

The Central Library Bulletin

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The Employment Issue

“Swamped by a post-holiday surge of claims from laid-off workers, New York State's computerized unemployment insurance system shut down briefly Monday afternoon and then again for several hours on Tuesday, according to the state Department of Labor.

The system, which serves as the gateway to unemployment benefits for New York residents, could not handle the volume of calls and online inquiries it was receiving, said Leo Rosales, a spokesman for the department. As many as 10,000 people an hour tried to log into the system to file new unemployment claims or to check on existing claims, Mr. Rosales said.”

Copyright New York Times Company, Jan 7, 2009

“Unemployment increases rates of self-employment,” said Jeffrey Pollack, an adjunct professor at University of Richmond's Robins School of Business.

The risk from starting a company after losing a job is less than leaving a job to start a company, he said.

Credit: Richmond Times-Dispatch, VA, January 6, 2009.

Librarians in the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, like their colleagues across the state, are scrambling to help patrons cope with both sides of the unemployment coin: the immediate crisis, and the long range plan. For this issue of the Central Library Bulletin, I've asked my colleagues at PPLD to share their experience in assisting patrons who find themselves suddenly unemployed, or who believe this is the opportune moment to launch a business. Librarians who offer their expertise in this issue and at the reference desk every day include Dan Matranga, Joy Matusiewicz, Bev Santero, Peggy Sisselman and Deb Weltsch.



Question of the Month

My workplace is down-sizing, and my future with the company is uncertain. This might be a good time for me to start my own business. I think I might really enjoy working for myself. What can you recommend to get me started?

Log in to HomeAccess to use the *Encyclopedia of Small Business*. Use this two volume e-book to answer questions about financial planning, financing, market analysis, business plans, personnel issues and much more. Search *Business Plans Handbook* (10 volumes) to find a business plan template you can modify to meet your needs. (For best results, search all e-books simultaneously, rather than individually.)

Useful Tools: Gale Virtual Reference Library

The Business and Company Resource Center, one of the New York State Library's New York Online Virtual Electronic Library (NOVEL) databases, comprises sources such as the *Encyclopedia of Associations*, *American Wholesalers and Distributors Directory*, and the *Encyclopedia of Emerging Industries*. You'll also find helpful newspaper and magazine articles here. Use *ProQuest*, another HomeAccess resource, for more key trade and industry articles.

Visit www.score.org for free, confidential business advice, information about free or low-cost workshops, articles and information about starting your business, and contact information for your local chapter.

Training Tip: For easy access to a wealth of business journals in electronic format, perform an "advanced" search in the online catalog by limiting your material type to "e-journals," and then executing a keyword search for "business." You can now read full-text journals such as *Business Strategy Series*, *Business Renaissance Quarterly* and *Crain's New York Business*.

And to find the most current business books, try keyword searches for "small business" and "new business enterprises."

Links: Visit the Poughkeepsie Public Library District website for a comprehensive subject guide called Resources for Small Businesses. <http://www.poklib.org/reference/smallbusiness.htm>.

FAQs at the Reference Desk

Q. *I just got laid off. I need to file for unemployment benefits, and then find a job. Where should I start?*

A. First, you'll need to visit the New York State Department of Labor Unemployment Assistance site. Once there, you will find instructions for filing a claim, claiming weekly benefits, and checking your payment history. www.labor.state.ny.us/unemploymentassistance.shtm.

The Department of Labor website also offers information for jobseekers. Click on the Finding a Job link, for information about training grants, apprenticeship opportunities and veterans' services. The One Stop Career Center link will help you connect to services in your county which offer help with resume writing, job searching and interviewing.

For local job listings, try:

<http://albany.craigslist.org/>

<http://hudsonvalley.craigslist.org/>

<http://newyork.craigslist.org/wch/>

<http://www.putnamcountyjobs.com/>

<http://www.westchesterjobs.com/>

<http://regionalphelpwanted.com/hudson-valley-jobs/>

Post your resume and search for jobs statewide at www.americasjobexchange.com/ny.

Training Tip: Log in to HomeAccess to use Gale's *Testing and Education Reference Center*. The *Careers* link lets you research careers, complete a career assessment, use a resume template, and browse the virtual career library. You can also practice taking the military, teaching and nursing entrance exams, and practice many other civil service and licensing exams.

Website Reviews:

New York Career Zone. Complete the self-assessment for a list of jobs that suit your personality, and then click on the job title for more information.

<http://www.nycareerzone.org/flash/assessment/index.jsp>

New York State Department of Labor's Job Zone. Create a free account and then build your resume, explore occupations and identify your strengths. Enter your zip code for job openings in your area, and a list of local job fairs.

<https://www.nycareerzone.org/jobseeker/login.do?url=%2Fjobseeker%2Fportfolio%2Findex.jsp>

Occupational Outlook Handbook 2008-2009 Edition. Explore occupations of interest, and find information about their education requirements, earnings, working conditions and job outlook.

<http://www.bls.gov/OCO/>

Recent Central Library Acquisitions

These titles have been added to the collection at Adriance Memorial Library.



