



Today in EYE-OPENER August 29, 2016

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1) New Resources From Learning Express: Jay Peterson shares this news to coincide with **Learning Express** webinars this week. 50 new resources have been added to the **Learning Express Library** since the last product update in January. For a few highlights:

SAT(r) and ACT(r) Test Prep: 25 new resources were added for 2016 SAT(r) test preparation, including full-length practice tests in a simulation mode that helps students become confident with the format, timing, and content of the official exam. Complete practice tests and 2 writing practice tests were also added for the ACT(r) test.

New eBooks: The **Learning Express** eBook collection includes new eBooks for GED(r) test prep, time management, communication skills, plus new editions of Nursing School Entrance Exams, Nursing Assistant/Nurse Aide Exam, and Border Patrol Exam.

New School Center Resources: High School Math Skills Improvement has grown, with 5 new practice tests aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

New Career Center Practice Tests: Test prep for military exams increased with the addition of practice tests for the SIFT, OAR, and ASTB-E: Aviation and Nautical Information tests.

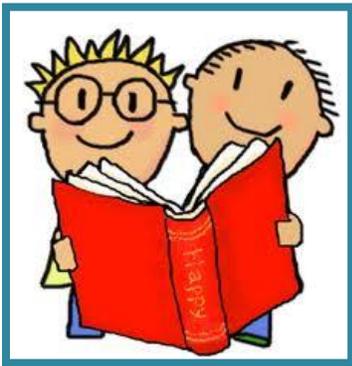
Catch a webinar titled "**Getting the Most From Learning Express**" today 10:00-11:00AM **OR** 2:00-3:00PM tomorrow to learn more about promoting this product @ your library!

2) Next Library101 Offered in September: New directors, staff, or trustees—take note ☺ The next **Library101** is scheduled for **September 22 (9:30-11:30AM)** Sponsored by the State Library, **LIBRARY 101** is typically offered four times each year. This 2-hour online program introduces newly hired directors to library support systems and services in Iowa.

It's a friendly, helpful orientation: you'll meet State Library staff—at least virtually—helping you match names with faces. We'll discuss public library service standards and provide explanations of popular statewide programs, with plenty of time to answer your questions. People new to support staff positions, as well as trustees, are encouraged to attend.



Look to the c.e. catalog to register for **Library101**—<http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/> Doing so ensures that you will receive follow-up email with the link to the Adobe Classroom. New to your library? Then join Alysia Peich and me online for **Library101!**



3) Children's Book Blog: In a recent back-to-school email, Pam Buysman with Northwest AEA reminded school librarians of a children's book blog written by Janet Dawson Hamilton, a K-8 school librarian from Massachusetts. This is a neat resource for public library staff to know about, the blog is titled **Kids Book a Day** <https://kidsbookaday.com/> and as the name implies, Hamilton reviews one children's book every day of the year. Her book choices cover a lot of ground, including picture books, middle school non-fiction, graphic novels, early chapter books. The blog shows both 2016 and 2015 reviews, along with links to topics such as folktales, historical fiction, poetry, sports, easy readers, etc.

Hamilton writes this about her ambitious project *"...One of the most important parts of my job is connecting students and teachers with great books. We're lucky to live in a world where fantastic children's books are published every week. Every day, I review a book published this year. Although I may mention things about books that I don't like ("Cons") I only choose books for which I feel I can give a mostly positive review. I try to find books that would appeal to kids and/or fit in well with the elementary school curriculum. All books come from my local public library, and I do not benefit in any way from my reviews—except for the warm, fuzzy feeling of sharing good books with readers!..."*

Spend some time looking at **Kids Book a Day** <https://kidsbookaday.com/>



4) Libraries and the American Electorate: This very week, we'll turn the calendar page to September, which means that the Presidential Election is just over 2 months away. (maybe you're wishing it was over already ☺) A thought-provoking article from *Information Today, Inc.* has much to say about the value of public libraries in providing authoritative information, in this case, vetted information about the presidential election. Written by Kathy Dempsey, the article is titled "**10 Ways U.S. Libraries Can Inform the American Electorate.**"

As a teaser, I won't print all 10 ways here, just a few ☺ Read the full article to learn more about Dempsey's suggestions <http://www.infotoday.com/mls/mar16/Dempsey--Ten-Ways-US-Librarians-Can-Inform-the-American-Electorate.shtml>

- Create a Portal of Voting Information
- Produce a List of Fact-Checking Websites
- Point People to Government Websites
- Use Materials From ALA's Libraries Transform Campaign—nice one, we'll be talking about this at Town Meetings

5) Meetings / Events This Week: Sponsored by the State Library, "**Getting the Most From Learning Express**" will be offered twice this week—**this very morning 10:00-11:00AM** and again on **Tuesday 2:00-3:00PM**. Both are online, choose the day/time most convenient. And this **Friday September 2**, catch another "**Friday Tech Focus**" **9:00-9:30AM** online.

File it under Ripley's Believe It Or Not, but next **Monday September 5th is Labor Day!** **State Library offices will be closed for the holiday**, *Monday Morning Eye-Opener* will be back on September 12...



Three national webinars finish out the month; find registration info at this link—
<http://www.statelibraryofia.org/ld/c-d/continuing-ed/other-conted>

August 30. 2:00-3:00PM. *Small Libraries, Big Impact: Libraries as Community Change Agents* sponsored by Texas State Library and Archives Commission
<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/workshops/webinars/index.html>

August 30. 6:00-7:00PM. *AASL Best Websites for Teaching & Learning 2016* sponsored by American Association of School Librarians <http://www.ala.org/aasl/ecollab/upcoming>

August 31. 1:00-2:30PM. *Nurturing Bilingual Infants and Toddlers* sponsored by Early Childhood Investigations <http://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.org/presentations>

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