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Internet Access

There is sure to be inequity in take-up of ICT because of the ways we access the Internet in the UK. Broadband seems slow to arrive, and for me impossible. Even if the local telephone exchange was within 6 km, or sufficiently modern to support it, the £20 per month to access it puts it out of my reach.

Using a dial up connection for hours on end is unpopular with the rest of the family, but the cost of a separate line is prohibitive to the majority.

Free access is available at your local library, but probably daunting to someone who has never used a computer. Even with help available, no-one wants to make him or her self seem like the village idiot. Also it is not the same as having your own email on your own computer, along with the holiday snaps to send to Uncle Joe in Oz, and so on.

The only way to get Britain on line is to have free access. In America they've had this for years, as local telephone calls are free. Over here we can't seem to get past the profit barrier.