

# American Library Association

## Washington Office Newsline

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### ***New Study: Today's Public Libraries Are Thriving Technology Hubs That Millions Rely on for First or Only Choice for Internet Access***

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A national report released yesterday -- titled **Public Libraries and the Internet 2006** -- revealed that 99 percent of all U.S. public libraries provide free public access to computers wired to the Internet, compared to 25 percent 10 years ago. Librarians overwhelmingly (71 percent) report that the most important impact of this service is providing Internet access to those who otherwise would not have it. This is the first time that impact has been quantified on a national scale.

The report also revealed that despite increased demand for library computers, libraries typically have not seen a corresponding increase in budgets and many are challenged to provide enough computers or fast-enough connection speeds to meet demand.

The study was conducted by the Information Use Management and Policy Institute at Florida State University (FSU) and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the American Library Association.

To read the study, please download [here](#) (PDF) or visit the [Office for Information Technology](#).



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