

The Central Library Bulletin

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Find a College/Pay for College

One possible side-effect of the current recession may be an increase in students applying to college for the first time or returning to school to improve their chances for survival in a shaky economy. In addition, the Department of Education reports that applications for financial aid have increased by over 10 % (an increase of 1.4 million over the previous year), while the College Board reports a 30% increase in hits on its scholarship database.

Many families with college-age children will be thrown into an information gathering process unlike anything they have ever experienced before. Fortunately, library staff have access to a wealth of information, and the ability to provide guidance in its use.

This issue of *The Central Library Bulletin* explores the Gale **Testing and Education Reference Center**, one of the resources available through *HomeAccess* to cardholders in the Mid-Hudson Library System. Patrons can turn here for everything from SAT test preparation help to finding a college that's a good fit, and finding ways to help pay for it. The websites included in this issue focus on the steps to arriving at a college decision, some of which can start in freshman year of high school.



Question of the Month

My daughter is a high school junior. She needs to start thinking seriously about applying to colleges. We don't know where to start; her guidance counselor tries to help, but he has over 200 students to take care of. Between deciding what to major in, where to apply, and figuring out the financial aid requirements, we're stressed out and completely overwhelmed. Do you have anything to help us make sense of the process?

Useful Tools: The College Board website provides information to help high school students and their parents plan for college. The site offers student action plans for each of the four years of high school, and tools and calculators to help parents estimate college costs and their expected family contribution.

Visit <http://www.collegeboard.com/> for reliable information about college planning, the SATs, and selecting a school, as well as articles on topics like "helicopter parents" and "senioritis."

Turn to the **Testing and Education Reference Center**, an electronic resource available through *HomeAccess*, when it's time to research schools. Under **College Prep Tools**, click on **Find and pay for college**. The *Undergraduate School Search* allows you to create a detailed search to narrow the field to just the schools which fit your criteria.

For more information on colleges and majors, try <http://www.princetonreview.com/>.

Training Tip: For career exploration, try the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, from the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/OCO/>.

The *Occupational Outlook Handbook* provides information about the training and education

required, potential earnings, expected job prospects, and working conditions for hundreds of different types of jobs.

Links: For additional links to reliable college information, visit the Poughkeepsie Public Library District Useful Links page at <http://poklib.org/usefullinks/Education.html>.

FAQs at the Reference Desk

Q. *I've always wanted to be an art teacher, but I can't afford to go away to school. Can you help me find a school within commuting distance that has my major? And some resources for getting a scholarship?*

A. Let's try a detailed search, using the **Testing and Education Reference Center**. Under **College Prep Tools**, click on **Find and pay for college**. On the *Research and Pay for College* page, select *Undergraduate School Search*. We'll select the state, the setting, population size and tuition, and then the type of degree and major. Now we have a list of thirteen schools which match your criteria. I'll print this out for you, and you can request further information from the schools within your geographic limits.

On the *Research and Pay for College* page, click on the link to *Undergraduate Scholarship Search*. Log in to begin your search. (If you have not yet created a user ID and password, you'll have a chance to do so now.) To get a comprehensive list of scholarships, grants, prizes and forgivable loans, you will need to complete an online form about yourself.

Q. *I want career training, but I'm not really interested in going to a four-year college. Can you direct me to a list of accredited business or technical schools in New York State?*

A. We'll visit a website that has directory and contact information for all of the college and university campuses in New York State. If we click the link for "proprietary" schools, we'll get a list of business, technology and career schools, as well as some schools for the visual arts, oriental medicine and funeral service. This link, http://www.highered.nysed.gov/Quality_Assura

[nce/directory/index.html](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/Quality_Assurance/directory/index.html), is found on the New York State Education Department Office of Higher Education page.

Q. *I can't afford an SAT prep class, and I'm afraid I will be at a real disadvantage when it's time to take the test. Do you have anything that might help me get a good score?*

A. You'll be able to create an account and take practice SAT exams in the **Testing and Education Reference Center**, one of the HomeAccess databases available to Mid-Hudson Library System cardholders. You'll find links to SAT practice tests under **College Prep Tools, Test Prep**. Your practice test will be graded right away, so you can see which areas you need to work on, and you can leave the test and go back to it, as you have the time. **Testing and Education Reference Center** also provides full-text online test preparation books, and other resources to help you master the SAT.

Two other sites to try for SAT information and some practice help are <http://www.collegeboard.com/> and <http://www.princetonreview.com/>.

