New EBSCO LearningExpress module now available

Have you noticed the newest addition to the LearningExpress library?
The Personal Success Skills Center is the latest addition to the LearningExpress Library, which provides patrons with easy-to-use interactive tutorials, e-books, and test preparation practice.
The Personal Success Skills module offers interactive tutorials, e-books, and articles covering essential topics in workplace success, organization & time management, and personal finance literacy. Topics covered by the module include:

- Teamwork and Professionalism
- Attitude, Critical Listening, and Successful Negotiations
- Etiquette in Email and the Workplace
- Written and Verbal Communication Skills
- Writing for the Workplace
- Organization Strategies
- Goal Setting, Multitasking, and Time Management
- Balancing and Understanding Credit and Debt
- Money Management and Investing Basics
- Introduction to Insurance, Benefits and Taxes

**Watch for a video training to soon be available that features detailed information to explain all of the ins and outs of the new LearningExpress module!**
A library program that originally started as a pilot adult program for incarcerated adults has received the attention of playwright and composer Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Emma Knox Kenan Library Director Marian Wynn wrote Miranda to inform him of the profound impact Hamilton has had on inmates of the Geneva County Jail.

Once a week, Wynn travels to the county jail to discuss the history behind the musical as part of the jail’s GED program for inmates. Using Miranda’s music as a basis for the program, Wynn’s goal was to inspire adults to learn more about American history and to show them that even though our founding fathers were imperfect and flawed individuals, they were still able to achieve great things.

In addition to being a positive influence on inmates, the Hamilton program has proven incredibly popular since its debut in May 2018. According to the GED instructor, there have been fewer behavioral problems in the jail since the program began because inmates want to participate and know bad behavior will remove them from the class.

While the program was originally only supposed to last through the summer months, it has proven so successful and rewarding that Wynn decided to continue it throughout the year.

Above, Lin-Manuel Miranda’s handwritten response to Wynn’s letter informing him of the positive impact his work is making on inmates in Alabama

Left, Geneva County Jail inmates participate in the Hamilton program led by Emma Knox Kenan Library Director Marian Wynn as part of their GED training
Mobile Public Library sets ‘Mother Goose on the Loose’

In December, youth services staff from the Mobile Public Library system were privileged to participate in a nationally recognized early literacy and storytime training, “Mother Goose on the Loose”.

Dr. Betsy Diamant-Cohen, founder of the program, worked with 24 of the library’s staff learning and understanding proven research methods to stimulate early childhood development through play-based activity.

The library, in particular the youth services staff, would like to thank the Friends of the Mobile Public Library for funding the workshop. The Friends of the Library saw the value in bringing this nationally recognized professional development opportunity to Mobile library staff in order to serve the community at a higher level.

The entire endeavor is also noteworthy because a second day of training called “Goslings” allowed a select group of Mobile Public Library’s youth services staff to learn early learning techniques for parents of babies with an extra emphasis on premature babies.

The Mobile Public Library was the first library system outside the state of Maryland to host the Goslings workshop.

Youth Services staff look forward to parents and children from around the Mobile area seeing the positive results from the Mother Goose on the Loose professional development opportunity in our libraries and in partnership with Children’s and Women’s Hospital of the University Health system.

Library sewing group donates quilts to Birmingham nursing home

The Birmingham Public Library and our patrons love to give back to our communities.

Members of Needles & Thread, an adult group which meets weekly at the Pratt City Branch Library, is a prime example. Members of Needles & Thread, including Pratt City library assistant Kenyata Rogers, spent three months making more than 20 quilts. In December, the group donated those quilts to residents of the Birmingham Nursing & Rehabilitation Center on Dugan Avenue.

The nursing home staff said the quilts were a welcome surprise and are greatly appreciated by their residents.
Summer Reading
Kickoff a success

This January, public libraries throughout Alabama are looking ahead to prepare for another busy summer reading program.

With extensive renovations currently going on at APLS, the annual summer reading kickoff was held at the Juliette Hampton Morgan Memorial Library in downtown Montgomery Jan. 8 and 9. The event provides library directors and youth services librarians statewide helpful tips and programming ideas on a central theme to assist them during the busy summer season.

This year’s theme — “Imagine Your Story” — weaves our rich history and cultural tapestry with borrowed elements of myths, legends, and fairy tales.

Traditionally, summer reading programs are designed to encourage elementary-aged children to keep reading during summer vacation. Preventing the “summer slide” continues to be the main objective of summer reading programs. For many families with elementary-aged children, the public library is the only community space available during the summer months where they can access free educational and cultural enrichment activities and programs.

Liberal staff statewide participate in the annual summer reading kickoff

Attendees enjoy the small-group breakout sessions

The theme pairs well with myths and legends
**Award helps four Lamar County libraries**

The Northwest Regional Library recently received $8,750 from the Tombigbee Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council to purchase books for four Lamar County public libraries.

The libraries benefiting from the award are Sulligent Public Library, Kennedy Public Library, Millport Public Library, and Mary Wallace Cobb Memorial Library in Vernon.

The money was used to purchase books for all ages. The Tombigbee RC&D Council has provided ongoing support to these four libraries to assist them in staying current with materials and services they provide.

"The Northwest Regional Library is very appreciative of the support which Tombigbee RC&D provides for these small rural libraries," said Jan McNeill, Northwest Regional Library assistant director.

**BPH wraps second season of program for veterans**

The Alabama Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (BPH) recently concluded the second year of a reading and discussion group specifically for U.S. military veterans.

Seventeen veterans participated in "What My Eyes Saw, What My Heart Remembered," an eight-session course which began in September and concluded on Dec. 11. The program was sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Foundation with Auburn University at Montgomery Center for Disability Services and Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System serving as community partners.
December library fun

APLSeeds has received many photos of holiday-themed activities from libraries around the state. We’d like to wish you all a successful 2020 as we take a quick look back to how we closed out last year:

Children have fun with Princess Anna at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster

Children at Ashland City Public Library build gingerbread houses and play games

Children read with Santa at Fairhope Public Library

Children make fabric Christmas trees and build holiday wooden sculptures during “Christmas Crafternoons” at Fairhope Public Library

Children enjoy a story during the “Library After Dark” event at the Ashland City Public Library

Children ride with Santa in a horse-drawn carriage at the Albert L. Scott Library holiday party