



## STANISLAUS COUNTY LIBRARY

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# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **U.S. IMPACT survey on Internet and computing services at public libraries**

From April 27, 2009 to May 11, 2009, the Stanislaus County Library will participate in a nationwide Internet survey to find out how people use the free computers and Internet connections in public libraries. The U.S. IMPACT web survey is being conducted by the University of Washington Information School with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Until now, there has been no nationwide research about how library computing services fit into peoples' lives. Some believe that library computers are used mostly for entertainment, but librarians report that people use them to find jobs, stay connected with family and friends, or to get health information. The goal of the U.S. IMPACT studies is to collect evidence about the ways computers in public libraries help people and their communities across the United States. This information will be used to improve these services and to inform policy makers about how best to fund and support them. In these hard economic times, this information will be invaluable.

Starting Monday, April 27, the public will be able to access the web survey from the library's web site: [www.stanislauslibrary.org](http://www.stanislauslibrary.org). It will also be available on public Internet computers at libraries throughout Stanislaus County. The survey is completely anonymous and takes 10 to 15 minutes to fill out. Researchers at the University of Washington encourage members of the public to participate in this important survey. For more information, visit the IMPACT studies web site at <http://impact.ischool.washington.edu/>.

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