

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

William E. Moen, Ph.D.

wemoen@unt.edu

940-565-3563

<http://www.unt.edu/wmoen/>



Texas Center for Digital Knowledge Receives \$500,000 Contract

DENTON, TX, December 4, 2001 -- The Texas Center for Digital Knowledge at the University of North Texas has a \$500,000 contract with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to design and test critical components of the Library of Texas (LOT). Over the next 10 months, the project, known as ZLOT, will demonstrate the feasibility of a Z39.50-based approach for distributed access to Texas' library resources.

Dr. William E. Moen, Texas Center for Digital Knowledge Fellow and ZLOT's Principal Investigator, foresees that "the Library of Texas will bring the resources of Texas libraries to all Texans and usher in a new era of library services through the development and integration of new technologies." Ultimately, the Library of Texas may encompass the resources in more than 600 Texas public and academic libraries.

The Library of Texas is a program of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the Texas Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board. The Library of Texas will build upon the existing network infrastructure of Texas libraries and will encompass a number of components including:

- Online databases licensed by the State Library for statewide access
- A government information locator and digital government information preservation program
- A virtual catalog enabled through the use of the ANSI/NISO Z39.50 information retrieval protocol
- An integrated search and retrieval interface for the Library of Texas' multiple components
- A document delivery service based on interlibrary loan and other mechanisms.

The Texas Center for Digital Knowledge will partner with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and assume overall responsibilities for the work associated with implementation of the virtual catalog and the search and retrieval interface components of the LOT. A small-scale feasibility trial of these two components will showcase the project's results in 2002. Dr. Moen believes that "a proof-of-concept demonstration will provide the State Library, the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board, the Texas Legislature, and the public a highly visible demonstration of the reality of the Library of Texas and its potential for the citizens of Texas."

Dr. Moen is internationally recognized for his work in the use of Z39.50 in library applications. He currently chairs the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) Standards Committee that is developing a U.S. National Standard for a Z39.50 profile for library applications. He is acting chair of the international Z39.50 Implementors Group and a member of the Bath Profile Group that issued an international Z39.50 specification for library applications. He served as advisor and facilitator in establishing the Texas Z39.50 Implementors Group.

The Texas Center for Digital Knowledge is a research and development center at the University of North Texas. The Center's focus is innovation and collaboration to respond to the challenges and opportunities of digital information and the networked environment. Dr. Moen received a National Leadership Grant from the U.S. Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services to establish the first Z39.50 Interoperability Testbed, located within the Texas Center for Digital Knowledge. Z39.50 is an international standard for information retrieval that specifies a client/server-based protocol for searching and retrieving information from remote databases.

###

Library of Texas: <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/lot/index.html>
Texas Center for Digital Knowledge: <http://www.txcdk.org>
Texas State Library and Archives Commission: <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us>
Texas Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board: <http://www.tifb.state.tx.us>
University of North Texas: <http://www.unt.edu>
ZLOT Project: <http://www.unt.edu/zlot>
Z39.50 Maintenance Agency: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/z3950/agency/>