

# Public Libraries & the Internet: Looking Back, Looking Forward

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**John Bertot**

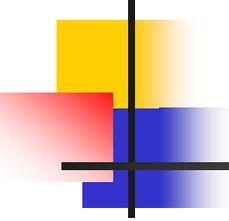
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# 2004 Study

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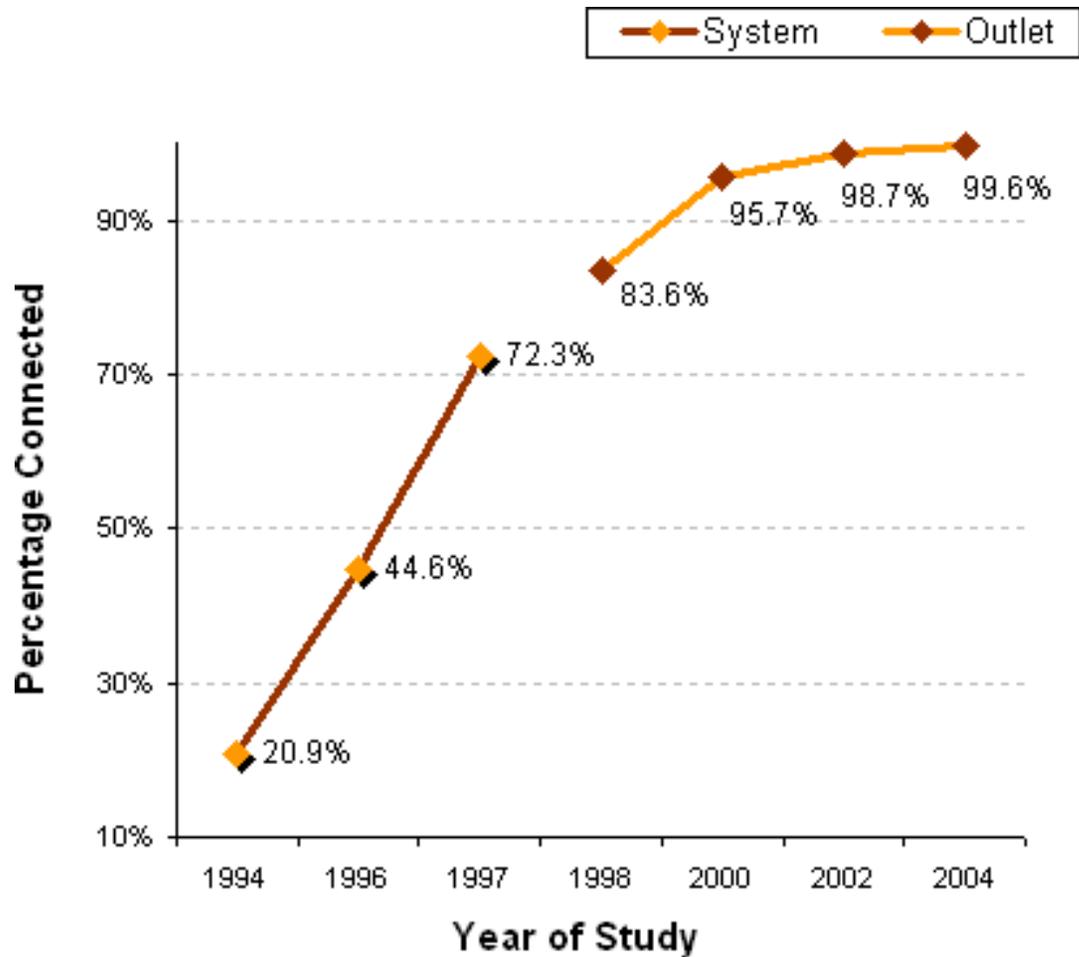
- Funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the American Library Association
  - Funded 2004 & 2006 surveys
- Reports, data, and other information at <http://www.ii.fsu.edu/plinternet>
- National as well as state level data
- Builds on studies conducted since 1994, but
  - Moving beyond connectivity and into impacts, benefits derived from connectivity
  - Public library advocacy



