

# Tapping the Potential of Libraries

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Spotting New Efforts to Assist Early Childhood Programs and Elementary Schools

Lisa Guernsey, Early Education Initiative  
Early Childhood Investigations webinar  
January 16, 2013

# Untapped potential

Libraries (and museums) are rich sources of digital media resources, videos, audio and e-books.

But elementary schools, pre-kindergarten programs, and child care centers don't often take advantage of those services.

Nor are public librarians typically asked to share in professional development opportunities with principals, directors of early learning centers, teachers, or school media specialists.

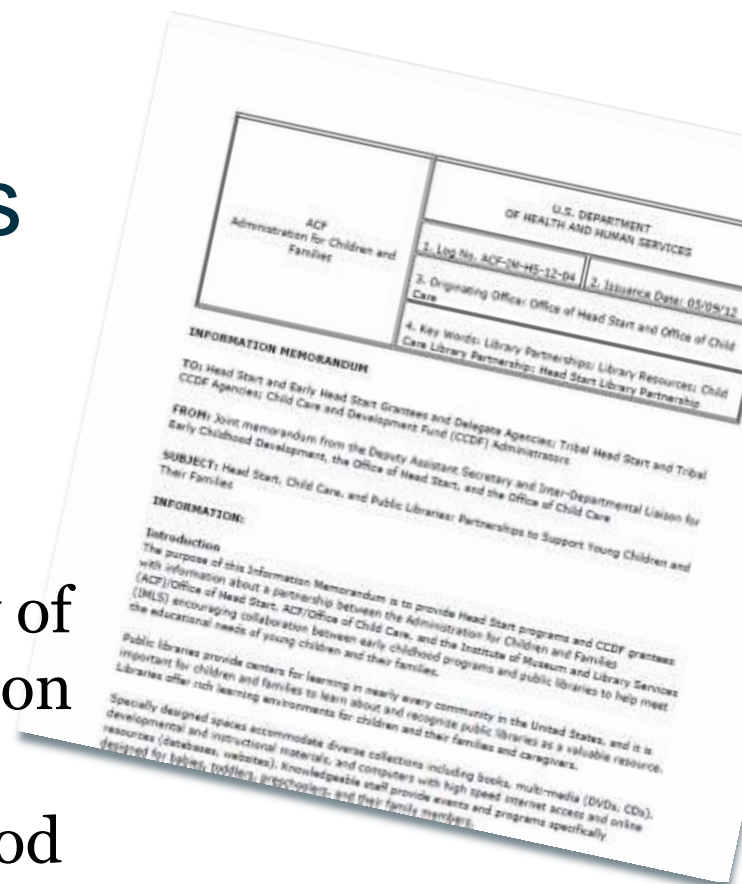
# Why Libraries?

1. Build community partnerships and networks
2. Learn from storytellers, literacy experts
3. Share digital media and traditional media
4. Tap expertise of technologists
5. Involve parents and grandparents
6. Develop new spaces for media exploration with children

# Head Start and Libraries

**“Libraries as Partners.** It is important for early childhood programs to know that public libraries have developed a variety of early learning strategies building on current scientific evidence about brain development, early childhood development, and school readiness.”

-- *U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2012*



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#### Early Learning

Museums and libraries have special roles in meeting the needs of the youngest learners and their caregivers.

#### Partnership: [Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#)

In recognition of the role that museums and libraries play in early learning, the Institute of Museum and Library Services is supporting projects that further the goals the [Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#), including school readiness, summer reading loss, and chronic school absence.



#### Partnership: [Head Start, Child Care, and Public Libraries](#)

This partnership between IMLS and the HHS Administration for Children and Families' Office of Head Start and Office of Child Care encourages collaboration between early childhood programs and public libraries to help meet the educational needs of young children and their families.



#### National Initiative: [Let's Move! Museums & Gardens](#)

This new national initiative will provide opportunities for millions of museum and garden visitors to learn about healthy food choices and promote physical activity through interactive exhibits and programs.



# Early Childhood-Library Task Force

In late 2012, the Institute for Museum and Library Services convened a group of library and early ed experts.

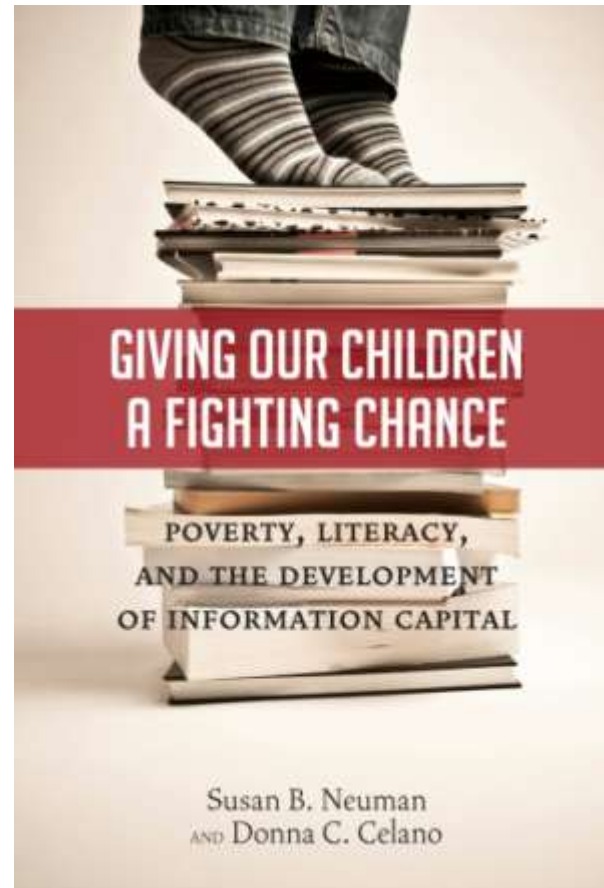
Report due out in 2013 for Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.



