**** Public Library News Article

*An article similar to this sample can be submitted to your local newspaper or used in an in-house newsletter to demonstrate the importance of the public computers and Internet connections at your library. The sample article below has placeholders to insert information about your library from your IMPACT Survey report.*

*For maximum impact, interview one of your users about how they specifically use library computers and Internet access. To help frame an interview, ask about some of the specific types of activities in your survey report such as job seeking, getting health information, or doing school work. Be sure to ask about outcomes of the use such as finding a job, making a change to diet or exercise habits, or getting admitted to college. You can use this interview to put a human face on your op-ed and to demonstrate more clearly the impact Internet access has on the members of your community.*

*Prior to submitting an article to your local paper, you may want to call the editor to explain your intent and how your submission connects to the recently conducted IMPACT Survey at your library or another current local issue relevant to readers.*

[YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY] IS A COMMUNITY HUB FOR INTERNET ACCESS

**Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries** shows that nearly one-third of Americans age 14 or older – roughly 77 million people – used a public library computer or wireless network to connect to the Internet in the past year. In [YOUR CITY/TOWN], approximately [multiply your legal service area population by 0.2549 and round down to nearest whole number] people each year use the computers [and wireless network, if applicable] at the [YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY]. A recent survey of [YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY] patrons found that [X] percent of these users were seeking help with career or employment needs, [X] percent used the computers to further their educational goals, and [X] percent sought assistance for their health and wellness needs. [*Consider adjusting this statement to reflect your patrons’ top three use domains.]*

The [YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY] began offering public access computers in [YEAR] and now, thanks to funding from [DESCRIBE FUNDING SOURCES, e.g., federal, state, local, foundation, etc.] has [NUMBER OF COMPUTER TERMINALS] computers available for public use (and a wireless network that patrons with their own laptops can use to access the Internet, if applicable). The [YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY] also provides [LIST TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, e.g., one-on-one help, training classes, or other support]. Last year patrons logged [NUMBER OF SESSIONS] sessions at the library’s computers.

One local library user recently shared how [BRIEF ANECDOTE from a patron impacted by use of your library’s computer services].

**Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries** is based on the first large-scale study of who uses public computers and Internet access in public libraries, the ways library patrons use this free technology service, and how it affects their lives. The study was conducted by the University of Washington Information School and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The survey recently conducted at [YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY] is an extension of this research.