

U.S.
IMPACT



A research initiative examining the impact of free access to computers and the Internet in public libraries. <http://tascha.washington.edu/usimpact>

March 31, 2010

Susan Hildreth, City Librarian
Seattle Public Library
1000 4th Ave
Seattle, WA 98104-1109

Re: U.S. IMPACT Studies web survey report

Dear Susan Hildreth:

Thank you for helping the University of Washington conduct the U.S. IMPACT Studies web survey last year. The attached report compiles your patrons' responses to the survey. We are very pleased to share these findings and hope that you will find them useful in your efforts to communicate how your library's technology services benefit your community.

According to survey results, patrons primarily use the library's computers and Internet access for employment and social inclusion activities. Based on the overall findings from the national surveys, we estimate that 145,930 people used computers and the Internet at the Seattle Public Library in the past year.¹ As a result, 33 survey respondents reported that they had found new jobs, 103 changed wellness activities, and 69 submitted forms online. We encourage you to share these results with key decision makers and the public in your community. Doing so will help them better understand the value of the library and its services.

To help you use the results of this report in your community outreach activities, we have created an online toolbox (<http://tascha.washington.edu/usimpact/toolbox>) with some sample communication tools. The toolbox includes:

- Press release template: This release can be used to announce your library's participation in the research and to communicate local results to the public and others through the media. It can be customized with data from your library report and quotes from patrons.
- Sample letter to the editor: This sample can be tailored for local newspapers to advocate for support of public access technology. Ideally, a library board member or active patron would write the letter.

¹ Actual use of library computers may vary by library depending on the community make up.

- Drop-in article: This article template, focused on reporting the results of the U.S. IMPACT Studies and findings from your library, can be tailored for library newsletters or in-library informational bulletins.
- PowerPoint presentation: This short presentation can be used to communicate the value of public access technology to library boards, policy makers, and funders.

The full report on the national study, published by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), is available on the study website at <http://tascha.washington.edu/usimpact>.

We hope that the study results, both at a national level and for your own library, will help you to raise awareness within your community of the tremendous value that you provide by offering free, quality access to computers and the Internet. Thank you again for making this study possible.

Sincerely,

Samantha Becker, MLIS, MPA
Research Manager
206-616-2841
srbecker@uw.edu

University of Washington
The Information School
Roosevelt Commons Building
Box 354985
4311 11th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98105

<http://tascha.washington.edu/usimpact/>

March 31, 2010

Dear Library Leader,

Thank you for participating in the U.S. Impact Studies initiative. You and your library patrons contributed to a groundbreaking effort, designed to gather patron-level data on library use nationwide. Over 400 libraries across the country participated and over 45,000 library patrons completed surveys.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services supported this initiative as part of our larger efforts to learn about and share the impact of technology services in public libraries. According to survey results:

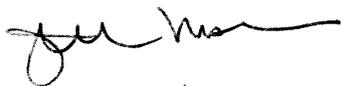
- Nearly one-third of Americans age 14 or older have accessed computers and the Internet at public libraries. Usage is even higher for lower income populations.
- People use technology services at libraries for many purposes. Forty percent of survey respondents used computers and the Internet for employment-related activities and 42% for educational endeavors. Other usage categories included: health and wellness, eGovernment and legal matters, civic engagement, and social networking.
- Technology services at libraries improve people's lives. Patrons designed resumes and filled out job applications; launched small businesses; applied for government programs and financial aid; found legal assistance; completed homework assignments; and connected with others.

Unfortunately, decision makers and other community leaders remain largely unaware of the impact of high-speed broadband access at libraries. If libraries are to remain engines of opportunity in the Internet age, new partners, community leaders, and local governments must step up to support libraries alongside other critical, local services that help strengthen our communities.

We encourage you to use these survey results and the overall findings from the study to educate your elected officials, influencers, and community. Doing so will help you build a robust "ecosystem" of library support, capable of sustaining library funding during these challenging economic times and beyond.

Fondly,

Jill Nishi



Deputy Director, U.S. Libraries
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Marsha Semmel



Acting Director
Institute of Museum and Library Services

U.S. IMPACT Studies Web Survey Results

Seattle Public Library

February, 2010

The U.S. IMPACT Studies

A research initiative examining the impact of free access to computers and the Internet in public libraries.

Principal Authors

Samantha Becker
Michael D. Crandall
Karen E. Fisher

Web survey report preparation

Rebecca Blakewood
Christine Lee
Alice Tsoi

Foreword

Thank you for participating in the U.S. IMPACT web survey! From March through June, 2009, over 400 public libraries across the United States participated in the web survey, with a result of over 45,000 completed responses from library patrons and public access computing users. The data have provided rich and valuable insights about how library patrons use public access computers, wireless Internet connections, and other related library resources and services and the impact it has on their lives. The following is a report of the results we gathered from patrons of the Seattle Public Library. We hope you will find this information useful for internal decision-making, demonstrating the value of offering such services to stakeholders and elected officials, and for advocacy efforts with the public.

The implementation of the U.S. IMPACT web survey was the first time public libraries were enlisted in a nationwide effort to gather patron-level data. We are grateful to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services for their support of this effort. We also greatly appreciate your library's participation in this study, and hope that you find this report helpful as you continue your library advocacy efforts in your community. We invite you to learn about the overall research findings in the project reports: *The Users and Uses of Public Access Technology in Public Libraries* and *Creating Value with Public Access Technology: How Library Policies and Services Affect Patron Outcomes*.

Sincerely,

Karen E. Fisher, Ph.D.
Professor
fisher@uw.edu

Michael Crandall, MLIS
Senior Lecturer & Chair, Master of Science in Information Management Program
mikecran@uw.edu

Samantha Becker, MLIS, MPA
Research Manager
srbecker@uw.edu

University of Washington
The Information School
Box 352840
Mary Gates Hall, Ste 370
Seattle, WA 98195-2840
Phone: (206) 685-9937
Fax:(206) 616-3152

<http://tascha.uw.edu/usimpact>

About this report

The U.S. IMPACT Studies research project and associated survey instruments were designed around a *situated logic model* which contextualizes public access computing (PAC) resources and services within seven domains: civic engagement, eGovernment, education, health, employment and entrepreneurship, eCommerce, and social inclusion. In this framework, the inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes associated with public access computing are connected with broad-level public policy goals. An example of this connection is illustrated in Figure 1, where measures related to using PAC for job-seeking are linked to workforce development goals.

