

The prototypical USAFs example is the e-rate program in the USA. Many countries have modelled their programs to the USA and there are notable and successful example from the Morocco, Colombia and Turkey. Many of the initiatives from a private/public partnership. Unfortunately, inefficiency, lack of transparency or mere underutilization have slowed the adoption of USAFs in many countries. In a 2013 study, [Universal Service Fund Study](#) it was reported that "Most universal service funds (USF) remain inefficient and ineffective. Together, the 64 USFs covered in this report contain more than USD 11 billion waiting to be disbursed. Of those funds studied, many have not disbursed any money.

In fact, of those USFs where levies are currently being applied and collected, it is estimated that only 64% of these same USFs have carried out some level of disbursement or reported that some disbursements have been made. In other words, more than one third of the USFs in this study have yet to disburse any of the levies collected and very few funds, if any, would appear to disburse all that they collect."

Where USAFs exist, they should focus strongly on supporting public Internet access. Individual decisions about funding should respond to need (for example focusing on connections, subscriptions, hardware or skills as appropriate).
[Find out more.](#)

USAFs should be independent of government, and managed efficiently and transparency, allowing libraries and citizens to understand how they are spending money and the impact they are having.
[Find out more.](#)

Where USAFs do not exist, governments could consider establishing these as a means of providing dedicated funding for public access programs.
[Find out more.](#)

7. Resources

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Global Net

- TV Whitespace Project, Gigabit Libraries Network: <http://giglibraries.net/page-1712342>
- Providing Internet Access through Public Libraries, Beyond Access (2012): https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/clm/WSIS/libraries_public_access.pdf
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- Public Spectrum for Public Access, Don Means, 17 January 2017: <https://www.internetsociety.org/blog/2017/01/public-spectrum-for-public-access/>

Connecting the Global to the National

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- Dig Once: an IEEE-USA Position Paper (2017): <http://globalpolicy.ieee.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/IEEE17022.pdf>
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- E-rate: Universal Service Programme for Schools and Libraries, US Federal Communications Commission: <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/universal-service-program-schools-and-libraries-e-rate>
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<https://www.usac.org/sl/>
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- Your Essential Guide to the 2018 E-Rate Programme, Mindsight, 2018:
<https://www.gomindsight.com/blog/2018-e-rate-program/>

Local Networks

- Libraries and the WSIS Action Lines, IFLA (2006):
<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/wsis/Documents/libraries-and-the-wsis-action-lines-en.pdf>

- Connecting Governments, Libraries and Communities, Paul Jaeger et al (2014): <https://firstmonday.org/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/4900/4160>
- Libraries, Technology and the Route to Relevance, Governing the States and Localities (2018): <http://www.governing.com/gov-institute/voices/col-public-libraries-leverage-technology-build-relevance.html>
- The Long-Term Health of Libraries, The Aspen Dialogue (2014): <http://csreports.aspeninstitute.org/Dialogue-on-Public-Libraries/2014/report/details/0090/Libraries>
- The Library and Information Agenda, Australian Library and Information Association (2016): <https://www.alia.org.au/sites/default/files/The%20Library%20and%20Information%20Agenda%202016.pdf>
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- High Speed Broadband in Californian Libraries, State Library of California <http://www.library.ca.gov/services/to-libraries/broadband/>
- TV White Space, the Most Important Development Tool? Sophie Edwards (2016): <https://www.devex.com/news/tv-white-space-the-most-powerful-development-tool-88868>
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- WhiteSpace Project Could Grow Rural Broadband Access, Matt Ennis (2017): <https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=whitespace-project-could-grow-rural-broadband-access>

Building Networks

- More than 750 American Communities Have Built their Own Internet Networks, Karl Bode (2017): https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/a3np4a/new-municipal-broadband-map
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- Community-Owned Fiber Networks: Value Leaders in America, David Talbot, Kira Hessekiel (2018): <https://cyber.harvard.edu/publications/2018/01/communityfiber>

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- Local Access and Community Networking, Association for Progressive Communications: <https://www.apc.org/en/apc-wide-activities/local-access-and-community-networking>

REGULATING NETWORKS AND MARKETS

Regulation and Connectivity

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- Dynamic Spectrum and TV White Spaces, Microsoft (2012); <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/project/dynamic-spectrum-and-tv-white-spaces/>
- TV White Space Pilot Launched by Government of India, Arnab Mukherjee (2016): <https://www.digit.in/general/pilot-project-to-test-tv-whitespace-technology-launched-by-government-of-india-29678.html>
- The Reallocation Imperative: A New Vision for Spectrum Policy, Preston Marshall (2012): [https://assets.aspeninstitute.org/content/uploads/files/content/docs/cands/The Reallocation Imperative A New Vision For Spectrum Policy.pdf](https://assets.aspeninstitute.org/content/uploads/files/content/docs/cands/The_Reallocation_Imperative_A_New_Vision_For_Spectrum_Policy.pdf)
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- The Human Rights Impact of Taxing Popular Internet Services, APC (2019): <https://www.apc.org/en/pubs/human-rights-impacts-taxing-popular-internet-services-cases-kenya-tanzania-and-uganda>

Regulation and Content

- IFLA Statement on Internet Shutdowns, IFLA (2017): https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/faife/statements/ifla_internet_shutdowns_statement.pdf (see also the background note: https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/topics/info-society/documents/ifla_internet_resource_pack.pdf)
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- India Now Has the Strongest Net Neutrality Rules, Rishi Iyengar (2018), <https://money.cnn.com/2018/07/12/technology/india-net-neutrality-rules-telecom/index.html>
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LEGAL AND PRIVACY ISSUES