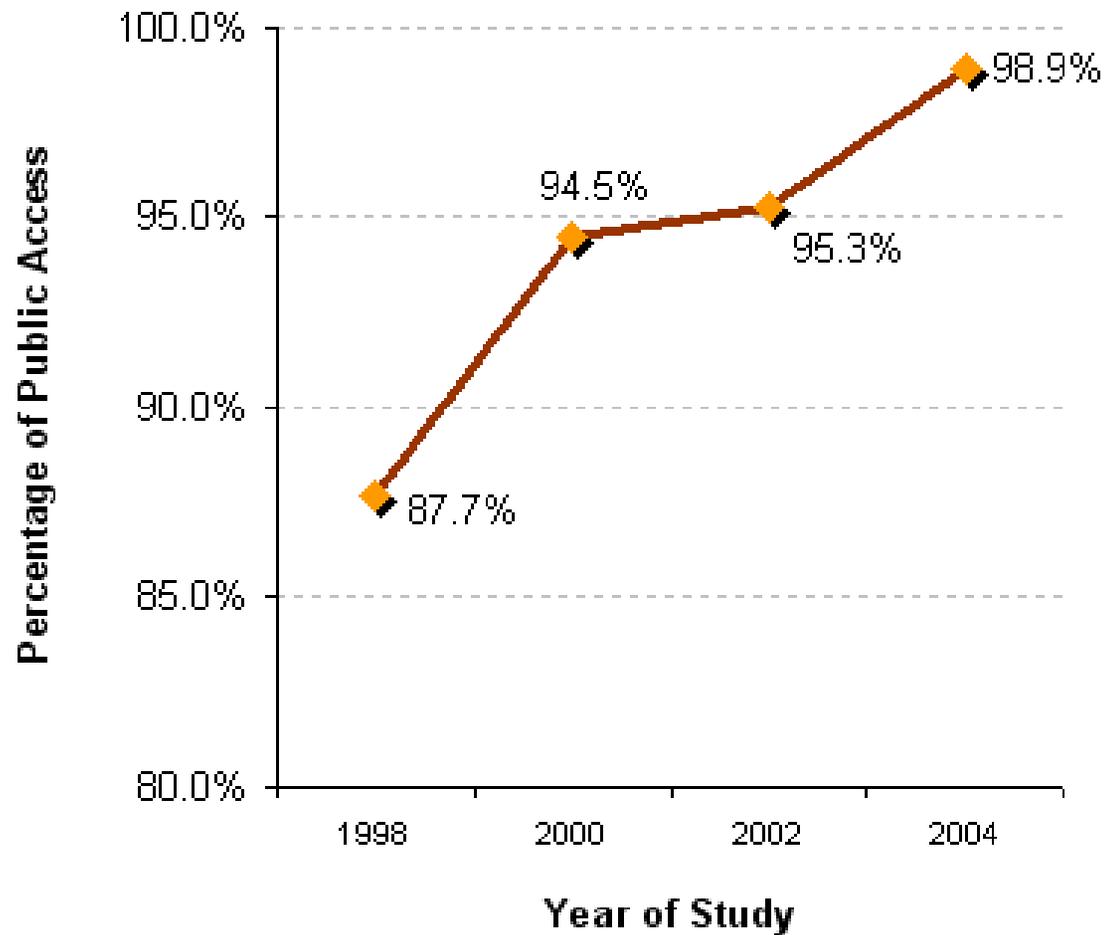
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Selected Data: 1994-2004