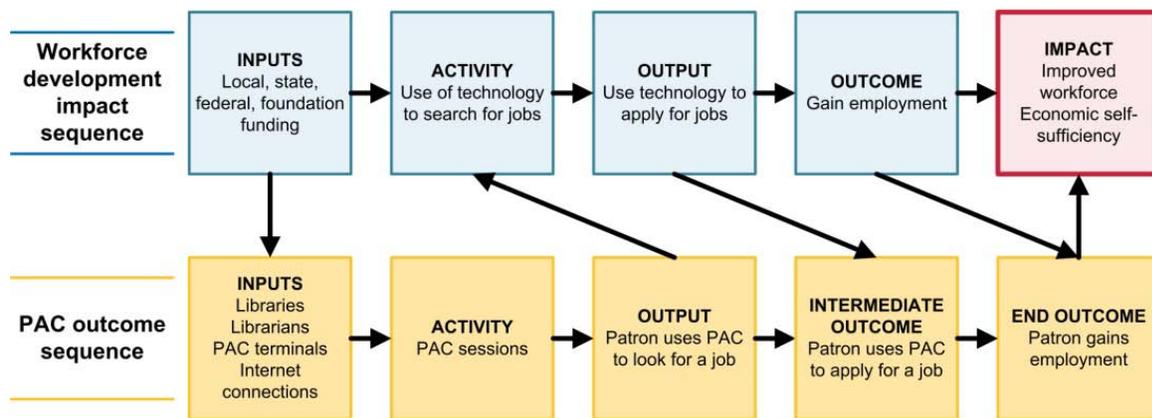


Figure 1: A sample situated logic model

The situated logic model is a useful tool for libraries to evaluate how the library’s computing resources are being used and also to show policy makers and funders how computing and networking resources and services contribute to public policy goals. The data in this report can be used to understand the types of activities library patrons engage in with public computers and the outcomes of that use. It can also be used over time to track how changes in resources, services, and policies affect outcomes and can help focus the library’s resources on carrying out those activities with high value in the library’s community.

The web survey was conducted in public library systems selected using a stratified probability proportionate to size (PPS) sampling procedure, with the measure of size being the population of the library service area (LSA) as reported in the 2006 *Public Libraries Data Files*. The probability proportionate to size sample was necessary to ensure that the survey was deployed in communities with populations large enough to yield the target number of completed surveys. The sample stratified these libraries between self-representing libraries¹, single-outlet systems, and multiple-outlet systems, and an oversample of libraries serving fewer than 5,000.

¹ The self-representing strata threshold equals 75 percent of the sum of the legal service area populations divided by 580 library systems (number of sampled libraries not including the small library over-sample).

The following results are from patrons of the Seattle Public Library; while they are not generalizable to the library's service population, they can be used to understand the ways in which patrons are using PAC in the library. Appendix A contains tables reporting the national weighted averages as well as the actual (unweighted) results from other libraries participating in the web survey; these results are organized by library size to aid in comparisons between peer libraries.

The U.S. IMPACT Studies website contains additional tools and suggestions for using the information contained in this report and to communicate with the public, policymakers, and funders about the value of PAC resources and services, including examples of how the data might be used in presentations to policymakers, samples of factsheets that could be used for generating financial support for PAC resources, and short summaries of benefits of PAC in specific domains that could be used to gain support from sector-specific agencies. Please visit <http://tascha.uw.edu/usimpact> to download these materials.

Overall results

We received 638 completed survey responses from patrons of the Seattle Public Library. Figure 2 shows the concentration of responses by the ZIP codes reported by survey respondents.

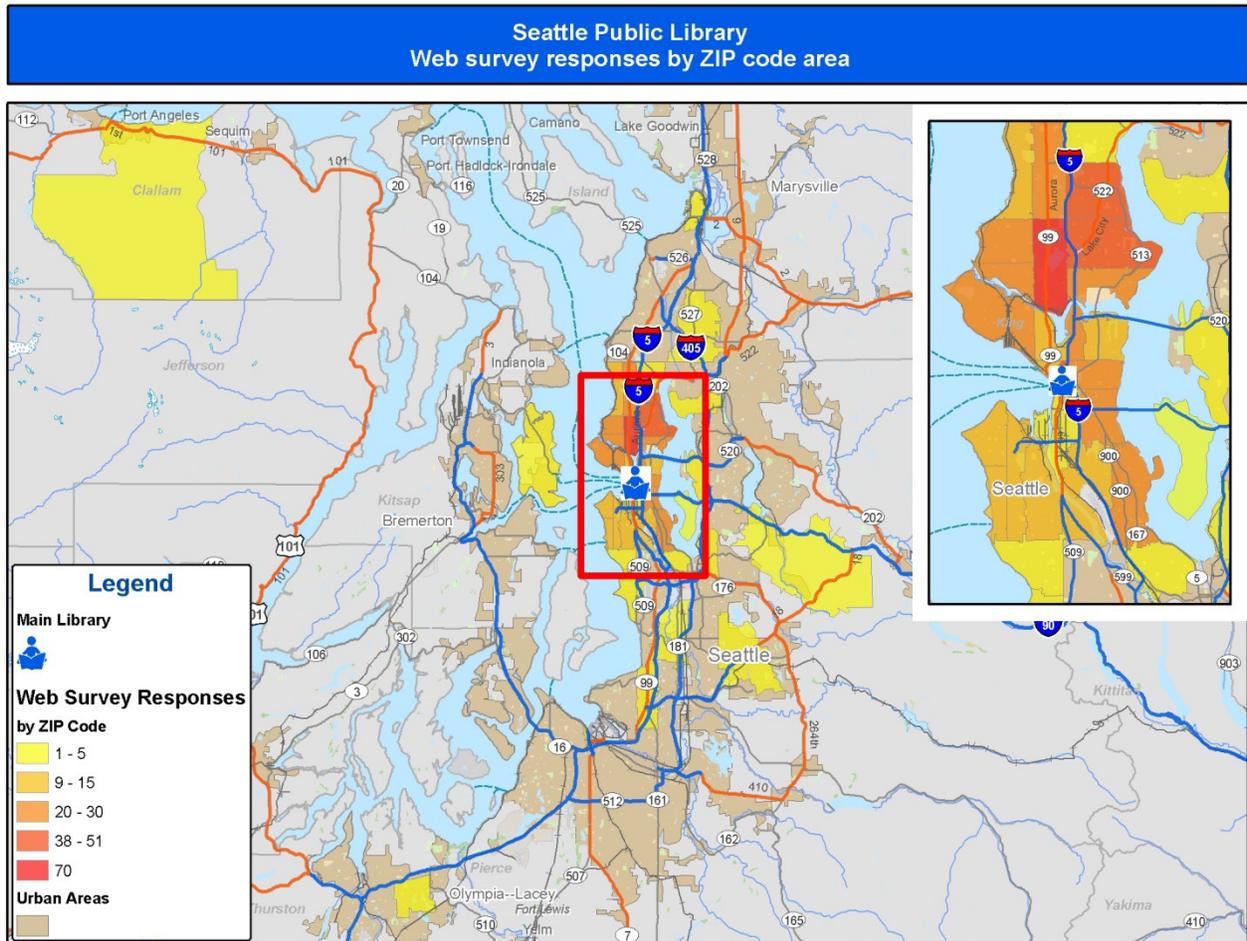


Figure 2: ZIP codes of web survey respondents

Library use

All but 5 survey respondents had visited the library in the past 12 months. Of those who did,

- 443 (70%) visited the library once a week or more frequently;
- 162 (26%) visited the library about 1-3 times a month;
- 28 (4%) visited the library less than once a month.

