Multiple Reasons to Bookmark the OLRC Web Site

As a busy educator, you probably don’t have much time for exploring the World Wide Web (WWW). However, if you have not been to the Ohio Literacy Resource Center’s web site recently, you may find that it would be well worth your while to spend a few minutes exploring the rich resources there.

So, turn on your computer, and follow along. Type in http://literacy.kent.edu and then bookmark this site (or put it in “favorites,” whichever your browser has). Take note that the OLRC site does not use “www” in its url—you could just type “literacy.kent.edu.” If you want to always have access to these great resources, you could set your computer so that the OLRC site is your home site. Instructions for doing this can be found under “Help” on your browser page. Look for “specifying the starting page.”

The first thing you should notice is a new format for the OLRC site. The Site Index in the upper left corner is a good way to get an overview of all the items on the site. In the center of the page you will find links to some of the key new items that have been added to the site in the past few months.

♦ The Family Literacy Resource Notebook is the wonderful 1200 page book with extensive information on all aspects of family literacy. There is a lot of relevant material for all adult basic education programs such as grant writing tips and marketing ideas.

♦ The Directory of Ohio Adult Education Programs is a searchable list of all programs in Ohio based on the Ohio Literacy Network’s 1998-99 Directory.

♦ Current Events leads you many newspaper sites and information on current events such as Kosovo, Mars, the new coins, Microsoft antitrust lawsuit and the Year 2000 information. This is updated weekly with current information for use with students. One site, CNN Learning Resources has special articles rewritten at a lower reading level with instructional suggestions.

♦ Beginnings is the publication of student writing. See article below.

♦ The Administrator’s Manual is the Ohio ABLE manual. In addition to specific information for ABLE programs, it also contains general information on adult literacy and teaching adults. (continued on Page 2)
You can keep up with all the new additions to the OLRC web site by always going to What's New when you first enter the site. Chris Fullerton, the OLRC web manager, always enters information here when new things have been added on the site. In fact, there were twelve days in March when she made an entry in What’s New!

Did you know that nine local ABLE programs have their own web sites connected to the OLRC site? Look under Ohio Contacts and then under Ohio ABLE Programs. If your program develops a web site, let us know so we can include you in this section.

All the ABLE regional resource centers have web sites that are connected under Ohio Contacts. Each center has information about upcoming workshops and events, some have forms you can print, and NE even has a way to request material from its library online. The OLRC also maintains a calendar with all events in the state that can be found under Resources at Events and Announcements.

In fact, you will want to spend a while exploring Resources. You will find Special Collections (see the article below), Teacher Resources, Links to other national sites, Funding Information, Legislative Information, Job Opportunities, and more. Take time to explore in depth the Local Projects section. This contains teacher-generated material that resulted from mini-grants to programs through the OLRC National Institute for Literacy grant. You will find five Ohio programs contributed writing lessons, interactive family literacy lessons, number and place value lessons, Internet travel lessons, and a student handbook. Other Midwestern states contributed such items as spelling lessons, career planning competencies, more Internet lessons, and The Key Online, a new readers newsletter that is updated with new material each month!

Before you leave this visit to the OLRC web site, don’t forget to view the National Institute for Literacy’s site at NIFL LINCS. Among the wonderful information there you will find Literacy Facts (11 fact sheets on different aspects of adult literacy) and Current Events that include NIFL policy updates and News Flashes with the latest literacy news. By going to The State of Literacy in America you can find literacy statistics for your city, county, or congressional district. And Top Ten Sites on LINCS contains much more instructional material.

The OLRC is committed to working with NIFL LINCS to bring one-stop adult literacy resources to you. Visit us often and start using the material available. Let us know what you think of the various information and let us know if you have things to contribute to our web site.

LINCS Special Collections Expanded

The OLRC invites you to visit the newly expanded Special Collections of Family Literacy and Adult Numeracy on the Midwest LINCS, accessible from OLRC’s home page at http://literacy.kent.edu, under Resources

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The National Institute for Literacy, known as NIFL (which rhymes with sniffle), funds LINCS, a comprehensive electronic information system for providers and participants at national, state and local levels. A one-stop literacy resource, LINCS provides information on legislation, statistics, research reports, best practices, public awareness materials, program directories, and numerous links to other educational organizations.

The four regional hubs comprising LINCS have gathered information on specific topics referred to as Special Collections. Eastern LINCS manages Health and Literacy and Civic Participation. Southern LINCS oversees Workforce and Correctional Education. Western LINCS compiles ESL and Science. All can be reached from the OLRC web site.

Browsing through the Adult Numeracy site on the Midwest LINCS is an unexpected adventure thanks to the efforts of Nancy Markus of OLRC. In addition to databases of lesson plans by subject and level, you will find puzzles and other fun for children, learn more about nutrition, visit the White House, and download lesson plans for parenting.

And we haven’t begun to explore the six other Special Collections!

