

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

March 26, 2021, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

VIA WEBEX



FACULTY SENATORS IN ATTENDANCE

Christina Blanco, D.N.P., R.N., WHNPBC, FAANP, GGHSON

Gloria Loera, D.N.P., R.N., NEA-BC; GGHSON

Clarissa Silva, Ph.D., R.N., Faculty Senate President-Elect; GGHSON

Rosemary Walulu, Ph.D., R.N., ACRN; GGHSON

Laxman Gangwani, M.Sc., M.Tech. Ph.D.; GSBS

Mingtao Zeng, Ph.D.; GSBS

Munmun Chattopadhyay, Ph.D.; GSBS

Lisa Ayoub-Rodriguez, M.D.; PLFSOM

Karinn M. Chambers, M.D.; PLFSOM

Gustavo J. Rodriguez, M.D., Faculty Senate President PLFSOM

FACULTY SENATORS ABSENT

Subramanian Dhandayuthapani, Ph.D.; GSBS

Richard W. McCallum, M.D., Nominating Committee Chair; PLFSOM

GUESTS

KoKo Aung, M.D., M.P.H., Vice President for Faculty Success, TTUHSC El Paso

Rosemary Prieto, Executive Associate, Office of Faculty Affairs

Lisa Beinhoff, Ph.D., Managing Director, TTUHSC El Paso Libraries

Ron Graham, Information Security Officer, Information Technology

I. CALL TO ORDER

Gustavo Rodriguez, M.D., Faculty Senate President

Dr. Rodriguez, Faculty Senate President called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM after meeting quorum and welcomed all. Attendees joined via WebEx due to the TTUHSC El Paso's phase II COVID pandemic operations.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Gustavo Rodriguez, M.D., Faculty Senate President

The meeting minutes for February 26, 2021 were unanimously approved by the Faculty Senate as presented.

III. FACULTY SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Chairs

a. Faculty Affairs Committee – Gloria Loera, D.N.P., R.N., Committee Chair, reported the committee meets bi-monthly and met on Monday, March 22, 2021 and the next scheduled meeting is on May 24, 2021. Dr. Loera presented the following report:



Discussion Points

- Committee Vacancies: One seat for SOM and SON.
 - Call for Nominations
- Program Specific New Faculty Orientation
 - Pathway to Success
 - Program specific orientation
 - Faculty Development

***See attached report**

b. Research Affairs Committee – Mingtao Zeng, Ph.D., Committee Chair, reported the committee meets bi-monthly and the next scheduled meeting is on March 25, 2021. Dr. Zeng presented the following report:

Faculty Senate Meeting (03/26/2021)
Committee on Research Affairs Report: Dr. Mingtao Zeng
 We had our committee meeting yesterday, 03/25/2021, following issues were discussed:
 1. **Introduction and discussion about OSP:**
 1.1. Teresa M. Adams, M.Ed., Associate Managing Director, Office of Sponsored Programs, Office of the Vice President for Research, introduced OSP to our committee.
 1.2. OSP has set all grant submission deadlines, that need to be followed by all investigators. New rules will be in place in May.
 1.3. All grant applications including NIH modular grant application, will need to have detailed budgets before signing off.
 2. **Designated Space for Human Subjects Research: - recommended by this committee in 2019**
 I informed that committee that Faculty Senate has determined that it is an issue that needs to be resolved by School of Medicine (PLFSOM), because it will be used by PLFSOM faculty and researchers. (See FS Meeting Minutes 2/26/21)
 Dr. David Cistola, the Intern VP for Research, indicated that faculty should talk to his office directly if they have any need for research resources. Especially, when new grants and projects have these needs. His office should be able to handle these requests.

*See attached report

- **Q&A**

Q: Are the new grant submission rules that will be placed in May, will they make the steps easier for faculty or more complicated?

A: These new rules for grant submission deadlines should not have much impact on faculty as long as the timeline is followed.

Q: What is the justification for detailed modular budgets when NIH does not require modular budget?

A: Due to university requirements, it seems that a calculation of budget is required at submission and can later be fully submitted.