Accessing library resources through the library website

Survey respondents were asked how they access library resources available through the library website. About **90% (577) of respondents used computers in the library to access online resources** such as the

catalog, placing holds or interlibrary loan requests, or to access the library's subscription databases. Of those who reported using library computers for these purposes,

- 237 (41%) did so once a week or more frequently;
- 158 (27%) did so about 1-3 times a month;
- 182 (32%) did so less than once a month.

Over **86% (550) of respondents accessed library resources remotely through the library's website from outside the library** (e.g. from home, school, or work). Of those who accessed library resources this way

- 73% (403) did so once a week or more frequently;
- 16% (86) did so about 1-3 times a month;
- 11% (61) did so less than once a month.

Finally, 14% (87) reported they had used a handheld device such as an iPhone or Blackberry to access library resources through the library website.

Use of public access computers or wireless network

Overall, **81% of survey respondents had used a public access computer or wireless connection on their own computer to access the Internet**. Using either means of access qualified respondents as *public access technology users*.

When asked specifically if they had **used a computer in the library to access the Internet, 77% (490) reported that they had done so**, with frequencies as follows:

- 39% (189) once a week or more frequently;
- 19% (91) about 1-3 times a month;
- 43% (210) less than once a month.

Wireless use was less frequently reported: **40% (256) of respondents had used the library's wireless network on their own computers to access the Internet**. Of those who did,

- 23% (59) used the library's wireless network once a week or more frequently;
- 20% (50) used the library's wireless network about 1-3 times a month;
- 57% (147) used the library's wireless network less than once a month.

Most survey respondents (86%) reported having regular access to a computer and the Internet somewhere other than the library.² Of those with alternative access, the reported locations were as follows:

- 92% (503) at home;
- 51% (278) at work;

² Some respondents reported having access to computers and the Internet at more than one location.

- 10% (56) at school;
- 2% (12) at a community center;
- 8% (42) someplace else.

One important reason for using computers in the library when alternative access is available is while traveling. Of the users, **39% (200) reported that they had used a library computer or wireless Internet connection while out-of-town for business or pleasure.**

In addition to use while traveling, the U.S. IMPACT Studies main findings included several other important reasons why respondents with alternative access use networked computers in the public library:

- **Lack of access to high speed Internet at home.** The library Internet connection is used to download large files or access websites that require a high speed connection.
- **During gaps in access,** such as when moving to a new location or during power outages, or when a primary computer is broken or lacking in necessary software.
- **Household competition.** Especially among youth, competition with siblings or parents over a single household computer was a significant reason for using the library's computers when one was available at home.
- **For a change in scenery.** People who work at home sometimes use library computers and wireless Internet network to get out of the house. Job seekers also reported using computers in the library to maintain a normal schedule and stay connected to the community.
- **During lunch breaks or while out running errands.** Many users reported that they stop in to use the library's computers to check email, look up phone numbers or driving directions, or other quick tasks.
- **As a supplement to the library catalog** for such activities as looking up book reviews, reading lists, and other aids for selecting materials.

Help and training

Another reason why some patrons with alternative access use library computers may also have to do with help available at the library: **59% of PAC users reported having gotten technology help from library staff or volunteers.** As seen in Figure 3, of those receiving help, the most frequent types of help received were finding information on the library's website (35%) and using the computer equipment (41%).

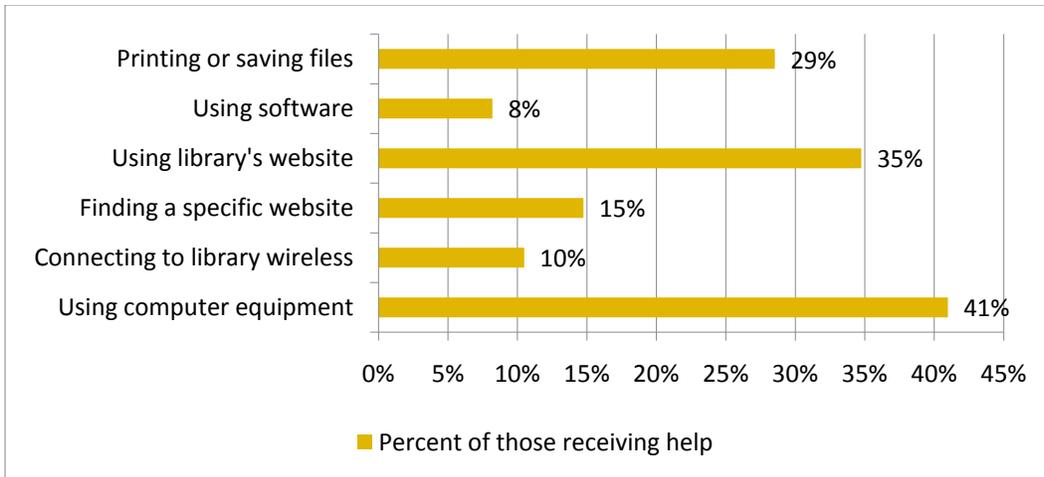


Figure 3: Type of help received from library staff or volunteers

Though not as frequently used as one-on-one help, **7% (37)** of public computer users took advantage of **computer-related training or classes at the library**. Note that this question was not asked of nonusers; the Seattle Public Library may have patrons who take computer-related training but otherwise do not use the library's computers.

Using the library's computers on behalf of others

While many people used computer services in the library primarily for themselves, **60% (307)** of users **find information or perform tasks for other people using library computers**. Thus the beneficiaries of library Internet access extend beyond that of the individual users. As seen in Figure 4, of users reporting using the library computers on behalf of others, the most frequent beneficiaries were family members (63%), followed by friends (55%).

