

Chapterthon 2021: We are the Internet Society ISOC Armenia Chapter Project

DIY Manual

This “Do It Yourself” manual shows how our chapter see the future development of Internet in Armenia.

ISOC Armenia Chapter as a part of the Armenian civil society organizations (CSOs) network plays a great role in helping vulnerable groups of population by tending their needs, supplying equipment, and providing various support services during the COVID-19 pandemic. One of our continuous programs is helping rural libraries with digitization, Internet connection and provision of WiFi access to Internet for library visitors.

During last several years we were equipping libraries with computers, library management software and training librarians. Presently we digitized more than 150 rural libraries. It was done partly by the ISOC grants and partly by local donors. We are also installing WiFi access points in the libraries having Internet connection. We noticed that in libraries with WiFi Internet access there was a big increase in the number of visitors. It was because Internet-hungry young people are always looking for a place where they can connect to the Internet with their tablets and mobiles.

There is another aspect of that phenomenon. Recent research of the World Bank showed that there are digital inequalities between rural and urban areas because of income inequalities. Today, half of the global population remains offline. Most of those offline are from low-income families. Families in rural areas of Armenia with monthly income less than \$200 can't afford themselves to have a broadband Internet for \$12/month. This kind of problem should be somehow addressed. Everything possible should be done to bring affordable broadband connectivity to rural population.

We found that rural libraries can become community network nodes and facilitate the problem of Internet access in rural regions. Our experience brought us to the main goal of our further actions, i.e., setup digitized Internet-connected rural libraries with WiFi access points for library visitors as community network nodes. In villages where people can't have Internet at homes this possibility is invaluable and helps people to have Internet access.

In general, COVID-19 highlighted the inequalities within countries, and the urgency of achieving the goal of universal access to broadband connectivity.

Trying to help in achieving the goal of universal access to broadband connectivity we started negotiations with leading Armenian Internet providers asking them to set discounted prices of broadband Internet connection for rural libraries.

According to our Chapterthon 2021 plan we installed:

- 2 computers and WiFi access point in the Gyumri city central library
- 4 computers in the Gyumri city central library branches.
- 3 computers and WiFi access point in the Martuni cultural center
- 1 computer in the Dilijan city library
- 1 computer and WiFi access point in the Vayots Dzor library.
- 1 computer in the Hrazdan city library.

13 more WiFi access points are on the way to regions for the following rural libraries in addition to the aforementioned:

- Gavar
- Gavar, Hatsarat district
- Gavar, Artsvakar district
- Gandzak
- Sarukhan
- Lanjaghbyur
- Gegharkunik
- Karmirgyugh
- Chambarak
- Abovyani
- Bakunts
- Lernadzor
- Geghi

In total, 12 computers and 15WiFi access pointswere installed.

We also presented the list of rural libraries for broadband Internet connection to one of the leading Armenian operator providing Internet services.

The list of digitized libraries where we installed computers with library management softwarethat need a broadband Internet:

Hrazdan Community Libraries and Cultural Centers

Library No. 1

Library No. 2

Library No. 3

Library No. 4

Library No. 5

Library No. 6

Hrazdan Drama Theater-Cultural Center

Hrazdan Municipality Children's Art School after Yervand Kochar

Children's Art School after KostanZaryan of Hrazdan Municipality

Music School No. 1 after Aram Khachatryan of Hrazdan Municipality

Libraries of Aragatsotn region

Aragats village library

Oshakan village library

Library of Ashtarak N2 school

Libraries of Ararat region

Masis city library

Ararat regional library

Libraries of Gegharkunik region

Gavar city library
Tsovagyugh village library
Chkalovka village library
Ddmashen village library
Zovaber village library
Lchashen village library
Tsaghkunk village library
Varser village library
Norashen village library
Noratus village library
Children's department of Gegharkunik regional library
Gegharkunik Regional Library

Libraries of Lori region

Amrakits village library
Debet village library
Alaverdi urban cultural center
Tashir Library
Spitak city library
Lori Regional Library
Centralized system of Vanadzor libraries
Stepanavan city library

Libraries of Kotayk region

Kotayk Regional Library
Geghashen village library
Qaghsi village library
Solak village library
Lernanist village library
Marmarik village library
Meghradzor village library
Hrazdan TV library
Zovuni village library
Hrazdan E. Kochar Children's Art School
Hrazdan Drama Theater
Hrazdan Music School No. 1
Hrazdan State Vocational School SNCO
Hrazdan Children and Youth Creativity Center

Libraries of VayotsDzor region

Jermuk city library

Libraries of Shirak region

Shirak Regional Library

Artik Library
4 branches of Gyumri Central Library

Libraries of Tavush region

Tavush Regional Library
Koti village library
Achajur village library
Getahovit village library
Dovegh village library
Tsaghkavan village library
Vazashen village library
Skar village library
Azatamut village library
Gandzakar village library
Voskevan village library
Noyemberyan children's library
Noyemberyan city library
Dilijan Library No. 2
Dilijan Library No. 3
Library No. 4 in Dilijan
Dilijan Central City Library
Mosesgegh village library
Choratan village library
Chinari village library
Kapan VachaganBanavan Library
Library No. 14 in Baghaberd district of Kapan
Library of Kapan Shinararner district
Library of Minas Papyan district of Kapan
Library of Mushegh Harutyunyan district of Kapan
Library of Barabat district of Kapan
Library of Ashotavan district of Kapan
Library of Kavart district of Kapan
Library of Bekh district of Kapan
Dastakert Library

Libraries of Syunik Region

Syunik Regional Library
Libraries of Syunik region
Goris Central City Library
Goris Children's Library
Library of Goris Avangard district
Goris GusanAshot N 8 library
Goris GusanAshot N 21 library
Goris Syunik Library No. 175
Verishen village library

Tandzatap village library
Tat village library
Svarants village library
Shinuhayr village library
Akner village library
Halidzor village library
Harjis village library
Khndzoresk village library
Khot village library
Karahunj village library
Library of Dzorq district of Kapan
Library of Davit Bek district of Kapan
Library No. 8 in Baghaberd district of Kapan
Library of Rafael Minasyan district of Kapan
Kapan BaghaburjBanavan Library

Libraries of Armavir region

Arevadasht community library

We'll continue our activity in helping rural libraries and cultural centers to have a broadband Internet.