

Getting Started -- Assessment in Public Libraries

Public Library Association, a division of ALA

PLA Results series, with primary author Sandra Nelson, has provided guidance to public libraries in metrics-based planning. The tools in this series include step-by-step instructions on planning and measurement, including outputs and outcomes. Print materials and online forms are accessible via elearn libraries (<http://www.elearnlibraries.com/workforms/>).

Forms include PLA Results Series:

Creating Policies for Results

Demonstrating Results

Human Resources for Results

Implementing for Results

Managing Facilities for Results

Managing for Results

New Planning for Results

Staffing for Results

Strategic Planning for Results

Technology for Results

Glossary: PLA Results Series

Recent Publications:

Managing with Data: Using ACRL Metrics and PLA Metrics. Peter Heron, Robert E. Dugan, and Joseph R. Matthews. (2015) (ALA Editions) <http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=11140>

Getting Started with Evaluation. Peter Heron, Robert E. Dugan, and Joseph R. Matthews (2014). (ALA Editions) <http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=4013>

Say It with Data: A Concise Guide to Making Your Case and Getting Results. Priscille Dando. (2014) (ALA Editions) <http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=4012>

National initiatives

Edge Initiative <http://www.libraryedge.org/>

The Edge Initiative, a coalition of libraries, governmental organizations, and associations developed an online benchmarking tool to assess capacity of public access computing in public libraries. Tools are designed to guide libraries in increasing awareness and internal computing and network capacity.

U.S. Impact Study <http://impact.ischool.washington.edu/>

Patron-based feedback tool to understand the impact of public access computing services in public libraries.

Other Research or Training

Library Research Service, Colorado State Library. <http://www.lrs.org/>

Research Institute for Public Libraries, summer 2015 <http://www.lrs.org/2014/09/03/research-institute-public-libraries-summer-2015/>