

# Tom Green County Library Case Study



San Angelo, TX  
Service Population: 111,823  
Annual Circulation: 525,083  
Customer since 2020

## Before Niche Academy...

Tom Green County Library runs a week-long rocketry camp each summer in collaboration with Angelo State University where participants receive a rocket building kit and, over the course of the week, learn the science and engineering required to actually build the rocket. On the last day of the camp, participants actually launch their rockets. COVID-19 prevented the in-person camp, but Wanda Green and her team were determined to find a way to hold the camp online.

## With Niche Academy...

Wanda identified Niche Academy as a Learning Management System that would be simple to use for learners, administrators, and content creators. They quickly added the content for the courses into Niche Academy, including activities that allowed participants to upload pictures and completed documents for review. The online camp worked beautifully. It even allowed for some people to participate who would not have been able to otherwise, because they lived too far from the library. The online camp was so successful that they are now applying for a \$170K NASA grant that would allow them to expand the content and the reach of the camp.

## Beyond Rockets...

Once they began using Niche Academy for the rocketry camp, they quickly saw that it could also help them restart the certification programs for the equipment in their 10K square foot makerspace. COVID-19 had prevented people from becoming certified in the use of the equipment because of the risks inherent to in-person training. By putting the certification training online people have begun to get certified again. Post COVID, the library will continue to use this online certification process because it is a huge timesaver for staff. It lets them track what training has actually been completed and makes time spent in person much more effective.



*"It was an easy system to set up... it was very easy to set up... with original content. So if you have a library that's doing something unique, and they're looking for a way to take it online, I think that's its real value and strength."*

-Wanda Green, Assistant Director of Tom Green County Library