

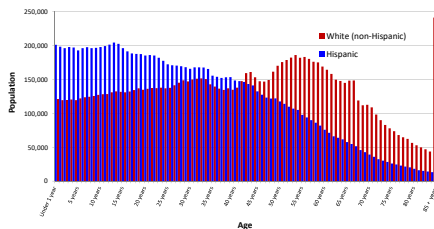
Transforming Libraries into Community Anchors in Rural Texas (TLCART)

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Rural Texas



- 95% of Texas is rural land with 15% of state population
- Hispanics 38.4%
- African Americans 11.9%
- 285 of the 550 public libraries in Texas serve communities with less than 10,000 population



- Projected decline of rural populations leaves large areas of Texas with limited access to employment, medical care, educational opportunities, and other goods and services

Community Informatics

Using information and communication technologies to facilitate positive changes in the community

Conceptual Base

Atlas of New Librarianship (Lankes, 2011)
 Community Informatics (Gurstein, 2000)
 Economic empowerment (Mehra, 2011)
 Design Theory (Manzini, 2015)
 ABCD (Kretzmann & McKnight, 1993)
 Conversation Theory (Lankes, 2008; Block, 2018)

Project Goals

- To establish libraries as anchor institutions in small communities
- To increase professional librarians in rural Texas
- To develop an educational model for community informatics

TLCART Elements

- Cohort-based education and mentorship
- Experiential, project-based learning
- Assets-based community development
- Social & ethical aspects of Information & Communication Technology.
- Competency tracking on student progress and growth



Among the Cohort

- 60% Hispanic or minority
- 45% bilingual
- 60% from Hispanic communities
- 75% in communities with high poverty rate
- All in communities with high uninsured rate

Curriculum

- MLS degree program based on ALA core competences
- Community Informatics focus:
 - Knowledge Economy
 - Community-Based Project Design
 - Grant Writing
 - Assessment
 - Informatics Capstone

Assessment

- 3H narrative
- In-depth community engagement essay
- RUCA for admission review
- SmarterMeasure
- Student learning outcomes
- Competency tracker
- Self reflections



This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.