



## High Speed Internet Goes Live at Deming Library

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On August 1<sup>st</sup> the Deming Library connected to new high-speed broadband internet as the first rural broadband expansion goes live in Washington State. The Deming Library broadband project...

is a joint effort between several agencies: Northwest Open Access Network (NoaNet), Black Rock Cable, Washington State Library, and the Whatcom County Library System

(WCLS).

NoaNet received a \$140 million grant as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Using these funds, NoaNet is leading construction of more than 1,300 miles of new fiber capable of delivering enhanced, affordable broadband service to 55 economically depressed communities across Washington.

"High-speed broadband Internet expands the realm of possibility in rural Washington," said Greg Marney, NoaNet CEO, "In addition to improvements to medical care, schools, libraries, government agencies, businesses and individuals, expanding broadband makes good economic sense by creating immediate jobs and attracting economic investment to rural areas."

Joan Airoidi, director of Whatcom County Library System said the Library is thrilled and honored to be the first of the broadband expansions to go live. "Faster and more stable Broadband at the Deming Library means equitable access to the Internet for our rural communities," said Airoidi.

"Deming Library provides easily accessible library services throughout the Foothills communities and serves as a community hub for accessing the Internet. Wi-Fi use at the Deming Library is among the highest in the Whatcom County Library System."

The Washington State Library worked with NoaNet to ensure that public libraries were included in the NoaNet effort. As a result, more than 100 mostly rural public libraries and three tribal libraries will receive high speed broadband capacity over the next two years.

A ribbon cutting ceremony took place Monday, August 1st at 1 p.m. at the Deming Public Library. U.S. Representative Rick Larsen was in attendance along with the NoaNet CEO, Greg Marney, Whatcom County Executive Pete Kremen, Black Rock President Bob Warshawer, Washington State Librarian Rand Simmons, Mt. Baker School District Superintendent Rick Gantman, and Whatcom County Library System Director Joan Airoidi.

Black Rock Cable was a key partner in the project and performed the construction work for the Deming Library project to lay the fiber optics cable.

Broadband access at the Deming Library will give library patrons a more seamless experience of accessing library services and resources. Whether logging onto Internet to look for a job, using checkout stations, or printing information from the Internet, library patrons will have faster Internet access.

Faster WiFi speeds at Deming will also improve access to digital library resources like Job and Career Accelerator, with over five million job listings, resume preparation, and job search assistance.

Stop by the Deming Public Library and test drive our new broadband connection!

