

FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

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Coloradans—and Colorado Public Libraries— Top National Internet Norms

Recent state and national surveys indicate that Coloradans—and Colorado public libraries—meet or exceed several national norms regarding the Internet.

Coloradans are 38 percent more likely to be regular Internet users.

Nationwide, 34 percent of American adults use the Internet on at least a monthly basis, but 47 percent of Colorado adults do so. **Similarly, the state's public libraries are 22 percent more likely than libraries nationwide to provide Internet access.** Sixty percent of U.S. public libraries provide Internet access, compared with 73 percent in Colorado.

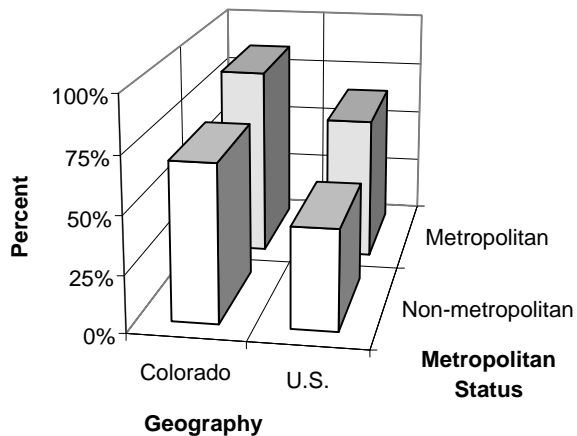


Internet Access
at Public Libraries
Metropolitan & Non-metropolitan
Colorado & U.S., 1997

Public Libraries	Colorado	U.S.
Metropolitan	85%	64%
Non-metropolitan	69%	44%
Total	73%	60%

Colorado public libraries enjoy this distinction whether they are in urban (i.e., metropolitan) or rural (i.e., non-metropolitan) areas. (See table.)

Colorado public libraries are typical of the nation's libraries in providing World Wide Web access. Fifty-two percent of U.S. public libraries provide Web access, and 54 percent of Colorado libraries provide it.



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Postscript: Colorado Public Libraries as Primary Internet Access Points



A recent state poll indicates that **almost 100,000 Coloradans**—four percent of the state’s adult population and 8.5 percent of the state’s adult Internet users—rely primarily on the state’s public libraries for Internet access. **Of the state’s 1.1 million adult Internet users, one in twelve depends on the public library for access to it.** As these Internet users indicate that they use it on at least a monthly basis, they could account for 1.1 to 1.2 million Internet uses per year at the state’s public libraries. (To put that in context, public library circulation for 1996 totaled about 32 million transactions.)



Sources

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- American Library Association Office of Information Technology Policy, **The 1997 National Survey of U.S. Public Libraries and the Internet: Summary Results** (Chicago: ALA, 1997).