

NTRLS 2010 Expanding Accessibility in Libraries Pilot Program

Each of the eight 2009 Pilot Project Libraries and their chosen partners have, or will, provide some type of accessibility fair during State Fiscal Year 2010. The diversity of those Fairs and the libraries' related purchases perfectly reflect the varying needs of library communities.

By including exhibits and/or informational presentations at those events, library personnel will have an opportunity to do the following:

- Network with local agencies, service groups and vendors which serve people with disabilities and/or promote universal access
- Learn about those agencies, groups and vendors in order to better assist patrons with related information needs
- Help promote local services which are available to community residents who have disabilities
- Consider possible partnerships for increasing Universal Access
- Showcase the library's accessibility technology and other accessibility tools
- Get to know local residents with disabilities and consider ways to improve access to library programs and services for them
- Become more familiar with specific disabilities which exist in the library's community
- Spread the word, via Fair participants, about improved library accessibility among other community members with disabilities

Under the 2010 grant, Alvarado, Denton, Fort Worth, Jacksboro, Krum, Little Elm, Richland Hills and Sanger Public Libraries have requested one-on-one consultations regarding the Universal Accessibility of their library web presences. Those visits will take place at the libraries between January 10 and June 10, 2010.