



Winter/Spring 2003

The OLRC News

LINCS To Literacy

Updates and Highlights

LINCS – the Literacy Information aNd Communication System, is a service of the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL). *LINCS* is an electronic communication and information system focused on adult and family literacy, which can be accessed at <http://www.nifl.gov/lincs/>. In its eight years of existence, *LINCS* has continued to grow and expand, offering resources, communication, professional development and assistance in helping the field integrate technology into teaching and learning. The Ohio Literacy Resource Center oversees the Assessment and Family Literacy Special Collections, and serves as the Midwest Regional Technology Center. This issue of Tech Talk is devoted to highlighting new and expanded features and initiatives of *LINCS*. If you have not explored *LINCS*, please take some time to see what *LINCS* might offer you. If you have not visited recently, please take a moment to revisit *LINCS* to explore its new and expanded features.

Hot Sites

LINCS Hot Sites are WWW sites that present especially outstanding information in exceptional ways. *LINCS* singles out Hot Sites for attention to provide a showcase for their high quality content and design. Each Hot Site is considered noteworthy in some way and is likely to be seen as exceptional by practitioners. Hot sites can be found by clicking the Hot Sites button found at the top of each *LINCS* page, or going to <http://www.nifl.gov/lincs/hotsites/hotsites.html>. Examples of exceptionally popular sites include *The Learning Edge*, *Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab*, and *The Beehive*. Hot Sites from the past can be found under the archive link on the page.

My LINCS

The *LINCS* system is distributed over a great many sites and servers. For frequent users, it can be difficult to keep up with newly added resources. My *LINCS* provides an automated tool to make staying current quick and simple. By clicking on the

My *LINCS* button at the top of any *LINCS* page, the user is asked to fill out a profile indicating their areas of interest. The next time the user visits *LINCS*, they click on the same button, sign in, and are presented with a list of resources relating to their interests which have been added to *LINCS* since they last signed in.

LINCS Multimedia Center

The *LINCS* Multimedia Center at http://www.nifl.gov/lincs/lincs_media.html is a collection of audio and video resources of all types covering a variety of topics. Multimedia resources have always been considered extremely useful. As connectivity improves, multi-media resources are becoming a realistic tool for professional development as well as instruction. The Multimedia Center provides one stop access to high quality, relevant resources.

New Discussion List!

LINCS electronic discussion lists have long been a major method of communication for those in the adult literacy field. *LINCS* recently added a new discussion list titled *Adult Literacy Professional Developers* or *NIFL-AALPD*. The AALPD discussion list is sponsored by the Association for Adult Literacy Professional Developers and is open to all adult educators working or interested in Professional Development. This list features information and discussion about planning and implementing professional development to address issues such as new teacher preparation; needs assessment and evaluation; using technology and distance learning; and designing professional development to support local, state and national initiatives and program improvement efforts. For more information about this and all the *LINCS* discussion lists, click the Discussion button found at the top of each *LINCS* page.

Americas Literacy Directory Expands

The Americas Literacy Directory, found under the *LINCS*

Search button at the top left of each page or by going to <http://www.literacydirectory.org/>, is a directory of literacy programs and service providers nationwide. Through coordination at the national level, information is constantly added and updated, with many states now incorporating their own contact database into the directory. If a search of the directory does not list your program, a link is provided on the bottom right of the page to add new programs. If information on a program is incorrect, a link is provided on the bottom left to update program information. By using these links, information can be submitted, which will be verified and added to the directory. The goal of the project is to create user access at the program level allowing the database to be maintained by programs themselves.

Special Collections

The *LINCS* Special Collections contain high quality peer reviewed resources organized by category. The Collections can be accessed using the Collections button found at the top of each *LINCS* page. The content of each Collection is continually refined, with new resources added as they are identified. The Collections also provide links to news and events, organizations, and related information on their respective topics. Two new collections are slated to be launched this year, *Women and Literacy* and *Program Improvement*.

Current Projects and UpComing Resources

During this year, *LINCS* Regional Technology Centers are focusing on professional development and providing new and innovative opportunities. Through several pilot projects, several online courses, face-to-face trainings, and new resources will be made available. As these projects are completed and refined, models and guides will be disseminated as well. *LINCS* will continue to explore ways to increase professional development opportunities, quality resources, and support for the field in integrating technology into teaching and learning. Please watch for announcements of these new features, resources, and opportunities in upcoming editions of Tech Talk.

LINCS to Literacy CD Released

LINCS to Literacy, a multimedia CD-Rom designed to introduce *LINCS* and its features, is now available. To obtain a copy, please email Tim Ponder at tponder@literacy.kent.edu or call the Ohio Literacy Resource Center at 1-800-765-2897.

For questions, comments or additional information on LINCS, please contact Tim Ponder at tponder@literacy.kent.edu or call 800-765-2897 extension 20750.



Ohio Pilots New National Video Series

This spring Ohio begins to field-test Madison Heights and Lifelines, two new video series that address the emotional issues that families face in their roles of parent, worker, and community citizen within a context of basic skills and parent education. The video series of documentaries and dramas and related print materials were produced by the same group that did *Crossroads Café* and *On Common Ground*.

Proposals from six sites around the state were selected for the field test: Northwest ABLE; Gallia/Jackson/Vinton; Garfield Heights Community Center; Ravenna ABLE; Kettering ABLE; and Kent Compact/ABLE. Three-member teams from the six sites participated in training at Cherry Valley Lodge on January 30 and 31. Implementation of at least one documentary video and one drama video for at least 10 families at each site took place during 12 weeks of the spring session. Site teams will gather again on June 13 to discuss the data they have collected. This information will help in expanding the project to a larger number of programs in the fall of 2003.

Under the leadership of Denise Pottmeyer, State Director of Adult Education, the Ohio Training Team has been working on drafting the proposal, selecting the sites, planning and facilitating the training, and assisting the pilot sights. Connie Sapin facilitated the group composed of Karen Scheid, Barb Nourse, Cindy Smith, Jeff Gove, and Cindy Zengler. Mimi Gavigan, a trainer with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, assisted at the Cherry Valley training.

New Look For FL Special Collection

The Family Literacy Special Collection has recently been reorganized. The Practitioner section now reflects the four components of family literacy programs: adult basic education, early childhood education, parenting education, and parent and child together (PACT). While there are resources under the adult basic education and early childhood education categories, the focus of the Practitioner section is on parent education and PACT. PACT has been organized into "supporting children's learning in the home" and "supporting children's learning in educational settings." The Parent section is now organized by age levels. Definitions of family literacy and family literacy programs have also been added to the Family Literacy Special Collections site.

If you haven't visited the Family Literacy Special Collections for a while then please take a look. New sites are being added all the time so visit often. If you have comments about the Family Literacy Special Collection or sites you would like to recommend for inclusion, contact Dianna Baycich at dbaycich@literacy.kent.edu or 330-672-7841.