## And Yet... Helping Learners Will Mean More Than Just Offering Books and Computers

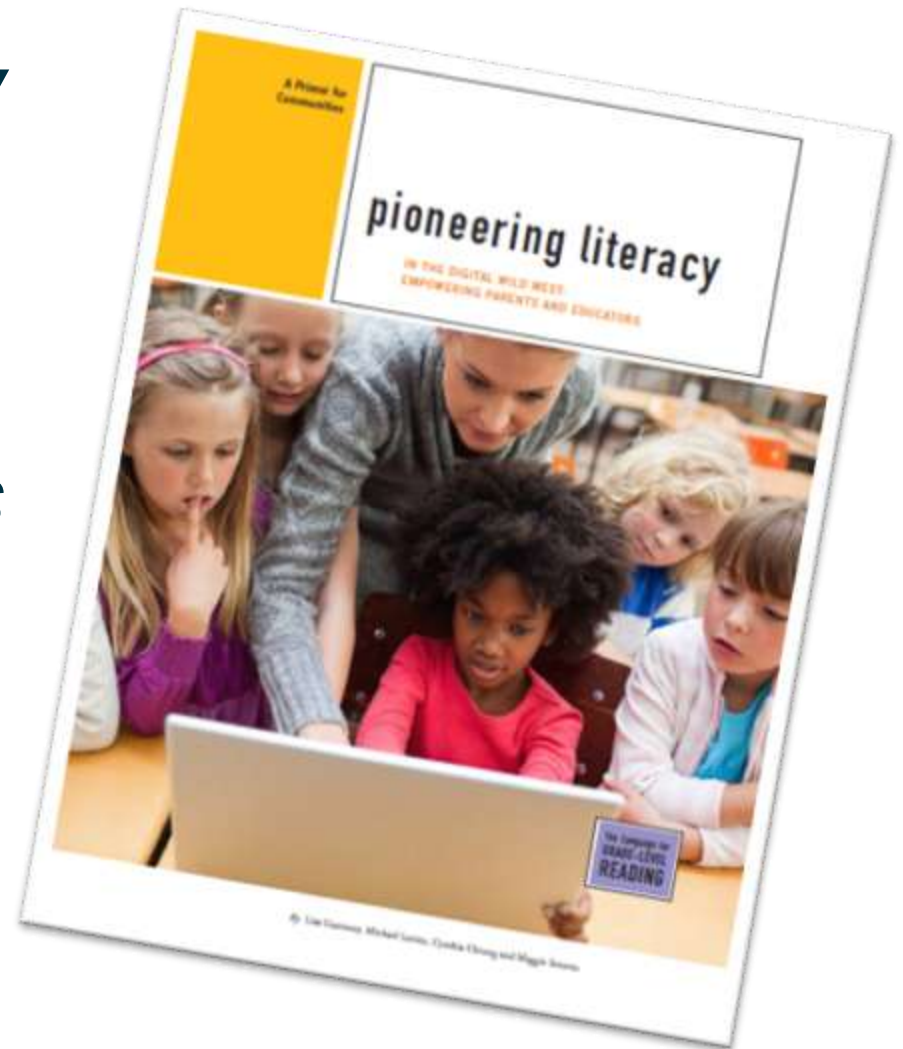
Neuman & Celano studied two libraries in Philadelphia serving two different socio-economic classes.

Finding: Vast differences in how adults *interacted with children* using computers and digital games, as well as books.



# ***Pioneering Literacy in the Digital Wild West***

***Empowering Parents  
and Educators***





**5 Recommendations:**  
*From the Wild West to  
Pioneering “Literate  
Communities”*

- ❖ **Conduct community audits.** Assess disparities in access and capacity to deploy technology for literacy outreach.
- ❖ **Create public engagement initiatives** on the need for critical thinking about media.
- ❖ **Create a place in every community** where parents and educators can experiment together with online and offline media as a springboard for children’s literacy.
- ❖ **Support sound research** on how both technology *content and contexts* are affecting reading development.
- ❖ **Create partnerships for innovation.** Stimulate collaboration among tech industry, educators, parents and community institutions such as schools, libraries and universities.