Contact Judy (jfaranks@literacy.kent.edu) or Nancy (nmarkus@juno.com) or call OLRC 800-765-2897 if you have sites to recommend.
Ohio Writers’ Conference Publishes Student Work

The second annual Ohio’s Writers’ Conference celebrated 43 adult student writers with the publication of their work in Beginnings II and an invitation to them and their instructors to attend a day of awards and presentations. Over 100 people traveled to Columbus on April 23 to hear Ohio author Judy Hendershot discuss the exciting activity of writing. Jim Bowling, Assistant Director of Vocational and Adult Education of the Ohio Department of Education, praised the participants as he handed out the certificates at a special awards luncheon.

After the author’s inspirational keynote speech, participants attended breakout sessions dealing with various aspects of writing facilitated by teachers, students, OLRC members, the author, and a visiting group from Waukegon, Illinois. After lunch, Hendershot autographed copies of her book In Coal Country, received by all attendees along with a copy of Beginnings II and a gift bag of writing supplies. The day ended with students reading aloud from their work.

Students had submitted their writing earlier in the year. A committee of faculty, staff, and adult students Elizabeth K. Pierce, Tina Shawbell, Karen Smith, and Norma King selected the poems, essays, and short stories for publication.

Since presentations and awards were captured on video and film, you can check out the OLRC web site at http://literacy.kent.edu for pictures. Beginnings II will also be available online at the same web address. Copies of are being mailed to ABLE Directors. Teachers who want a single copy free of charge should contact Bryan Bardine, the organizer of the event, at 800-765-2897 X19 or email him at bbardine@literacy.kent.edu. Multiple copies are available for $5 each. If you missed Beginnings from 1998, you can obtain a copy from OLRC for $4.

Recommended Trade Books on the OLRC web site has new, expanded search and advanced search capabilities. The database contains nearly 400 books published for children and adolescents that have been selected as appropriate for use in the adult classroom. Now you can supplement your current events discussion on Kosovo with books on “refugees survival” and “political relocation” rather than reviewing all the books under the theme of “war.” No longer do you need to scroll through all authors beginning with “R” to find the title of the Cynthia Rylant book whose title you have forgotten.

A basic search can be accomplished two ways. You can enter your words into a box and press the search button as you would on other web searches. Or you can click on one of the 28 themes that will lead to keyword categories. Clicking on one of these keywords generates a list of books. Clicking on a book title produces the page in Recommended Trade Books that contains publication information, other keywords, type of book such as short story, GED descriptors such as social studies, a summary, and teaching ideas.

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New OLRC Staff Member

Welcome to Judy Franks, who joined the OLRC staff in November as the Literacy Projects Coordinator. She will be coordinating the OLRC part of the EFF project, and working on family literacy, reading and writing, and other projects of the OLRC. Judy came to the OLRC from the Wayne County Family Learning Center where she was an ABLE instructor, coordinator of the Workforce Training Center, and Wings Workshop Coordinator. She had also worked in Even Start.
Family Literacy Programs Can Apply to Pizza Hut’s Book-It! Reading Incentive Program

What is Book-It? Book-It! is a national reading incentive program that motivates kids to read by rewarding them for reaching reading goals. Teachers (or Family Literacy Facilitators) set monthly reading goals. They can set a different goal for each child and the goal can vary from month to month. For children who haven’t yet learned to read, or who have difficulty reading, the teacher can set goals for the child to be read to by others. When a child reaches a monthly goal, the teacher awards him or her with a Pizza Award Certificate that can be redeemed for a Personal Pan Pizza. The pizza can be taken “to go” or eaten at the restaurant. There are also buttons, stickers, and medallions that can be awarded. In addition to the individual awards, there are opportunities for your entire classroom to win a free pizza party!

Who can join? Programs eligible to join Book-It! are licensed pre-school programs; licensed day-care providers; community learning centers; public, private, or parochial schools; or home schools. Book-It! currently has many Head Start and Even Start programs that participate. There are two Book-It! programs offered based on the age group of the children. One is a six-month incentive program that runs from October through March for children in grades K – 6 (deadline to apply: June 11). The other is a two-month incentive program that runs from March through April for pre-school children (deadline to apply: early November). The program is for children only, but it can be a great motivator for families involved in a family literacy program.

How do we join? To request an enrollment packet, call (800) 426-6548 or write to:
Book-It Program
P.O. Box 2999
Wichita, KS 67201

Be sure to include name of school (or program), address, phone number, name of principal (or director / coordinator). Also specify whether you want to enroll in either the Book-It! Beginners (for pre-schoolers) or the K-6 Book-It! program.