Non-Fiction

Social Sciences and Humanities

[The elements of journalism: what newspeople should know and the public should expect](#) Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel

[A deadly misunderstanding: a congressman's quest to bridge the Muslim-Christian divide](#) Mark D. Siljander with John David Mann

[The mind of the market: compassionate apes, competitive humans, and other tales from evolutionary economics](#) Michael Shermer

[Reading magic: why reading aloud to our children will change their lives forever](#) Mem Fox

[Understanding color: creative techniques in watercolor](#) Marcia Moses

[Anonymity: a secret history of English literature](#) John Mullan

Computers

[Learning Python](#) Mark Lutz

[The elements of Internet style: the new rules of creating valuable content for today's readers](#) The editors of EEI Press

[The essential guide to Dreamweaver CS3 with CSS, Ajax, and PHP](#) David Powers

[Adobe Photoshop CS3 one-on-one](#) Deke McClelland

Science and Technology

[Essential skills for science & technology](#) Peter Zeegers

[Lights in the sky: identifying and understanding astronomical and meteorological phenomena](#) Michael Maunder

[Our changing planet: the view from space](#) Michael D. King, editor

[The private life of spiders](#) Paul Hillyard

[The complete guide to Antarctic wildlife: birds and marine mammals of the Antarctic continent and the Southern Ocean](#) Hadoram Shirihaï

[The last wild wolves: ghosts of the rain forest](#) Ian McAllister

[Ultimate guide to wilderness living](#) John and Geri McPherson

[When technology fails: a manual for self-reliance, sustainability, and surviving the long emergency](#) Matthew Stein

[Build your own electric vehicle](#) Seth Leitman and Bob Brant

[How Apollo flew to the Moon](#) W. David Woods

[Practical watch repairing](#) Donald de Carle

Health

[The first year--heart disease: an essential guide for the newly diagnosed](#) Lawrence D. Chilnick

[Alzheimer's care with dignity](#) Frank Fuerst

[A caregiver's guide to Alzheimer's and related diseases](#) Judith McCann-Beranger

[The depression helpbook](#) Wayne Katon

[Video games & your kids: how parents stay in control](#) Hilarie Cash and Kim McDaniel

[Warrior girls: protecting our daughters against the injury epidemic in women's sports](#) Michael Sokolove

History and Biography

[Mr. Adams's last crusade: John Quincy Adams's extraordinary post-presidential life in Congress](#) Joseph Wheelan

[Mr. Jefferson's hammer: William Henry Harrison and the origins of American Indian policy](#) Robert M. Owens

[Harriet Tubman: myth, memory, and history](#) Milton C. Sernett

[Birthing a slave: motherhood and medicine in the antebellum South](#) Marie Jenkins Schwartz

[North American Indians in the Great War](#) Susan Applegate Krouse

[Americanos: Latin America's struggle for independence](#) John Charles Chasteen

[Flag wars and stone saints: how the Bohemian lands became Czech](#) Nancy M. Wingfield

[Ahmadinejad: the secret history of Iran's radical leader](#) Kasra Najj

[Islamic extremism: causes, diversity, and challenges](#) Monte Palmer and Princess Palmer

[After the Taliban: nation-building in Afghanistan](#) James F. Dobbins

[The first Vietnam War: colonial conflict and cold war crisis](#) Mark Atwood Lawrence and Fredrik Logevall, editors

[Dinner with Mugabe: the untold story of a freedom fighter who became a tyrant](#) Heidi Holland

Foundation Center Cooperating Collection
[People to people fundraising: social networking and Web 2.0 for charities](#) Ted Hart, James M. Greenfield, Sheeraz D. Haji, editors

[Winning gifts: make your donors feel like winners](#) Thomas D. Wilson

[Winning grants step by step](#) Mim Carlson and Tori O'Neal-McElrath

[Vault career guide to fundraising & philanthropy](#) Anne McCaw and the staff of Vault

[The everything grant writing book: create the perfect proposal to raise the funds you need](#) Nancy Burke Smith and Judy Tremore

[The budget-building book for nonprofits: a step-by-step guide for managers and boards](#) Murray Dropkin, Jim Halpin, and Bill La Touche

[Strategic communications for nonprofits: a step-by-step guide to working with the media](#) Kathy Bonk



Reference

[The metaphysical book of gems and crystals](#) Florence Mégemont

[Cambridge illustrated dictionary of astronomy](#) Jacqueline Mitton

[A guide to the mammals of China](#) Andrew T. Smith and Yan Xie, editors.

[Pandemics and global health](#) Barry Youngerman

[Depression](#) Emma Carlson Berne, editor

[Handbook of sexual and gender identity disorders](#) David L. Rowland and Luca Incrocci, editors

[Quick facts advanced cancer: what you need to know now](#) American Cancer Society

[Encyclopedia of surnames: \[the complete companion to tracing your name's history\]](#) John Ayto

Please send your questions, comments, and ideas for future issues to Sue Hermans, Head of Reference, Poughkeepsie Public Library District (shermans@poklib.org.)

