



**Vol. 55 No. 4 | April 2019**



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## **A Note From the Agency Director**

Technology has an ever-growing importance in our daily lives. For many of us, we take access to the internet for granted. However, according to Broadbandnow, 177,000 South Carolinians do not have access to any wired internet providers. An additional 430,000 South Carolinians do not have access to a wired connection capable of 25mbps of download speed. That means that 15% of South Carolinians don't have adequate internet speeds, even though there are 117 internet providers in South Carolina. The services of those 117 providers are not available to every South Carolinian in every location. Additionally, there are over 690,000 people in South Carolina who have access to only one wired internet provider, which obviously limits their ability to search for competitive pricing. It is important to point out here that these numbers do not account for the 21% of South Carolinians who don't have a computer in their home or the additional 13.5% who do have a computer but don't have an internet connection. Access to the internet does not translate to affordability for everyone. South Carolina has the third lowest internet access capability.

However, public libraries in our state provide much-needed access to the internet and technology. People depend on their public libraries for these services. Without internet access provided by public libraries, they would be unable to apply for jobs, complete homework assignments, promote

small businesses, connect socially, and learn new skills. All of this leads to a connected, vibrant, healthy community and workforce. Access to technology creates opportunity.

A cornerstone to the South Carolina State Library is equal access. I am going to take this opportunity to shamelessly brag about the work we have been doing in public libraries across the state related to technology and internet connectivity. The Information Technology Department of the South Carolina State Library led by Paul Harmon has impacted South Carolina in ways that not only support individual needs, but it also encourages economic growth through business development. Paul has visited over 22 different county libraries assisting them with determining their technology needs to better serve their community. Many libraries lack the personnel or expertise to address technology needs in significant depth. Paul has been instrumental in guiding public libraries through what can be a daunting evaluation process and has worked directly with those public libraries to apply for federal E-Rate reimbursement funds.

The E-Rate program is funded through the Federal Communications Commission and offers reimbursement to schools and libraries for certain technology needs. The E-Rate reimbursement return can be as much as 80% of the overall cost spent on technology. Through our recent work with public libraries, and in partnership with the South Carolina Division of Technology Office's Andrew Epting, public libraries are eligible to recover approximately \$2.7 million in E-Rate funds. Additionally, we are working to increase bandwidth capacity in areas of the state that are extremely low. We currently have four areas functioning at 9mbps; the standard for most libraries is 50mbps, with some of our larger areas of the state using 800mbps.

Our goal is to help create equal access opportunities in our state. I am proud of all that our staff has accomplished and the ways in which we serve South Carolina. Stay tuned for more updates and greater access!

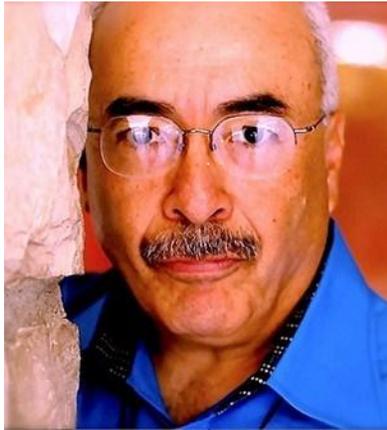
Reese, N. (2019, March 06). Internet access in South Carolina: stats & figures. Retrieved from <https://broadbandnow.com/South-Carolina>



All the best,

Leesa Aiken  
SCSL Agency Director

# Young Minds Dreaming



## 2019 Contest Winners Announced

In celebration of National Poetry Month, we are pleased to [announce the nine winners](#) in this year's Young Minds Dreaming poetry contest. These outstanding students will be honored at the State Library at an award ceremony and poetry celebration on Saturday, April 27 at 1:00 p.m.

Winners, their families, and the public are invited to attend the awards ceremony where each student will read their poem and meet special guest speaker [Mexican American Poet Juan Felipe Herrera](#), 21st Poet Laureate of the United States. Please [register for free tickets to this event](#).

