

For Immediate Release, March 25, 2013

Digital Petting Zoo and Other Library Technology Demonstrations in April

The West Virginia Library Commission's West Virginia State Library will offer exciting technology demonstrations in April.

The State Library, located in the West Virginia Culture Center, Charleston, WV, will sponsor three demonstrations on April 4, 18 and 25:

1. **Learning Express Library**, an online resource that helps users become Internet and computer literate, among other goals. For example, the Learning Express Library also helps users build skills that will help them land jobs – how to handle an interview, how to write a resume, how to prepare for certain tests and certificates, and much more. The Learning Express Library demonstrations will be April 4 at noon and 5:30 pm.
2. **E-Reader\Tablet Petting Zoo**, which offers hands-on experience with the newest and most popular e-readers available, including iPods, Kindles, Nooks and others. Participants can handle the e-readers and play with their many features to read books, browse the Internet, and even to look for work. The Petting Zoo demonstration will be April 18 at noon.
3. **WV-READS**, an online system for finding and downloading e-books from the West Virginia State Library. E-books are a wonderful way for the whole family to read the latest books and time-tested classics, both fiction and non-fiction. E-books are light and portable, and the technology keeps children and young adults engaged. The WV-Reads demonstration will be April 25 at noon.

Digital literacy is essential in today's workforce and critical for America's economic future. It opens access to jobs and education opportunities that enable current and future generations to compete.

Roughly 100 million Americans do not have a broadband connection at home, and 62 million do not use the Internet at all. Only about half of West Virginia households have broadband connections to the Internet. All of West Virginia's 175 public libraries are connected to the Internet at broadband speeds. West Virginia's libraries, like those across the nation, are places to find a printed or digital book, train for a job and find one waiting to be filled.

For more information about the April technology demonstrations at the West Virginia State Library, contact Heather Campbell Shock, State Library Services Manager via heather.s.campbell@wv.gov, or 1-800-642-9021, option 3.

Photos of the State Library and Digital Petting Zoo are available on the Library Commission website, www.librarycommission.wv.gov/publications/Pages/Press_releases.aspx.