- **Discussion**

- Research faculty need to work with Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) to make the process easier.
- Research committee should further investigate this issue to see if there is a valuable reason for these requirements.
- When the funding agency is not requiring the budget, there is no time for unnecessary work
- As mentioned in the Research Committee Meeting, presentation by OSP, the new timelines are intended to allow PI's to have extra time to work through the process in the case there are issues or grant submissions need more work
- It was discussed and decided that the Research Affairs Committee revisit these topics and reach out to the Vice President for Research Office, OSP, to discuss these issues as it relates to compliance.

c. University Affairs Committee – Rosemary Walulu, Ph.D., R.N, Committee Chair, stated there is no report as the next committee meeting will be June 9, 2021. Any agenda items related to University Affairs can be sent to Dr. Walulu directly.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Gustavo Rodriguez, M.D., Faculty Senate President

a. Faculty Senator Term Extensions - Dr. Rodriguez shared an updated related to four senators' term extensions. Previously, the Faculty Senate voted to extend the terms of four faculty senators to complete their terms since the Faculty Senate's operations were dormant for most of 2020 during the pandemic. After further review of faculty senator terms for compliance with the Faculty Senate Bylaws, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee recommends the faculty governing bodies of the schools these senators represent formally vote to extend their terms. The rationale is that senators serve by election of the governing body of their school, and our Faculty Senate bylaws do not permit term extensions to be granted to ourselves. Therefore, we will need to request that the Graduate Council of the GSBS and the Faculty Council of the GGHSON vote to extend the terms of service for the following senators through August 31, 2021: Dr. Christy Blanco and Dr. Rosemary Walulu from GGHSON; Dr. Subramanian Dhandayuthapani and Dr. Laxman Gangwani from GSBS.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Gustavo Rodriguez, M.D., Faculty Senate President and Guests

- a. **Faculty Senate Reports at School Faculty Councils** – Dr. Rodriguez shared that the Executive Committee discussed the current involvement and reporting of the Faculty Senate to faculty governance body at each school. To maintain transparency, it is requested that the faculty governing body at each school consider inviting a representative of the Faculty Senate to provide a report on a reoccurring basis.
- **Q&A**
 - Q:** How is the GSBS Graduate Council and Faculty Senate communicating?
 - A:** There is no current practice or reporting mechanism for the Faculty Senate to communicate or report at the GSBS Graduate Council. Dr. Chattopadhyay volunteered to relay the message to Dr. Raj, Chair of the GSBS Graduate Council. To avoid conflict of interest, it was suggested that another member of the Faculty Senate should be the representative to report at the GSBS Graduate Council.
 - Q:** What is the advantage of this proposal?
 - A:** To maintain communication between the senate and school to address issues to senate and for the senate to report back to the school
 - Q:** At the present time, how have we been communicating with GSBS Graduate Council?
 - A:** There is not a formal reporting structure at present. There may be issues at the school level that need to be communicated to the Faculty Senate.
 - Q:** Is there a current GSBS faculty member attending PLFSOM Faculty Council?
 - A:** Dr. Alok Dwivedi is an active member and frequently attends the PLFSOM Faculty Council as the representative for the Department of Molecular and Translational Medicine
- **Discussion**
 - Ideas of how this should be addressed were presented: (1) A formal list of issues from each school should be developed and sent to the Faculty Senate (2) Followed by a discussion on solutions, ideas and achievements to address the listed issues to see if there is overlap across all schools which would then be considered by Faculty Senate.
 - The challenge is that all GSBS faculty are also faculty of the PLFSOM MTM department and the challenge is to determine which issues are particular to GSBS and which issues are for the department of MTM at PLFSOM
 - An idea was shared to invite each President of the school councils to attend Faculty Senate meeting to maintain a reporting line from each governance group at the school and institutional level
 - It was determined that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will further discuss this topic and develop a formal proposal on how to proceed
- b. **Information Security Update** – Ron Graham, Information Security Officer reported on the following:



Agenda

- Threat Intelligence
- Recent Incidents
- Statistics
- Questions

*See attached report

- **Q&A**

Q: In the future, when threats are assessed, will there be reconsideration on whether personal emails can be accessed?

