

We grow smarter communities, one person at a time.

7 things you should know this tax season

Tax season is here, and our library customers may have tax-related questions. Here is everything you need to know to help your customers get on track to filing.

1. The last day to file is Monday, April 15, 2019.

2. We have a tax resource page on our website (<http://metrolibrary.org/tax>).

3. We do not offer tax help. However, there are locations throughout Oklahoma County that offer free tax assistance through AARP and VITA. Keep checking THIS DOCUMENT (metrolib.sharepoint.com/:w/s/epd/steering/EWXBlug9mTtMnFPib9z-nX0BJdijby4rC813q8ExAt663A?e=3Bfjfi) throughout tax season for the most up to date tax assistance locations.

4. The IRS is eliminating the 1040A and 1040EZ tax forms. All filers will use the 1040 form and schedules 1-6 as necessary.

5. We cannot provide tax advice. We can provide valuable information resources such as where to find free assistance, how to print free tax forms and other related materials. However, we are not tax professionals.

6. We have free printable tax forms. While we do not have paper tax forms on hand, customers can print any tax form they may need at the library or at home from our website (<http://metrolibrary.org/tax/forms>).

7. Online tax FAQs are a valuable resource. Although library staff cannot provide tax advice, you can direct customers with specific tax questions to the Oklahoma Tax Commission website's FAQ page (<https://www.ok.gov/tax/faqs.html>) or the IRS website's FAQ page (<https://www.irs.gov/faqs>).

Tax Resources on the Web:

- Internal Revenue Service (<https://www.irs.gov/>)
- Oklahoma Tax Commission (<https://www.ok.gov/tax/>)
- Metropolitan Library Tax Resource Page (<http://metrolibrary.org/tax>)
- Oklahoma Taxpayer Access Point (TAP) (https://oktap.tax.ok.gov/OKTAP/Web/_/#1)

LEGO Programs (National Architecture Week)

National Architecture week is April 21 – 27, 2019. To celebrate this STEAM-inspired week, we want to talk about the benefits of LEGO programs at our libraries.

One article in New York Magazine called LEGOs the “perfect toy” (Smith, 2016). Not only has the toy prevailed in an industry in which children are inundated with on-screen play such as video games, but LEGO has continued to innovate, creating toys that teach robotics and coding skills.

In a study of 62 students between the ages of 8 and 14 using LEGO Mindstorms construction kits, not only did students report enjoying the time spent building but the study reported that they experienced learning within four major learning themes: active, authentic, multiple perspectives and collaborative (Somyürek, 2015).

Each of these four learning dimensions are key to the constructivist learning experience, which suggests that “learning is an active, contextualized process of constructing knowledge rather than acquiring it” (learning theories, 2015).

The active dimension is developing solutions to problems and learning by doing; the authentic dimension is real life-related problems and learning by

trial and error; multiple perspectives is different ideas to different solutions and collaboration is sharing options and development with the help of other's solutions (Somyürek, 2015).

“Learning through construction kits offered opportunities to deepen the students' understanding of various concepts with hands-on exploration and design, resulting in fun and enjoyment. It also promoted students' active involvement and fostered the collaboration that leads to developing multiple perspectives” (Somyürek, 2015).

Library LEGO programs are a great way to get children solving problems, learning new STEAM concepts and building key leadership skills. LEGOs are also comparatively a healthy toy that parents are more willing to indulge.

“For parents, LEGOs seem like the vegetable your kid actually requests and

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LEGO Programs (CONTINUED)

then eats in heaping mounds – a toy that's also a building block for future relativity, a mechanics lesson that doesn't feel like school work, a wholesome embodiment of Scandinavian craftsmanship, something tactile in a world that is increasingly pixelated." (Smith, 2016).

Teen Librarian at the Downtown Library, Kimberly Edwards, hosts a LEGO club the first Wednesday of each month and while creativity and innovation are important, she said she is amazed by the teamwork.



"Being able to work together as a team is one of the aspects of LEGO Club that I try to encourage, more so than what they build. I want them to be kind, generous children who appreciate helping others and hopefully that follows them into adulthood," Edwards said.



While some say the LEGO kits today are less creative than their predecessors because they include instructions, the LEGO company says this is simply a part of the creative process.

LEGO Press Officer Rude Roar Trangbaek compares learning to build with LEGOS using instructions to learning to play the piano. Trangbaek says that you would not give a child a piano and just expect them to learn – you would teach them the notes first (Smith, 2016).

Children's Librarian from Del City Library, Joshua Jordan, said he provides some guidebooks for children who prefer to work from a script, but they often use a deck of challenge cards (<https://1.cdn.edl.io/CNBPPWrxNLIYjCruJt0w9vcEL1iV85pAWDBGWJfgOP8gXFPO.pdf>) to spark their creativity. The cards are open ended challenges such as, "Make a marble maze and challenge a friend to solve it."

