Gigabit Libraries and Beyond: Improving Broadband Access Worldwide

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ISLD-ALA Webinar

19 October 2021
Agenda

**Gigabit Libraries and beyond**
- Access to knowledge
- Role of Libraries

**Improving broadband access worldwide**
- Digital development
- Affordable and Meaningful connectivity
- Cost of exclusion
- Community Access
Information poverty is that situation in which individuals and communities, within a given context, do not have the requisite skills, abilities or material means to obtain efficient access to information, interpret it and apply it appropriately.
Access to knowledge

- Participation
- Economic empowerment
- Justice
- Freedom

Act and Action - Actor - Tool
Digital Development

Percentage of households with computer and/or Internet access at home, 2019*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Internet access</th>
<th>Computer access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>Urban - 72%</td>
<td>Urban - 63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural - 37%</td>
<td>Rural - 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab States</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia &amp; Pacific</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Americas</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of individuals using the Internet, 2019*

- Developed: 98%
- Developing: 66%
- LDCs: 44%
- LLDCs: 38%
- Small Island Developing States (SIDS): 52%
Digital Development

Percentage of female and male population using the Internet, 2019*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Female (%)</th>
<th>Male (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab States</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia &amp; Pacific</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Americas</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDCs</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLDCs</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIDS</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* ITU estimate. Source: ITU

Policy
Spectrum
Infrastructure
Costs
Access
Affordability
Devices
Content
Skills
Taxation
Affordable and Meaningful connectivity
Affordable and Meaningful connectivity

Meaningful connectivity

- Getting the right speed
- Having an appropriate device
- Connecting with enough data
- Using the Internet regularly
Cost of exclusion

- There is substantial gender gap
- Loss to the GDP
- Loss of productivity

**Figure A.** Cumulative cost of women's exclusion from internet use in 32 countries, 2011–2020

*Source: Alliance for Affordable Internet, 2021*
Role of Libraries and Librarians

**Advocacy**
- Broadband for libraries
- Rights and Justice
- Cost of exclusion

**Democratization**
- Knowledge Networks
- Freedom and choice
- Participation

**Capability-building**
- Skilling, reskilling and upskilling
- Livelihoods
- Productivity

**Bridging the divide**
- Free, meaningful, affordable access
- Inclusive and equitable access
- Community access
Libraries, as democratic institutions, have the ability to advocate, democratize, popularize and enhance affordable, meaningful and equitable access; build human capabilities; thus, transform societies and empower communities.
Thank You

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