

Gannett Report: Two Kentucky Libraries Rank High for Internet-Ready Computers



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Pikeville and West Liberty libraries are recognized by Gannett News research as a top library nationwide with regard to the number of Internet-capable public computers per capita

FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY — Two Kentucky libraries prove to the nation that they are committed to educating the community and making Internet capable public computers available for their patrons. Gannett News Service Multimedia, the owner of Louisville's Courier Journal, ranked Pikeville's Pike County Public Library District and West Liberty's John F. Kennedy Memorial Library seventh and twenty-first, respectively, in the nation based on the number of Internet-capable public computers per 10,000 citizens. These two rural Kentucky library systems compare with the likes of communities in Texas, California and Michigan.

"ConnectKentucky has long recognized the critical role Kentucky's public libraries play in their communities by providing every resident with the opportunity to receive instruction and have access to high-speed Internet free of charge," René True, ConnectKentucky executive director, said. "ConnectKentucky research indicates the local library is the third most popular location to access the Internet outside of the home. Because libraries play such an important role in the community, it is essential that local libraries are on the cutting edge of technology."

For many Kentuckians, a library computer is the only opportunity to get online. By making such resources free to the community and readily available, Kentuckians are able to take advantage of online job searches, research and communication.

In ConnectKentucky's 2007 household technology assessment, we learn that:

- Twenty-two percent (22%) of Kentucky residents who do not have home broadband access and access the Internet someplace other than home do so at their local library.
- Six percent (6%) of Kentucky residents with no home Internet service rely on their local library to access the Internet.
- Six percent (6%) of Kentucky residents who have dial-up Internet service at home still choose to access the Internet from their local library.
- Twenty-eight percent (28%) of all Kentucky residents who say they access the Internet via wireless hotspots do so at their local library.

Pike County Public Library District had nearly 40 computers per 10,000 residents (260 computers serving 66,922 citizens). West Liberty's John F. Kennedy Memorial Library had just over 32 computers per 10,000 residents (representing 46 computers for 14,334 citizens). For more information on Gannett News Service Multimedia's research, go to http://data.gannettnewsservice.com/libraries/library_start.php

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About ConnectKentucky: ConnectKentucky is leading the way into a new economy for Kentuckians. As an independent technology-based economic development organization, ConnectKentucky works to ensure that Kentucky remains the place of choice to live, work and

raise a family. ConnectKentucky is an alliance of technology-minded businesses, government entities and universities working together to accelerate technology in the Commonwealth.

For more information about ConnectKentucky visit www.connectkentucky.org.