # times column is published advertising classes
Distribute flyers as posters	Library Staff by Jan 4	Time-30 minutes to post in City Hall, local businesses, etc $ & materials-flyers Personnel-1	Distribute and post flyers	Count # flyers posted
Accept class registrations	Library staff by	Time-approx 15 mins per each of nine students. Waiting list approx 20 mins per each of 5 students$ & materials-none Personnel-1	Register students	Count # students registered and wait-listed
Post notice that computers are reserved for class	Library Staff by Jan 11	Time-5 min $ & materials-none Personnel-1	Post Notice	Notice posted
Review plans with instructor	Library Staff on Jan 2	Time-20 min $ & materials-Telephone/email Personnel-1	Plans reviewed	Plans reviewed

Copy any handouts	Library staff by Jan 16	Time-1 hr $ & materials-Photocopier, copy master, paper Personnel-1	Handouts prepared	Count # Handouts
Create workshop evaluation form	Library staff by January 16	Time-1 hr $ & materials-none Personnel-1	Evaluation prepared	Count # Evaluations
Copy workshop evaluation form	Library staff by January 16	Time-1 hr $ & materials-Computer printer, paper. Print from form in this plan Personnel-1	Evaluation copied	Count # Evaluations
Distribute and Collect workshop evaluation form	Library Staff on class days	Time-10 min $ & materials-none Personnel-1	Students complete workshop evaluation	Count # evaluations returned
Analyze # of participants and completed evaluation forms	Library Staff by Feb 3	Time-1 day $ & materials-none Personnel-1	Evaluate program	Report written
Submit program report via e-mail to PEARL Coordinator	Library Staff by Feb 3	Time-5 min $ & materials-none Personnel-1	Program report submitted	Program report submitted

APPENDIX A:
Adult Computer Skills Interest Survey

Ranger City Library
Adult Computer Skills Interest Survey

Date: _____

The library is considering offering a series of basic computer skills classes. The classes would be for 1 hour once a week for three weeks. The classes will cover: how to start the computer, use the mouse, set up an e-mail account, search the Internet, attach a file or photo to an e-mail, and how to save files.

Place an X under the answer you choose.

	Yes 1	Maybe 2	No 3
1. Do you know where the library is located?			
2. Have you or members of your family been to the library in the past six months?			
3. If the library offered basic computer skill classes for adults, would you or other members of your family attend it?			
4. If the library has this kind of program, would you come on a Monday night?			
5. Could you attend the program from 6 to 7 p.m.			

Anything comments?

_____

_____

_____.

Thank you for helping us with this survey!

APPENDIX B:
Adult Computer Skills Interest Survey Results

RANGER CITY LIBRARY SURVEY			
	Yes **1**	**Maybe** **2**	**No** **3**
1. Do you know where the library is located?	39	1	2
2. Have you or members of your family been to the library in the past six months?	24	2	13
3. If the library offered basic computer skill classes for adults, would you or other members of your family attend it?	14	11	18
4. If the library has this kind of program, would you come on a Monday night?	16	10	17
5. Could you attend the program from 6 to 7 p. m.	16	8	18