A: Yes, that is a fair assessment. There are multiple parties that will have to assess and address this issue in unison. We will continue to evaluate the situation and decide whether to enable access to personal emails.

Q: There is a constant notice of mailbox size being reached, is this an IT issue?

A: Yes, there are other folders that may need to be looked at that equates to the maximum limit threshold. IT Helpdesk can assist in reviewing. There are multiple options to archive and free up mailbox space.

Q: Three ransomware examples, did this occur using personal email?

A: They were not they were spread through an email system. The difference between personal and corporate email system is that corporate systems complete a security scan when an email is received, which scans for anti-virus content, encryption, data-loss prevention, to ensure we are handling in a secure manner. The problem with personal email, such as Google, will not allow our security scan to detect any threats. There are fewer layers of protection when using personal email.

Q: Is it possible for IT to allow personal email use on cell phones?

A: The campus block is for all internet access provided by TTUHSC El Paso, however, personal phones are not an issue if using personal data

Q: What is the mailbox limit?

A: It may be 5GB, and will follow up to confirm.

Q: 2GB is the current size capacity and it is causing issues for all faculty who send and receive large files. It is not efficient or effective.

Q: Was a message or email sent to the faculty notifying everyone of the new restriction of personal email access

A: Yes, when the block occurred, IT sent out an email notice to all employees

Q: Could IT work with Google or Yahoo to implement security scans and block the malware for use of personal email or is there a way to make our email system better to allow for larger space capacity?

A: This issue also becomes a compliance issue. As policy states, employees must use TTUHSC email for business related matters due to data classification as it relates to HIPPA, FERPA, and other regulations. There are policies set for a reason to protect the university.

- **Discussion:**

- Ron Graham is open to further discuss these issues and topics with each school and will continue to share updates with faculty.

c. TTUHSC El Paso Libraries Update – Lisa Beinhoff, Ph.D., Managing Director of TTUHSC El Paso Libraries reported on the following:



**Current Status of
The Libraries'
Journal Subscriptions**

Presented by:
Lisa Beinhoff, Ph.D., M.L.S., AHIP

*See attached report

- **Q&A**

Q: Currently ACP publishing offers a discount, are there any other big publishers that would consider offering a discount such as Nature, or Sell publishing group?

A: Sell is part of ELSIVIR, we are currently in negotiations with ELSIVIR and will hope this opens up more opportunity for access and discount

Q: Can we request articles over the weekend? Is BrowZine a possible solution?

A: This would be considered an Inter-library loan. Inter-library loans are when libraries share and borrow from each other. When requests come over the weekend, we would still need to reach out to another library who is probably closed. The current turnaround time is usually 18 hours.

Q: To clarify, we will soon be able to access any journal at any given time?

A: Yes, as long as it falls within the 26,000 journal articles that will be available.

d. TTUHSCEI Paso Faculty Retention Update – In the interest of time, it was agreed upon to table this update to the April Faculty Senate meeting.

VI. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Open Discussion

Dr. Rodriguez opened the floor for a round table discussion.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Gustavo Rodriguez, M.D., Faculty Senate President

There being no further business to discuss, Dr. Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 1:08 P.M. He reminded the Faculty Senate that the next meeting will take place Friday, April 30, 2021.



Gustavo Rodriguez (May 3, 2021 11:19 MDT)

Gustavo Rodriguez, M.D.
Faculty Senate President 2020 - 2021

April 30, 2021

Approved Date



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Faculty Senate

Committee on Faculty Affairs

Discussion Points

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 - Call for Nominations
- Program Specific New Faculty Orientation
 - Pathway to Success
 - Program specific orientation
 - Faculty Development



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05 At Least 30,000 U.S. Organizations Newly Hacked Via Holes in Microsoft's Email Software

MAR 21

At least 30,000 organizations across the United States — including a significant number of small businesses, towns, cities and local governments — have over the past few days been hacked by an unusually aggressive Chinese cyber espionage unit that's focused on stealing email from victim organizations, multiple sources tell KrebsOnSecurity. The espionage group is exploiting four newly-discovered flaws in **Microsoft Exchange Server** email software, and has seeded hundreds of thousands of victim organizations worldwide with tools that give the attackers total, remote control over affected systems.

