

# LibraryCrunch

Bringing You A "Library 2.0" Perspective, by Michael Casey

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## The Constant Connectivity Divide

We hear a lot about most people having home internet access – PEW studies show this. We also read a lot about this idea of constant connectivity and continuous computing, and the advantages inherent in this level of access. What we do not yet hear being discussed is this new divide – not of those who do not have internet access from home, but those people who do not have the PDAs, the iPods, the Treos – all of the devices that create this constant connectivity, that allow instant answers, and give users incredible advantages. How are libraries addressing this? We provided computers and internet access to this demographic in the '80s and '90s – the Gates Foundation did much for libraries in this area. But this newer divide is different. Can libraries address it?

Posted by Michael on December 10, 2005 07:33 PM | [Permalink](#)

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<http://www.librarycrunch.com/mt/mt-tb.cgi/75>

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Hi Michael! At this point I really don't see that as a "divide" necessarily. I still think it is a rather small part of the population that has these mobile devices (though it may seem like everyone in certain parts of the country). I don't think that everyone necessarily needs (or wants) to have constant connectivity, and some people spend 90% of their time at work and home where they do have connectivity. My husband used to have a cell phone that could connect to the Internet. Now he doesn't and neither of us really have missed it. While there are still plenty of people who do not have access to the Internet at home (especially in VT), I think that's the divide libraries should be focused on. But maybe I'm just biased because I've never had a PDA, Treo, or whatever, and I've never felt a need for one.

Posted by: [Meredith](#) | [December 11, 2005 09:52 AM](#)

Although there is a problem with those without a telephone number and voicemail being able to find work. Nowadays it really is expected that anyone job hunting will have voicemail or an answering machine where messages may be left. One solution has been to give the homeless voicemail access, even if they don't have their own phones. See this article: <http://www.networkworld.com/weblogs/layer8/006323.html> . Some Google search results also hint that cell phones may actually be given to the homeless in some places.

Perhaps the Library could help by making telephones freely available for checking voicemail? Is there any way to "sign out" cell phones, PDAs and iPods the way one would a book?

Posted by: [Connie Crosby](#) | [December 12, 2005 03:12 PM](#)

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## Preview

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