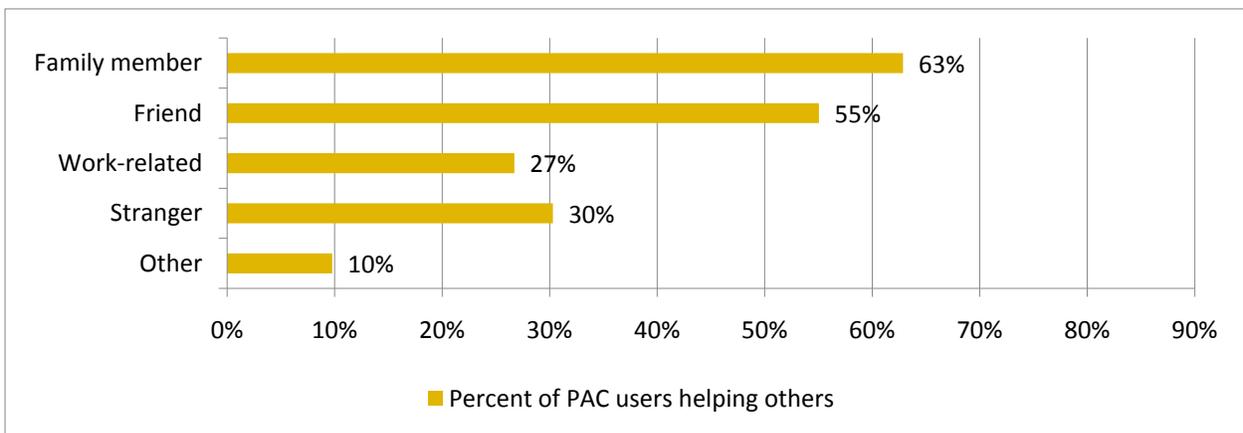


Figure 4: Relationship of those receiving help to computer user

Public access technology uses by activity area

Public access technology users use library computers and wireless Internet connections to satisfy their information needs and do tasks in a variety of areas. We chose seven specific activity areas as the focus of the U.S. IMPACT Studies research initiative based on their relevance to public policy and public library goals: civic engagement, eGovernment, education, health, employment and entrepreneurship, eCommerce, and social inclusion. **The following detailed results reflect the activities of qualified public access technology users, defined as those respondents who indicated they had used the library’s computers or wireless networks to access the Internet in the past year.**

As seen in Figure 5, library computer users from the Seattle Public Library showed the most activity in the areas of social inclusion, civic engagement, and employment.

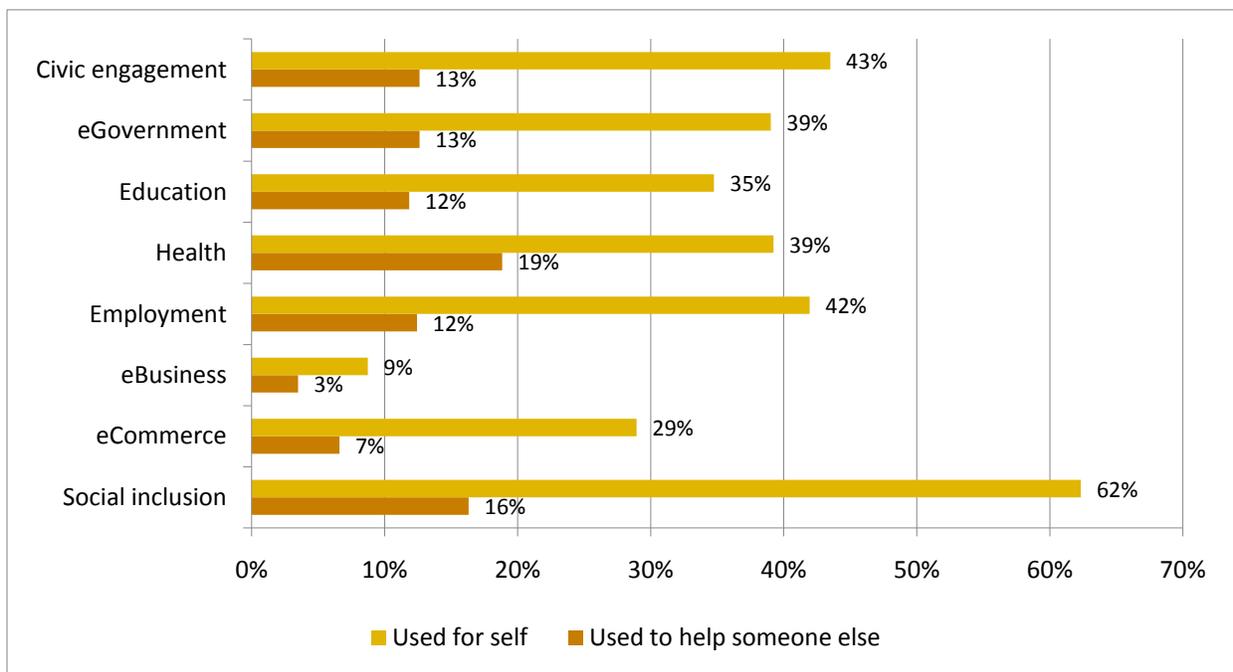


Figure 5: Public computer use by area for self and others

Civic engagement

Public libraries provide a venue for citizens to engage with their community by keeping track of local events, local causes and political candidates, and clubs and nonprofits in the area. Of the 224 users who reported they had used the Internet for civic engagement, the most frequently reported uses were to keep up with news and current events through news websites and to learn about social causes or political activity or candidates (Table 1). In comments, many respondents who use the Internet for accessing news websites reported that they were doing so to keep up with international or hometown news.

Table 1: Civic Engagement

Used library computers to:	% of users	n
Keep up with news/current events	38%	196
Learn about political activity/candidate or social cause	36%	183
Get involved with political activity, candidate, or cause	25%	131
Make a donation to political candidate/cause	5%	24
Learned about starting club/non-profit	4%	22
Started club/non-profit	2%	11
Organized/managed club, civic/community/church group, or non-profit	12%	64
Scheduled meetings	10%	54
Promoted activities	7%	38
Looked for grants/funding for group	2%	11
Applied for grants/funding	1%	5
Received grants/funding	1%	3

**Bolded rows indicate activities that show outcomes of other activities, i.e. users actually followed through on their earlier information seeking to accomplish a task.*

eGovernment

Libraries play a significant role in connecting citizens with essential eGovernment services, such as filing tax returns, applying for Medicare or other benefits, and getting immigration forms. In emergencies, public libraries play a role helping the community find missing family, request aid, or file FEMA and insurance claims.

As seen in Table 2, the most frequent use in the eGovernment area was to get government forms (26% of computer users), followed by learning about laws or regulations (25%), learning about government programs and services such as Social Security or unemployment benefits (23%), and seeking help from a government agency (22%).

Table 2: eGovernment

Used library computers to:	% of users	n
Seek help from government agency	22%	114
Got help needed	21%	106
Get government forms	26%	135
Submit forms online	13%	69
Learn about laws/regulations	25%	128
Learn about permits/licenses	19%	99
Apply for permit/license	5%	28
Seek legal assistance/advice	13%	69
Got legal help needed	11%	55
Learn about government programs/services	23%	117
Apply for government programs/services	6%	31

Education

Children, teenagers, and adults all benefit from educational services offered at the library, not just by having Internet access for class research, but also by participating in online classes, finding resources for homeschooling, and learning through educational games. From early literacy programs, homework help, and information on college admission, the library offers many educational opportunities to the community. Overall, 35% of the library computer users indicated they had used public library computers or Internet access for education or learning and 12% had done so on behalf of someone else.

Youth education

The U.S. IMPACT Studies web survey collected responses from youth aged 14-18. **The most frequent youth educational use of public access technology was to do homework, with 69% of youth users reporting having used the library's computers for this purpose** (Table 3).

Table 3: Youth education

Youth used library computers to:	% of youth users	n
Do homework	69%	11
Do online assignment/course	19%	3
Learn about colleges/admissions	19%	3
Apply for college	6%	1
Apply for financial aid	6%	1

Adult education

The most frequent (15% of adult users) educational use of library computers reported among adult users was to learn about degree or certificate programs. Of those looking for this type of information,

the most common programs were at the professional (56%) and graduate (45%) levels; 3% used their library’s computers to apply for a degree or certificate program. About 8% of adult computer users also indicated that they had used public library computers or Internet access to do coursework or online tutorials (Table 4).

