

Librarian's Shelf by Karen Connell

Testing and Education Reference Center

Graduation season is upon us and the Columbus Public Library is here to help! Are you or someone you know graduating high school or college this year or next? Maybe you're a sophomore or junior and you have just begun to think about your post-graduation plans. Perhaps you are starting a new career. Are you a non-traditional student, or just feeling the need to change your career? For all these situations and more, the Columbus Public Library has a resource for you.

The Testing and Education Reference Center has High School, College, Graduate School, Career, and International tools. There are study guides, online courses, practice tests and more for tests such as AP exams and GED preparation courses for high school students; college preparation tools like the ACT, SAT, college search, scholarship search, and resume builder; and GRE and LSAT tools for those planning to be graduate students. International tools available include US Citizenship practice tests and information about immigration and naturalization, as well as the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Numerous career tools are available such as courses for basic computer skills, building a resume, and information about career or vocational/technical schools and scholarship searches. Career tests are also available for various occupations like accountants, cosmetologists, firefighters, postal workers, teachers, and more.

These topics are covered in a variety of methods. Some use ebooks that can be downloaded, others use practice tests. Other topics are developed into courses with instructions and Q & A. Your progress through a particular course can be tracked when you create a free account.

One of the newer resources available in the Testing and Education Reference Center is the Virtual Career Library. In this section you will be guided through the career-seeking process using individual modules. You can learn how to search for jobs, prepare your resume and cover letters, and even negotiate job conditions. Lessons include transitioning out of the military, changing careers, searching for jobs, creating and targeting your resume, writing cover letters, preparing for interviews, developing networking skills, and negotiating salary considerations. The Virtual Career Library allows you to research and learn at your own pace with the individual career modules and will provide a completion status for each module you have passed to help you track your progress.

You can access the Testing and Education Reference Center at the Columbus Public Library and at home. Start on our website, www.cplconnect.us, and click the Digital Library link on the left side of the page. Use the Quicklinks menu and select the Testing and Education Reference Center. You will be asked for your library card number and once entered, you can proceed.

To utilize the resource to the fullest and track your progress through modules or courses, you will need to create a free account. Simply register as a new user on the Testing and Education Reference Center website. An email address is not required to create this account, but if you have one it can be helpful in case you forget your password.

The Testing and Education Reference Center is a great resource that we hope you enjoy. If you have any questions about it or any of our other online resources, give us a call at 402-564-7116 or visit the Columbus Public Library any day of the week.