



are preliminary and present an early  
public access. Complete data for each country  
at the conclusion of this project in late  
recommendations to improve public access to  
valuable insight into areas of future intervention.  
explored either public libraries or telecentres  
(Gyfte, 2000; Selwyn, 2002; Hull, 2003); we  
enter a brief discussion about our research

process of country selection for our study

Here we introduce the Integrated Iterative  
design informed by our research partners in 25  
venues in turn – public libraries, telecentres  
and arrive at some important insights and  
recommendations for improving public access to ICT

that formed the lower-to middle economic  
eliminate from the sample countries at  
economic scale where private access and use  
countries that were very low on the global

<i>Argentina</i> <i>Costa Rica</i> <i>Egypt</i> <i>Malaysia</i> <i>Moldova</i> <i>Mongolia</i> <i>Turkey</i>
<i>Indonesia</i> <i>Kyrgyzstan</i>

**of public access to ICT**

w to each country based on our needs and  
and readiness scores for each country.

Society Report (2006).

historical factors as well as future  
of consideration was also the uni-  
the RA/RI framework. In our study, we  
nues in terms of ICT, but also the use and  
their particular information and  
ed uses of technology, we added the  
ctors influencing public access and use of  
ing factor was added to our list based on  
to three larger themes – ***Equitable Access***,  
or Access, Capacity and Environment in

cybercafés next.

which public access to information can be  
model of public libraries in the Unites  
er these an important venue for potential  
s framed in a way that facilitated the  
t public libraries. This section highlights  
takes into consideration the fourteen

ny and location created barriers for physical  
raries are concentrated mainly in the cities  
The following chart compares the  
public libraries. This trend was also echoed  
and cybercafés showed a more even  
king. In general, however, non urban  
ave access to information and to ICT.

aries in non-urban areas, the materials and  
*use costs* and infrastructural expenses  
Several researchers reported high  
to the fee-for-service costs, a common  
the inclusion of *costs other than ICT usage*  
the likelihood of poorer communities to  
ted in the case of public libraries in Egypt.  
Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Moldova  
uture.

libraries was a concern reported in  
rted that the available technology is not  
current technology often presents  
these countries. ICT in libraries often lacked  
es.

ple - Georgia, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, and  
oviet Union. With particular reference to  
dministration has left a cultural legacy of  
zstan reported that while the people valued  
een years, leaving outdated information in  
due to this lack of current information  
cal effect of this lessened value placed on

Initiatives to increase public access to ICT  
well as conflict and war resulted in lack of  
unique case where the high political will of  
creating significant barriers to increase in

ICT in telecentres was the *lack of trained*  
use ICT. Kazakhstan, for example reported  
technical literacy lagged far behind due to lack  
also reported the phenomenon of brain drain  
s, leaving rural patrons without recourse to

reported to be a barrier to ICT access and  
a and South Africa, our researchers  
limited access to current information. Brazil  
provided renders access to current local

The list of factors affecting use and access of  
technologies that are provided at public access  
content, telecentres are helping people  
lier, Sri Lanka communities criticized the  
in this country, locally relevant content in  
, we also received reports of community  
on local issues, not directly related to

cybercafés leading to a general mistrust of  
s. Currently, initiatives are underway to  
s.  
ormation, it is also important to note what  
nformation freely. In the cases of Turkey  
not been in the habit of providing  
ormation. These trends have continued to  
ormation that is easily accessible and

*ties* such as class, gender, minority status,  
n in urban or rural areas. Gender was  
ountries such as Algeria, Egypt, Turkey,

## **public access**

ved so far is on in our second phase of  
rged out of our preliminary analysis. These  
cess to ICT.

ective *collaboration among existing venues*  
t of our sample countries recommended  
o ICT - whether they are between public  
a and Nepal) or between various

venues that provide public access to ICT. In partnership with local research teams in our schools, and cybercafés in each of these schools, we investigated the use of these venues. In order to investigate the cultural, political, environmental factors influencing ICT use, a Participatory Approach we built in a system of stakeholder consultation and created a process where we identified the way that the most meaningful questions

emerged in several interesting directions. While more research at cybercafés is ongoing, we concluded that in order to provide public access it is necessary to consider not only public libraries and temple libraries, specialized libraries and community centers. Further research given the large scale use of ICT in these emergent themes point to areas of research that are the current state of knowledge in the field of ICT use. Possible interventions to increase access and use of ICT are discussed in this process.

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