



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY NEWS

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Los Angeles Public Library Awarded \$5.5 Million Federal Recovery Act Grant for New Computers and Technology

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Public Library has received \$5.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) federal grant funds for new computers and technology at the city's Central Library and 72 branch libraries. City Librarian Martín Gómez joined Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, and Congresswoman Maxine Waters for the announcement in South Los Angeles on January 13, 2009.

The funds are part of \$7.5 million grant developed by the city's Information Technology Agency for its Computer Access Network (L.A.-CAN) project, which proposes to double the number of workstations available throughout the city in low-income and non-English speaking communities.

"The funding will be used to expand and upgrade nearly 200 public computer centers at libraries, workforce centers, parks and youth and family centers" said Secretary Locke. "And perhaps most important in these difficult economic times, city residents will be provided with access to job and computer training and online search engines, including the new Job Hunting Guide developed by the Los Angeles Public Library."

Mayor Villaraigosa said, "with access to computers and broadband Internet that many of us take for granted, more Angelenos will have the opportunity to use the tools of the 21st century to get jobs of the 21st century. With this ARRA funding, we will take another step towards bridging the digital divide in our communities and getting the hard working people of Los Angeles back to work."

The \$5.5 million grant to the Los Angeles Public Library will fund:

(more)

- new branch servers, routers and switches to enable computer users to have smoother access to the Internet resources they seek
- upgrade of the Central Library cabling infrastructure to achieve fast-ethernet connectivity for the public computers
- 1,268 new public computers and printers to replace ones that are over 6 years old, in all 73 library facilities
- upgrade of wireless servers and hubs at all libraries to provide more robust Internet access to those with their own laptops
- mobile laptop computer carts to allow for public computer training at 12 branch libraries.

“With this grant the Library will rebuild and improve our aging technology infrastructure, which is a bridge over the digital divide that we provide to every community,” said City Librarian Martín Gómez. “Updated computers and network equipment is essential to meet the record demands for access to online job hunting, resume writing, job applications, language learning, and literacy skill building.”

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest population of any library in the country through its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, over six million books and other items, state-of-the-art technology, and its Web site (www.lapl.org). These resources and its more than 18,000 public programs provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.

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