

Dear Chapter Relations Committee members and Chapter Leaders:

I wanted to thank the Chapter Relations Committee again for hosting me at their Monday meeting at Midwinter and giving me an opportunity to talk briefly about the Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study < [www.ala.org/plinternetfunding](http://www.ala.org/plinternetfunding) >. I took some questions and ideas away from the meeting that I wanted to address briefly:

- 1) Every state chapter should have received one free copy of “Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study 2006-07.” I heard from a few committee members that they either did not receive one or did not recall receiving one. Please email me at [lclark@ala.org](mailto:lclark@ala.org) if you did not receive a copy, and the ALA Office for Research & Statistics will work with Chapter Relations to correct this. If you would like additional copies, please visit the ALA Store, where we are selling the books on a cost-recovery basis (i.e., cheap!): <http://www.alastore.ala.org/>. Or, you can download the PDF for free at [www.ala.org/plinternetfunding](http://www.ala.org/plinternetfunding).
- 2) We overstocked postcards highlighting a few key data points from the national study and would be happy to ship quantities to states for use in legislative day or other state advocacy efforts. The postcard was created to deliver a clear message – libraries connect communities – and raise awareness of the great Internet services made available in our public libraries. You can preview the postcard online at <http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/plftas/composite-altered.pdf>. *Note:* The postcard is not customized to the state (although we’re looking at ways we can create templates for the future), but it makes a great companion piece for any state-specific materials you may be doing related to technology. We did, for the first time, include state-to-national comparisons for several data points in the 2006-07 study, and you can find these in the PDF, starting on page 77. We had enough state-level data to provide these profiles for 44 states and the District of Columbia. <http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/plftas/section1.pdf>
- 3) We are currently working on a few items I’d like to mention as “coming attractions.” Within the next two months, we’ll have an issues brief bringing together information and data specifically related to connectivity/telecommunications issues in public libraries. This will be the first in a series of short, topical reports related to technology and technology infrastructure issues in public libraries. These will be freely available online, and we welcome your feedback on how they can be made the most useful for your awareness and advocacy efforts. We also are working on the 2007-2008 final study report, which will be published in August. It will include information from the national online survey, a questionnaire to state library agencies and focus groups and site visits in New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Virginia.

As you all likely know, this study and findings from its previous incarnations as the Public Libraries and the Internet study have been used by the ALA and others to inform debates regarding support for the E-rate, public access to the Internet in libraries,

and other initiatives through Congressional testimony and advocacy efforts on behalf of libraries. We hope increased outreach efforts and new communications tools will make the data more immediately useful for state and local advocacy. We welcome your thoughts, ideas and feedback on how we can accomplish this goal.

We also are happy to present our findings and share tools at chapter conferences. Right now, we're scheduled to present at the Public Library Association Conference in Minneapolis (March 27 at 8:30 a.m.) and at the ALA Annual Conference (June 29 at 4 p.m.), if you'd like to learn more and get a preview.

Thanks again to all of you who have participated in and/or encouraged your members to participate in the study. We had a 79 percent response rate to the 2007-08 online survey and are excited about our ability to create a better understanding of the issues and needs our public libraries face in providing public computer and Internet access services and resources.

Warm regards,

Larra Clark  
Project Manager  
ALA Office for Research & Statistics  
800-545-2433 x2129