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Dear Texas Library Leader:

I am writing to ask your help with an important project that has the potential to give Texas libraries new opportunities to meet the needs of their users. The project is the Library of Texas (LOT), a program of the Texas State Library and the Texas Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board. The Library of Texas will benefit large and small libraries, as well as rural and urban libraries, by providing services and online databases to supplement local library resources.

Our Texas Center for Digital Knowledge at the University of North Texas is working with the State Library to design and test key components of the Library of Texas, in particular a common search interface to library catalogs and online databases. Our project, known as ZLOT, will demonstrate the feasibility of distributed access to Texas' library resources using current and emerging technologies, for example, the Z39.50 information retrieval protocol, thus the "Z" in ZLOT!

Developing useful library products and services requires good information. I want to take into account the current technical capabilities in Texas libraries in the design of ZLOT components. In order to gather the necessary information, the ZLOT project has developed the enclosed Technology Inventory and Assessment. This survey addresses the following areas:

- Library Automation and Cataloging Systems
- Protocols: Z39.50 and Others
- Information Resources
- Resource Sharing
- Internet Services

Your library's responses will provide us with necessary information to plan and design ZLOT components. Additionally, we hope to make recommendations to the State Library for funding priorities that will help libraries take advantage of future services and resources of the Library of Texas.

To complete the survey, please follow these steps.

1. Designate a person to coordinate completion of the enclosed survey.
2. Access the survey web site: <http://www.unt.edu/zlot/survey>.
3. Enter your library's information online by **May 17, 2002**.

If you do not have access to the web, please mail the completed survey in the enclosed envelope. Submission of your online or printed survey will constitute your consent to participate in this study.

Thank you in advance for your help with this important project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

William E. Moen, Ph.D.