



# Press Release



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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Wichita Falls Public Library “Texas Room” Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

Wichita Falls, Texas – The Wichita Falls Public Library (WFPL) is excited to announce its newest reference room which is now called the Texas Room. The Texas Room is dedicated specifically to materials about Texas and Southwestern history. To celebrate, the library is hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony, Tuesday, June 15 at 4:30pm with Mayor Stephen Santellana and members of the Library Advisory Board.

The renovation of the Texas Room has been a long-time goal of the library staff. While the library was closed to the public during the pandemic, staff was able to focus on this project and complete it. “Although we weren’t happy we had to close to the public for seven weeks, we were really excited to have the time to get the room organized and painted,” said Jana Hausburg, Library Administrator. “We knew that it could really be something special if we used a little elbow grease. We are excited for the public to see the transformation!”

According to Andrew Jelen, Assistant Administrator in charge of collections, the Texas Room collection began with a donation from Ruth Margaret Poling. She donated her father’s, C. L. McClellan, substantial collection of rare and valuable books on Texas and the Southwestern U.S. in 1965. Additional materials from other donors and materials purchased by the library periodically have grown the initial gift. The collection had its own room at the Kemp Library from 1965-1998 and was part of the Prothro Genealogical Research Center in the present building from 1998 to 2006.

Currently, the Texas Room holds over 3,000 volumes of nonfiction, nearly 500 biographies and autobiographies, and about 150 novels. The items cannot be checked out but can be accessed by researchers and scholars for in-library use. The new reference room has tables and chairs for study and a library catalog computer station. The room also features a unique special touch; a quilt consisting of one-of-a-kind blocks colored by library patrons.

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