

By the Numbers

One-third of all Americans—100 million people—have not adopted broadband high-speed Internet at home.

- More than 80% of Fortune 500 companies today require online job applications.
- Students with broadband at home have a 7% higher high school graduation rate.
- Consumers with broadband at home can save more than \$7,000 a year



Adults use computers in the Internet Cafe at the San José Public Library's Cambrian Branch.

Benefits of Connecting Libraries with National Broadband Initiatives

During the past year, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced major commitments from the private sector, foundations, and individuals to work with Connect2Compete (C2C), a national nonprofit organization with an ambitious goal to “harness digital opportunity for all Americans.” IMLS is working with C2C, OCLC's WebJunction, and state libraries in Illinois, Mississippi, and West Virginia to identify model approaches for partnerships with libraries to meet public demand for training.

To advance the broadband adoption goals of the National Broadband Plan, IMLS worked with the University of Washington Information School and the International City/County Management Association to produce *Building Digital Communities: A Framework for Action*, published January 2012. The report helps communities set a vision for the future and identifies principles that define digital communities, goals to make digital communities a reality, and sample strategies for achieving the goals. IMLS is working to develop tools to help communities plan for digital inclusion.

Recent IMLS Grant Activities

Research to:

- evaluate the connections between free voluntary reading in public library summer reading programs for youth and the development of information literacy skills
- analyze data for more than 23,000 adult users of the IMLS-funded Learner Web, a learning support system for adults, which helps them accomplish specific personal goals such as earning a General Equivalency Diploma, improving English language abilities, or increasing digital literacy skills

Training to:

- help libraries use evidence-based practice to meet the learning needs of hard-to-serve populations
- help more individuals cross the digital divide, use broadband services, and participate in an increasingly digital world
- teach digital literacy to K-12 students, faculty, and staff and other community members
- better serve pre-K-12 students with disabilities

Access to:

- improve cultural and language services, including digital recordings in the native languages and computer stations for digital research
- reach youths with read-a-thons, preschool story time with a focus on pre-literacy skills, pillows and PJ's movie nights, a creative writing club, and digital literacy classes
- keep up with new technology, including new eReaders and eBooks for public libraries

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Through grant making, policy development, and research, we help communities and individuals thrive through broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning. To learn more about IMLS, please visit www.imls.gov.