Lamar State College-Orange in partnership with the Lamar University Department of English and Modern Languages, the Lamar University Mary and John Gray Library, the Orange Public Library, the Stark Museum of Art, the Port Arthur Public Library, Little Cypress Mauriceville CISD, Bridge City ISD, West Orange Cove CISD and the AAUW Book Ins Book Club participated in the SETX Big Read during the spring of 2013. LSC-O received a grant last fall to host the Southeast Texas Big Read in Orange and Jefferson Counties. The selection for the Big Read is the 1972 book “Bless Me Ultima,” by Rudolfo Anaya, a coming-of-age story about a young Hispanic boy set in 1940’s New Mexico.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The grant is to help promote and carry out community-based reading programs, featuring several activities between LSC-O, Lamar University, the Stark Museum and the other partners. The month of April was declared Big Read Month by both Jefferson County and Orange County Commissioner’s Courts.

“This is a chance for Orange and Jefferson Counties to show the rest of the nation that we are more than just ‘Small Town, USA,’” said Mary J. McCoy, director of Library Services at LSC-O. “We believe in reading and we believe in our communities.” Through the variety of programs sponsored by the partners over 5,000 people participated in the SETX Big Read.

LSCO Library was awarded a $20,000 TexTreasurers Grant from the Texas State Library and Archive Commission to assist in the digitization of The Orange Leader newspaper. The goal is to digitize and publish close to a century’s worth of valuable historical newspapers, from 1886 to 1984. LSC-O, with cooperation from The Orange Leader and The Orange Public Library, will digitize the microfilm of The Orange Leader. The goal of the Orange Leader Archives Project is to provide free and easy access to the back issues of our community newspaper, the Orange Leader. The Orange Leader Archives are the cornerstone of Local History Collection at the Ron E. Lewis Library. The Orange Leader Archives Online is a community partnership between the Ron E. Lewis Library, the Orange Leader and the Orange Public Library. The project has been funded by the Ron E. Lewis Library, the Service League of Orange and the TexTreasurers Grant.

Other library news

New Databases at the Ron E. Lewis Library
- OvidSP
- Small Business Reference Center
- Hobbies & Crafts Reference Center
- Home Improvement Reference Center
- Small Engine Repair Reference Center

Banned Book Week 2012
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** Partial amounts because of Hurricane IKE (unable to record amounts or library facilities unusable)
***TexShare changes