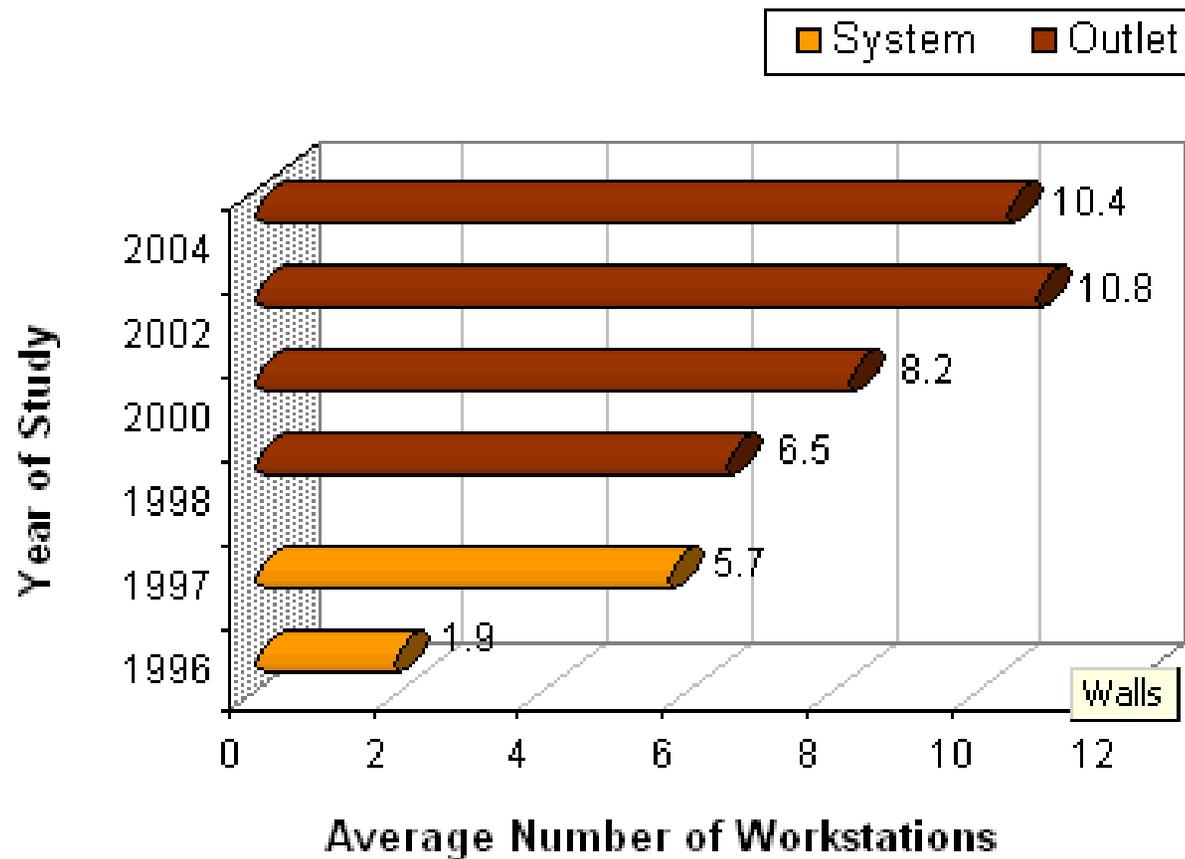
# Connected Libraries



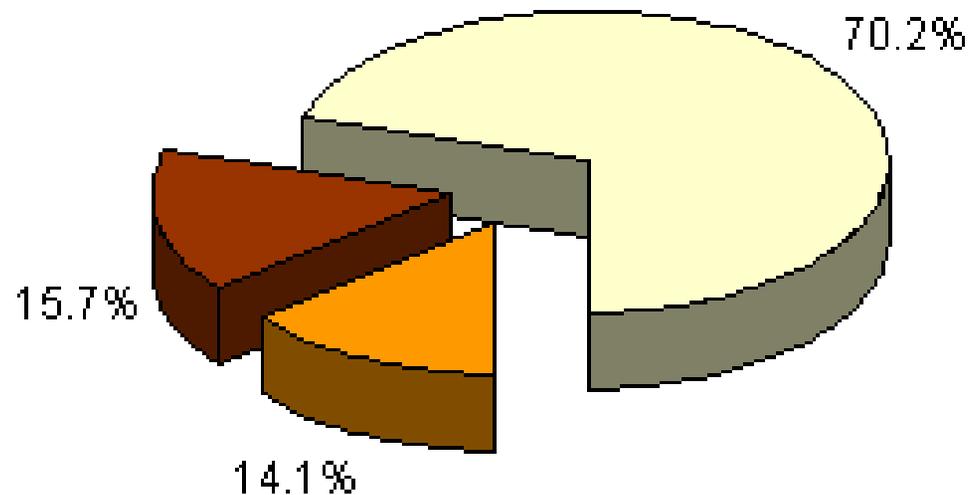
# Public Access



