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Workshop to Discuss Return on Taxpayer Investment
                        in
         Public Libraries in Florida

                   Abstracts
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Comparison of RIMS2 IMPLAN and REMI for Economic Impact Assessment in Analysis Across Various Social Science Research Areas.

Tim Lynch, Director, Center for Economic Forecasting and Analysis/Chief Economist for the Center for Advanced Power Systems, Florida State University

Dr. Lynch will provide an overview, comparison and contrast between of the most current most widely used Economic Impact Assessment tools available in the U.S. They are RIMS2, IMPLAN and REMI. He will contrast and compare the inputs and results of these different tools - using similar inputs – and describe various applications he and his staff and students have completed over the past decade across a wide range of transportation, energy, education and environmental study areas.

Using Stated-Preference Models to Value Public Goods

Steven Stewart, Research Associate, Department of Hydrology and Water Resources/Lecturer, Agricultural and Resources Economics, University of Arizona

Critical to the ongoing social assessment of environmental policy is a need for estimates of individuals' values for environmental (public) goods and services relative to private goods and services. Individuals' valuations for private goods (homes, cars, candy bars, etc.) are easily observed because these goods are exchanged in markets where goods have prices. For public goods such as national parks, ecosystem services, scenic views, weather forecasts, and public services such as libraries and public safety, individuals' valuations are not observed. Stated preference modeling, which includes conjoint analysis, choice modeling, and contingent valuation, represents a class of survey-based techniques that can be used to value public goods. These values can be measured for inclusion in benefit cost analyses, used to provide information on where to target public funding, or determine how individuals might respond to public policy. We will provide examples of using stated preference models to value scenic views on the Blue Ridge Parkway, biodiversity in the Clinch River Valley, lake level policy for the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the groundwater/riparian vegetation interface in the San Pedro Valley of Arizona. We will then discuss how choice models can be used to address other public goods such as libraries, cultural attractions, and public safety.

Economic Framework for Taxpayer Return on Public Library Investment

Donald W. King, Research Professor, School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

This presentation describes an approach used to assess public, academic and special libraries over the past 20 years. The framework of specific metrics (service inputs and outputs, usage and outcomes) and metrics derived from them (e.g., performance, effectiveness, impacts and cost-benefit) are described to provide a starting point for discussion of how to establish taxpayer return on investment (ROI). In particular, public library services are shown to satisfy recreational, personal, educational and job related needs that in turn have favorable outcomes from use of information such as improving quality of life and of users doing things better, faster and at less cost to them in time and money. We hope to show that such outcomes, in turn, will achieve community and state-wide goals. We also show that taxpayers invest in library services through taxes, but also in how much they pay in their time (and money) to use the library services. These values are compared with how much it would cost taxpayers to obtain these services if there were no public library and the extent to which benefits would be lost to the taxpayers, their community and the State of Florida.