In the fall of 2020, the TWU Libraries were awarded a $49,980 grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) and Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to promote digital inclusion. With the funds, we purchased 30 laptops and 6 hotspots.

During the shut down, TWU Libraries adapted every service to meet the needs of our community. Access to technology was a major concern. The Digital Strategies & Innovation (DSI) unit jumped into action!

The Cataloging unit created item records, Library Marketing sent out promotions, and Access Services facilitated circulation. Students checked out the tech on a first-come first-serve basis for the entire semester with the option of one renewal.

The Libraries received a second grant of $69,975 from TSLAC and IMLS. With this grant, we hosted Developing Digital Competencies workshops and created a virtual lab of 33 laptops and 22 hotspots, all of which were added to the checkout program.

This program contributes to digital equity efforts - having a reliable internet connection and computer allows students to successfully complete their coursework. There’s room for exceptions within policies and procedures.

Strength through collaboration: CMRS, Access Services, DSI, Marketing, Administration, and the Dallas and Houston campuses all work together. This program has generated positive attention and as a result, the Libraries received a donation of laptops from the TWU Pioneer Center.

The journey will continue...

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