# Workstations

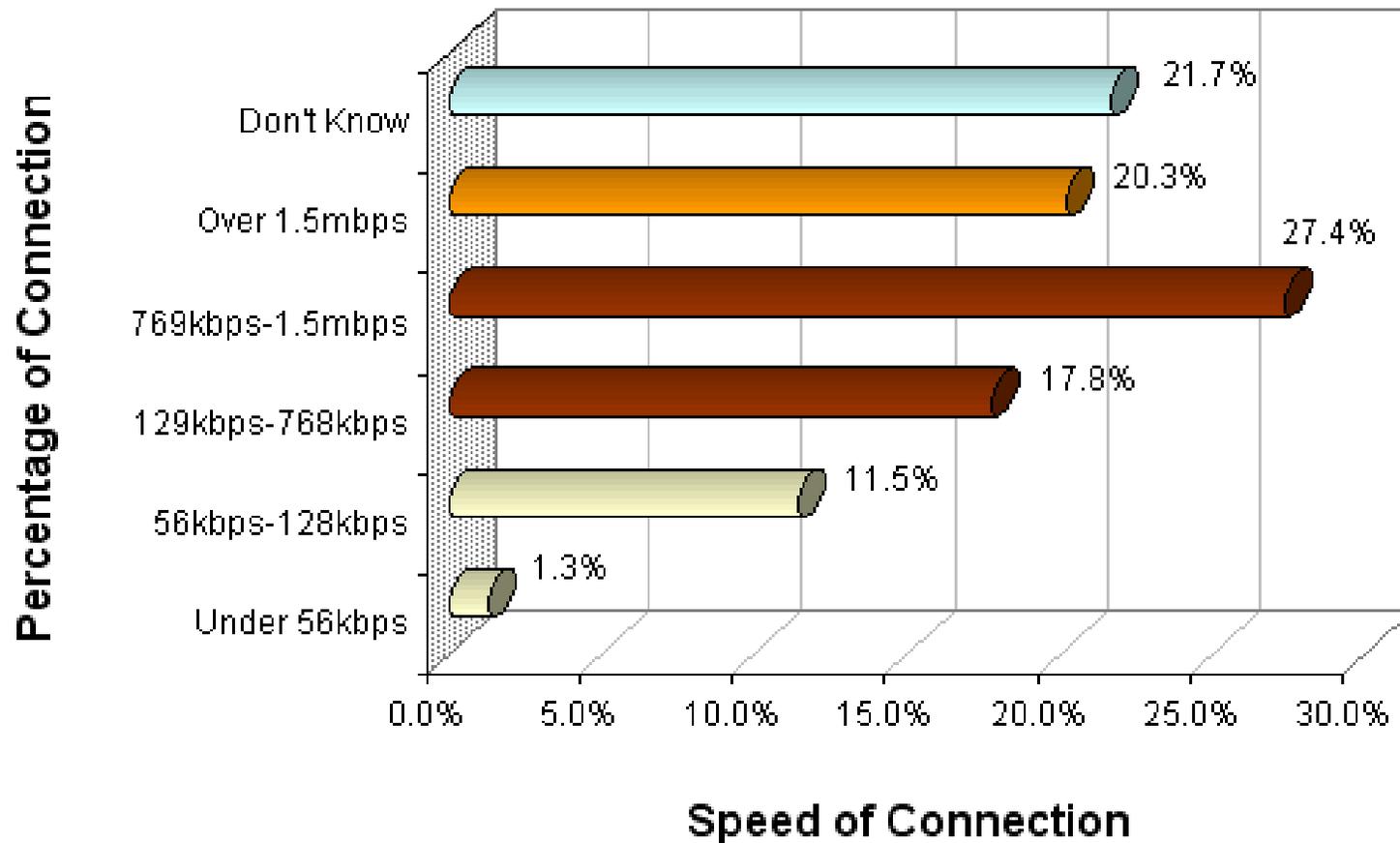


# Workstation Availability

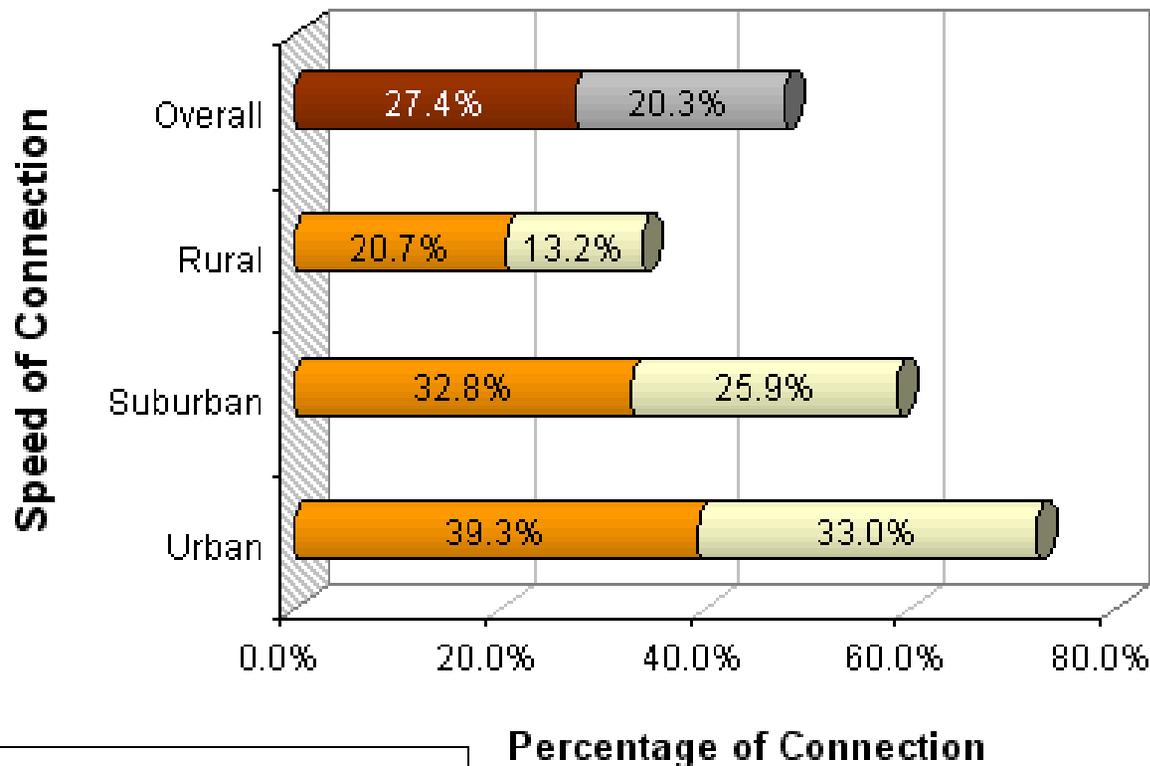


- Sufficient Terminals
- Insufficient Terminals on a Consistent Basis
- Insufficient Terminals at Certain Times of a Typical Day