March 16, 2021

Increase in PYSA Ransomware Targeting Education Institutions

Summary

FBI reporting has indicated a recent increase in PYSA ransomware targeting education institutions in 12 US states and the United Kingdom. PYSA, also known as Mespinoza, is a malware capable of exfiltrating data and encrypting users' critical files and data stored on their systems. The unidentified cyber actors have specifically targeted higher education, K-12 schools, and seminaries. These actors use PYSA to exfiltrate data from victims prior to encrypting victim's systems to use as leverage in eliciting ransom payments.

March 23, 2021

Mamba Ransomware Weaponizing DiskCryptor

Summary

Mamba ransomware has been deployed against local governments, public transportation agencies, legal services, technology services, industrial, commercial, manufacturing, and construction businesses. Mamba ransomware weaponizes DiskCryptor—an open source full disk encryption software—to restrict victim access by encrypting an entire drive, including the operating system. DiskCryptor is not inherently malicious but has been weaponized. Once encrypted, the system displays a ransom note including the actor's email address, ransomware file name, the host system name, and a place to enter the decryption key. Victims are instructed to contact the actor's email address to pay the ransom in exchange for the decryption key.

MS-ISAC Alert Level: Elevated

YELLOW or ELEVATED indicates a significant risk due to increased hacking, virus, or other malicious activity that compromises systems or diminishes service. At this level, there are known vulnerabilities that are being exploited with a moderate level of damage or disruption, or the potential for significant damage or disruption is high.



