

Working Smarter: Libraries Partner to Support Workforce Development

USCM WDC Board/Annual Conference

June 18, 2011



U.S. Public Libraries 101

- ▶ There are 16,604 public library locations in the United States.
- ▶ Nationally, libraries host 28.9 million visits and circulate nearly 43.8 million items every week.
- ▶ Public library visits and circulations per capita increased almost 20% between FY1999 and FY2008.
- ▶ 62% of American adults have library cards.
- ▶ Nearly one-third of Americans age 14 or older – or roughly 77 million people – used a public library computer or wireless network in the last year.





U.S. Public Libraries 101

Every year, Americans visit the library more often than we go to the movies and six times more often than we attend live sporting events (including football, baseball, basketball and hockey).

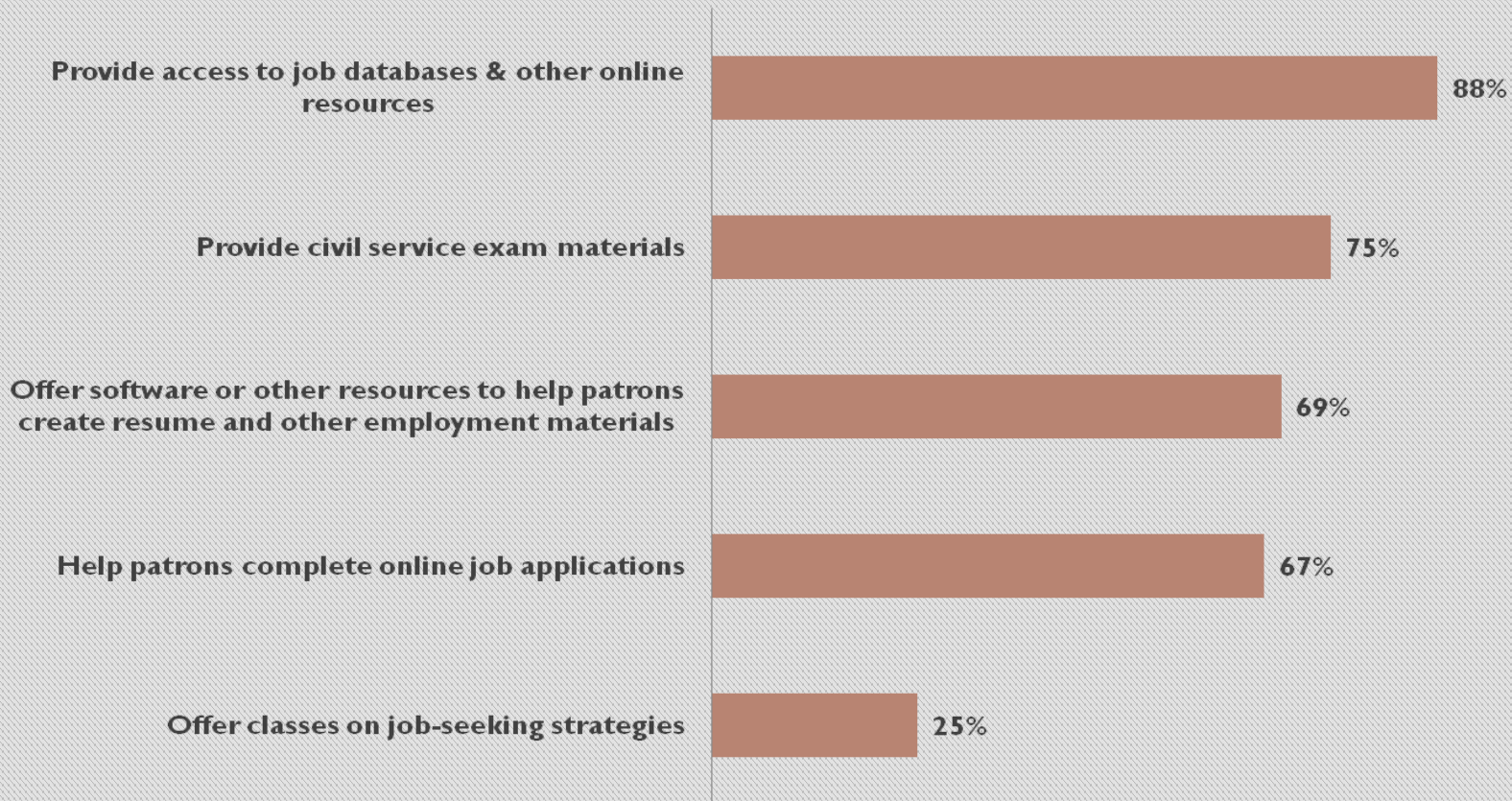


Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study

- ▶ National study funded by American Library Association and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, continuing research begun in 1994 tracking public library technology development.
 - ▶ 99% of all public libraries offer free access to computers and the Internet.
 - ▶ 67% of libraries report they are the only source of free public access to computers and the Internet in their communities.
 - ▶ 76% of libraries report public use of their computers increased in 2009.
- ▶ www.ala.org/plinternetfunding

Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study

Public Libraries' Job-Seeking Services, 2009-2010



CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

- ▶ **HR 1616 Workforce Investment through Local Libraries (WILL) Act**
 - ▶ Include libraries on state & local workforce boards
 - ▶ Include libraries as allowable One Stop partners
 - ▶ Employment resources in public libraries



CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

- ▶ New bill in the Senate
- ▶ Libraries comments to HELP Committee
 - ▶ On state and local workforce boards to comment on plans
 - ▶ Public libraries are allowable partners to One-Stops
 - ▶ Public libraries are allowable service providers
 - ▶ Digital Literacy skills are part of Adult Education
 - ▶ Public libraries are members of the National Institute for Adult Education and Literacy Advisory Board



Workforce agencies, libraries partner

- ▶ June 29: Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration issues Training and Employment Notice to encourage workforce and library collaboration.
- ▶ July 19 webinar to feature workforce-library partnerships in the State of Illinois and Jefferson County, Colorado:
www.workforce3one.org

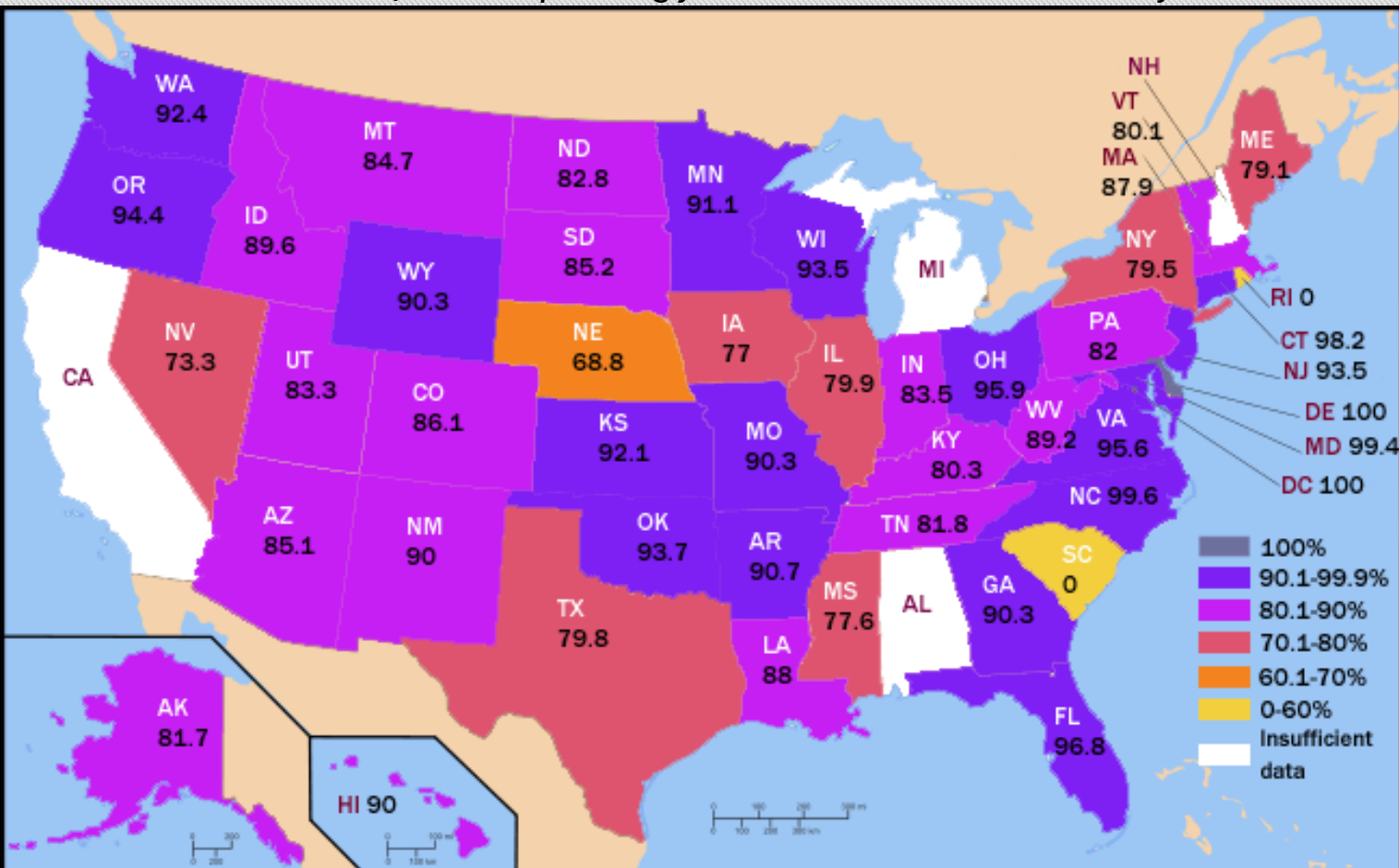
“Some of the benefits that One-Stops derive from this partnership include longer library hours that allow access beyond One-Stop hours, better and more technological access, and the fact that parents can work on their job search while children are engaging in productive activities. We consider libraries to be extensions of One-Stops in North Carolina.”

-- Linda Strong, NC JobLink manager



Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study

Percent of libraries providing jobs databases and other online job resources



Opportunity for All

- ▶ 67% of all library computer users received one-on-one help from library staff or volunteers.
- ▶ 40% of library computer users (roughly 30 million people) used library resources to help address career and employment needs in the past 12 months.
- ▶ Among these users, 76% reported they searched for jobs online.
- ▶ Among job seekers, 68% went on to apply for a job or submit a resume.
- ▶ 23% used library computers to receive job-related training.

▶ <http://tascha.washington.edu/usimpact>



Opportunity for All

- ▶ 7.6 million users were **granted an interview** after using library computers to submit applications (32% of job seekers).
- ▶ 3.7 million people **got hired after using library** computers to submit applications (16% of job seekers)

▶ <http://tascha.washington.edu/usimpact>

