

September 2018

# BETWEEN THE PAGES

*Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter*

## LIBRARY CARD SIGN UP MONTH

*BY: MARY KOKOT, ADULT SERVICES COORDINATOR*

As students prepare to head back to school, there is one essential school supply that requires no shopping and doesn't cost a penny - it's a library card.

This September, Huntsville Public Library is joining with the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide for Library Card Sign-up Month, to encourage parents, caregivers and students to obtain a free library card that will save them money while reaping rewards in academic achievement and lifelong learning.

Whether it's providing free access to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) programs, educational apps, in-person and virtual homework help or technology workshops, a library card is one of the most cost effective back-to-school supplies. Resources at the Huntsville Public Library are available to anyone with a library card. Libraries play an important role in the education and development of children. Studies show children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning.

"Throughout the school year, our library offers a variety of programs to stimulate an interest in reading and learning," said Rachel McPhail, Children's Coordinator. "Story hours expose young children to the joy of reading and encourage school readiness, while older children have access to technology and digital tools such as Overdrive, TexShare Databases which include EBSCO Student Research Center, Learning Express Library, and ProQuest Science and Technology and the help from library staff to use those resources."

This year, Disney's the Incredibles are Library Card Sign-up Month honorary chairs, helping to promote the value of a library card and bring attention to the many ways libraries and librarians transform lives and communities through education. During September, the Huntsville Public Library will host several activities, including The SAT Math Prep Class, Teen Film Club, Shakespeare Theater for Teens, the After-School Zone, genealogy workshops, a forum on the opioid epidemic, and a musical performance by Dave Dersham.

Since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year. During the month, the ALA and libraries unite together in a national effort to ensure every child signs up for their own library card. For more information about how to sign up for a library card, visit please the Huntsville Public Library in person or online at [myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://myhuntsvillelibrary.com).

## PLANNING TO TAKE THE SAT /ACT

*BY JALPA SHAH, IT COORDINATOR*

Here's how the Huntsville Public Library can help you:

Go to [www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com).

Click on "Teen Services"

Click on "Teen Databases"

Click on "Learning Express"

Click on "College Admissions Test Preparation" (*cont. pg. 4*)

1219 13th Street  
Huntsville, TX 77340  
(936) 291-5472

Monday-Friday Saturday  
10am-7pm 12pm-4pm



[myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://myhuntsvillelibrary.com)



@huntsvillelib



HuntsvillePublicLibrary



Huntsville\_Public\_Library



# TEXSHARE DATABASES

BY RACHEL MCPHAIL, CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR

Computers are everywhere these days, and many people are fortunate to have access to the Internet through their smart devices. With so much information available at our fingertips, some may ask: why databases are still relevant to the "modern" people of 2018, especially with the power of Google?

Most readers (and library staff) think that Google is a fantastic way to find out whatever one wants to know, but there are some occasions in which Google is stumped by a question. Say you were taking a college course and you needed to write a research paper on a topic. Google may not have exactly what you are looking for or the results may be inaccurate. Google provides access to everything from factually correct articles written by professionals to a web page written by a person who may know next to nothing about what he or she is discussing.

Popular author Neil Gaiman stated in a 2010 interview:

"We used to live in a world in which there wasn't enough information. Information was currency. Now we're in a world in which there's too much information. There's information absolutely everywhere. So instead of sending a librarian out into the desert to come back with the one rock that you need from the desert, it's not a matter of sending a librarian into a jungle to come back with the one tree, the one leaf, in the jungle that you probably wouldn't be able to get. Google can bring you back, you know, a hundred thousand answers. A librarian can bring you back the right one."

So, how do libraries access the "right answers?" The answer is databases. Databases contain articles or journals written by credible authors. These articles are often reviewed by other specialists in that particular field. The one barrier for use is the cost as most people are unable or unwilling to pay to use databases. What do you do when your student needs to research a project for school? What do you do if your child needs homework help and you don't feel you have the skills to do so? The Huntsville Public Library is here to help! We have access to the TexShare database and provide our patrons with access for free.

How to login to the TexShare database if you are in the library on a library computer: Visit [myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://myhuntsvillelibrary.com) and click on "Children's Databases" on the Children's tab. Next, click on the TexShare logo, and you are in.

How to login to the TexShare database if you are not in the library on a library computer: Visit our circulation staff who will give you a flyer with login information.

No matter where you access the TexShare database from, you will have access to the following topics: General Information, Do-It-Yourself Resources, Genealogy and History, Homework and Education, Books and Literature, Science and Technology, Business Resources, Career Advancement, Health and Medicine, and Librarian's Reference Shelf.

The Huntsville Public Library has several databases specifically designed for homework help for elementary through college ages. Through the TexShare databases, patrons can access the "Learning Express Library," select their age range, and find homework help. For elementary ages, users can learn more about how to improve math or reading skills as well as gain practice on the STAAR test. Another thoroughly informative database for children and teenagers is "Explora." Students who use Explora can research any homework or hobby topic to finish school projects, brush up on skills for a test, or explore a new interest.

A great fact about databases is they never "close" like the library does so even if your child remembers homework at 10 p.m., you can still log in and get started.

# August Events

Find this information online at [myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://myhuntsvillelibrary.com).

