
Through national reports, it has been made evident that libraries already play an important role in connecting their communities. This article highlights some of the most common and easily implemented ways for these libraries to demonstrate their value.


Based on the long running survey of public library funding and technology access Study, this report offers data and tools to assist libraries in telling the story of the need for broadband access in libraries.


In planning for broadband capacity, there are several factors outside of the number of computers that will be connected to the Internet that need to be considered. The author guides libraries through some common considerations necessary to effectively evaluate and utilize broadband.


Tools for determining actual connectivity needs for libraries are provided. The author guides the reader through the steps needed when preparing a capacity plan.


From Overview from publisher: This wide ranging volume, edited by the authors of several national studies tracking the use and involvement of public libraries with the Internet since 1994, offers both description and assessment. It discusses the ways in which the roles and services of public libraries have changed as a result of the Internet and offers a perspective on the meaning and impact of these changes. Perhaps most critically, it also suggests possible futures and opportunities as public libraries continue to evolve in this networked environment.


Studies from four years ago show there is an increasing demand on public library Internet connectivity. "There appears to be a growing tension between the workstations and connectivity that libraries can provide and the workstations and
connectivity that patrons, communities, and governments demand from libraries.”


From Library Journal: This book provides a comprehensive wealth of information for libraries in need of creating or updating a technology plan. Whether your goal is to introduce an integrated library system (ILS) or transfer from an existing system to a new one, Cohn and Kelsey make clear the strategic planning process involved and provide the tools needed to create a plan, including how to meet funding requirements, implement the plan, and evaluate its success.


The Federal Communication Commission explains Broadband technologies and typical speeds. “Be aware that the actual transmission speeds you experience depend on many factors and may be less than the maximum potential speed stated by your provider.”


In addition to covering traditional library-Internet topics, like ensuring the stability and usefulness of E-rate, the plan calls for the establishment of a National Digital Literacy Corps—an avenue that libraries have travelled along for decades. “Goal No. 4: Every American community should have affordable access to at least 1 gigabit per second broadband service to anchor institutions such as schools, hospitals and government buildings.”


From Overview from the publisher: Libraries have existed for millennia, but today the library field is searching for solid footing in an increasingly fragmented (and increasingly digital) information environment. What is librarianship when it is unmoored from cataloging, books, buildings, and committees? In The Atlas of New Librarianship, R. David Lankes offers a guide to this new landscape for practitioners. He describes a new librarianship based not on books and artifacts but on knowledge and learning; and he suggests a new mission for librarians: to improve society through facilitating knowledge creation in their communities. The vision for a new librarianship must go beyond finding library-related uses for information technology and the Internet; it must provide a durable foundation for the field.


Includes an "Early Adopter Index" and some correlations between early adopter libraries and the usage of library services.

In an article for other government officials, the authors demonstrate the importance of ensuring public libraries have the appropriate level of connectivity. "U.S. public libraries fill the role of providing free public internet services, but require quality, high-speed broadband internet connections to continue meeting public demands. These libraries cannot add workstations without increased funding, staff, training, physical space, infrastructure, technology, and bandwidth."


A very timely chapter about the usefulness of public library broadband access during times of disaster and emergency, the authors argue that the current levels of connectivity are insufficient to continue to fulfill this need.


The authors evaluate 3 years worth of Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study and reveal some of the trends revealed from this long-running study.


From overview from the publisher: According to experts Charles McClure and Paul Jaeger, the Internet has had more impact on public libraries than any other technology since the creation of the book. It may not alter the fundamental nature of the public library, but there is no question that the Internet is changing the roles and expectations of public libraries.


Includes information about the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grants and the National Broadband Mapping program.

Windhausen, J., Jr. and M. Visser (2009). Fiber to the Library; how public libraries can benefit from using fiber optics for their broadband Internet connections, American Library Association, Office for Information Technology Policy.

Policy Brief takes specific library Internet connectivity needs into account. "It is also important to emphasize that the leasing of fiber from a municipality is not eligible for E-rate discounts."