

Northfield Public Library offers free online practice tests with LearningExpress

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With application fees, travel expenses, student loans and housing costs, young adults bound for college or further law, medical or graduate study have enough expenses to worry about without having to pay to prepare for entrance exams.

Determined to score well on the ACT, LSAT or MCAT students often shell out hundreds of dollars in preparatory courses and materials. But the Northfield Public Library is offering another, much less expensive option for these conscientious individuals.

“LearningExpress is free with your library card,” said Debby Nitz, the public library’s resource librarian. “You can take all kinds of practice exams.”

The LearningExpress Library, an online resource center provided by the public library, allows patrons to access more than 800 practice tests and interactive tutorials, ranging from the ACT and GRE to the GED test and exams for specific vocations such as nursing, air traffic controlling or military service.

“There’s all kinds of stuff in here,” said Nitz. “And you can take the tests over and over again. It’s a really good service and it’s free. I just wish people knew about it.”

Though the library also carries several print versions of the preparatory books, the online resource allows an unlimited number of students and residents to access the exams regardless of who checks out the copies on library shelves.

In an effort to cater to young adults who frequently use technology for school and other projects, library staff has also been meeting with teachers at Northfield Public Schools to inform them of research tools available to students through the library.

“We are familiarizing teachers with how they can access our services,” said Teresa Jensen, the library director.

In light of the recent iPad distribution in the middle and high schools, Jensen is also working to introduce apps that can be used for research and other academic needs.

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