

**Question for written answer E-002259/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Sustaining public libraries in the 21st century

Public libraries perform many functions beyond offering free access to books and publications; they play a key role in providing equal access to opportunities for their users, especially children and young people, regardless of educational background, family income level, origin or ability. In the EU, one in five 15-year-olds have poor reading skills, and 73 million European adults lack solid literacy skills.

Libraries in the 21st century are not just about physical books; they also have a role to play in building communities and fostering a sense of active citizenship. Internet access in libraries, especially wi-fi access can boost library use among citizens.

In the light of this, what is the Commission doing to improve internet infrastructure in public libraries across the EU?

What funding schemes has the Commission made available to modernise public libraries?