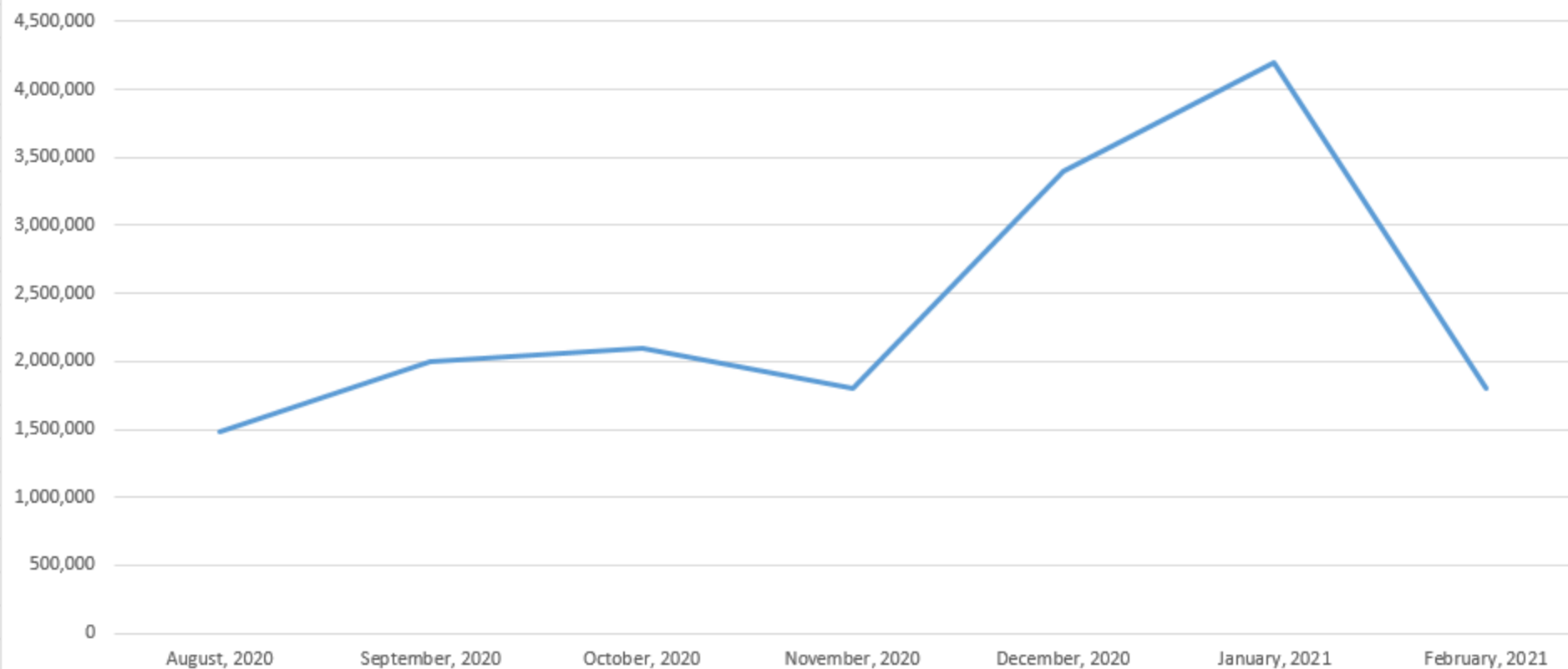
Recent Ransomware Events

School	Date
UTEP	March 12, 2021
Grand Prairie A&M	February 4, 2021
Socorro Independent School District	December 11, 2020



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Social Engineering Attempts

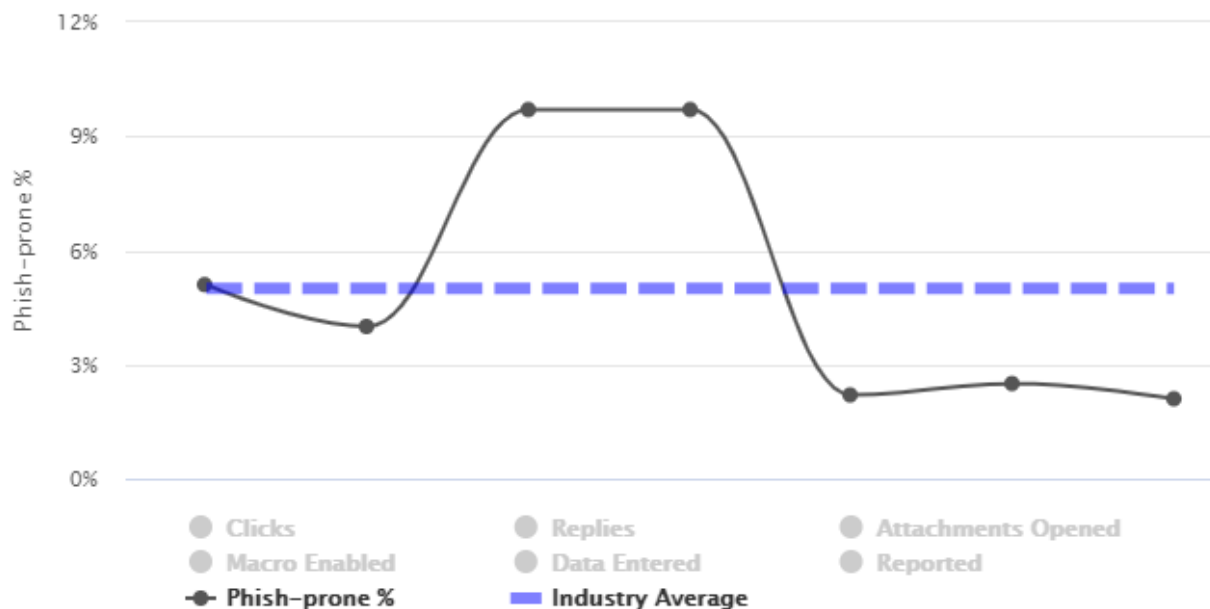




Simulated Phishing Emails

Phishing Security Tests 09/26/2020 – 03/26/2021

543 Clicks, 6 Replies, 4 Attachments Opened, 0 Macro Enabled, 0 Data Entered, 1574 Reported



3/23/2021 Phishing
Campaign

	99.7%	16.7%	2.1%	0%
1834	1828	306	38	0
Recipients	Delivered	Opened	Clicked	Replied



Questions?

