People who reported being readers were more involved in all other types of arts, sports, and community activities than those who did not read. "Literary readers are nearly three times as likely to attend a performing arts event, almost four times as likely to visit an art museum, over two-and-a-half times as likely to do volunteer or charity work, over one-and-a-half times as likely to attend sporting events, and over one-and-a-half times as likely to participate in sports activities. In fact, people who read more books tend to have the highest levels of participation in other activities, especially arts activities" (National Endowment for the Arts [NEA], 2004, p.5).

Thirty-three years ago, 56.4% of American adults surveyed read literature during their leisure time (including plays, novels, and poetry). By 1992, that rate had dropped to 54.2%, fell even more sharply to 46.6% by 2002, but rose again to 50.2% in 2008 (NEA, 2013). In 2012, fewer than half (46.7%) of all adult Americans were literature readers. The rate of poetry readers nearly halved from 2002 to 2012 (12.1% and 6.7% respectively). The only category of readers that increased from 2008 to 2012 was the 65-74 year old age range which went from a rate of 49.1% to 52% (NEA, 2015).

On average, 12 books were read by American adults in the year 2015. 28% of adults read literature online (Pew, 2016). TABLE 1 compares the frequency of reading among all adults and all readers in the United States for the years 2008 and 2012.

TABLE 1	U.S. READING FREQUENCY	
	2008 (%)	2012 (%)
Among All Adults		
Light (1-5 Books)	26.1	23.4
Moderate (6-11 Books)	10.9	10.4
Frequent (12-49 Books)	13.7	13.2
Avid (50 Books or More)	4.6	4.6
Among All Readers		
Light (1-5 Books)	48.1	48.3
Moderate (6-11 Books)	20.0	19.1
Frequent (12-49 Books)	25.2	24.2
Avid (50 Books or More)	6.7	8.4
(NEA, 2015)		

In 2012, the highest percentage of American adults who read literature at least once in the past 12 months lived in the New England region of the United States (51.9%), followed by the Mountain regions (51.8%), Middle Atlantic (49.1%),West North Central (48.4%), East North Central (47.5%), Pacific (46.9%), and South Atlantic (46.7%). The West South Central region, which included Texas, reported the second lowest reading rate (42.8%) followed by East South Central (38.7%) in the entire country (NEA, 2015).

The greatest percentage differences in literary reading among Americans are associated with level of education. In 2008, the National Endowment for the Arts noted an indication that education-related reading gaps were tapering (NEA, 2009). Unfortunately, all education levels showed decreased rates of reading in 2012 compared to 2008 (NEA, 2015). Other detailed demographic characteristics of American adult readers over time appear in TABLE 2.

TABLE 2. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF U.S. ADULTS WHO READ LITERATURE		
	2008 (%)	2012 (%)
Total Adult Population	50.2	47.0
Gender		
Female	58.0	56.1
Male	41.9	36.9
Ethnicity		
Hispanic	31.9	31.0
African American	42.6	40.2
White	55.7	52.3
Other (non-Hispanic)	43.9	41.7
Age		
18-24	51.7	47.9
25-34	50.1	47.9
35-44	50.8	45.1
45-54	50.3	44.7
55-64	53.1	48.2
65-74	49.1	51.9
75+	42.3	43.8
Highest Level of Education		
Grade school	18.5	16.9
Some high school	34.3	22.9
High school graduate	39.1	36.9
Some college	56.2	50.3
College graduate	66.6	63.0
Graduate School	71.2	69.5
(NEA, 2015)		

TECHNOLOGY AND LITERARY ARTS

Electronic media devices are becoming more popular. As of January 2015, 45% of Americans age 18 and older owned a tablet computer and 19% owned an e-reader (Kindle or Nook) (Pew, 2015). These devices have contributed to increased interest in digital material. The increase in the number of e-readers has led to a greater demand for accessible e-books. "The proportion of adults who had read an e-book in the past year rose to 29%, up from 23% at the end of 2012" (American Library Association [ALA], 2016). In 2015, over 90% of public libraries were lending e-books (ALA, 2015).

"All of the "Big 5" trade publishers (Hachette Book Group, Harper Collins, Macmillan, Penguin Random House, and Simon and Schuster) and many other publishers now offer some amount of electronic lending ("e-lending") of their fiction and nonfiction e-book titles by libraries" (American Association of Publishers, 2015).

2015 saw a significant increase in the number of ebooks borrowed from public libraries. OverDrive, the industry leader for digital book lending serving over 90 percent of the nation's libraries reported:

➤ 169 million digital titles borrowed from libraries (+24% over 2014)
➤ 125 million ebooks circulated (+19% over 2014)
➤ 43 million digital audiobooks circulated (+93% over 2014)

(OverDrive, 2016)

Opened in September 2013, on the Southside of San Antonio in Bexar County, BiblioTech is the country's first all-digital library. With two primary and one satellite locations, BiblioTech provides "all Bexar County residents technology access to enhance education and literacy, promote reading as recreation, and equip all members of our community with necessary tools to thrive as citizens of the digital age" (BiblioTech, n.d.). It has 35,000 ebook titles available for checkout as well as digital comics and graphic novels, and a large collection of technology tutorials, magazines, language learning, movies, music, and e-audiobooks.

Use of technology is not only changing how America reads but is also impacting how America writes. "Young adults are immersed in an environment of electronic communication that is vitally important to them, but that may not necessarily lend itself to lengthy, logically structured writing" (Lenhart, Arafeh, Smith, & Macgill, 2008, p.64). In a recent survey, a majority of teachers found that while digital technologies encourage student creativity and personal expression as well as the ability to share their work with a wider and more varied audience, many technical aspects of writing such as using different "voices" and "registers" and the ability to write longer texts and to think critically about complicated topics has suffered. Other issues expressed in the survey included: using truncated forms of expression; taking shortcuts (not putting effort into their work); more likely to use poor spelling and grammar; and having difficulty reading and digesting long

or complicated texts (Purcell, Buchanan, and Friedrich, 2013, pp2-3).