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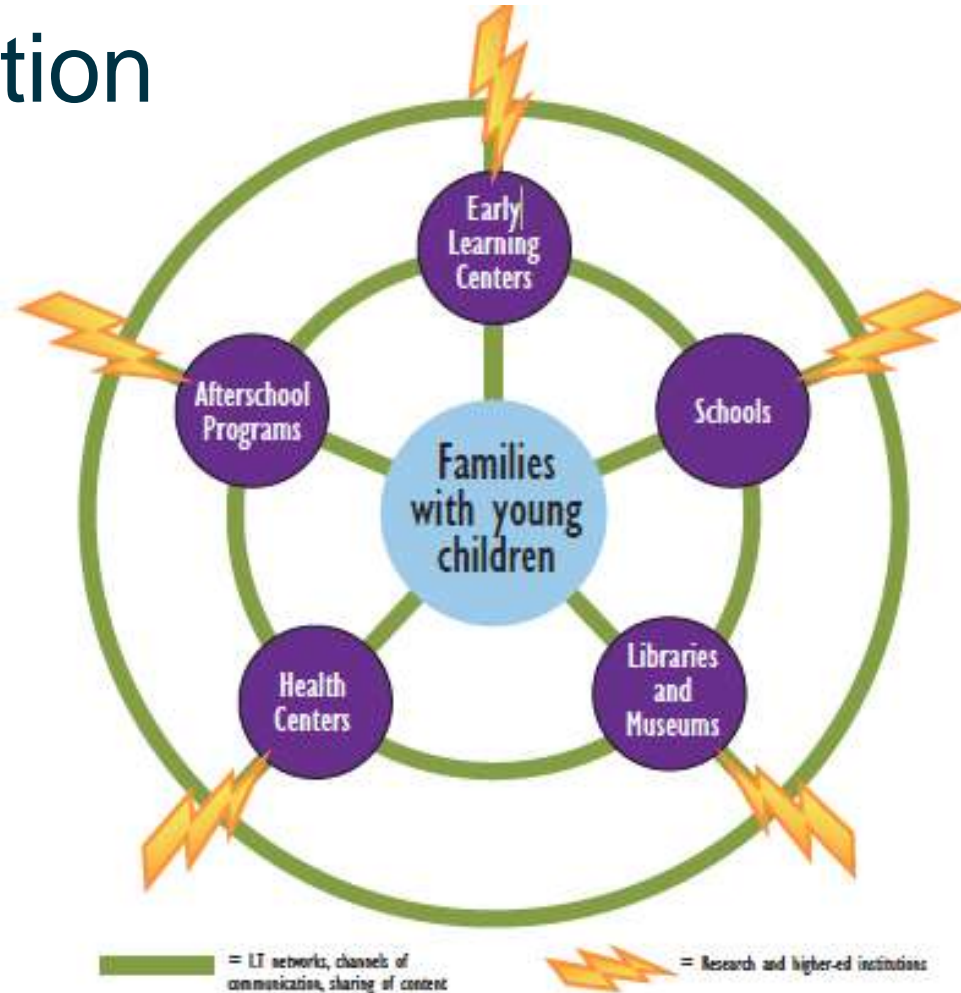
# Libraries as Connectors

*Technology in Early Education:  
Building Platforms for Connections  
and Content that  
Strengthen  
Families and  
Promote Success in  
School*

*ECS brief, 2012*



# Building networks for content and communication



# Time is ripe for e-book guidance

Parents are even reading e-books with their *very* young children. Survey results of 1200 middle class parents with child age 2 to 6 (*JGCC, 2012*).

But they need training on the use of questioning techniques with the new technology (*Vanderbilt study using videos of narrated Scholastic books, 2010*).



Photo by JGCC Research Team



Scott and Elaine Van der Chijs on Flickr

## Joint engagement

How can early childhood centers, schools and libraries encourage families to watch, talk about and play with digital and traditional media together?



Photo by Brigid Barron

## Early Education Initiative

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### Race to the Top 2011

Will the 'Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge,' a new \$500 million grant competition, trigger big changes in early learning? Which states have what it takes to win? We're watching every step of the way.

[Read more...](#)



### ARTICLES AND OP-EDS

Pushing Past Mediocrity in the Classroom  
January 29 | The Los Angeles Times  
Lisa Guernsey

Why EReading With Your Kid Can Impede Learning  
December 20 | TIME Magazine  
Lisa Guernsey

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### LATEST BLOG POSTS

The 'Race to the Top Winners': How States Plan to Assess Kindergarten Readiness

Laura Bornfreund  
Tuesday, March 13, 2012

This is the fifth post in a series on winners of the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC), the Obama Administration's competition to spur improvements in early learning for children up to age 5. Two weeks ago, we wrote about states' plans to develop the...

Raising Attendance at Tulsa's Head Start Program  
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Laura Bornfreund  
Monday, March 12, 2012

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# Contact Information

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[www.lisaguernsey.com](http://www.lisaguernsey.com)