Table 4: Adult education

Adults used library computers to:	% of adult users	n
Learn about degree/certificate program	15%	75
Apply for degree/certificate program	3%	17
Admitted to program	2%	10
Apply for financial aid	5%	25
Received financial aid	2%	10
Do online tutorial	10%	51
Take online class/workshop	6%	32
Complete coursework	8%	40
Communicate with school or classmates	7%	35

Health

Increasingly, information about health care providers and medical records is provided online. Survey respondents reported using the library Internet to research illnesses, insurance and health care providers, and online medical records. Meeting health-related information needs was the fourth most common use of library computers in the Seattle Public Library, with 39% of the users indicating they had used a public library computer or wireless Internet connection for this purpose.

The most frequent (35%) use of library computers for health and wellness needs was to learn about an illness, disease, or medical condition (Table 5). The second most frequent (25%) health-related use reported by computer users was to learn about diet or nutrition. **20% of all library computer users, or 81% of those who learned about diet or nutrition using computers in the library, reported that this use helped them decide to make a change to their diets.**

Table 5: Health and wellness

Used library computers to:	% of users	n
Learn about illness, disease, or medical condition	35%	181
Learn about medical procedure	22%	112
Find online/in-person support groups for health need	7%	35
Learn about prescription/OTC drugs	21%	108
Made decision about prescription/OTC drug use	14%	72
Purchased drugs online	5%	28
Find out about diet/nutrition	25%	127
Made decision about diet changes	20%	103
Learn about exercise/fitness	21%	107
Made changes in exercise habits	17%	89
Find info about doctor/health care provider	19%	99
Made appointment	10%	52
Received needed care	10%	49
Find info on health insurance/drug discount program	14%	72
Bought insurance/enrolled in drug discount program	8%	40

Employment & entrepreneurship

The public library plays a vital role for job seekers, from giving them Internet access to find online job postings and fill out online applications, to helping write cover letters and resumes. With the national unemployment rate at 9.5% (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2009), many libraries have anecdotally reported an increase in the networked library computers for job searches. 42% of the computer users at Seattle Public Library reported they had used these resources for employment or career purposes in the past 12 months. **The most frequent (33% of library computer users) use of library computing resources for employment purposes was to search for a job or career opportunity**, followed by researching job related information (Table 6). **Of users who used library computers to search for a job opportunity 38% were granted an interview and 19%, or 33 Seattle Public Library survey respondents, were actually hired for a new position.**

Table 6: Employment

Used library computers to:	% of users	n
Look for job	33%	172
Apply for job/send out resume	22%	113
Got interview	13%	65
Got job	6%	33
Work on resume	22%	114
Receive skill-based training	9%	46
Research/find info related to job/profession	27%	141

In comments, many respondents also indicated they used computer access at libraries to do actual work for an existing job, either while away from the workplace on travel, or for self-employment needs like freelance writing, website design, and also as an alternative location for home-based offices.

Members of the community looking to start or maintain their own business also find valuable resources with the library’s computing services. From looking up a business plan to finding new clients and contracting opportunities, library Internet access is essential for these users. While using library computers and Internet connections to start or manage a business was the area with the least frequent use, with just 9% of library computer users using library resources for this purpose, use for this purpose did have significant outcomes (Table 7). **Of those respondents who used library computers for self-employment activities, 33% started a business and 44% (20) located potential customers.**

Table 7: Entrepreneurship

Used library computers to:	% of users	n
Started own business	3%	15
Wrote business plan	2%	12
Got loans/venture capital	1%	7
Apply for business license/permit	5%	25
Found potential customers	4%	20
Business increased	2%	8
Learned about government contract opportunities	1%	4
Applied for government contract	0%	2
Received government contract	0%	2

eCommerce

eCommerce activities include online banking, looking up investment information, and comparing product prices and reviews. Providing access to networked computers allows community members to research prices and reviews on products to gain information that would not be available to them

otherwise. Consumers connected to the Internet are able to use search tools at no charge to easily find and compare shopping information, leaving those without access to the Internet at a disadvantage when it comes to making informed purchasing decisions.

29% of Seattle Public Library users indicated that they used a public library computer or Internet connection for eCommerce purposes. The most common tasks were online banking (22%) and purchasing products and services (19%), although many patrons also took advantage of both library resources and information on the Internet to research products and services of all kinds (Table 8). Some people also looked up their credit ratings and strategies to reduce or manage debt. **Of those who used library technology resources to learn about getting out of debt, 74% indicated that as a result of this use, they were able to reduce or better manage their debt.**

Table 8: eCommerce

Activities and Outcomes	% of users	n
Online banking	22%	115
Paid bills	14%	74
Investment info	8%	40
Researched products/services	16%	83
Bought online	19%	100
Sold online	4%	23
Looked up credit rating	3%	18
Researched loans /refinancing	3%	17
Learn about getting out of debt	4%	19
Reduced/managed debt	3%	14

Social inclusion

Patrons use public access technology to keep in touch with family and friends, for social networking, and pursue hobbies. Social inclusion uses were the most frequently reported, with 62% of users reporting having used the library computers and Internet connection for a social purpose. The most common (49%) social use was to communicate with family and friends; 49% (124) of those using library technology for this purpose communicated with people living outside the United States. Figure 6 shows other social uses accomplished using library computers and Internet connections.

