

Digital Champions in Libraries

17th September 2015



Michael Fourman
Royal Society of Edinburgh and The University of Edinburgh

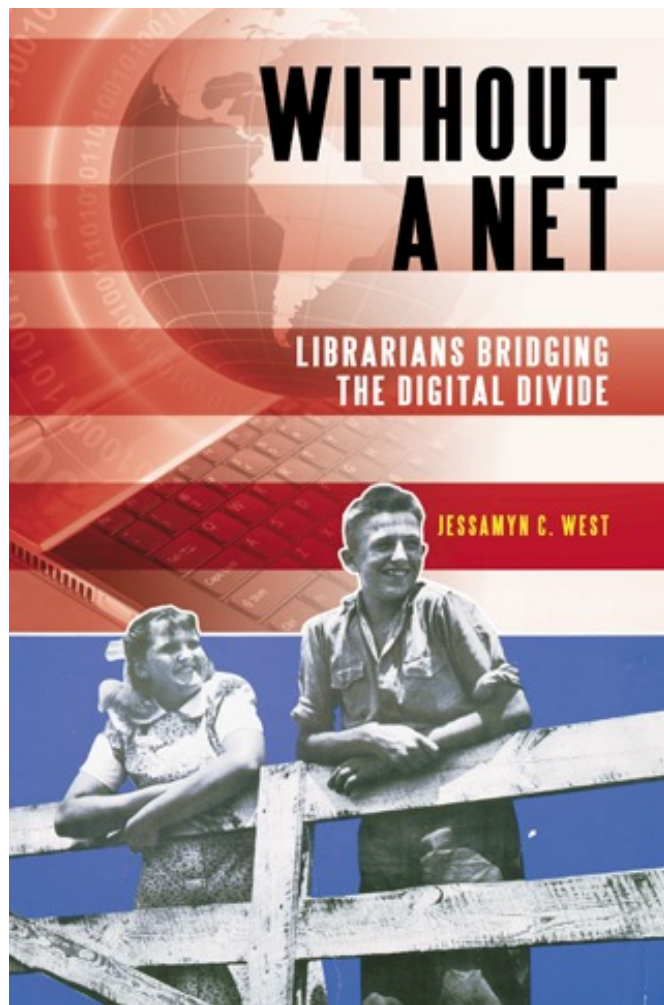
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Who's left to fill the gap?
Who's left to provide internet access
for the final 20%, or more?
Why, the public library of course.



Libraries are treated as one of the major social tools which can solve the information divide rooted in the digital divide and contribute to the realization of democratic society.

Bridging the digital divide:
The role of librarians and information
professionals in the third millennium.
Seyed Vahid Aqili, Alireza Isfandyari Moghaddam
The Electronic Library 2008 26:2 , 226-237

The role of libraries in closing the digital divide for older people

<http://www.voicesforthelibrary.org.uk/2012/05/the-role-of-libraries-in-closing-the-digital-divide-for-older-people/>





New Report Finds Libraries Help Close Digital Divide but Struggle to Sustain Public Access Computing Services

“Today, if you can reach a public library, you can reach the Internet,” said Bill Gates, Sr., at the Public Library Association conference.

“The challenge now is to continue providing this access that millions of our neighbours depend upon.”

