

Public Library offers new Online Resources for Specialized Interests

The Bartholomew County Public Library has added some new online databases in the past few months. What is an online database, you might ask? It's an information-filled online source that you open through our website, <http://barth.lib.in.us>. Our databases are free to use with a Bartholomew County Public Library card because they are paid for with the Library's funds. Some of our databases cover a very specific area, like genealogy, finances, or grants. Others have a wide focus and work like an in-depth and better-researched version of Google, giving access to hundreds or thousands of books and periodicals. Here are five of our newest databases:

Are you an antiquer or art collector? If you are someone interested in buying or selling these items, the **P4A Antiques Reference** is the database for you. It lists prices that have been paid on items at national and international auction houses. This information would be helpful in determining the current market for a similar item that you may own or want to buy. It can also be fun just to "window shop" and see the types of items that are being sold. You may be surprised what people are willing to pay top dollar for.

Do you want to learn a foreign language at your own pace? **Mango Languages** has online courses for over 30 languages. You can create a free account and track your progress as you take courses that emphasize conversation skills and immersion in the language. What makes Mango particularly useful is that it covers languages that might not otherwise be covered in books, such as Tagalog (Philippines) or Pashto (Afghanistan), in addition to languages such as Spanish, French, Chinese, and German.

Are you preparing for college or a major standardized test? The **Testing and Education Resource Center** features sample tests for ACT, SAT, GED, nursing exams, graduate school exams, ASVAB, and many others. It also has free e-books about many of these same subjects. The TERC helps prepare students for college or jobs, as it features a college application help guide, college search wizard, and a program that can help build a quality job resume.

Are you a student that needs to do research, but you don't have hundreds of reference books on your home bookshelf? **Gale Virtual Reference** is a resource that allows you to easily search a large library of encyclopedias, dictionaries, biography guides, history books, medical publications, and more. It's like Google, except you won't have to worry about how inaccurate the information might be. (Google Search is a great tool, but Google is not reviewing every site for correctness.) All the information on Gale Virtual Reference comes from books that went through a rigorous publication review and then underwent more review and indexing to be placed on the database.

Are you a "car guy" or "car gal"? We have acquired a new repair resource called **EBSCO Auto Repair and Small Engine Repair**. You can search for repair diagrams or maintenance schedules for your automobile, but the newer resource that we've not had before is small engine repair. You can now find repair information for your ATV, motorcycle, tractor, boat, or generator.

These are just five of the over 20 databases that the library has for your use. We hope you find them useful, and if you need any assistance, please contact us in person at the Reference Desk or call 379-1266.

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