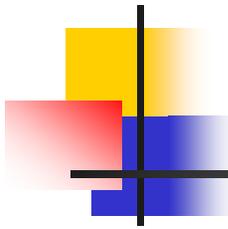
# Bandwidth



# "Broadband"

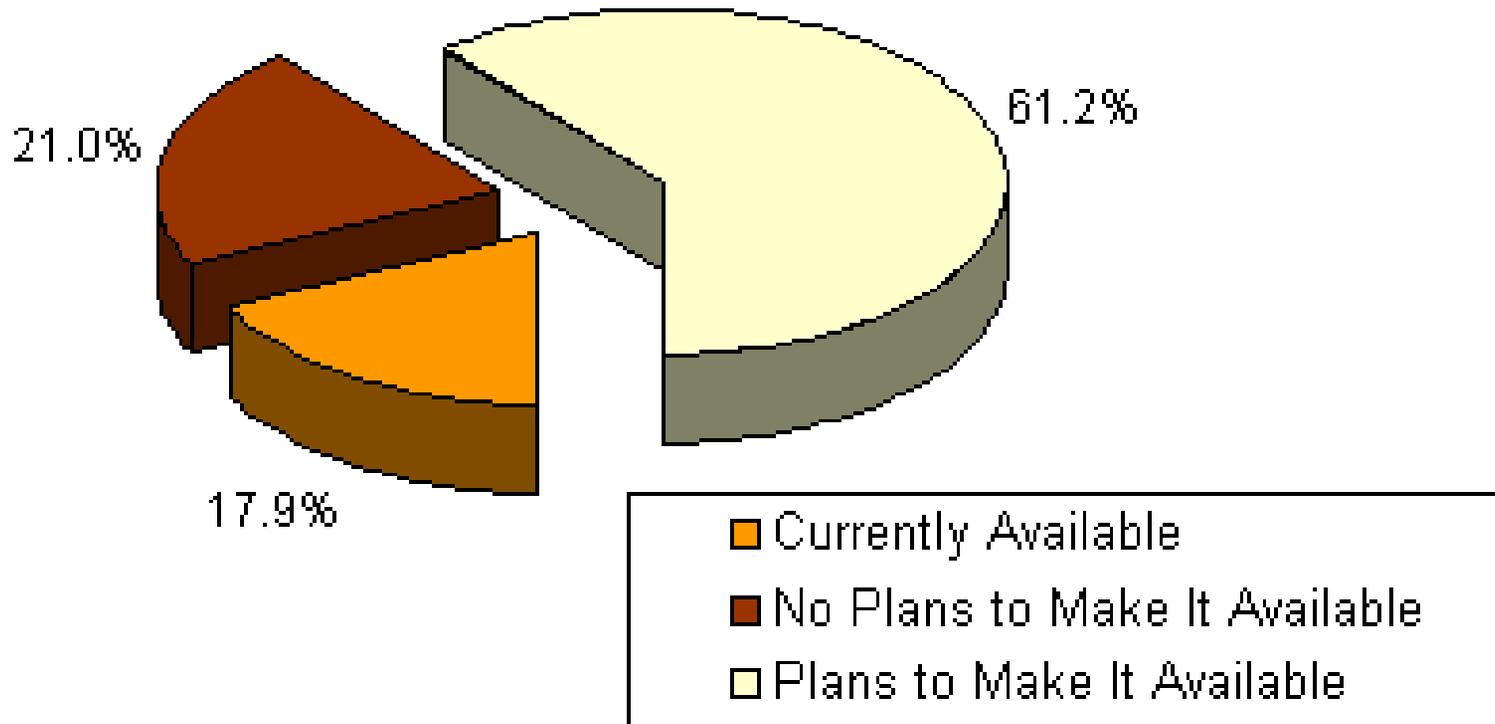


- 769kbps - 1.5mbps
- Greater than 1.5mbps