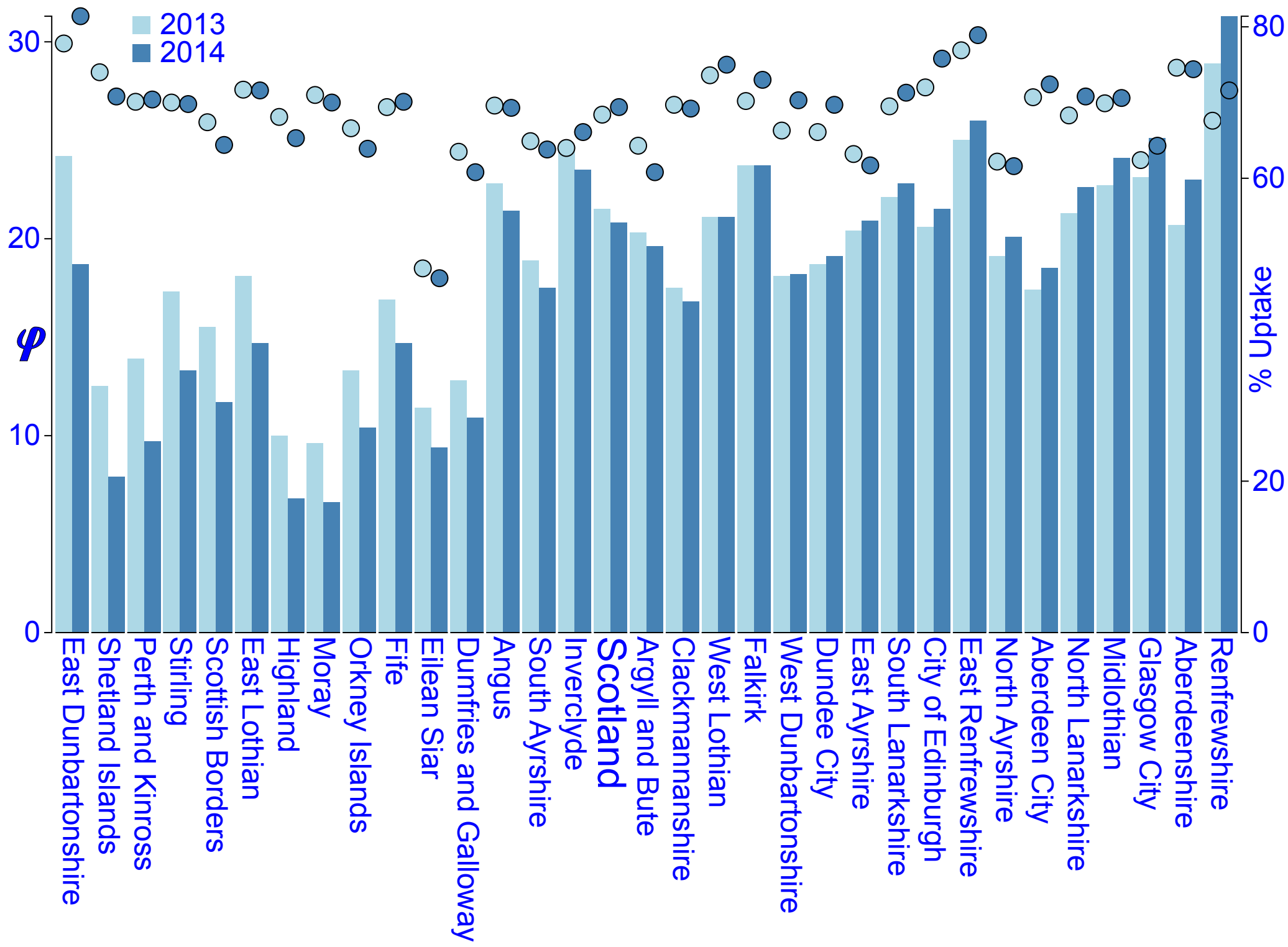
Global Libraries program works to support the transformation of libraries as engines of development.