Thank You!



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Current Status of The Libraries' Journal Subscriptions

Presented by:

Lisa Beinhoff, Ph.D., M.L.S., AHIP



- **Current Number of Journal Subscriptions**
- **Faculty Publication Discounts**
- **Negotiations with Elsevier**



How many journal subscriptions?

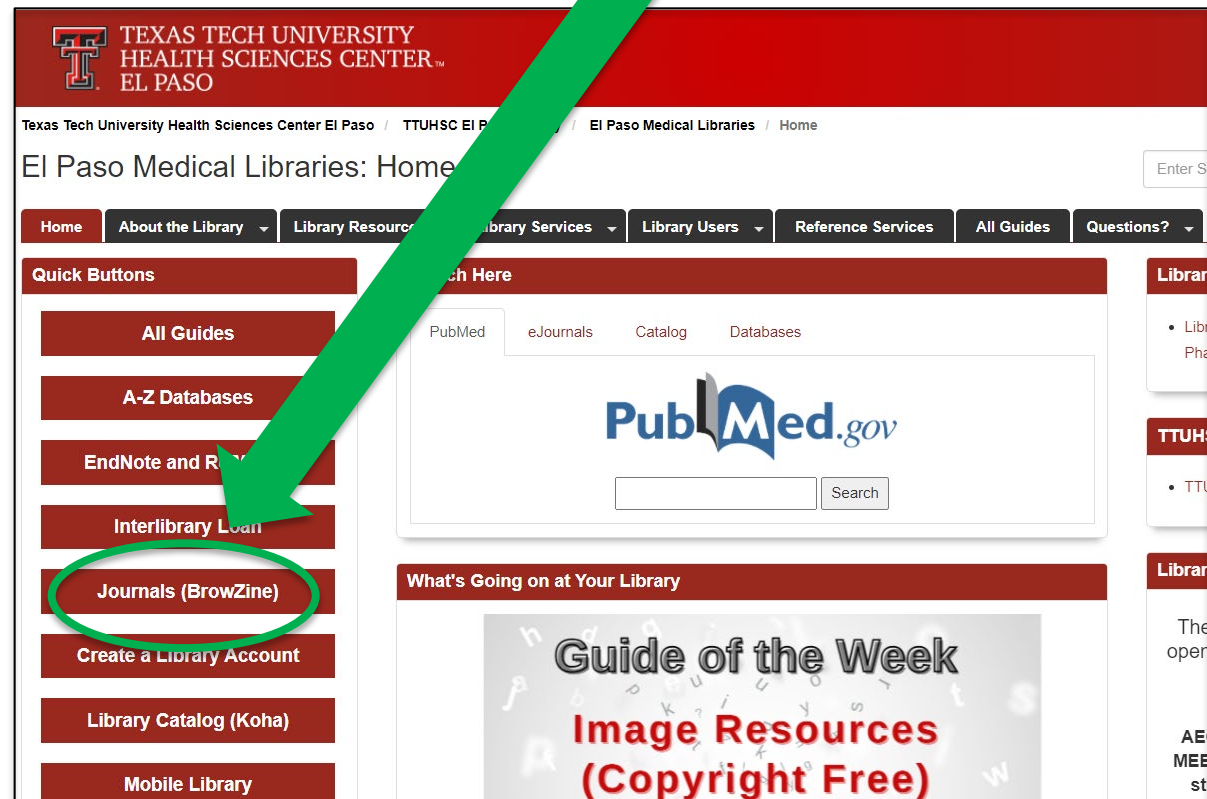
26,648 titles (99.6% electronic)

-115 titles have physical holdings

(15,213 bound volumes)

-Discontinuing newspaper subscriptions

All electronic journals can be accessed using **BrowZine**:





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BrowZine:

