

# The Impact of E-Books On Libraries In Connecticut

## The Inside View

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# Always Evolving

- Libraries continuously respond to social and technological changes
- Goals and objectives of public libraries set by one generation are normally revised and altered by the next in light of these changing conditions
  - Libraries in CT started automating in 1977
  - Connecticut Library Information Network started in 1983



# Perception/Reality

- Libraries = BOOKS
  - Libraries = Free Books and Real Economic Value
- Libraries = More than Books
  - Services
    - Equity of Access
    - Government services/information
    - Literacy
    - Job Search Help
    - Technology skills training
  - Place



# What Libraries Are Not

- Libraries are not warehouses for dead books
  - But they still support long form reading and research
- Libraries are no longer houses for librarians
  - Who only help us find what we need but instead are producers, concierges, connectors, teachers and impresarios



# What Libraries Are (or should be)

Libraries are the local nerve center for information

“A place where people come together to do co-working and coordinate and invent projects worth working on together. Aided by a librarian who understands the Mesh, a librarian who can bring domain knowledge and people knowledge and access to information to bear.” Seth Godin



# eBook Challenge

- The historic library resource-sharing model, which fosters literacy and education, thus contributing to an informed and engaged citizenry, is at risk
- Libraries operate under the first sale doctrine
- Demand for libraries to loan eBooks is growing
- eBooks are licensed not sold
  - Limiting ability to lend



# Library Response

- Libraries are “licensing” eBooks
- Libraries are working with publishers to ensure equitable access to eBooks and eReaders
- Numerous task forces/studies underway
- Publishers struggling to understand the market



# Consumer Response

- eBook sales are growing
  - What does this mean?
- Print sales are declining
  - What does this mean?
- Big Box Book stores closing
  - What does this mean?
- Library use is increasing as is demand for ebooks
  - What does this mean?



# eBook Challenge for School Libraries

- Content
  - How can school libraries move to electronic content when their curriculum is not covered?
  - School libraries need access to mid-list and back-list content where electronic rights are often not covered by existing contracts
- Group access
  - the need for simultaneous use by a group of students in a classroom
  - Currently impossible to purchase multiple copies in many of the public-use ebookstores
  - Need a model to allow a school library to purchase classroom, or grade level, access to content at a reasonable cost
- Ease of use
  - Some of the current electronic content providers are known for having complex and convoluted checkout procedures that stress adults
  - Schools need a process that is easy enough for kindergarten students to understand
  - The browsing display must focus on the joy of the content and not the ISBN

# Digital Content - Beyond eBooks

- iCONN.org (statewide licensed databases)
- Connecticut History Online
- Digitization projects
  - Internet Archive
  - Ancestry.com
  - Flickr
- Downloadable Audio Books
- Online courses/study guides/tests



# New Opportunities

- Spend less time and resources curating book collections
  - Moving away from owning
- Repurpose library buildings as dynamic community and learning spaces
  - YOUmedia Center at the Chicago Public Library and soon to be at Harford Public Library
- Community Content Builder
- Online Branches