Q. *I need to prepare for a better-paying career, but I have a job and family, and I don't have time to take classes during the week. I've heard of earning a degree online, but I don't know where to start. Are online schools legitimate?*

A. The **Testing and Education Reference Center** provides a distance learning programs search feature for accredited online colleges. On the *Research and Pay for College* page, choose *Distance Learning Programs Search*. Use the *Detailed Search* to select your course of study and degree level, and select "No" for on-campus requirements. For an undergraduate degree in accounting, for example, program and contact information is listed for forty-two colleges, with thirteen of these providing the school's website and a link for further information.

Training Tip: Your library can order multiple copies of Federal Student Aid publications to distribute to patrons, such as *Your Federal*

Student Loans: Learn the Basics and Manage Your Debt, and *My Future, My Way: How to Go, How to Pay: a Workbook for Students in Middle and Junior High Schools*. You can find the Federal Student Aid Publications Ordering System (FSAPubs) at www.FSAPubs.org. Call 1-800-394-7804 or send an email to orders@FSAPubs.org to get your mailing list number before you place an order. Students can order single copies from the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID or read most of the publications online at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp>

Recent Central Library Acquisitions

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



Non-Fiction

[Abraham Lincoln](#)

[The age of Confucian rule: the Song transformation of China](#)

[And justice for all: the United States Commission on Civil Rights and the continuing struggle for freedom in America](#)

[Appetite for self-destruction: the spectacular crash of the record industry in the digital age](#)

[As big as the West: the pioneer life of Granville Stuart](#)

[The ballad of Dorothy Wordsworth: a life](#)

[Banquet at Delmonico's: great minds, the Gilded Age, and the triumph of evolution in America](#)

[Bernanke's test: Ben Bernanke, Alan Greenspan, and the drama of the central banker](#)

[The best kept secret: single black fathers](#)

[Bozo sapiens: why to err is human](#)

[Build your own electric vehicle](#)

[Business war games: how large, small, and new companies can vastly improve their strategies and outmaneuver the competition](#)

[Capital punishment: an indictment by a death-row survivor](#)

[The case for big government](#)

[Catastrophe: the story of Bernard L. Madoff, the man who swindled the world](#)

[Confessions of a mullah warrior](#)

[Death by leisure: a cautionary tale](#)

[Digging through the Bible: understanding biblical people, places, and controversies through archaeology](#)

[Enchanted hunters: the power of stories in childhood](#)

[Engaging the hearts and minds of all your employees: how to ignite passionate performance for better business results](#)

[Family properties: race, real estate, and the exploitation of Black urban America](#)

[The final days of Jesus: the archaeological evidence](#)

[The foie gras wars: how a 5,000-year-old delicacy inspired the world's fiercest food fight](#)

[Green wedding: planning your eco-friendly celebration](#)

[A hell of mercy: a meditation on depression and the dark night of the soul](#)

[I'm still here: a breakthrough approach to understanding someone living with Alzheimer's](#)

[Keepers of the keys of heaven: a history of the papacy](#)

[Khomeini's ghost: the Iranian revolution and the rise of militant Islam](#)

[The last witch of Langenburg: murder in a German village](#)

[Lincoln on race & slavery](#)

[Mother of God: a history of the Virgin Mary](#)

[The Motley Fool million dollar portfolio: how to build and grow a panic-proof investment portfolio](#)

[Nasty, brutish, and long: adventures in old age and the world of elder care](#)

[No matter what!: 9 steps to living the life you love](#)

[Now or never: getting down to the business of saving our American dream](#)

[The philosopher and the wolf: lessons from the wild on love](#)

[The purpose of boys: helping our sons find meaning, significance, and direction in their lives](#)

[Quiverfull: inside the Christian patriarchy movement](#)

[So, you want to start a business?: 8 steps to take before making the leap](#)

[Stay rich for life!: growing & protecting your money in turbulent times](#)

[The superorganism: the beauty, elegance, and strangeness of insect societies](#)

[The towering world of Jimmy Choo: a glamorous story of power, profits and the pursuit of the perfect shoe](#)

[Try to tell the story: a memoir](#)

[Wars, guns, and votes: democracy in dangerous places](#)

[Why dirt is good: 5 ways to make germs your friends](#)



Reference

[A to Z of women in science and math](#)

[American writers: a collection of literary biographies](#)

[Death and dying: end-of-life controversies](#)

[Encyclopedia of African American history, 1896 to the present: from the age of segregation to the twenty-first century](#)

[Mosby's dictionary of medicine, nursing & health professions](#)

[The music business contract library](#)

[The name book: over 10,000 names--their meanings, origins, and spiritual significance](#)

[The 9/11 encyclopedia](#)

[The Oxford encyclopedia of women in world history](#)

[Parker's wine buyer's guide: the complete, easy-to-use reference on recent vintages, prices, and ratings for more than 8,000 wines from all the major wine regions](#)

[World poverty](#)

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