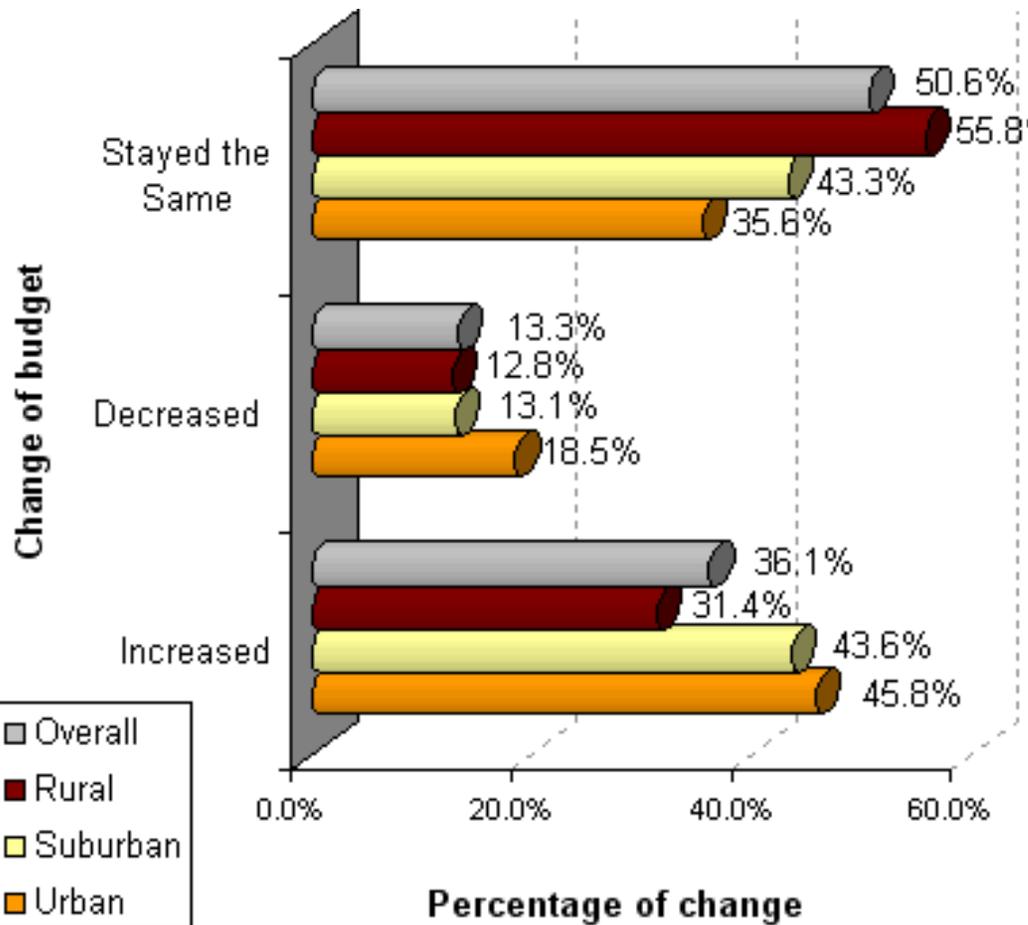


# Wireless

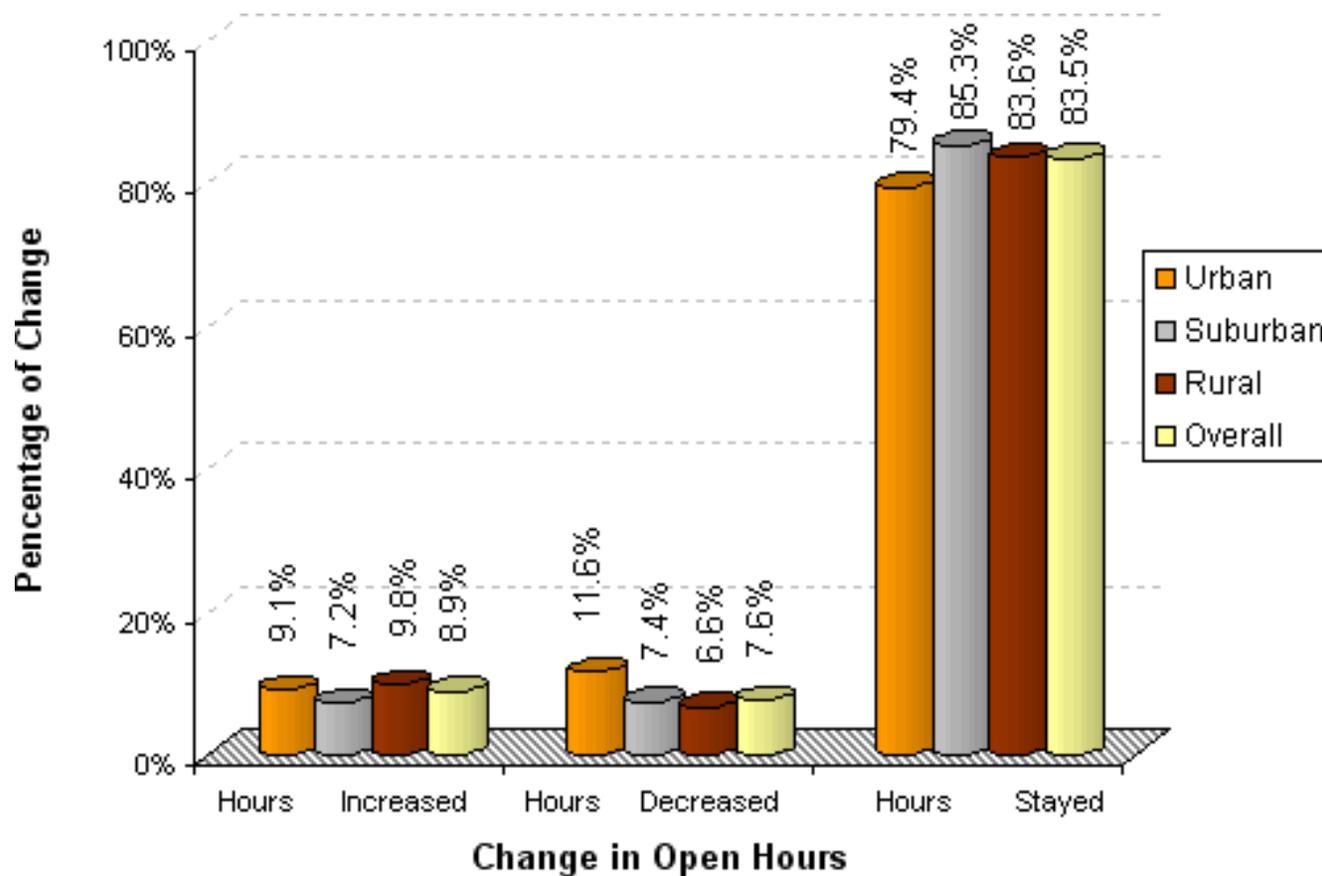
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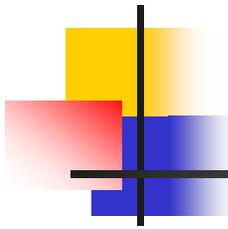


