

## **The State of Technology Access and Funding in U.S. Public Libraries: A National Study**

### **LITA National Forum**

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#### **Abstract**

Join staff from the ALA Office for Research & Statistics and the ALA Office for Information Technology Policy for a discussion of a multi-year study assessing Internet access and the impact of funding changes on connectivity and sustainability of computer services in public libraries. Plus, get an update on OITP's study assessing barriers to library connectivity.

At the end of this program, participants will understand how their library compares regionally and nationally in terms of connectivity. Participants also will develop strategies to address the barriers they face in providing true high-speed connectivity and will understand new advocacy strategies for helping key decisionmakers appreciate the impact of public access computing.

#### **Outline**

- Background on joint efforts of ALA Office for Research & Statistics and ALA Office for Information Technology Policy
- Background on Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study (PLFTAS) and ALA Capacity Planning project
- Key findings from 2007-2008 PLFTAS
- Trends over time in data collected through this survey instrument
- Key learnings from Regional Library Cooperatives and the Future of Broadband meeting and capacity planning meeting
- Discussion of strategies in development to address barriers to technology access
- Next steps on Capacity Planning project and related connectivity efforts

#### **Additional information**

Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study  
[www.ala.org/plinternetfunding](http://www.ala.org/plinternetfunding)

Regional Library Cooperatives and the Future of Broadband meeting  
[http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/oitp/2008\\_OITP%20RLCs%20Repor.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/oitp/2008_OITP%20RLCs%20Repor.pdf)