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The Library volunteer program is expanding with a new online participation program.

The new system allows new volunteers to sign up and go through the approval process at their convenience from any computer. Existing volunteers may log their hours, sign up to assist with special events or shifts, and update their contact information.

“Our volunteer program has grown significantly with the Library seeing a 138 percent increase in volunteer hours so far this year compared to last year,” Marc Marchand, director of library services, said. “The new system allows us to more efficiently track and communicate with our volunteers and the program overall.”

Volunteers are critical to Library operations. Opportunities include assisting with special programs, teaching shelving materials, sorting through donations, basic repair and processing of materials, and more.

“People volunteer at the Library for many reasons,” Amanda Goshey, adult service Librarian and volunteer coordinator, said. “We get assistance from non-residents who volunteer in order to receive a free library card. We have people who share their talents by teaching workshops or helping people on the computers, or they help ensure that the more than 300,000 items we circulate annually are put back in the proper place on the shelves. There is something for just about everyone, and we love that our volunteers become part of our Library family.”

The Library’s volunteer program has been given an opportunity to shine on the national stage, too. The Burleson Public Library is one of two public libraries in Texas to represent the state on a national grant program to expand volunteer opportunities nationwide.

Volunteers help professional staff, also, by freeing them up to focus on professional responsibilities. They also help keep operating costs down while improving the quality of services to the community.

For more information about becoming a Library volunteer, visit the Library online at www.burlesonlibrary.com, call the Library at 817-426-9210, or email agoshey@burlesontx.com. The Library is located at 248 S.W. Johnson Ave.