# IT Budget



# Hours Open

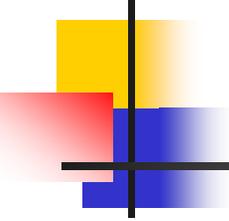




# Key Issues/Findings

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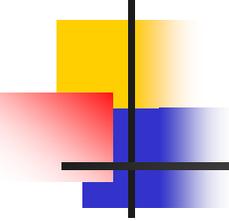
- Much progress, help still needed
- The Positive
  - Yes, libraries are connected
  - Connectivity speed is steadily increasing
    - 1998, 35% greater than 56kbps
    - 2004, 77% greater than 56kbps
      - 47.7% greater than 769kbps
  - Libraries are exploring wireless public access services to extend availability
- The Challenges
  - Workstation plateau
  - Not enough workstations
    - [will there ever be?]
  - Uneven broadband – rurals
    - CIPA and E-rate?
  - Stagnant IT budgets
  - Filtering requirements for E-rate and LSTA funding



# 2006 Study

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- Approach (see handout)
  - National survey
    - How we sample
    - Two levels of questions
      - Branch
      - System
  - Case studies (a first)
    - Best Practice & challenged
      - Visions of success
      - Getting from A to B
      - Measures of value
      - Sustainable funding
      - Issues and next steps

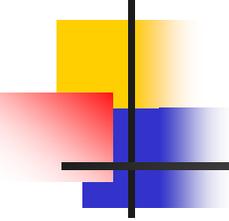


# 2006 Study

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- Timeline

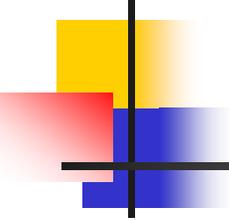
- Survey in field on/around February 1, 2006
  - Through April 1, 2006?
- Case site visits January-April 2006
- Data released at ALA in June 2006



# 2006 Study

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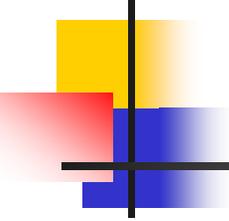
- Your help is **INVALUABLE** and very much appreciated
- In order to make state projections, we need a high response rate and participation from **all** states
  - 32 states in 2004



# 2006 Study – Into the Future

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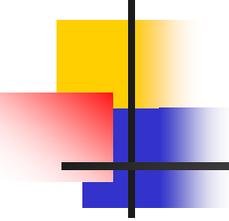
- Moving more towards community impacts of library connectivity
- Assist in the development of advocacy strategies that enable libraries to
  - Demonstrate the benefits of public access computing and Internet services/resources
  - Seek sustainable and continued funding sources
  - Affect local, state, and national policies regarding public access services
  - Overcome challenges in providing public access services
  - Show libraries are on the forefront [leaders] of the Internet revolution



# Beyond 2006

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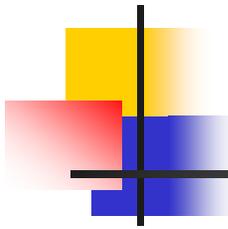
- Sustainability of study
- Continued focus on
  - Community impact of connectivity
  - Library needs to sustain and enhance public access services
  - Policy environment related to connectivity



# Shameless Plugs

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- E-metrics
  - <http://www.ii.fsu.edu/emis>
  
- Advocacy-centered Evaluation
  - <http://www.ii.fsu.edu/projects/effective-eval/>



# Comments/Questions

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Thank you for FSCS and your help with the surveys – we can't do our studies without you