

## Online Resources for ACT Preparation

As reported by Jim Osborn in the Columbus Telegram article, "Wave of CHS test-takers brings down ACT scores," the average composite ACT score of Columbus High School students dropped from past years' scores. This could be due to various reasons, including the higher number of first time test takers. No matter the cause, the Columbus Public Library has resources to help raise those scores.

The Testing and Education Reference Center is available not only in the library's building or on library computers, but on any device with a web browser anywhere with an internet connection. There are test preparation resources not only for the ACT but also GED, SAT, GRE, and career tests like the Real Estate Exam on the Testing and Education Reference Center. You can also use this online tool to build a resume and learn basic computer skills.

In the ACT Prep section there are three full length, timed practice tests with detailed answer explanations for each question and automatic scoring. You can also create and take a personalized ACT online course. You start with a pre-test to determine your areas of strength and weakness and choose short, medium, or full length courses depending on how much time you have before you take the ACT. The lessons are tailored based on your pre-test to focus on the areas where you need the most practice. There are games, activities, and 400 vocabulary flashcards to make studying the ACT Math, English, Reading, Science, and Writing fun.

There are two online books available in the ACT Prep section of the Testing and Education Reference Center in case you prefer to study and prepare the traditional way. Choose from "Peterson's Ultimate ACT Tool Kit" or "Master the ACT Assessment" and read the ebook online or save the pdf file to your computer.

Other resources available in the ACT Prep section include a Word of the Day, ACT Tips and Strategies, an overview of the ACT, important dates to remember, test structure, and scoring information. There is also a Quick Quiz, which asks one or two ACT practice questions in each of the five subject areas, except Writing.

There are links to ACT related articles such as "How to Beat Test Stress," and "Showdown: ACT vs. SAT." You can also follow the links to the official ACT website, where there are more study and practice resources available.

Access the Testing and Education Reference Center by visiting our website [www.columbusne.us/library](http://www.columbusne.us/library) and clicking the E-Materials link. Scroll through the alphabetical list of our free online resources and click Testing and Education Reference Center. Simply login with your library card number and explore! First time users should also create a free account so their test scores and practice sessions can be recorded. To do this, click the resource you want to use and follow the on screen prompts.

If you have any questions call 402-564-7116 or stop by the Columbus Public Library. The next Tech Tuesday event will be on September 10<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. Stop by with your electronic devices to ask us questions about our online resources, or to explore our iPad mini, Samsung Galaxy, Kindle Fire, and more!