

## **Representative References to Public Libraries in Selected Florida and Federal Documents**

As the role of e-government grows within our society, government agencies are increasingly referring people to public libraries as places to access information and complete forms via the Internet. To this extent, federal, state, and local governments have begun to include within official documents the suggestion that people without Internet access may want to visit a public library. What follows is a cursory review of selected official government documents to determine if public library Internet access was suggested and for what purposes.

### **Federal**

The Federal Code of Regulation from the Department of Labor (Title 20, Volume 3, Part 655, Subpart H, Sec. 655.720) states that in the filing and processing of labor condition applications must be done online, unless documentation can be provided that Internet access is not available through the employer and, “there is no publicly available Internet access, at public libraries or elsewhere, within a reasonable distance of the employer” (April 1, 2006).

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/10apr20061500/edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr/2006/aprqr/pdf/20cfr655.720.pdf>

The Food and Drug Administration’s general enforcement regulations for the registration of food facilities (68 FR 58960, October 10, 2003) states that, “This website is available from wherever the Internet is accessible, including libraries, copy centers, schools, and Internet cafes.”

<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/fsbtac12.html>

*Recovery Times* is a publication by FEMA. This link is for Volume 1 from December 6, 2005. The reference to a public library is on page two on the left hand side, “If you do not have access to the Internet, ask a friend or family member or visit a public library to use a computer free of charge”.

[www.fema.gov/pdf/rt/rt\\_1609\\_120605.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/rt/rt_1609_120605.pdf)

The Department of State compiled tips for travelers visiting the Middle East and north Africa. The article states that one method for retrieving information on travel warnings and public announcements is via the Internet. As they state, “If you do not have access to the Internet at home, work or school, your local library may provide access to the Internet.”

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/regional/regional\\_1175.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/regional/regional_1175.html)

Safe Harbor Design Project was compiled in Seattle by the city of Seattle and the United Way of King County (2/5/01). The reference to a public library is on page ten. “At a public location (i.e. public library, health clinic, etc.) a client conducts his or her search of the on-line directory.”

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/hmis/implementation/seattledesign.pdf>

The Department of Energy’s information repository must be at the facility or a nearby “public- off site location (e.g. local public library, town hall, public health office) within a reasonable distance of the facility”. This information brief discusses executive order 12580; Superfund Implementation.

<http://www.eh.doe.gov/oepa/guidance/cercla/inforepo.pdf>

The first step in the *10 Steps to Help You Fill Your Grocery Bag Through the Food Stamp Program* is the “use the internet tool”. Stated under the internet tool is “your local library usually has computers you can use”.

[http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/applicant\\_recipients/10steps.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/applicant_recipients/10steps.pdf)

The Internal Revenue Service put out a publication entitled, “How Do I Adjust My Tax Withholding?,” outlining suggestions and advice for those having difficulty with completing tax forms. As it states, “You can walk in to many post offices, libraries, and IRS offices to pick up certain forms instructions, and publications.” Additionally, it states that some libraries “have a collection of products available to print from a CD-ROM.”

[www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p919.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p919.pdf)

According to the Office of Management Budget, FY 2005 Report to Congress on Implementation of The E-Government Act of 2002, the Department of Agriculture encourages anyone who needs to complete The Farm Service Agency's Electronic Loan Deficiency Payment application, and who does not have access to the Internet, to visit a public library to complete the form. "Those who need the service but are without Internet access can visit a local FSA office or public library and the system is accessible to the disabled."

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/infoereg/reports/2005\\_e-gov\\_report.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/infoereg/reports/2005_e-gov_report.pdf)

### **Florida**

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection released a memo on September 3, 2003 regarding new practices involving the use of the People Firsts System for the posting of job vacancies. "Since this system is Internet based, employees can apply for vacancies from any computer, such as a home computer, public library computer, or computers at the Agency for Workforce's Workforce Centers."

[http://www.dep.state.fl.us/admin/forms/Personnel\\_Forms/DEP\\_54-804.doc](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/admin/forms/Personnel_Forms/DEP_54-804.doc)