A blog is a personal website where an individual can write about any topic they choose. As of July 2012, there were an estimated 31 million active bloggers in the U.S. (Rampton, 2012). Wordpress, Blogger and Tumblr represent the top three sites for bloggers. These sites are changing the concept of the term published author; everyone can publish their own written material. The growing trend in self-publishing isn't limited to blogging. The number of self-published titles in 2016 was 786,935, an increase of 8.2% from 2014 and 218% from 2011. Ebooks declined slightly compared to print, comprising 19% of the ISBNs that were self-published in 2016, down from 36% in 2011 (Bowker, 2017). Currently, companies like Amazon and Apple allow self-publishers of e-books to bypass the traditional process of having a publisher (Friedman, 2017).

NATIONAL LITERARY ARTS INITIATIVES
With only approximately half of the American population reading for leisure, literary arts programs provide an important service. In addition to the wide variety of reading programs offered at public schools and libraries, there are non-profit and for-profit agencies throughout the United States geared towards encouraging reading, writing, and promoting the literary arts. The majority of the programs work with amateur adult writers, but some provide reading and writing programs designed for all levels of expertise, including youth.

Several national initiatives have been designed to support and expand the literary arts throughout the United States.

The Big Read
An initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Midwest, *The Big Read* is designed to restore reading to the center of American culture, encouraging reading for pleasure and enlightenment through month-long community events devoted to a specific book. "The NEA has funded more than 1,200 Big Read programs, providing more than $16

million in grants. In addition, organizations have leveraged more than $35 million in local funding to support their Big Read programs" (The Big Read, 2017).

Reading Rockets
Funded by the Department of Education, and sponsored by the public television/radio station WETA, the Reading Rockets program is a national multimedia project designed to improve child literacy. This program includes television shows on PBS, multiple websites (Reading Rockets.org and ColorínColorado.org- a website geared toward improving literacy for Spanish-speakers), and professional development opportunities offered at no cost (Reading Rockets, 2017; Colorín Colorado, 2017).

Writers in the School (WITS)
WITS is a 501(c)(3) organization with the purpose of connecting writers with students to enhance reading and writing skills. Based in Houston, the WITS program focuses on working with at-risk students in the public schools, but also holds writing workshops at community venues such as hospitals, museums, juvenile detention centers, and community centers. Leader of the WITS Alliance, an international network of 35 organizations, which enables replication, mentorship, shared knowledge, and leveraged resources, to place professional writers in public school classrooms building the capacity of literary arts organizations that collectively reach 100,000 children (WITS, 2017).

TEXAS LITERARY ARTS ORGANIZATIONS
There are a wide variety of literary programs and events located throughout Texas. One non-profit literary arts group located in Dallas, *WordSpace*, presents workshops, author readings, concerts, and salons featuring writers and songwriters (WordSpace, n.d.). The *Writer's League of Texas* (2017) is another non-profit, state-wide organization that primarily focuses on providing information, support, and sharing for writers, but also offers classes and workshops.

In addition to these year-round literary programs, Texas is home to several annual literary festivals, such as the Texas Storytelling

Festival (Tejas Storytelling Association, n.d.) and the Texas Book Festival (2017). In the San Antonio area, the San Antonio Writer's Guild and Gemini Ink are the two most prominent organizations focused on literary arts.

San Antonio Writer's Guild
This organization helps writers of all genres and abilities share information about writing. It holds monthly meetings, which include writing workshops, weekly critique meetings, and occasional write-ins. It also offers an annual writing contest and provides information about other contests (San Antonio Writer's Guild, 2017).

Gemini Ink
Founded in 1997, Gemini Ink offers a variety of programs to encourage literacy in the San Antonio area. Its programs include the free *Writers in Communities* (professional writers working with youth in various communities around San Antonio), the fee-based *Community Writing Classes* (program for writers at all levels), and an *Autograph Series* featuring internationally known writers in free public performances followed by audience Q&A and book signing (Gemini Ink, n.d.).

LITERARY ARTS SOURCES OF FUNDING
There are three main sources of arts funding for non-profit agencies in the United States: direct public arts appropriations (by the National Endowment for the Arts and its state and local agencies), public subsidies for the arts (federal, state, and local agencies and legislation), and private donations by individuals, companies, and foundations.

Together, these sources provide approximately 45% of funding for arts organizations. The remaining 55% of funding is generated through earned income such as admissions/ticket sales and investment income/endowments (NEA, 2012).

Public support for the arts represented 6.7% of total arts funding during 2012 (NEA, 2012). 1.2% of that funding came from Federal sources, such as the National Endowment for the Arts and the Department of Education's *Innovative Approaches to Literacy Program*. This program promotes early literacy for young children, motivates older children to read, and increases student achievement by using school libraries, distributing free books to children and their families, and offering high-quality literacy activities. In fiscal year 2016, $26.3 million was set aside from the Department of Education for this program (U.S. Department of Education, 2017).

State and local funding represented 5.5% of total public support for the arts during 2012 (NEA, 2012). The Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) is the primary state agency that helps develop and fund the arts in the state of Texas. TCA's main functions are to invest funds in the form of grants to cultural, educational, artistic, and civic organizations, and to promote the arts in all disciplines (Texas Commission on the Arts, 2017). In San Antonio, the Department for Culture & Creative Development Arts Funding Division supervises any City of San Antonio arts funding (City of San Antonio, 2017).

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