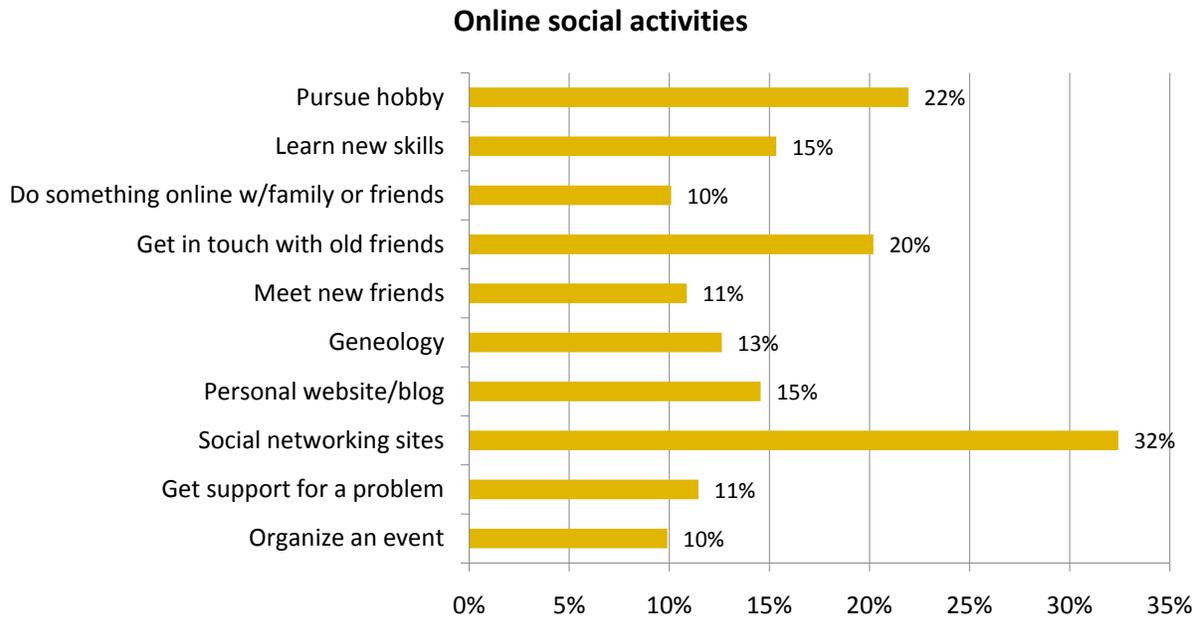


Figure 6: Social inclusion activities

Patron Satisfaction/Suggestions for Improvement

Respondents indicated their satisfaction levels with their access to public computing services. Of public computer users, **78%** said that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their library and access to public computing services.

Satisfaction with public access technology

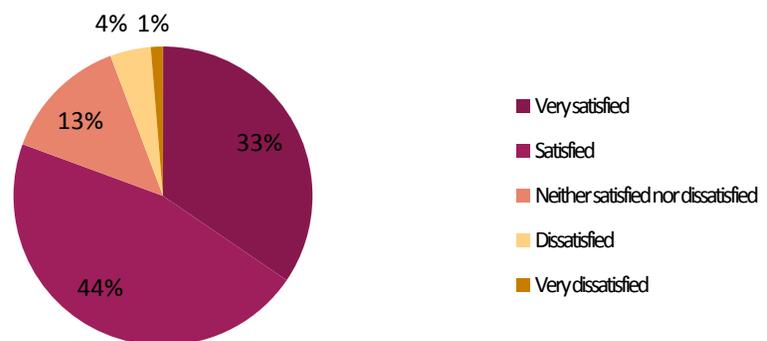


Figure 7: Patron satisfaction with PAC resources and services

Respondents were also given an opportunity to write-in suggestions for improving library computing services and resources; 288 computer users from the Seattle Public Library provided responses to this question. The most frequent recommendations for improvements are shown in Figure 8. In addition to

specific computer-related recommendations, 14 respondents suggested improving the system for reserving computers; 12 respondents wanted more sanitary conditions around the computers. 9 respondents suggested improving privacy, while 7 respondents recommended enforcing noise and behavior standards.

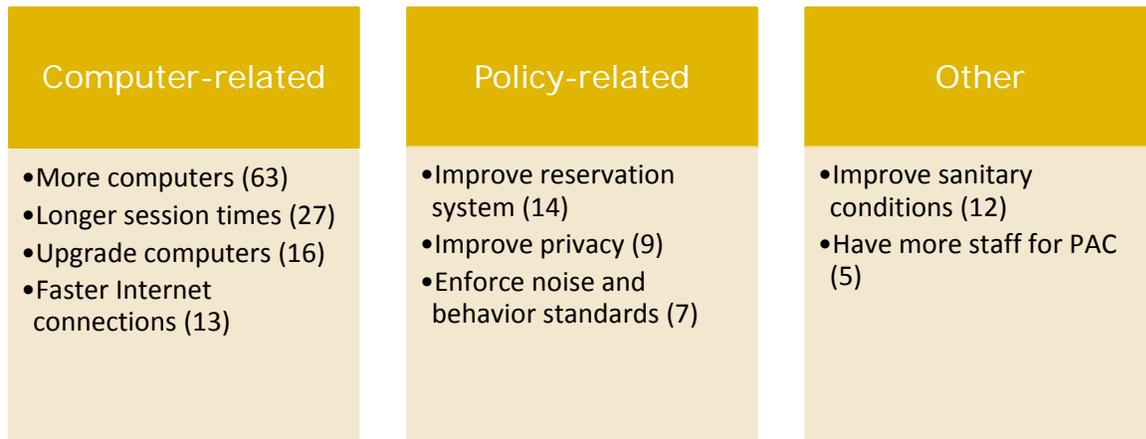


Figure 8: Suggestions for improvements to PAC resources and services

Importance of computer resources

We asked all respondents about the importance of free computer access for themselves and their community. 66% of respondents reported that public computing resources are important or very important to themselves, personally; however, even more (92%) felt that these resources are important or very important to have available for others in the community (Figure 9).

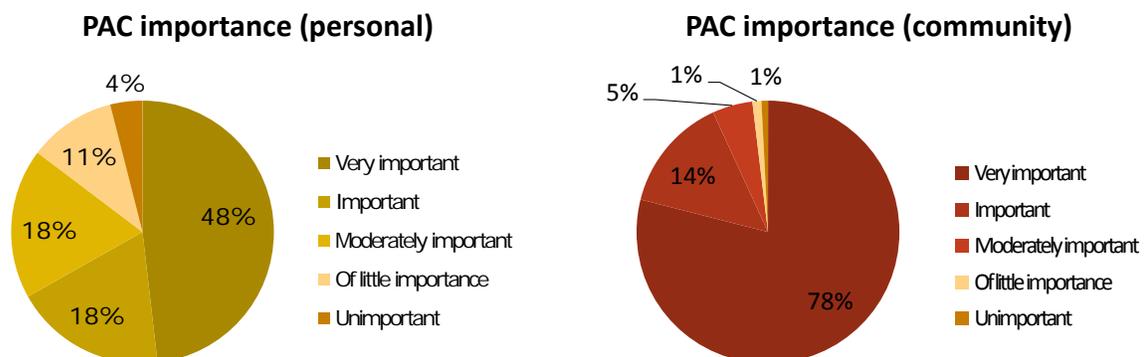


Figure 9: Responses to the importance of having public computers personally and for the community

Demographic Information

The following Figures 10-12 provide demographic information about survey respondents from the Seattle Public Library.



