Improving Public Library Services for Senior Citizens

Honors Thesis Proposal
Presented by: Rita J. Nix
Faculty Mentor: James Swan, Applied Gerontology
Background & Interest
Active and engaged

Current interests and learning new
Materials and Services provided include:

- Large print books
- Audio books
- Computers with text enlarging features
- Home book delivery
Phase 1

Identified services currently provided
Phase 2

Identify feasible additional services by surveying patrons and non-patrons.
Patrons
Current library users
on-site survey

Non patrons
Senior citizens centers
Questions will include:

- Do you use the local public library?
- How often?
- If not, reasons why?
- If so, what services do you use?
- What could improve current services?
- What other services would you use if available?
- What could be done to better meet your needs?
Possible additional questions:

- Gender
- Age range
- Option of listing any special needs
Assess services of 3 library systems

- Fort Worth – large system
- Denton – medium size
- Azle – small, but planned expansion
Fort Worth Public Library

- Central Library
- 2 Regional Branches & 10 Branch Libraries
- 2 Satellite Libraries

Collection includes: 5.3 million items
- 50 computers for public use
- Outreach services for Seniors
Denton Public Library

- Central Library
- 2 Branches
  - Over 106,000 items in main branch
  - Over 55,000 items in each of the
Azle Public Library

• One library

  – Over 55,000 items
  – 18 patron computers
  – 2,400 DVDs or videos
  – 1,800 audio books
  – Book delivery service provided by volunteers
International View

Services being provided by other countries:

• Japan
• Northern Ireland
• New South Wales, Australia
• etc

Discovered no significant differences in services provided
Goals:

To create more awareness for the public of the services available to them

To create awareness of future needs due to increased aging population
Thank You

Dr. Swan – my mentor
Dr. Eve – for all the encouragement
And to you, for coming to listen!