Commissioner Clyburn Remarks
FCC Library Open House 2014
April 16, 2014

Good morning everyone, and welcome to the FCC Library Open House: Your Connection to Information. I would like to thank Sheryl Todd for inviting me to join everyone today, and the staff for their hard work and dedication to this agency.

As the daughter of a librarian, I find today's theme most fitting when speaking about a resource center located inside of an agency that focuses on connecting people, personally and professionally. In order to render sound policy and make fact and data-based decisions, we need information in various forms from a variety of platforms and resources. This facility, our library, continues to play an integral role in assisting staff with research and providing us with the materials necessary to achieve our agency's mission.

If this were the early '80s, our library experience this morning would be strictly print based. But by the mid-1990s, the FCC staff performed general research using non-networked towers. Then, in the early 2000s, the electronic catalog became a key research resource for determining whether there was content here useful to you. Very soon, however, you will access library research content via cloud computing, which promises to increase the ease with which we are able to conduct research activities, both on-site and off.

Through the new cloud feature, teleworking staff will access the e-library homepage on the Intranet enabling them to use vetted research content directly from the library's databases.

Web-based content and features are routinely evolving, and our Library continuously reviews its database offerings to provide us with the capability to perform research from our desktops.

But their work does not stop there. If the library staff finds that the resources you need are not available onsite or online, they will not hesitate to contact regional libraries, including the Library of Congress, to obtain materials for you to conduct the level of research needed to complete your task.

That Connection to Information stretches far beyond our professional needs, and is widely used by all types of libraries. Thus, it is fitting that there are representatives here today from area public libraries, showcasing just how technology can be used by all of our citizens.

Today's learning centers—because libraries are learning centers—are more than repositories for books and are light years away from that single room filled with periodicals. Our libraries offer 3D printing for those wishing to explore and expand their imaginations; they offer programs to those of all ages who wish to learn a new language or a new skill; they offer broadband access to the millions who cannot afford it at home, and they are places of refuge for people who simply wish to share their love of the written, and sometimes spoken, word.

And this library, our very own center, remains deeply committed to the FCC staff and is a trusted place where we can come and get the information we need to better serve this nation.

Your connection to information is right here, right now. Database vendors are on-hand this morning offering you unique opportunities to explore and ask about their products, and those in the FCC Technology Experience Center are available and anxious to introduce you to the latest in communications technology.

The library staff, and the database and technology vendors, not only want to hear what you have to say about their content, they are on-site and are willing to listen to your suggestions about how they can improve your overall research experience and professional performance. Take full advantage of this opportunity. Make the best of one of our most valuable resources.

On behalf of my colleagues, I wish to thank you for joining us this morning, and please continue to enjoy and benefit from today's Open House.