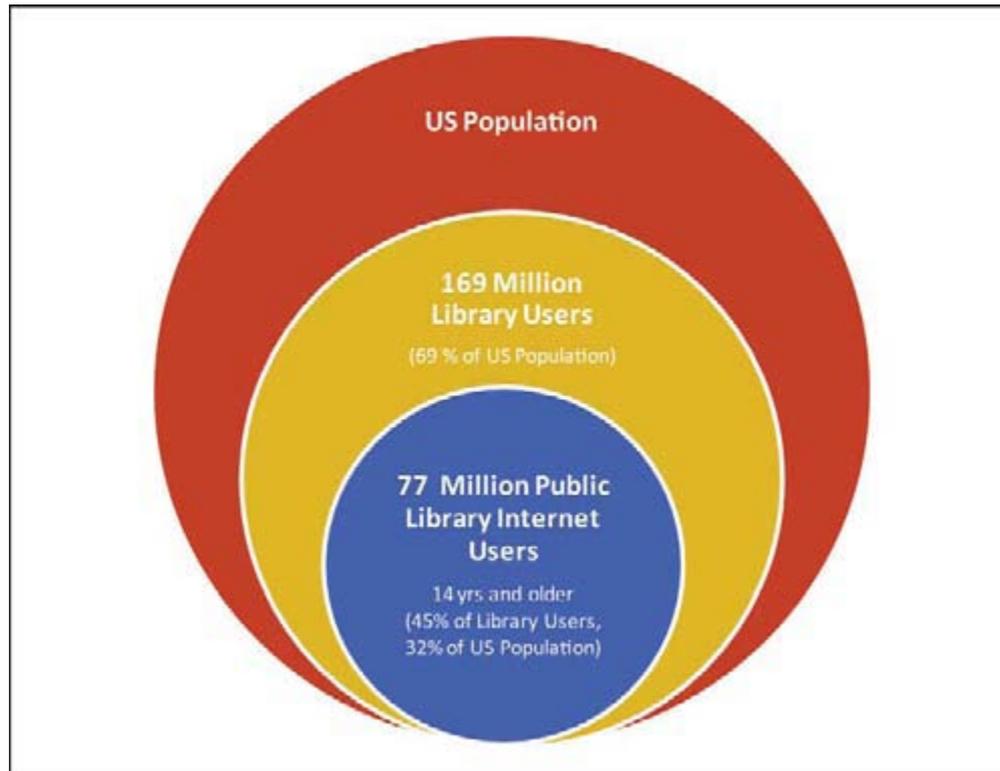


# Broadband, broadband, broadband

- Libraries will need scalable high speed Internet access to support:
  - Cloud computing
  - Public Internet Access
  - E-Resources that are replacing print resource
  - Social Media
  - VoIP