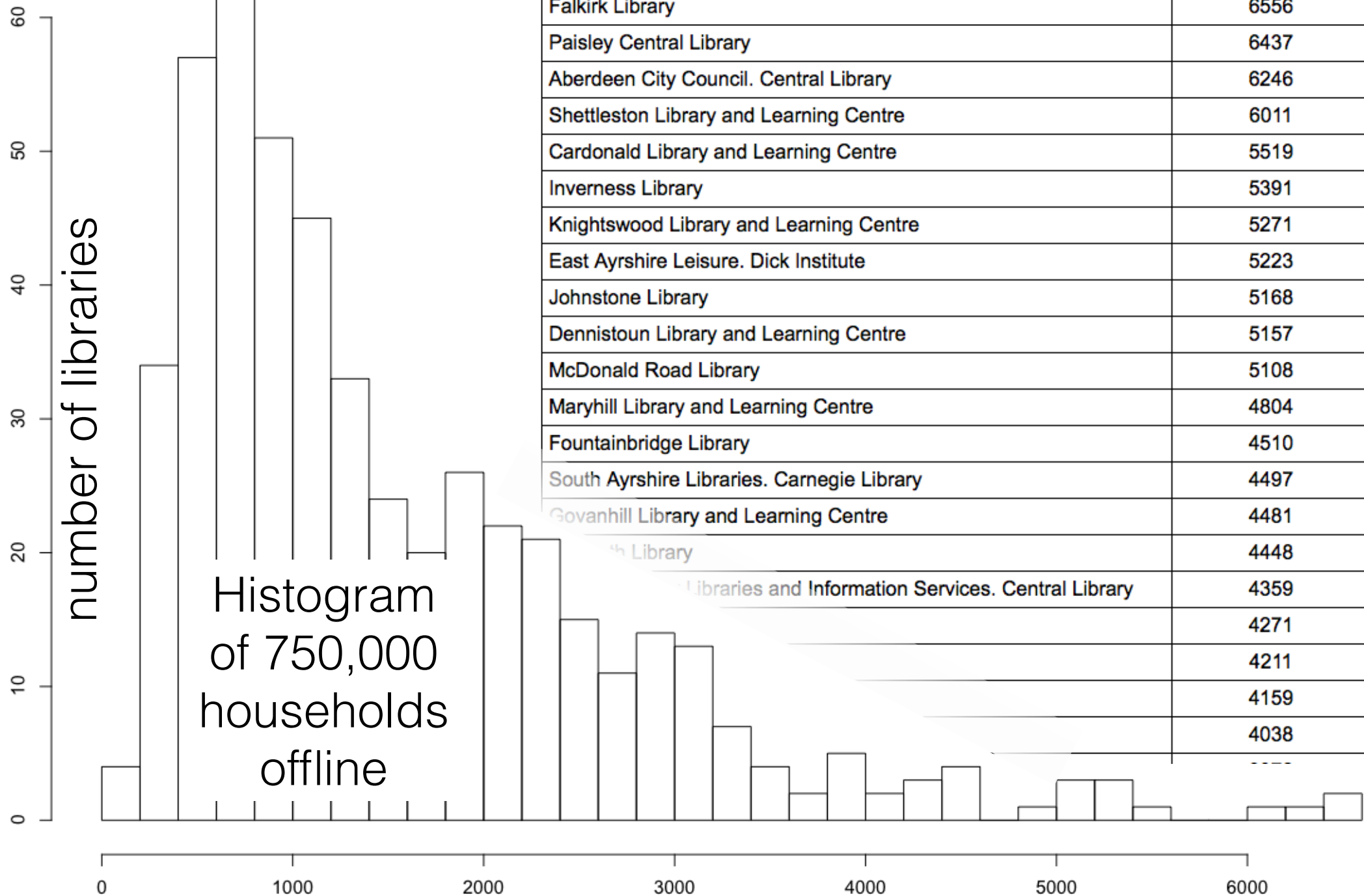




The American Library Association's Digital Inclusion Survey, found that nearly all of the nation's public libraries provide their communities with computers, Wi-Fi, vast online resources and technology skills training.

The report, however, also found a stark divide among some of the digital resources available at libraries.





Number of Offline Households in Catchment

Can libraries fill the gap?

The average 16+ internet user
in Scotland spends
over 50 hours per month online
at home
plus 30 h/m elsewhere.

If each *household* without
home internet requires library
access for *one hour per month*,
a library serving 5,200 offline
households must provide
1,200 access hours per week

