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Total Boox and Tocker Foundation Continue Ebooks for Rural Libraries

Austin, TX — Total Boox, the next evolution in ebook services—maximizing use with unlimited simultaneous access while minimizing cost with payment based on actual reading—and the Tocker Foundation, a non-profit supporting the work of small libraries in Texas, are pleased to announce the continuation of their groundbreaking pilot, which makes Total Boox’s collection of nearly 100,000 quality ebooks available to 20 small and rural libraries across the state of Texas.

“Working with Total Boox has expanded the diverse services Texas Public Libraries can offer their patrons. We are excited to bring eBooks to so many public libraries throughout the most rural areas of Texas,” said Darryl Tocker, Executive Director of The Tocker Foundation.

Danese (sic) Murray, librarian for Menard, TX (population approximately 1400) said, “I am thrilled that the Tocker Foundation has decided to fund Total Boox for our library for another year. Menard Public Library is a small library in a small town. Our funding is raised mainly from donations and we have a very limited budget. Therefore, we are never able to afford to have ebooks in our library. Now with this grant from Tocker our library is able to give our patrons the chance to enjoy ebooks. Thank you Tocker and Total Boox.”

"This is the second year of our project with Tocker. Our goals were, first, to determine whether adding our ebook system to small libraries would benefit the libraries. This was achieved during the first year. All the libraries are getting some usage, and their patrons enjoy Total Boox. People in these towns have never before had library access to so many books in any format, and especially not to the wide range of nonfiction that we provide. Our goal for year two is to increase usage in the libraries. Having significant numbers of patrons using Total Boox will strengthen these small libraries in their communities and demonstrate their relevance in the 21st century, as more people choose to read ebooks. We would like to run similar projects in other states and even outside the USA, and we are looking for organizations willing to sponsor them," said Peyton Stafford, VP of Total Boox.

About Total Boox

Total Boox is led by a team of entrepreneurs with backgrounds in publishing, technology, and libraries. Its innovative reading-centric service makes ebooks instantly available to library patrons with no limitations, holds, or expirations, thus eliminating frustrations libraries and patrons have faced with ebooks: limited availability, prohibitive cost, and inferior user experience. Total Boox partners with hundreds of well-known publishers from the U.S. and beyond, empowering them to monetize front, mid- and backlist titles through reading by library patrons who would otherwise be unlikely to have access to their books. Its titles may be accessed on most devices, and its state-of-the-art reading app is consistently ranked by librarians as the most user-friendly on the market.

About Tocker

The Tocker Foundation was created in 1964 to implement the philanthropic interests of Phillip and Olive Tocker, who endowed the foundation with their estates in 1994 and 1993, respectively. After years of supporting a wide range of community-based causes, the foundation discovered a need in small, rural Texas libraries serving populations of 12,000 or less. In 1992, the foundation board decided to focus grant distributions in this way. The foundation partners with rural libraries to meet the particular needs of their communities.

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