Through a national survey, this study explored the availability of Internet access and related networked technologies in public libraries around the United States and at the state level. The 2004 and 2006 surveys continued the research of previous surveys conducted by Charles R. McClure and John C. Bertot, but expanded the scope of the areas studied.

The findings assisted the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to develop, sustain, and plan future public library programs and determine the impacts of their programs.