

## JCPL first public library to connect to Internet2: [www.jessaminejournal.com](http://www.jessaminejournal.com)

Tyler Young  
tyoung@jessaminejournal.com  
8/5/2009

If you happen to see a bunch of people huddled in front of a television at the Jessamine County Public Library, don't worry that our kids are becoming couch potatoes - they could be learning about art, history or other endless subjects from around the world.

The JCPL became the first public library in Kentucky to connect to Internet2, which is an advanced network that connects researchers and other members of the academic world, according to its Web site. It enables two-way interaction between schools, laboratories, libraries and other learning-based institutions.

Now that it has come to the public library, the quality and quantity of programming for all ages will go up significantly, JCPL Director Ron Critchfield said.

"It's going to enhance our children programming, our young adult programming, our adult programming," Critchfield said. "We're going to be able to bring in big name people who couldn't otherwise get to this area."

That part of the programming is made possible by the advanced video conferencing system that the JCPL is now a part of with the Internet2 system.

"Through video conferencing, we can have the citizens of the community interact with those people," Critchfield said. "We also hope that once more public libraries connect to Internet2 and get interactive video capabilities that we can do shared programming. For example, we would have a program here, and any other public library in the state could interact with us, and it would be a reciprocal relationship."

The JCPL demonstrated that ability Friday when it had three interactive presentations through-out the day with the Cleveland Museum of Art and its director of distance learning, Dale Hilton. Hilton took the attendees on a virtual trip through the library and talked about such exhibits as holocaust and Egyptian art. The people at the library could talk with Hilton, who appeared on the television in front of a green screen, which allowed her to show different pieces of art and galleries in the museum.

Those kinds of presentations are what Critchfield hopes can happen on a regular basis, as well as some other uses.

"We also hope to provide in the future, if we can make this possible, interactive sessions with soldiers in foreign lands with families in the area," he said.

The JCPL worked with the Kentucky Council on Post-secondary Education, Kentucky Community and Technology College System, Windstream and the Donaldson Company to get the technology into the library.

For more information about Internet2, visit the Jessamine County Public Library at 600 S. Main St., call 885-3523, or visit the library's Web site at [www.jesspublib.org](http://www.jesspublib.org).

**Eight-year-old Ty Hutchins got a front row seat for Dale Hilton's interactive video presentation from the Cleveland Museum of Art July 31. (Photo by Tyler Young)**