Figure 10 – Race and sex of respondents

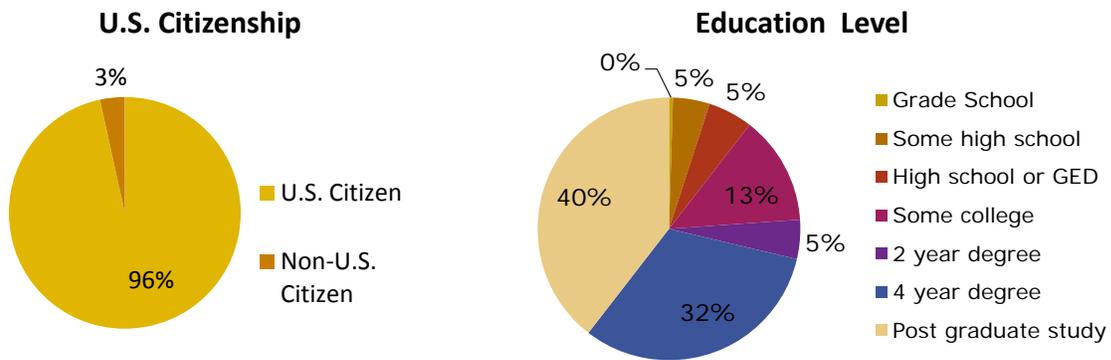


Figure 11 – Citizenship status and level of education attained among respondents

Income Level as Percentage of Poverty Threshold

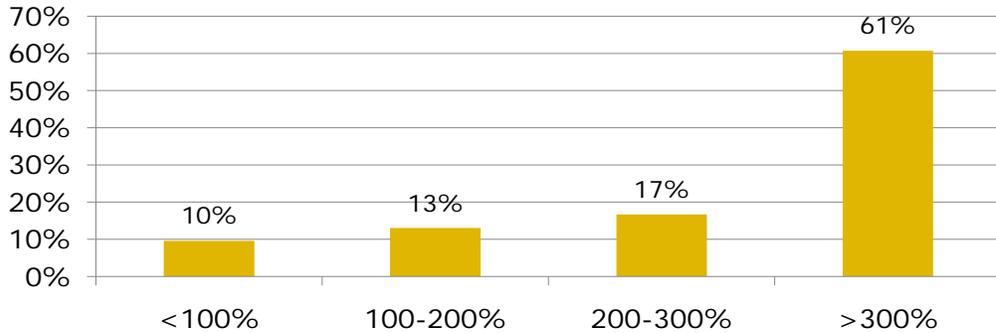


Figure 12 – Income level (calculated as a percentage of the National Poverty Threshold) among respondents

Conclusion

We hope that this report has given you useful information about your library and public computer users. Linking this information with higher level policy goals and current, relevant concerns in the library’s community will help demonstrate the value that the public library and free computing resources and services bring to your community. Suggestions for framing your advocacy efforts in a way that shows the value and political importance of the library’s services can be found on the U.S. IMPACT Studies website at <http://tascha.uw.edu/usimpact>.

Appendix A: Comparison of results of weighted population estimate to actual responses by library size

The following tables provide comparative data to aid in interpreting the results from your individualized library report. The weighted population estimates are from the national surveys and are representative of the U.S. population age 14 or older. The full report discussing these findings from the U.S. IMPACT Study, *Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access in U.S. Libraries*, can be found at: <http://tascha.washington.edu/usimpact/projects/us-public-library-study/>. The table also contains the average responses from libraries according to the strata used in drawing the sample of web survey participants. All responses represent use over the past 12 months.

Library characteristics					
		Libraries participating in web survey			
		Small libraries	Single outlet libraries	Multiple outlet libraries	Large libraries
Average population served		2,942	38,998	170,652	927,404
Average per capita expenditures		\$6.76	\$5.94	\$4.02	\$5.37
Average number of branches		0	0	7	24
Average number of public access computer terminals		6	26	106	527
Average number of completed surveys		11	33	82	313

Library and public access technology use					
	Weighted population estimate ¹	Percent of respondents from libraries participating in web survey			
		Small libraries	Single outlet libraries	Multiple outlet libraries	Large libraries
Visited library or bookmobile	69.2%	91.8	89.0	85.6	84.5
Used public library computer to access library resources	53.9%	80.2	73.2	69.2	65.4
Used handheld mobile device to access library resources	6.3%	8.5	4.2	7.5	7.6
Used Internet from outside the library to access library resources	65.0%	48.6	71.1	78.1	79.5
Used computer in public library to access Internet	29.5%	71.6	45.6	37.0	33.7
Used public library wireless Internet connection on own computer	11.6%	26.4	16.9	13.6	13.4
Used public library computer <u>or</u> wireless network to access the Internet	31.5%	89.0	74.9	71.4	69.1

¹ Percent of U.S. population age 14 or older

General public access technology use					
		Percent of users from libraries participating in web survey			
	Weighted user estimate ²	Small libraries	Single outlet libraries	Multiple outlet libraries	Large libraries
Have regular access to a computer and Internet somewhere other than public library	77.8%	59.9	82.8	86.0	88.7
Used PAC ³ while traveling	24.1%	15.2	13.5	10.4	10.1
Check or send email	72.4%	83.2	77.0	73.4	73.7
Participated in computer-related training or classes	13.7%	15.1	7.1	5.4	6.3
Helped by library staff or volunteers to use PAC	67.2%	58.2	37.9	28.1	28.3
Helped someone else	63.2%	56.7	33.3	27.0	26.9

Civic Engagement					
		Percent of users from libraries participating in web survey			
	Weighted user estimate	Small libraries	Single outlet libraries	Multiple outlet libraries	Large libraries
Civic engagement used for self	33.2%	36.5	36.6	34.6	33.9
Civic engagement helped someone else	13.3%	16.0	14.4	14.9	13.6
Keep up with news/current events	27.3%	31.2	31.1	28.8	28.4
Learn about political activity/candidate or social cause	26.9%	29.9	29.7	28.3	28.3
Got involved with political activity, candidate, or cause	20.1%	24.2	22.6	22.3	21.6
Make a donation to political candidate or cause	3.4%	4.0	3.3	3.5	3.9
Learned about starting club/non-profit	5.3%	4.5	4.2	5.0	5.3
Started club/non-profit	1.8%	0.8	1.5	1.5	1.7
Organized/managed club or non-profit group	8.3%	10.0	9.4	9.3	8.6
Scheduled meetings	6.3%	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.0
Promoted activities	5.6%	6.6	6.3	6.5	5.9
Looked for grants/funding for group	2.7%	3.4	2.6	3.4	3.2
Applied for grants/funding	1.6%	1.9	1.3	1.7	1.6
Received grants/funding	1.1%	1.5	1.1	1.0	0.9

² Percent of U.S. population that used a public access computer or wireless network to access the Internet

³ "PAC" encompasses library computers or wireless networks for access to the Internet

eGovernment					
		Percent of users from libraries participating in web survey			
	Weighted user estimate	Small libraries	Single outlet libraries	Multiple outlet libraries	Large libraries
eGov used for self	34.0%	39.7	38.0	37.1	36.3
eGov helped someone else	13.6%	18.1	15.7	16.5	14.8
Seek help from government agency	18.3%	22.1	19.4	19.1	20.5
Got help needed	15.2%	19.5	17.7	16.4	17.6
Get government forms	20.1%	26.1	22.7	23.4	23.2
Submit forms online	9.2%	13.4	8.8	10.8	10.9
Learn about laws/regulations	20.6%	22.3	21.8	21.8	21.8
Learn about permits/licenses	15.0%	17.6	14.8	15.6	16.1
Apply for permit/license	3.9%	5.3	3.9	4.3	4.0
Seek legal assistance/advice	13.2%	13.2	13.5	13.8	13.9
Got legal help needed	10.7%	11.5	11.3	11.4	11.6
Learn about government programs/services	19.4%	21.0	20.1	20.7	21.1
Apply for government programs or services	7.0%	7.2	5.9	6.5	7.1