 **SAT Math Prep Course**  
 September 29, 1:00 PM  
*Register on library website*

 **First Friday Book Club**  
 September 7, 1:00 PM  
*3rd-7th Graders*

 **Family Movie Night showing**  
*Sherlock Gnomes*  
 September 7, 5:30 PM  
*For all ages*

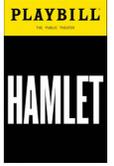
 **Mother Goose Lapsit**  
 Mondays, 10:30 AM  
*Ages 5 and under*

 **Story Time**  
 Tuesdays 5:30 PM,  
 Wednesdays & Fridays, 10:45 AM  
*Ages 5 and under*  
*No program on August 1 and 3*

**Teen Film Club (PIZZA&MOVIE)**  
*Rampage*  
 August 9, 4:30 PM  
*13-17 years old only*



**Shakespeare Theater for Teens**  
 Auditions: September 20, 4:30 PM  
 Rehearsals: Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 18, 25,  
 Nov. 15 & 29  
 Performance: TBA  
*13-17 years old only*



## CHILDREN'S Programming

**Intermediate Spanish**  
 Wednesdays, 1:00 PM



**Beginner Spanish**  
 Wednesdays, 5:15 PM

**Original Songs by Dave Dersham**  
 September 28, 12:00 PM



**Genealogy Programs:**  
*Registration Required*



"Scanning Documents"  
 September 19, 1:00 PM



"DNA"  
 September 19, 10:30 AM



"Working Your Genealogy Puzzle"  
 September 20, 3:00 PM



Ancestry.com Seminar  
 September 20, 5:30 PM



"Health & Genealogy"  
 September 25, 5:00 PM



"Probates & Estates"  
 September 26, 1:30 PM



## ADULT Programming



 **Midday Matinee**  
*Treasure of the Sierra Madre*  
 August 10, 3:00 PM

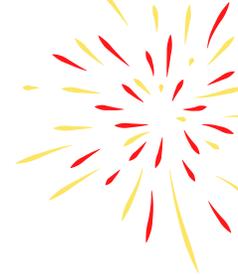
 **Microsoft Word Class**  
 Tuesdays, 11:00 AM  
*Registration Required*

 **Play Texas 42**  
 Mondays, 1:00 - 3:00 PM  
 Registration Required  
 Multiples of 4 needed to play!

 **Sittercise**  
 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 AM

 **Book Club at the Huntsville Public Library**  
*A Man Called Ove*  
 June 14, 10:30 AM

# MATH AND FAMILY HISTORY: FINDING MEANING IN GENERATIONS PAST



BY RICHARD LANE, REFERENCE COORDINATOR

Family historians and genealogist take great pride in their findings. We love to recite the names of our known grandparents ad nauseam to the sixth generation and beyond. Skeptics, however, may scoff at the idea that genealogy has any validity. They tell us, "It is highly unlikely that any one individual from the seventh generation back would contribute more than one percent of an individual's DNA." Skeptics will argue, "A descendent of Napoleon cannot reasonably claim that he or she is the inheritor of his military genius or his inclination for catastrophic blunder."

*Pyramid Theory of Doubling Ancestors*  
SELF  
2 PARENTS  
4 GRANDPARENTS  
8 GREAT-GRANDPARENTS  
16 GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS  
32 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS  
64 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS  
128 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS  
256 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS  
512 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS  
1024 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS  
Source: <https://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/misc/ancestors.shtml>

All of the skepticism may be valid. Does it matter what our family history beyond four generation (great-grandparents) teaches us? Sceptics will argue that our character is not determined by acts of kindness or acts of indifference or even cruelty committed by long dead ancestors. Or is it?



Defenders of family history will argue that knowledge of the lives of past generations is instructive. We learn from their successes as well as their failing. A compelling case can be made that our understanding of family history provides the mode of inheritance upon which families build cohesion and identity and find meaning in the human experience. As individuals, family history provides a means for self-reflection and examination.

An argument can be made that family history is fully integrated into the larger histories of the world. Given a reasonable twenty-five year span for each generation we can calculate time frames for each generation. For example, many of today's grandparents likely wore bell bottom denims and paisley shirts in their youth. Their experience of the Vietnam War, the 1967 Summer of Love and Woodstock has been captured in film and recordings. Younger generations may find in them a connection to the generation of the 1960s and appreciate the art, music and culture of that era. Members of the older generation may reflect on their youth and find cause to be tolerant and accepting of today's youth.

$X=2^n$  is a helpful equation. X tells us the number of grandparents in successive generations. (i.e.  $2 \times 2=4$ ,  $2 \times 2 \times 2=8$ ,  $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2=16$ )



## SAT

(cont. from pg. 1)

Library patrons can access Learning Express, an extensive collection of practice tests, exercises, and skill-building courses helpful for students of all ages. This resource is completely free and accessible 24/7.

On Learning Express, you can find helpful resources for the SAT, ACT, and even specialized tests such as the TOEFL, PSAT, and AP exams. These tutorials outline essential information you need to know for these tests so you can prepare correctly, lower your stress level, and be a successful test taker. Many of the lessons are interactive so you can gauge your knowledge along the way.

There's even a section to help you with writing College Essays. On the Learning Express database, users can access two eBooks to master the skills of writing a strong essay and learn proper proofreading and editing skills.

In addition to the library's resources, check out these cool websites for more help: Khanacademy.org and Freerice.com.

