

Resolution of the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association

Whereas, broadband is critical to overcome geographical and financial barriers to provide access to a wide range of educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities and resources and

Whereas, broadband can facilitate provision of medical care to unserved and underserved populations through remote diagnosis, treatment, monitoring, and consultations with specialists and

Whereas, broadband is critical to promote economic development and revitalization through electronic commerce (e-commerce) by: creating new jobs and attracting new industries from farmers to computer geeks, from telecommuters to small business people and providing access to regional, national, and worldwide markets for produce or products and

Whereas, electronic government can help streamline people's interaction with government agencies, and provide information about government policies, procedures, benefits, and programs, and

Whereas, broadband can help protect the public by facilitating and promoting public safety information and procedures, including, but not limited to: early warning/public alert systems and disaster preparation programs, remote security monitoring and real time security background checks, and backup systems for public safety communications networks and

Whereas, broadband provides access to new telecommunications technologies such as Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) allowing voice communication using the Internet, and

Whereas, broadband permits users of Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) to use Video Relay Services (VRS) to communicate more easily, quickly, and expressively with voice telephone users and

Whereas, North Carolina Public Libraries are community anchor institutions that have taken a leadership role in providing access and assistance to our citizens to use Internet resources for lifelong education, economic development, social networking, cultural enhancement and historical understanding through independent and collaborative information and digital literacy initiatives and

Whereas, North Carolina Public Libraries serve all population groups, but especially notable are services to those recently unemployed, those making an effort to increase their job skills and employment potential, and those who are economically challenged and cannot afford Internet access in their homes, and

Whereas, broadband access is a right for North Carolinians, not a privilege and all citizens in all of our urban and rural counties must be able to participate fully in 21st Century economies, cultures and communities by having broadband access

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED this 18th day of March 2010, that the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association herewith calls upon the governments, organizations, and agencies in the state that are responsible for broadband planning and deployment to recognize the importance of Public Libraries in these efforts by including a representative from those libraries on committees or task forces so charged and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that government leaders at the local and state levels recognize the importance of Public Libraries serving all citizens by providing Public Libraries with the lowest connectivity costs possible and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that North Carolina Public Library Directors actively seek out opportunities to become a part of local and state level broadband planning and implementation efforts and work toward having representation on committees and task forces so charged.

Approved and adopted the 18th day of March 2010. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the membership of NCPLDA at its regular meeting in Durham, North Carolina.

_____ President

The information contained in this document comes from the following, which offers additional information and support for broadband connectivity as an American right, not privilege.

<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/broadband.html>

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is an independent United States government agency. The FCC was established by the Communications Act of 1934 and is charged with regulating interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable. The FCC's jurisdiction covers the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. possessions. (2009)

<http://www.itif.org/index.php?id=179>

The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation is a 501©(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2006 as a non-partisan research and educational institute – a think tank – whose mission is to formulate and promote public policies to advance technological innovation and productivity internationally, in Washington, and in the states. *Digital Quality of Life: Understanding the Personal and Social Benefits of the Information Technology Revolution* (2008).

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR78/>

Broadband Internet's Value for Rural America

By Peter Stenberg, Mitch Morehart, Stephen Vogel, John Cromartie, Vince Breneman, and Dennis Brown: Provides an outstanding argument for and examples of rural broadband access and applications.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oitp/meetingsab/telecomlibmeet/ALABroadbandOptionspaper.doc>

Libraries' Access to Broadband Services: Issues, Obstacles and Recommendations

By John Windhausen, Jr.

President, Telepoly Consulting

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As the title indicates, a useful resource for putting all library service into perspective related to broadband applications. Many useful quotes and pieces of information that will serve local and state level positions.

www.e-nc.org

e-NC Authority

The e-NC Authority is the state initiative to link all North Carolinians – especially those in rural areas - to the Internet. The purpose of this organization is to use the Internet as a tool for helping people to improve their quality of life.

<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=4608>

A memo from the ALA Washington Office suggesting elements of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Plan related to libraries that merit the profession's immediate attention on 17 March 2010.