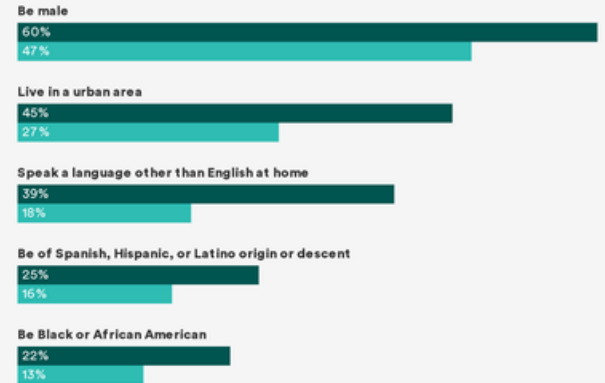


Digital literacy is the new financial literacy

Public Resources and Expanding Internet Access

In a world increasingly reliant on and influenced by the internet, access to it is essential for career and economic development. Many still lack access to the internet; however, public resources like libraries and schools are an excellent way to foster public access. That access leads to success in a technology-driven world.

In 2020, 15% of adults involved in a national survey stated that they lost internet access as a result of library closures during covid. This loss differed between demographics:



26%

Of adult library users used libraries to access the internet in 2016. That's about 23% of U.S. adults.

5%

More men than women globally have access to the internet. Public resources can help decrease this gap

10%

Increase in graduation rates at a school after a wifi program was introduced.

Public Resources

For many, public resources like schools and libraries are the only access point for the internet.

Furthermore, they provide information technology training including topics like general internet use, computer use, online searching, and software use.

Access is not enough: using technology requires training. Public resources are fantastic ways to expand not only access, but also digital literacy in a world increasingly reliant on technology.

Demographics that most rely on public resources for internet access correlate to those most in need of education on how to use technology.

Impact

As access to the internet becomes an increasingly essential part of career development and life in general, the question of how to provide access to the internet also becomes essential. Public libraries are an excellent source of free internet access and communities in the United States often rely on public libraries for that free access. **Areas with a substantial digital divide between different demographics could use public resources to decrease that divide.**

[American Library Association](#)

[Pew Research Center](#)

Manuela Agudo Catalan, El romanticismo en Aragón (1838-1854): literatura, prensa y sociedad

[Brookings](#)

[New America survey](#)

[Pew Research Center](#)

[UNICEF](#)