

## ***Science on Tap - The Digital Library Project:***

The Texas Water Development Board has produced many publications over the 50 years of its existence. The documents - collectively numbering at least 3,000 reports, manuals, bulletins, atlases, maps, and other publications - cover a wide range of topics on water resource planning, management, and development.

Before the advent of the Internet and the World Wide Web, these documents were available to the public exclusively in print form. However, with the emergence of the World Wide Web in recent years, users are increasingly expecting to access our documents online in digital formats. To meet user expectations, TWDB has been making a concerted effort to digitize its older reports and make them available on the Web.

However, our effort has fallen short in two key areas: the digitization process we have been using does not lend itself readily to a search tool (no metadata), and the search tool on our Web site does not produce reliable, accurate, and relevant information. We plan to address each of these two shortcomings in this project and create a digital library with easy-to-use search features.

### **Goal of the Project:**

The overarching goal of the **Science on Tap** project is to build a standards compliant digital repository to store water-related publications and other products generated by or of relevance to TWDB. We will also provide open, full, and easy access to these documents on the World Wide Web by giving the user easy tools to search for and retrieve information.

The digital library project is an important endeavor in that many of the publications are considered as standard literature in their field and sources of valuable information. They are being widely used not only within the state (for example, *Aquifers of Texas*) but nationally and worldwide as well (for example, *Texas Manual on Rainwater Harvesting*).

Furthermore, since public funds have been used for the studies that resulted in these documents, we believe that the public should have easy, quick, and reliable access to the information in which they have invested.

### **Intended Audience:**

The primary intended audience for the project is the general public and taxpayer of the State of Texas. Other beneficiaries include river authorities; groundwater conservation districts; all types of water districts; regional water planning groups; members of the Texas Legislature; local, state and federal agencies with an interest in water-related issues in Texas; and TWDB staff.

### **Timeline:**

We plan to complete the work in phases. The first batch of publications will be launched on the Web in late 2008 and the entire project completed within two years after that.