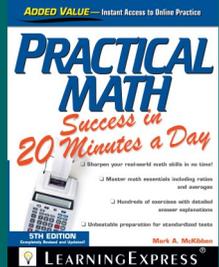
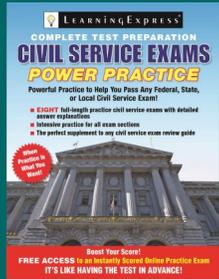
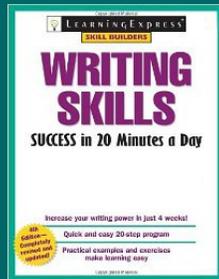
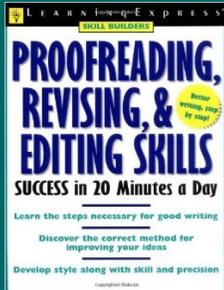


February 2014

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

Examples of eBooks (PDF) in LearningExpress Library



Download list of eBooks (PDF)
<http://1.usa.gov/1hWkvcD>

News You Can Use is a publication of the State Library of Ohio. For more information contact Marsha McDevitt-Stredney, Director, Marketing & Communications at marshams@library.ohio.gov or 614-644-6875

A Smarter Ohio



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Or, go to www.learningexpresshub.com/learningexpresslibrary/user-guides/full-length-video

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Why search for information from NGOs?

Are you searching for reliable data on a hot topic, such as health insurance legislation, climate change, nuclear power, immigration or same sex marriage? State employees need the latest studies, best practices, and effective solutions for today's hot topics. For example, what are the best ways of preventing pedestrian injuries at high crash crosswalks? In the current economic environment, how should community healthcare providers plan for prisoner reentry? What questions should regulators ask utilities about their cybersecurity?

When you have looked in the usual resources but still need information for your projects and reports, turn to nongovernmental organizations, often abbreviated as NGOs. These nonprofit information providers include university research centers,

independent think tanks, professional and trade organizations, associations of government officials, advocacy groups, and more. Some advance the cause of a particular viewpoint, and others strive to be completely nonpartisan. NGO websites and publications offer statistics, current legislative activity, research reports, state comparison studies, and in-depth analysis and proposed solutions for hot topics in agriculture, finance, criminal justice, the sciences, environmental issues, education, transportation, health care, and all kinds of public policies.

How to Find Appropriate Organizations

Using the Google Custom Search Engine feature, researchers have created general and some specific custom search tools which help to identify relevant NGOs working on issues in public policy, transportation, and utilities. For example, try the

Syracuse University search tool for numeric data and statistics or Harvard's think tank finder. For research on issues being discussed by governments worldwide, such as honeybee colony collapse disorder, expand your search to intergovernmental organizations (IGOs).

The Pew Center on the States is an excellent starting point for research on all issues of importance for state government. State, metro-area, county, township, and municipal officials belong to a wide variety of professional associations with informative web sites. The Rockefeller Institute of Government has compiled a helpful list of links to additional organizations.

Need More Ideas?

Try the Gale Directory Library online to locate thousands of organizations and research centers.

Ask a Librarian

I'd like to save money on my utility. Is there a tool to help compare the prices for different Gas and Electric companies?

Answer: The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) recently launched the website www.energychoice.ohio.gov

We received an announcement with the following information:

The new Energy Choice Ohio website offers information to help consumers understand electric and natural gas choice, including what steps they need to take when switching suppliers; what their rights are as a consumer; what aggregation is; and a frequently asked questions page



that represents questions the PUCO has received while visiting all 88 counties in the state offering consumer education presentations on energy choice.

The website also features a complete revamping of the popular *Apples to Apples* comparison charts. The PUCO produces the *Apples to Apples* charts to provide residential

and small commercial consumers with a snapshot comparison of current electric and natural gas supplier offerings and contract terms. The *Apples to Apples* charts will now be updated daily and consumers will have the ability to filter and sort offers to better compare those they are most interested in.

For more information on Energy Choice Ohio visit www.energychoice.ohio.gov.

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How can I find the weather for a specific date in the past?

The National Climatic Data Center has a look-up tool for daily weather conditions in previous years.