

# Enhancing Research and Innovation: UTRGV University Library's PTRC Designation

Raquel Estrada (raquel.estrada@utrgv.edu)

The UTRGV University Library, at both the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses, has been officially designated as a Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC) by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). This designation marks a significant milestone, opening new doors for research, innovation, and entrepreneurship across UTRGV and the entire Rio Grande Valley. This poster is designed to celebrate and promote this exciting development by highlighting benefits to the RGV community, spotlighting the PTRC Libguide, and sharing details about the grand opening events.

## Benefits To The RGV Community

Rio Grande Valley innovators will no longer need to drive 300 miles to the nearest patent office in Austin to secure intellectual property protection.

Both the UTRGV Library - Edinburg Campus and UTRGV Library - Brownsville Campus are now designated as [Patent and Trademark Resource Centers \(PTRCs\)](#), by the [United States Patent and Trademark Office \(USPTO\)](#).

The PTRCs are an exceptional resource for the RGV community, faculty, and students. The PTRC representatives at each library location are now trained to help RGV inventors, researchers, and other community members find the information they need to protect their intellectual property (IP).

While PTRC representatives cannot provide legal advice, they can help the RGV community by

- Showing how to use patent and trademark search tools
- Explaining the application process
- Assisting in using the USPTO's directory of local patent attorneys
- Offering courses on IP (varies by location)
- Helping find patent and trademark owner and assignee information
- Connecting to USPTO resources

## PTRC Representatives @ the University Library

Members of the Rio Grande Valley community can receive support with patent and trademark information at the UTRGV University Library, located on both the Brownsville or Edinburg campuses. Two Research and Instruction Librarians, one at each campus, have undergone specialized training in intellectual property resources, and are available to assist with inquiries. They have developed a [Patent/Trademark Resource Center](#) guide to help navigate these topics.

## PTRC Guide

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

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PTRC - Patent/Trademark Resource Center: Home

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UTRGV Patent and Trademark Resource Center

UTRGV is a designated Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC). As part of that program, we provide assistance with patent and trademark information. We have two Research and Instruction Librarians, located in Edinburg and Brownsville, who provide instruction on Information Property basics and how to search for Patents and Trademarks.

We are available by appointment to provide one-on-one or group instruction. Please contact us using our information below to set up an appointment.

**PTRC Librarians**

Edinburg Campus Library - Andrew Portner - 956-665-2877 - [andrew.portner@utrgv.edu](mailto:andrew.portner@utrgv.edu)

Brownsville Campus Library- Jesus Resendez - 956-882-7107 - [jesus.resendez01@utrgv.edu](mailto:jesus.resendez01@utrgv.edu)

[Book an Appointment With Us](#)

## Grand Opening

The UTRGV [Division of Research](#) and [University Library](#), in collaboration with the [Entrepreneurship and Commercialization Center \(ECC\)](#), organized the grand openings of the PTRCs on May 1st at the Mission Center for Education & Economic Development (Upper Valley) in Mission, Texas and May 2nd at the eBridge Center for Business and Commercialization (Lower Valley) in Brownsville, Texas.

Division of Research

May 1 - Mission May 2 - Brownsville

**Agenda for May 1, 2025**

10:00-10:15 am	Welcome Remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrew Portner, Research &amp; Instruction Librarian</li> <li>Jacob Chel, Southwest Assistant Registrar</li> <li>Robert Berry, Manager, Patent and Trademark</li> </ul>
10:15-11:00 am	USPTO and Intellectual Property Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jacob Chel, Southwest Assistant Registrar</li> <li>Reynaldo Vasquez, Southwest Assistant Registrar</li> </ul>
11:00-11:15 am	Patent and Trademark Resource Center Remarks by Dr. Thomas Spencer, Associate Vice President
15 min break	
11:30-1:00 pm	Open Panel • Lunch moderated by Dr. Thomas Spencer, Associate Vice President <p>The panel discussion will focus on the importance of intellectual property protection in fostering creativity and exploring licensing opportunities.</p> <p>Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Julie P. Vaneiges, Assistant Professor</li> <li>Jacob Chel, Southwest Assistant Registrar</li> </ul> </p>

Ever wondered how to protect your Intellectual Property (IP)? (Patent · Copyright · Trademark · Trade Secret)

Join us for the USPTO PTRC Grand Opening and gain insights from experts on how to safeguard your innovations!

- Access free IP resources from UTRGV Library
- Learn to monetize and sell your ideas
- Hear from experts
- Enjoy **free lunch** & networking

**RGV-STARTUP WEEK!**

**USPTO Patent & Trademark Resource Center**

**GRAND OPENING**

**May 1st | Mission**  
CEED, 801 N Bryan Rd, Mission, TX 78572  
10 AM – 2 PM

**May 2nd | Brownsville**  
eBridge 1304 E Adams St, Brownsville, TX 78520  
10 AM – 2 PM

Learn more and RSVP at: [UTRGV.edu/ptrc](https://utrgv.edu/ptrc)

Grand Opening Event  
Agenda & Flyer

The ribbon-cuttings for the centers were part of [RGV Startup Week](#), held from April 25 to May 2.



I sincerely thank the UTRGV News and Media Relations team for granting permission to use text and photos from their article, [“UTRGV libraries designated as national Patent and Trademark Resource Centers,”](#) published on July 16, 2025, in this poster. I also extend my gratitude to the UTRGV Division of Research for allowing me to incorporate content from the [Patent and Trademark Resource Center \(PTRC\)](#) webpage in this poster.