

About the Joint Library Facility

Texas A&M University Libraries – College Station (TAMU) and the University of Texas – Austin Libraries (UT) decided to fund and build a joint print collaborative storage facility for all of their system libraries. This storage unit would be different from a repository storage unit, as ownership of the deposited item would rest with both institutions instead of having the ownership of the item transfer to the storage unit. Driven by the current economic conditions, the rationale for this joint project rested on the foundation that both systems needed a long term cost effective solution to their space constraints rather than a short-term quick fix that would address the current higher education budget reductions but still have these two systems facing the same problem a few years down the road. Both institutions wanted to save money by avoiding future campus construction costs and knew that if they took the cooperative storage collection one step further and adopted the concept of “Resources in Common” (RIC) they would be able to achieve their goal. Unlike most other cooperative storage units, TAMUs and UTs decided they would de-duplicate their low use print collection and achieve this cost saving goal by housing only one print copy “owned” between the two institutions. This facility consists of three modules that will hold over 3 million print volumes. The building opened on May 24th, 2013 and is make these print materials available for use by other academic or medical libraries across Texas for free. In September 2017, the facility opened its doors to all public academic libraries in the State of Texas. For additional information please contact the Joint Library Facility at 979-317-1992.