

# THE HIDALGO COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



<p><b>The Hidalgo County Library System</b> 434 S Ohio Ave Mercedes, TX Phone: (956) 565-2371</p>	<p><b>HCLS President/County Librarian:</b> Marisol Vidales, Director – Dr. Hector P. Garcia Memorial Library</p> <p><b>HCLS Vice President:</b> Mayra Rocha, Director – Speer Memorial Library</p>	<p><b>HCLS Secretary:</b> Arnoldo Becho, Director – Mayor Joe V. Sanchez Public Library</p> <p><b>HCLS ILS Coordinator:</b> Jorge L. Gonzalez – McAllen Public Library</p>
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## Hidalgo County Creating Plans to Open New Electronic Library

The County of Hidalgo is creating plans to open a new library in March but won't be opening any doors, reason being that this library doesn't have any doors. The new library will be completely online and will provide access to thousands of books, audiobooks, comic books and periodicals. This service will be available to all residents of Hidalgo County to use completely free of charge. Hidalgo County's electronic library will work to increase readership and community wellbeing in a new and innovative fashion.

The new library is intended to combat illiteracy and provide reading opportunities to the citizens of Hidalgo. "Texas reads less on average than the US, and the Rio Grande Valley reads even less than Texas," commented librarian Arnoldo Becho. "This is a real problem and Hidalgo County is making a bold effort to change that. They are sending a message that reading matters. Reading has been found to be the single most important factor to increasing the economic and cultural wellbeing within communities. Opening a new library that can be accessed at any time and at any place with an internet connection is an investment in the county's future. Helping people get books today means a better community tomorrow."

The innovative new library will be one of the only completely digital libraries in the nation. EBooks now account for about 10% of checkouts in modern libraries and sales of EBooks continues to skyrocket. In fact EBooks already sell more copies than hardcover books and are quickly becoming the most important medium in the book environment. It's extremely impressive to see that Hidalgo County is innovating and at the forefront as it combats the region's biggest problem, illiteracy.

Interested parties should contact their local public library to get more information. The Hidalgo County Library System (HCLS) would very much like to encourage county residents to use the new electronic library. Your local libraries will be holding kickoff events throughout the month of March and will be providing training during library hours. Simply show up to any of our libraries and we will be happy to show you how to use EBooks. Feel free to visit our website at <http://www.hcls.lib.tx.us/>.

HCLS is a federated system of Independent Public Libraries in Hidalgo County. <http://www.hcls.lib.tx.us>

SGT Fernando de la Rosa Memorial Library, Alamo TX	Donna Public Library Donna, TX	Dustin Sekula Memorial Library Edinburg, TX	Elsa Public Library Elsa, TX	Hidalgo Public Library Hidalgo, TX
La Joya Municipal Public Library La Joya, TX	McAllen Public Library McAllen, TX	Dr. Hector P Garcia Memorial Library Mercedes, TX	Speer Memorial Library Mission, TX	Peñitas Public Library Penitas, TX
Pharr Memorial Library Pharr, TX	San Juan Memorial Library San Juan, TX	Mayor Joe V Sanchez Public Library Weslaco, TX		