



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Construction officially started at BiblioTech, Bexar County's all-digital library

Bexar County is just months away from having the country's first entirely digital library. County officials on Friday marked the beginning of construction on BiblioTech, located on the South Side. The 4,989 square-foot facility will have computers, laptops and tablets for use on site, as well as 100 e-readers for circulation and a collection of 10,000 current titles accessible by patrons using their own mobile devices.

"We are moving right along with making this vision a reality," County Judge Nelson Wolff said. "I know it's not the end-all answer to providing library services, but it certainly is the direction in which libraries are headed. This first BiblioTech is a foundation on which we will build."

BiblioTech will be centered around a large "reading room" with 50 computers and a circulation desk, where patrons will be able to check out one of 100 e-readers. The library also will have 25 laptops and 25 tablet computers that can be used on site in one of the study rooms or a lounge area. Children will have interactive walls and tables in a separate children's area furnished with bright, movable and visually stimulating furnishings. A small café at the entrance to BiblioTech will offer beverages and quick snacks to patrons.

"We're going to build on community partnerships to make this center one of the most valuable resources to the community when it comes to literacy and learning," Commissioner Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez said.

Commissioner Rodriguez also invited the public to a demonstration of the Cloud Library that BiblioTech patrons will use. A representative from 3M Library Systems will provide the demonstration from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, April 15, at Leal Middle School, 743 W. Southcross.

On Tuesday, April 16, Commissioners Court will consider final approval of an agreement with 3M Library Systems to provide e-reader services for BiblioTech. The center is scheduled to open in late summer or early fall.