



National Institute for Literacy

Literacy Information and Communication System (*LINCS*)

July 2010

LINCS Resource Collections



Basic Skills



Program Management



Workforce Competitiveness

Welcome to *LINCS* Resource Collection News!

In this edition, we feature the [Basic Skills Collection](#), which covers the topics of reading, writing, math, and numeracy. Each month Collections News features one of the three *LINCS* Resource Collections—Basic Skills, Program Management, and Workforce Competitiveness—and introduces research-based resources that you can use in your adult and family literacy programs and classrooms.

What's New in the Basic Skills Resource Collection?

Students need a strong foundation in reading, writing, math, and numeracy to be successful in GED preparation, in work readiness programs, and in post-secondary education and training. The resources in the Basic Skills Collection that will assist in providing this foundation include research articles, materials and curriculum based on research, and discussion lists that can be used to ask questions and share ideas. To subscribe to the Reading and Writing, Math and Numeracy, Health Literacy, or Diversity and Literacy Discussion Lists, go to <http://www.nifl.gov/lincs/discussions/discussions.html>.

The Role of Vocabulary Instruction in Adult Basic Education, by Mary E. Curtis, is a research article that presents approaches to vocabulary instruction that have proven to be effective. Curtis first describes four hypotheses that explore the relationships between vocabulary and reading comprehension. Relying on research on children (due to a paucity of research on adults and vocabulary), Curtis identifies several effective instructional practices: direct instruction, differentiation of word meanings, promotion of word consciousness, and engagement in wide reading. Although the article does not provide “how to” strategies, Curtis provides recommendations for practice, research and policy.

The [Reading and Writing Discussion List](#) recently focused on the effectiveness of Word Study as a vocabulary instruction strategy for adult students. Donita Massengill-Shaw was the guest moderator for this lively and informative online exchange. This discussion has been archived and can be found at <http://www.nifl.gov/lincs/discussions/readwrite/10wordstudy>.

If you would like to participate in a guest discussion with Mary Jane Schmitt in August 2010 on the [Math and Numeracy Discussion List](#), take a moment

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and sign up now. To learn about previous topics that have been offered, visit the [archives](#).

Speaking of math, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has developed [Money Smart - A Financial Education Program](#) to help adults outside the financial mainstream enhance their money skills and create positive banking relationships. This resource offers many lessons that can be used in a math class, as well as in reading and writing instruction. The curriculum's ten modules are available free in CD form (ordering information is on the *Money Smart* Web site) or can be downloaded. The instructor-led version is available in English, Chinese, Hmong, Korean, Vietnamese, Russian, and Spanish. The online version is in English and Spanish. There is also a version of *Money Smart* developed specifically for youth ages 12–20.

How can I learn more about the Basic Skills Resource Collection?

Visit the [Basic Skills Resource Collection](#) for additional resources. Contact these Basic Skills Collection content experts for additional information and to learn more about the resources, technical assistance, and professional development opportunities that are available at no cost: **Reading and Writing**, Drucie Weir-auch, dcw113@psu.edu and Dianna Baycich, dbaycich@literacy.kent.edu; **Math and Numeracy**, Jean Stephens, stephej2@ohio.edu; and **Health Literacy**, Julie McKinney, jmckinney@worlded.org.

What is LINCS?

LINCS is a service of the National Institute for Literacy, providing online information and communication networks for adult and family literacy practitioners. LINCS' offerings include Discussion Lists, Regional Resource Centers, the Collections, and training opportunities. Learn more about LINCS on the Web site <http://www.nifl.gov/lincs>.

What will I find in the New LINCS Resource Collections?

The three *new* [LINCS Resource Collections](#), expanded this year, are comprised of items that have completed a rigorous internal and external review. Use these resources directly in the classroom or to guide development of customized programs and classes. You can find more information about the new Resource Collections on the Institute's Web site: <http://www.nifl.gov>.