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New tools for work, ed now in place at library

By JOANIE BAKER, The Daily News, jbaker@bgdailynews.com/783-3234

There's a chance that the library books on ACT preparation or resume writing are already checked out right now.

But a new program through the Warren County Public Library offers thousands of test preparation and job skill resources online 24 hours a day for free.

And unlike the book resources that may have users finding an empty shelf during popular study times, the LearningExpress Library, accessible through the library's site at www.warrenpl.org, is always available.

"We feel this is under-used and if people knew we had it, they would make better use of it," said Holly Hedden, reference and technical services manager at Warren County Public Library.

The database has several categories that can help prepare users for licensing and certification programs in health care, education and civil service. It has resources to improve job skills such as resume and cover letter writing and programs to help hone interview skills, Hedden said.

Tutorials are available to help in reading, writing and math skills for all school levels, while prep tools for placement exams, such as the ACT, SAT, GRE, LSAT and MCAT, are also available.

"I remember when I was in high school, I took a class to prepare for the ACT or SAT ... and we paid good money for those classes," Hedden said. "Here are resources online and if you have a library card, it's free."

Users can log in either at the library or from their home using their library card number, Hedden said. Library cards are free to residents of Bowling Green and Warren County, people who work or own property in that area or for people who go to school in the city or county.

While the database itself has provided an online platform for some time, Hedden said one of the newest features is GED preparation for Spanish speakers. Other new practice tests include Allied Healthcare, Commercial Driver's License and teaching and graduate school admissions.

"It does cover a lot of ground," Hedden said. "Basically, if you are going to be taking any kind of test, it's worth looking to see if it's covered in here."

Library officials said only about 30 or 40 people have been logging into the program each month, which hardly speaks to its "gold mine of information for test-takers, job seekers and anyone wanting to enhance their basic skills," Hedden said.

Resources are also available for law enforcement, firefighters, nurses and those in real estate.

"If you are job seeking or looking to write a resume or are interested in tips on preparing for some kind of standard academic or college prep exam, here is a free resource for you to use and it's available all the time," Hedden said.