The Tradition of Amigos

Amigos Library Services began in 1974 in Dallas, TX, as AMIGOS Bibliographic Council, when 22 libraries united to bring OCLC access to the southwestern United States.

A not-for-profit, membership-based organization, Amigos is one of the largest library service networks in the nation. Our membership consists of over 700 libraries and cultural institutions located primarily in Arizona, Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas that utilize our comprehensive array of services.

- OCLC access and support
- Training sessions and workshops
- Technical support publications
- Discounts on supplies and e-content
- Reference databases
- Disaster response and recovery
- Preservation information
- Imaging consultation and support
- Interlibrary courier service
- Toll-Free telephone support

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Vision & Values

Our strategic vision is one of service: Amigos serves those who serve others. We take a dynamic approach to anticipating member needs and matching them to innovative services. We respect and serve libraries, seeking to assist them in meeting their goals effectively, creatively, and affordably. We respect the value that libraries bring to their various communities. We work collaboratively to support libraries and enhance their ability to serve society.

Enduring roles for Amigos are to facilitate cooperation among members, provide information and support, negotiate favorable prices from information service providers, and expand members’ service capabilities through staff training. We strive to become the service supplier of choice among member libraries.

The Mission of Amigos

Amigos is a resource-sharing consortium of libraries whose mission is to:

Provide innovative services to libraries
Promote library cooperation and resource-sharing
Strengthen libraries as leaders in their communities
Support libraries as education and information providers

Goals & Strategies

GOAL I. Enhance Member Services

Strategies:

◆ Make Amigos programs user friendly and convenient
◆ Expand web-based information and service access for members
◆ Increase member engagement in network activities
◆ Explore external revenue streams to support Amigos programs
◆ Refine membership structure to strengthen member participation in Amigos programs

GOAL II. Provide Leadership Tools to Member Libraries

Strategies:

◆ Provide leadership skills training and tools to support member libraries in their communities
◆ Support member library efforts to market their programs to their local communities
◆ Enhance members-helping-members and mentoring activities of the network
◆ Provide timely access to trends information to support member technology planning

GOAL III. Continue to Strengthen Core Services

Strategies:

◆ Maximize the collective purchasing power of members
◆ Facilitate affordable member access to electronic information
◆ Continue to diversify and expand the Amigos training program

Guiding Principles

◆ Provide cost-effective technology-based services responsive to the needs of libraries
◆ Promote, develop, and support programs devoted to information access, preservation, and cooperative use of member resources
◆ Provide cost-effective, innovative training and support programs to strengthen libraries’ implementation of information technologies
◆ Assess Amigos programs to ensure continuous improvement in meeting the needs of members
◆ Support members’ needs in a cooperative, open, and participative manner
◆ Experiment with various service models and explore opportunities for expanding services
◆ Maintain fiscal strength with adequate financial reserves, human resources, and facilities