Education					
		Percent of users from libraries participating in web survey			
	Weighted user estimate	Small libraries	Single outlet libraries	Multiple outlet libraries	Large libraries
Education used for self	42.3%	42.0	39.4	39.9	39.1
Education helped someone else	19.8%	19.8	18.7	21.0	18.7
Youth education					
Do homework	41.6%	48.3	41.3	44.9	42.8
Do online assignment/course	17.7%	13.8	17.4	16.2	20.3
Learn about colleges/admissions	18.0%	17.2	17.4	18.6	20.4
Apply for college	5.3%	10.3	7.6	7.8	7.7
Apply for financial aid	3.6%	6.9	5.4	5.4	4.4
Adult education					
Learn about degree/certificate program	15.4%	15.7	13.3	14.4	15.2
Apply for degree/certificate program	6.0%	6.2	3.9	4.9	4.9
Admitted to program	7.5%	6.8	4.9	5.5	6.2
Apply for financial aid	3.8%	4.0	2.6	2.9	3.4
Received financial aid	10.1%	11.9	10.8	11.2	10.7
Do online tutorial	9.1%	10.6	8.4	9.5	8.6
Take online class/workshop	11.3%	8.9	10.0	11.4	10.9
Complete coursework	10.7%	9.1	8.9	10.8	9.8

Health					
		Percent of users from libraries participating in web survey			
	Weighted user estimate	Small libraries	Single outlet libraries	Multiple outlet libraries	Large libraries
Health used for self	36.6%	48.6	45.5	42.6	39.4
Health helped someone else	20.6%	26.4	25.8	26.5	22.4
Learn about illness, disease, or medical condition	30.8%	40.6	37.5	36.0	33.4
Learn about medical procedure	19.7%	26.8	24.2	22.9	22.1
Find online/in-person support groups for health need	18.7%	23.8	23.8	23.0	21.5
Learn about prescription/OTC drugs	12.6%	17.0	16.1	14.9	14.0
Made decision about prescription or OTC drug use	3.4%	4.0	3.7	3.2	3.7
Purchased drugs online	22.1%	28.7	27.7	27.5	25.6
Find out about diet/nutrition	18.2%	23.4	23.4	22.8	21.2
Made decision about diet changes	17.8%	22.5	21.3	21.6	20.4
Learn about exercise/fitness	14.9%	20.0	18.0	18.1	17.3
Made changes in exercise habits	6.4%	7.6	6.9	6.2	6.9
Find info about doctor/health care provider	13.9%	16.8	18.8	16.8	17.5
Made appointment	6.8%	8.7	9.2	8.8	9.1
Received needed care	6.3%	8.7	8.8	8.2	8.3
Find info on health insurance/drug discount program	14.9%	8.1	7.5	7.1	7.0

Employment					
		Percent of users from libraries participating in web survey			
	Weighted user estimate	Small libraries	Single outlet libraries	Multiple outlet libraries	Large libraries
Employment used for self	39.9%	42.5	41.5	40.7	41.7
Employment helped someone else	14.8%	16.6	15.6	18.3	16.5
Look for job	30.6%	28.0	31.2	29.8	32.3
Apply for job/send out resume	20.6%	18.7	20.3	19.5	22.2
Got interview	9.9%	8.9	10.0	9.9	10.9
Got job	4.8%	5.1	4.7	4.8	5.2
Work on resume	18.7%	18.7	20.2	18.6	21.6
Receive skill-based training	9.3%	11.7	10.1	9.2	10.2
Research/find info related to job/profession	24.4%	23.8	26.9	25.1	27.7

Entrepreneurship					
		Percent of users from libraries participating in web survey			
	Weighted user estimate	Small libraries	Single outlet libraries	Multiple outlet libraries	Large libraries
Entrepreneurship used for self	7.0%	7.0	7.5	7.5	8.3
Entrepreneurship helped someone else	3.2%	2.8	2.7	3.6	3.5
Started own business	3.3%	3.0	2.8	2.6	3.5
Wrote business plan	2.3%	1.1	2.2	2.0	2.8
Got loans/venture capital	2.3%	1.3	1.7	1.6	2.3
Apply for business license/permit	3.1%	3.4	3.2	2.7	3.5
Found potential customers	3.5%	2.8	3.5	3.2	3.7
Business increased	1.7%	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.7
Learned about government contract opportunities	2.1%	1.7	1.4	1.5	2.1
Applied for government contract	.9%	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.7
Received government contract	.6%	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5

eCommerce					
		Percent of users from libraries participating in web survey			
	Weighted user estimate	Small libraries	Single outlet libraries	Multiple outlet libraries	Large libraries
eCommerce used for self	25.0%	35.0	30.7	31.0	29.2
eCommerce helped someone else	7.3%	8.7	8.5	9.4	7.9
Online banking	15.8%	22.5	19.4	20.6	19.7
Paid bills	12.8%	17.4	16.7	17.3	16.4
Investment info	5.7%	5.3	7.9	6.6	6.8
Researched products/services	12.4%	17.6	15.5	16.1	15.5
Bought online	13.5%	21.0	17.8	18.0	16.6
Sold online	3.1%	4.5	5.0	3.6	3.5
Looked up credit rating	4.2%	6.8	5.3	4.8	4.9
Researched loans /refinancing	2.6%	1.9	3.2	3.2	3.3
Learn about getting out of debt	3.7%	3.6	4.8	4.3	4.7
Reduced/managed debt	2.7%	3.0	3.7	3.1	3.5

Social engagement					
		Percent of users from libraries participating in web survey			
	Weighted user estimate	Small libraries	Single outlet libraries	Multiple outlet libraries	Large libraries
Social engagement used for self	60.1	65.4	60.6	57.0	55.3
Social engagement helped someone else	20.2	23.0	18.3	19.9	17.7
Used PAC to communicate with friends	44.7	53.3	48.2	43.9	42.5
Friends or family live in local community	29.1	27.0	31.2	28.5	28.2
Friends or family live outside the United States	15.3	14.6	14.5	13.1	14.7
Communicate to friends or family in languages other than English	8.1	5.5	6.3	4.4	6.6
Visit social networking site	29.4	29.7	29.1	26.5	25.4
Maintain personal website	13.0	11.0	11.8	11.3	11.3
Explore family genealogy	15.5	19.1	15.3	15.6	12.8
Meet new friends	13.7	12.5	10.2	8.7	9.6
Get in touch with old friends	18.2	22.3	18.4	16.2	15.9
Do something online with family or friends	12.9	13.8	11.8	11.4	10.6
Learn new skills	15.5	16.8	14.6	14.6	14.5
Pursue a hobby	19.9	18.5	18.5	19.1	17.8
Organize an event	6.4	7.9	7.4	7.0	6.9
Find support for a personal problem	10.2	10.8	10.9	10.6	10.4