



# AN EDGE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Edge is led by the Urban Libraries Council and developed by a national coalition of leading library and local government organizations with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This groundbreaking tool was developed to help libraries assess their technology, communicate its impact, and plan for the future. Libraries of all sizes are successfully using Edge to strengthen and improve their technology services.

## ASSESS. COMMUNICATE. ACHIEVE.

Now there's a management tool that can help libraries align their technology services to the needs of the community. That tool is Edge. Edge guides libraries to set measurable, strategic goals for digital inclusion and to engage government and community leaders in meaningful discussion about technology needs and plans.

**Edge is a four-step, resource-rich toolkit that helps library leaders wisely make technology improvement decisions.**

### STEP 1 — ASSESS

Take an online assessment to identify strengths, gaps, and areas of improvement for technology infrastructure and services. Criteria are based on 11 national benchmarks that gauge community value, stakeholder engagement, and organizational management.

### STEP 2 — PLAN

Review assessment data and select recommendations to create an Action Plan.

### STEP 3 — IMPLEMENT

Use the Action Plan as a roadmap to strengthen technology services to meet community priorities.

### STEP 4 — COMMUNICATE

Engage local leaders and communicate how library technology supports community priorities.

### The Library as Technology Leader

With the Edge Toolkit, libraries create a roadmap for strengthening and developing technology services to meet the specific priorities of their communities.

- Online assessment tool to evaluate technology
- Peer and national reports to compare assessment results
- Data-based recommendations to improve technology
- Planning resources to develop concrete, measurable strategies
- Consulting and training to assist with every step
- Reporting and presentation tools to communicate how library technology supports the local economy, workforce, lifelong learning, and strong communities

### Create Change

Libraries are — and always have been — gateways to the universe of information and ideas that enable people to learn and succeed.

Today, Edge ensures library technology is everything it needs to be to meet the goals and aspirations of the people and communities we serve.

Urban Libraries Council (ULC), founded in 1971, is the voice for public libraries and the force that inspires them to evolve. ULC creates the tools, techniques, and ideas to make ongoing improvements and upgrades in services and technology. ULC also speaks loudly and clearly about the value public libraries bring to communities, and secures funding for research that results in the development of new programs and services.