Secondary Liability

- 3D Printing in the Library: Do be Aware but No Reason to Scare, Tom Lipinski (2018): <https://blogs.ifla.org/lpa/2018/04/16/3d-printing-in-the-library-do-be-aware-but-no-reason-to-scare-a-legal-risk-assessment-by-tomas-a-lipinski/>
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- Filters and Filtering, American Library Association: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/filtering>
- Libraries, the Internet and the Law: Adults Must Have Unfiltered Access, ACLU (2010): <https://www.aclu-wa.org/news/libraries-internet-and-law-adults-must-have-unfiltered-access>

Copyright

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- Copyright Issues for Libraries, IFLA: <https://www.ifla.org/copyright-issues-for-libraries>
- Upcoming Copyright Issues for Libraries in 2019, IFLA – Part 1: <https://blogs.ifla.org/lpa/2019/01/14/copyright-for-libraries-in-2019-whats-on-the-agenda-part-1/>, Part 2: <https://blogs.ifla.org/lpa/2019/01/18/trends-in-copyright-for-libraries-whats-coming-up-this-year-part-2/>

Surveillance

- Guide to International Law and Surveillance, Privacy International (2017): <https://privacyinternational.org/sites/default/files/2017-12/Guide%20to%20International%20Law%20and%20Surveillance%20August%202017.pdf>
- A Clear-Eyed Look at Mass Surveillance, Human Rights Watch (2014): <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/07/25/clear-eyed-look-mass-surveillance>
- The Data Surveillance State in Europe and the United States, Joel Reidenberg (2014): https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/faculty_scholarship/645/
- Keeping Internet Users in the Know or in the Dark: An Analysis of the Data Privacy Transparency of Canadian Internet Carriers, Andrew Clement and Jonathan Obar (2016): https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5325/jinfopoli.6.2016.0294#metadata_info_tab_contents
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FINANCE

Ensuring adequate funding for libraries

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- Universal Service Funds and Connecting Schools to the Internet Around the World, Michael Trucano (2015): <https://blogs.worldbank.org/edutech/universal-service-funds-connecting-schools-internet-around-world>
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8. Checklist

1. *Where these are lacking, or there is too much reliance on one option, governments and others should support projects to build or improve connections between individual countries and the global Internet*
2. *Governments should support efforts to develop affordable Internet Exchange Points, in particular in developing countries, in order to provide better access to content.*
3. *Government strategies for Internet access should explicitly aim to bring this to all parts of the country, and focus resources on those areas where private-sector initiatives are least likely.*
4. *Policies and programs focused on infrastructure should include Internet infrastructure, for example through 'dig once' approaches.*
5. *When connecting a new area for the first time, governments should consider connecting the library and other community anchor institutions first, given their role in providing access to information regardless of income.*
6. *In line with the WSIS Action Line, governments should prioritise bringing libraries, alongside schools and other community hubs, online, as a first step to connecting communities.*
7. *Governments should ensure that libraries can benefit from funding available for developing publicly accessible WiFi services.*
8. *Governments should not set too low a standard for Internet connections. The 2Mbps standard advanced by A4AI is a good start, but this should be higher still in the case of libraries, given their use by the community.*
9. *Governments should be ready to consider the full range of options for bringing more people online, including newer techniques such as TV White Space.*
10. *In communities with no or low connectivity (linked to inadequate private sector offer), governments should facilitate municipal fibre (run by local government) and community networks as valuable alternatives.*
11. *Governments should ensure that libraries can play an active role in community networks, not only as hubs, but also in providing a physical space to deliver training or even just to meet.*
12. *Government regulation of telecommunications markets should promote competition as a means of promoting efforts to connect more users.*
13. *Government regulation should not restrict use of existing infrastructure (ducts, telegraph poles) by new players.*
14. *Governments should ensure the process of allocating spectrum leaves space for new or experimental connectivity initiatives.*
15. *Governments should promote competition between telecommunications companies, in order to ensure that libraries (paid for with public money) get the best possible deal.*
16. *Governments should not impose high taxation (or import duties) on communications equipment as bought and used by libraries.*
17. *Governments should ensure that any restrictions on Internet access are necessary, proportionate, and transparent. In all but the most extreme circumstances, Internet shutdowns are not justified.*
18. *Governments should regulate to protect net neutrality against violations, including through zero rating.*

19. *Libraries providing public access to the Internet should not be held liable for the actions of their users, in particular where they have made it clear that illegal or copyright-infringing activities are not in line with acceptable use policies.*
20. *Libraries should not be obliged to apply filtering technologies that violate users' privacy or treat user-uploaded content as infringing unless proven otherwise.*
21. *Libraries should not be obliged to collect names or other identifying information about users in order to facilitate future prosecutions for copyright infringement.*
22. *Libraries should benefit from a modern and comprehensive set of exceptions and limitations to copyright allowing them to make maximum use of the materials to which they have access.*
23. *Governments should be transparent about surveillance policies as far as possible, and refrain from any indiscriminate data collection.*
24. *Governments should introduce effective data protection rules that give people the power to choose what data is collected about them, how it is used, and meaningful redress in case of abuse.*
25. *Governments should ensure that library legislation is up to date, and favours the provision of public internet access.*
26. *Governments should recognize the social value of public internet access, as well as their contribution to the effectiveness of broader government policies when taking decisions about funding.*
27. *Governments should take a coordinated approach to supporting public access to online services in different policy areas by strengthening libraries.*
28. *Where USAFs exist, they should focus strongly on supporting public Internet access. Individual decisions about funding should respond to need (for example focusing on connections, subscriptions, hardware or skills as appropriate).*
29. *USAFs should be independent of government, and managed efficiently and transparently, allowing libraries and citizens to understand how they are spending money and the impact they are having.*
30. *Where USAFs do not exist, governments could consider establishing these as a means of providing dedicated funding for public access programs.*