The screenshot shows the BrowZine website interface. A green arrow points from the word 'BrowZine' in the title to a search bar. The search bar is located in the center of the page, below the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso logo. The search bar contains the text 'JOURNAL BY TITLE, SUBJECT, OR ISSN' and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar, there is a sidebar with a list of subjects: 'Core Title Lists', 'Health Services Administration', 'Kinesiology and Rehabilitation', 'Mathematical and Physical Sciences', and 'Medical Science and Biomedicine'. The sidebar also includes a 'BROWSE SUBJECTS' heading. The main content area on the right displays a collage of journal covers, including 'THE LANCET', 'SURGERY', 'Cancer', 'blood', 'the NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE', and 'JAN'. The top navigation bar includes links for 'Apps', 'Getting Started', 'Koha > Log in to Koha', 'ePM', 'Imported From Fire...', 'Edit Hours', 'TTUHSC Electronic...', and 'Sharepoint'. The browser address bar shows the URL 'browzine.com/libraries/1965/subjects'.

← → ↻ browzine.com/libraries/1965/subjects ☆

Apps Getting Started Koha > Log in to Koha ePM Imported From Fire... Edit Hours TTUHSC Electronic... Sharepoint

BrowZine Library Access Provided By Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso Search PubMed ?

ACCESS PROVIDED BY

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER.
EL PASO

JOURNAL BY TITLE, SUBJECT, OR ISSN

BROWSE SUBJECTS

- Core Title Lists
- Health Services Administration
- Kinesiology and Rehabilitation
- Mathematical and Physical Sciences
- Medical Science and Biomedicine

THE LANCET

"The proposed Public Health (Alcohol) Bill rebrands alcohol as a health, rather than simply an economic, issue. It represents the best opportunity to reduce alcohol harm in Ireland."

SURGERY

Cancer

blood

the NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

JAN



Faculty Publication Discounts

(Discounts on APCs – article processing charges -for faculty wishing to publish in hybrid open access journals.)



Faculty Publication Discounts

(Discounts on APCs – article processing charges -for faculty wishing to publish in hybrid open access journals.)

**Currently the only discount the code the libraries' has is
BMJ Case Reports Fellowship Code: 200871**

Negotiations with Elsevier

- **Contract with Elsevier expired on Dec. 31, but we have not lost access to journals.**
- **Libraries are negotiating as part of TLCUA, Texas Library Coalition for United Access.**

Texas colleges & universities

43 institutions

>44,000 faculty

>660,000 students

>\$26,000,000 spent annually with Elsevier



Members

- Angelo State University
- Prairie View A&M University
- Stephen F. Austin University
- Texas A&M International University
- Texas A&M University-Commerce
- Texas A&M University-San Antonio
- Texas State University (San Marcos)
- Texas Tech University HSC Lubbock
- The University of Houston Clear Lake
- The University of North Texas Health Science Center
- The University of Texas at Austin
- The University of Texas HSC at Houston
- The University of Texas Permian Basin
- The University of Texas HSC at Tyler
- West Texas A&M University
- Baylor University
- Rice University
- Sul Ross State University
- Texas A&M University (College Station)
- Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
- Texas A&M University-Texarkana
- Texas Tech University (Lubbock)
- The University of Dallas
- The University of Houston Downtown
- The University of Texas at Arlington
- The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
- The University of Texas at El Paso
- The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- The University of Texas at San Antonio
- Lamar University
- Sam Houston State University
- Tarleton State University
- Texas A&M University-Central Texas
- Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- Texas Medical Center
- Texas Tech University HSC El Paso
- The University of Houston
- The University of North Texas
- The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
- The University of Texas at Dallas
- The University of Texas HSC at San Antonio
- The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- The University of Texas at Tyler

Currently Hoping to Get:

- **Reduction in journal costs for libraries with a reduction in number of journal titles purchased.**
- **Cooperative purchasing across the state.**
- **Possibility of a 10-15% reduction in APCs for faculty publishing in Elsevier journals.**
- **Potential for a pilot project (sample set of journals) wherein copyright will revert back to the author after ~10 years.**