Questions? call Book-It! at (800)426-6548 or visit their web-site at: www.bookitprogram.com, or call Lisa White at the OLRC at (800) 765-2897 ext. 22

REVIEWS

Adults with Learning Disabilities Resources

Two interactive training programs for adult literacy providers are now available at the OLRC. Teaching Literacy to Adults with Learning Disabilities focuses on how to recognize learning disabilities and adapt teaching strategies appropriately. The presenters explain learning processes and provide practical teaching and training strategies. They discuss how to ensure students get a proper diagnosis and how to take a hands-on approach to accommodations. Assessing and Accommodating Adults with Learning Disabilities looks at how to choose the right accommodation in formal testing situations. Presenters discuss what to expect from a formal learning disabilities evaluation and how to differentiate between formal and informal assessment tools. They also give ways to accurately match a student’s skills to potential jobs. These 2 videos would provide excellent staff inservice for programs dealing with adults who have learning difficulties and can be borrowed from the OLRC (see form on p. _____).

LD Pride Online is a World Wide Web site for learning-disabled (LD) adults available at http://www.ldpride.net. The format includes information and checklists on learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder. There is also a bulletin board, chat room, and guest book where administrator Liz Bogod says it is “a great place to share your ideas, frustrations and get support...” She and all other participants have either LD or ADHD.

LD Online is an interactive guide to learning disabilities for parents, teachers, and children. Highlights of new information and a comprehensive listing of resources, personal essays and artwork, audio clips featuring learning dis-
intermediate in obtaining or borrowing copies of items in the OLRC News?

Please fill out the order form below (put an X by the items you would like to receive) and fax to the OLRC at 330-672-4841:

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<td>____ Article: Reading Development of an Adult Nonreader</td>
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<td>____ CD-ROM: Ohioline Your Link to Information</td>
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For 2-week loan (copies limited; there may be a wait):

| ____ Enhancing Self Awareness                  | 6    |
| ____ Realizing Goals                            | 6    |
| ____ Interacting with Others                    | 6    |
| ____ Recognizing Emotions                       | 6    |
| ____ Contested Ground: Performance Accountabilty in Adult Basic Education | 7 |
| ____ Choosing Life Skills                       | 7    |
| ____ Teaching with the Internet                 | T-2  |
employers to provide literacy, ESL, and basic education programs for their employees. To find out more about the videos, see the form on p.______ or download the report at www.vpskillsummit.org.

www.ohioworks.com offers job market information for workers in Ohio that looks at the best paying, fastest growing, most in demand, and where the most openings tend to be. Business focuses on employment growth, industry supply and demand, largest companies, and how to find a company. Survey statistics and a job skill match can be easily accessed. This is Ohio’s place to go for job answers!

Family Literacy Resources
words quickly. The book groups literacy skills and concepts by age, from infancy through primary grades. It says that young children should be immersed in language long before they get to school. The book is available for $14.95 (prepaid) plus $4 for shipping from the National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Ave. NW, Lockbox 285, Washington, DC 20055; 800-624-6242 or 202-334-3313; web site: http://www.nap.edu. Bulk orders are also available. The OLRC has a copy available, check the list on P.____.

Rosalie’s Neighborhood is a parent awareness literacy series providing essential health care information for parents and caregivers of young children, ages birth to 6. The series includes three short books (written at about a fourth grade reading level) to help parents better understand the importance of providing preventive health and dental care for young children and of communicating with their children in ways that foster language development. The series can be used by teachers, parent educators, tutors, counselors, or anyone working with adults with limited literacy. The materials were written to increase parents’ knowledge and skills in seeking comprehensive health care for their children as they develop literacy and problem-solving skills. The health information is presented in a narrative style through a series of conversations among friends. In the first story, Rosalie offers support and information about preventive health to two young mothers; the three friends share information about dental health in the second story; and the third story focuses on issues related to language development and communicating with children. A Facilitator’s Guide provides instructional techniques, ideas for adapting the material, discussion questions, additional resources for children and parents, and a glossary. There is a limited supply of this resource available from: National Institute for Literacy Clearinghouse, CEGA Services, ATTN: Lisa, 3900 Industrial Avenue, Lincoln, NE 68504 FAX: (402)464-5931. This curriculum is available at the OLRC, check the list on P.____.

Several copies of the Guide to Quality Even Start Family Literacy Programs are available at the OLRC for programs looking for a self-assessment tool in considering quality indicators. These rating scales can be used to examine aspects of operations as a way of identifying strengths and weaknesses, determining where local evaluation might be focused, or planning staff development. Free copies, while supplies last, can be ordered from the OLRC by checking the list on p.____.

The newsletter Parent Talk is a valuable resource for family literacy programs. This monthly publication for parents who help their children with learning can be ordered at 800-759-4723. Highlights in a recent issue include: helping your child learn to study, dialogue between reader and writer, adjusting to difficult books, using bookthinking, and resources for self-directed learning. The web site www.KidsCanLearn.com was also reviewed - great topics for family educators!
Ohio Literacy Resource Center Voice Mail Telephone System

Below is an updated list of staff members at the OLRC. As soon as you hear the OLRC message, dial the 2-digit extension listed below:

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General Information
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