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## Resource Roundup Spring 2014

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by Jen Maurer

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From brochures for helping parents of kindergarteners understand the Common Core to recommendations for improving teen library services to materials to facilitate adult learners' preparations for career certification exams, these resources aid library patrons of all ages.

## **YALSA Report about Teen Services in Libraries**

The Young Adult Library Services Association, or YALSA, sponsored the National Forum on Libraries & Teens which released a report in January called “The Future of Library Services for and with Teens: A Call to Action.” The report’s recommendations are for public and school libraries. This is from the executive summary:

Libraries provide a lifeline for teens, their families and communities across the nation by providing a safe and supervised space for adolescents to engage in creative, educational activities with caring adults and mentors. But a variety of significant developments point to a need for libraries to change in order to successfully meet the needs of today’s teens. The Future of Library Services for and with Teens: a Call to Action, is the result of a yearlong national forum conducted by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) in 2013, with funding provided by the Institute of Museum and Library services. The Call to Action lays out a new path for serving 21st century teens through libraries. This 2014 report shows that many libraries are continuing to grapple with diminishing resources while at the same time struggling to meet the needs of a changing teen population. Additionally, significant developments in technology have led to the need to rethink how services for and with teens are best created and delivered. The Call to Action provides recommendations on how libraries must address challenges and re-envision their teen services in order to meet the needs of their individual communities and to collectively ensure that the nation’s 40+ million teens develop the skills they need to be productive citizens.

Report and Executive Summary: <http://tinyurl.com/YAForumproj>

*School Library Journal* Article about the Report: <http://tinyurl.com/SLJ-YALSA>

## **Common Core Brochures for Parents**

With all the attention the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English language arts and mathematics are receiving, you may be getting requests from parents who want to better understand the implications for their children. The National PTA and the Council of the Great City Schools offer free, downloadable brochures with CCSS information organized by



grade level. Each brochure or road map is in color and available in English and Spanish. The publications give some background about the Common Core, offer specific examples of skills and expectations for that grade level, and suggest ways parents can help their children succeed. Each English language arts pamphlet emphasizes the value of reading for pleasure.

PTA Two-Pagers, ELA & Math: <http://tinyurl.com/PTA2ELA-MA>

PTA Four-Pagers, ELA & Math: <http://tinyurl.com/PTA4ELA-MA>

Road maps, ELA: <http://www.cgcs.org/domain/114>

Road maps, Math: <http://www.cgcs.org/domain/149>

The Oregon Department of Education features these and other resources in their CCSS toolkit for parents.

Toolkit for Parents: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3425>

Toolkit in Spanish: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=4041>

Parent Guides: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3398>

### **New Learning Express Library Interface**

In January, the Learning-Express Library (LEL) interface underwent a major update. Public, tribal, and academic libraries have updated the LEL links on their websites. K–12 access is via OSLIS, and temporarily, there are two links to Learning-Express Library on the site. Use version 3.0 if you are new to LEL. Everyone who registered for LEL using version 2.0 will have to create a new account in version 3.0. If you have unfinished tests or courses in version 2.0, you have until the end of June 2014 to complete them. The link to version 2.0 will be removed from OSLIS at the end of June. Also note that materials for the updated GED test are only available in version 3.0. As a reminder, Learning-Express Library helps students and adult learners improve the skills required for academic and career success. There are practice sets, tutorials, and e-books to develop skills in math, reading, writing, and basic sciences. Also, there are materials to help prepare for taking the GED, SAT, ACT, AP, PSAT/NMSQT, career certification tests such as NCLEX-RN, Praxis, and more. Some popular software tutorials are also included. 