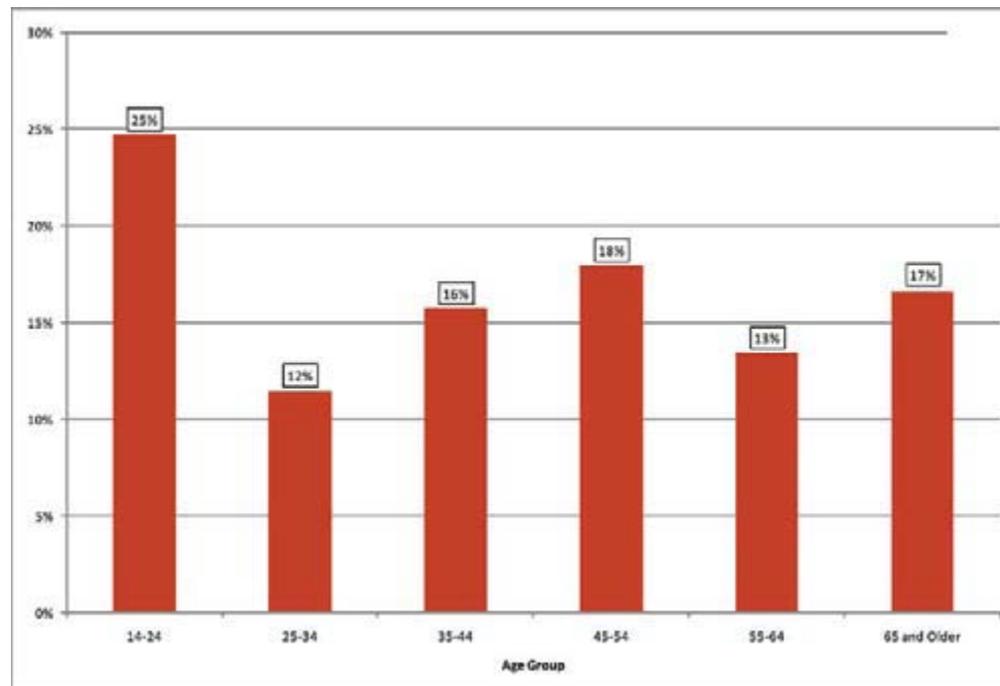


# Library users and public library access users as a percentage of the U.S. population 14 years and older



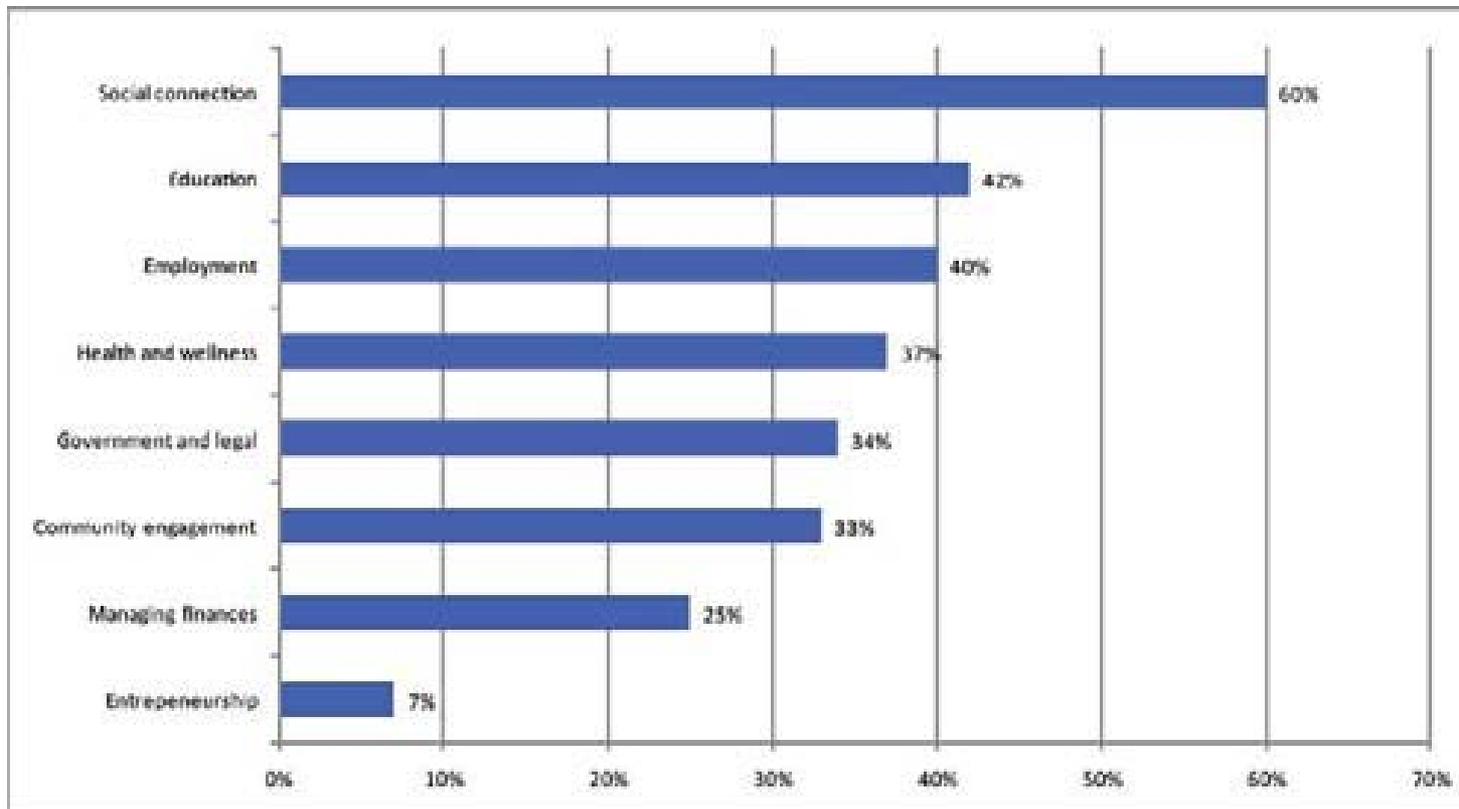
Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries

# Public Library Internet users by Age as a Percentage of all Users



Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries

# Rank of Library Internet Use by Subject Area



Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries

# Questions ?



# Contact Info

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