

REMOTE ELECTRONIC ACCESS FOR LIBRARIES (REAL) PROGRAM

Bringing the World of Internet to Patrons, Including Our Most Rural Missourians

Program Vision

In collaboration with other publicly funded agencies, the Remote Electronic Access for Libraries (REAL) Program strives to connect public libraries with each other and with schools and universities through the Internet to ensure that public libraries are the center of excellence for information service to their communities.

Library Eligibility

Any tax-supported public library is eligible to participate in the General Assembly-funded portions of the REAL Program. A tax-supported library is any library that is funded in whole or in part through either dedicated tax revenue, as in a property tax-supported library district, or the general revenue of a political subdivision of the state, as in a municipal library supported from the general revenue of the city.

Program Participation

Today, the REAL Program supports 121 of Missouri's estimated 151 public library systems. Of the 151, 124 have fewer than 25 employees and 96 have fewer than 10 employees. Over 107 libraries have service areas of less than 20,000 persons. The 15 largest libraries in the state account for 80 percent of total library revenue.

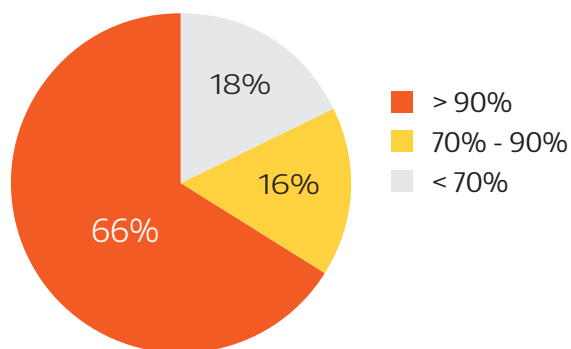
REAL Program Goals

- Extend the "information superhighway" to the local community level in Missouri by providing routine access to public service, civic projects, community information and reference services via an Internet connection to the rest of the nation and the world.
- Provide a basis for interagency collaboration by laying the groundwork for wide-area networking of public libraries throughout Missouri.
- Enhance resource sharing by delivering a wide range of information services to libraries that could not otherwise individually afford them.
- Train the Missouri library community in search tools, procedures and access points for providing high quality services through automation.
- Through their public libraries, all Missouri citizens will have the opportunity to share in the National Information Infrastructure. This means that no citizen of Missouri will be left out of the information explosion because they lack the financial resources to provide their own computers and connectivity.
- Research and document project activities so that we can support successes and overcome limitations in the application of statewide connectivity and ensure that future funding and use follows a technically sound and fiscally responsible path.

Measurable Impact of REAL Program

BROADBAND

In spite of the pandemic, the need for broadband continues to grow, telling us that our communities still rely heavily on their public library for connectivity.



Of the 7.1 Gbps REAL funded connections, 66% of libraries are utilizing 90% or more of the broadband available to them during peak library hours.

Compared to the same reporting period last year, the number of libraries exceeding 90% peak utilization has decreased by 12%. This is likely due to libraries closing or reducing operating hours during the pandemic along with needed bandwidth upgrades that were made during the FY20 fiscal year. (See bandwidth growth to the right).

*Data as of Feb. 15, 2021

BANDWIDTH GROWTH

As technology expands, the need for bandwidth continues to grow each year.



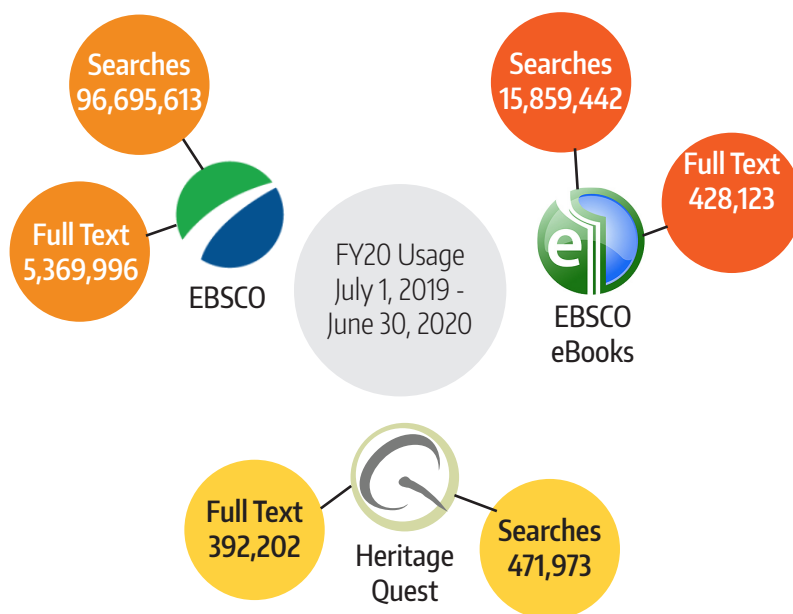
From June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2020 REAL funded connection capacity increased by 1.2 Gbps through approved bandwidth upgrades.

CURRICULUM & CONTENT

The Online Research Resources of EBSCO and HeritageQuest contain a variety of full-text magazines, newspapers, journals and reference materials to support the education and research needs of Missouri citizens.

"MOREnet's services are invaluable. I could not have done this job for 20+ years without them. MOREnet's network, training, security and tech support is superior. Libraries in other states are not this fortunate. Thank you for all that you do!!!"

-Library Institutional Representative



FEDERAL E-RATE FUNDS

7.2 mil \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Received on behalf of participating and connected REAL libraries in the last 5 years