## SC Libraries

### Get to Know EDI

Library boards and trustees play an important role in supporting equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in their communities. Give us an hour of your time on April 30 and get a better understanding of how to incorporate EDI into policy development, strategic planning, funding initiatives, board development, and more. [It is free to register](#) and there are morning and afternoon options. Both sessions are hosted by Anne Phibbs, Ph.D. Dr. Phibbs has more than 25 years of experience helping organizations advance in their EDI goals.



### Get the Word Out

You love your library and so do your regular patrons, but how do you connect with your entire community? It is easier than you think with the right tools. On April 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., we will explore engagement



strategies, social media videos, and the basic principles of great design. Also, did you know that reporters are people too? Learn ways to establish mutually beneficial relationships with members of the media. We tackle it all so [register today!](#)

## Light Up Youth

### Services

It's all about fun! Bring your creativity to the [Youth Services Programming Exchange](#) on April 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will share ideas, opportunities, and best practices that appeal to kids and teens. Our latest circulating kit or DIY escape room plans may be just the ticket to getting youth in the door at your library. [Registration](#) is \$10 and lunch is provided. Remember to bring a craft or program idea to share.



## State Employees



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
STATE DOCUMENTS  
DEPOSITORY SYSTEM

### Dive into Documents

There is still time to [register for the state documents training session](#) from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on April 30. We want to help state employees understand the vital role they play in providing agency publications to the State Library. Come learn about physical and digital state documents, their importance, and efficient ways to submit them. We will also cover all of the ways that the State Library can help meet your needs, from research to borrowing privileges.

### Fans of Fed Docs

We are a proud member of the [Federal Depository Library Program](#) (FDLP). Congress established the FDLP to ensure public access to American government information. Our collection is strong in the areas of agriculture, laws and regulations, health and social services, the national parks system, and defense. We also try to obtain all items on any topic relating to South Carolina. The collection may be used by visitors, and physical



items may be loaned to [State Library cardholders](#) and other libraries. [Follow us on Twitter](#) to see featured resources on [#FedDocFriday](#).

## SC Residents



### The Impact of a Well-Told Tale

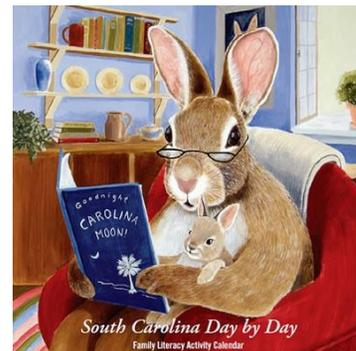
Explore the universe of books and stories with BibliObservatory, a new series of [LibraryVoicesSC](#). These podcasts are devoted to favorite childhood stories and how they inspired each featured guest. We hope these testimonies will encourage families to make literature and poems an integral part of a child's daily living. BibliObservatory is available in English and

Spanish. Listen online at [Podbean](#), [Stitcher](#), [TuneIn Radio](#), or your favorite podcast app.

### Now Available in Spanish

To assist family literacy efforts across South Carolina, we launched a perpetual print activity calendar in 2009. This calendar has a monthly theme and includes books, songs, activities, and family wellness information for families to enjoy. The [DayByDaySC website](#) is an interactive version using multimedia to enhance the content. If families can only spend a few minutes together, this

calendar will give them something they can use to make sure that quality time is also educational. If you would like to order some for your library, classroom, or event, please [fill out our order form](#) and we will contact you directly.



## From Our Collection

# FROM THE COLLECTION



South Carolina  
STATE LIBRARY

Get to know more about our collection with help from [LibraryVoicesSC](#). Each month, staff from our Collections and Digitization Department join the podcast to talk about a featured collection. In this first episode, Sarah Pettus and Kerry Jeyschune reflect on Women's History Month and the work of Sarah Leverette and Maria Martin. These women played important roles in South Carolina's contemporary and pre-Civil War history. Hear their stories on [Podbean](#), [Stitcher](#), [TuneIn Radio](#), or your favorite podcast app.

## Want more information about SC and its libraries?

It can be in your inbox every month.



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For more information on the South Carolina State Library, and a list of our board members, please visit the [About Us](#) section on our website. Visit our Digital Collections to [view previous issues of More](#). ISSN 1554-5768