Jordan hosts a LEGO club as well as a robotics club using LEGO Mindstorms. The curriculum for the robotics club is space-themed, asking the children to build a custom bot over the course of 12 missions.

"We train the students to add and program sensors in increasing complexity; they use ultrasonic, optical, push-button, and gyroscopic sensors as they continuously troubleshoot and modify their robots throughout the course of the program," Jordan said. "Sounds confusing, but it's designed for engineering and coding novices."

While it is difficult to say whether LEGO fosters creativity, research shows that kids who play regularly with blocks have higher standardized test scores and higher math achievement (Smith, 2016).

"My heart swells when we can simply provide children with building blocks they need to have success and they figure out a way—all on their own—to construct something beautiful, Jordan said. "There's an invariable moment of pride when a child realizes they've reached their goal. That moment is irreplaceable; it's what educators crave and what I love most about our LEGO offerings."

Not only are the Library's LEGO programs fun and inspiring for children, giving them a sense of achievement, but they also teach them key skills in areas of high employment in the U.S.

"STEM education, or training in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, is designed to help young minds analyze data, see patterns and create computer-based solutions" (Caviness, 2015).

After school and STEAM programs with LEGO engineering projects, robotics programs with LEGO Mindstorms, LEGO clubs and LEGO-nomics programs are offered at Metro Libraries throughout the system. For children who express an interest in STEAM related fields, these programs may be a great way to get children and teens coming to the library with their families.

**Works Cited:**

Caviness, Ylonda Gault. 2015. "Step Up Your Child's STEM Skills." *Essence* 46 (3): 118.

David L. 2015. "Constructivism," in *Learning Theories*. <https://www.learning-theories.com/constructivism.html>.

Smith, Genevieve. 2016. "Lego Is the Perfect Toy." *New York* 49 (24): 54. Somyürek, Sibel. 2015. "An effective educational tool: construction kits

for fun and meaningful learning." *International Journal of Technology and Design Education* 25 (1): 25–41

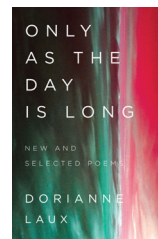
NATIONAL POETRY
MONTH READS

Titles selected by Julia McConnell

The Carrying : Poems by Ada Limón

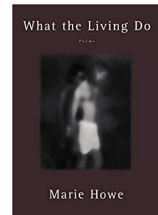
A collection of poems that captures both the pain and the beauty of life. Limón depicts life in all its rawness describing a daughter who cares for her aging parents and a woman struggling with infertility.

Check it out... (<https://catalog.metrolibrary.org/?section=resource&resourceid=483369264>)

Only as the Day is Long: New and Selected Poems by Dorianne Laux

A hauntingly real collection of poems in chronological order that read like a life story. Publishers weekly called it a, "catalog of honest work".

Check it out... (<https://catalog.metrolibrary.org/?section=resource&resourceid=540303957>)



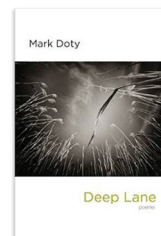
What the Living Do : Poems by Marie Howe
Howe depicts the life her dying brother who teaches her in death how to be most alive.

Check it out... (<https://catalog.metrolibrary.org/?section=resource&resourceid=136092106>)

Deep Lane : Poems by Mark Doty

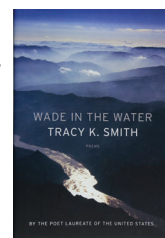
Doty uses poetry to depict an introspective look at the meaning of life through the natural world.

Check it out... (<https://catalog.metrolibrary.org/?section=resource&resourceid=65854670>)

**Wade in the Water : Poems by Tracy K. Smith**

In *Wade in the Water* Smith, the current U.S. Poet Laureate, touches on several heavy topics, but perhaps the most notable in this collection is her sequence of letters written by African Americans enlisted in the Civil War.

Check it out... (<https://catalog.metrolibrary.org/?section=resource&resourceid=375320771>)



Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude by Ross Gay
Gay beautifully illustrates the joys in life while also subtly revealing life's difficulties through nature.

Check it out... (<https://catalog.metrolibrary.org/?section=resource&resourceid=102857155>)

Whereas by Layli Long Soldier

Soldier depicts her life as a daughter, mother, student, American and Lakota. She also plays with language and form throughout the book.

Check it out... (<https://catalog.metrolibrary.org/?section=resource&resourceid=212533653>)

**Devotions : The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver by Mary Oliver**

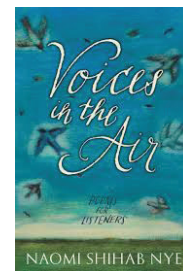
A compilation of Mary Oliver's best work from throughout her career. Oliver died at age 83 in January. In this definitive collection she explores the bonds between living things.

Check it out... (<https://catalog.metrolibrary.org/?section=resource&resourceid=299688881>)

Voices in the Air : Poems for Listeners by Naomi Shihab Nye

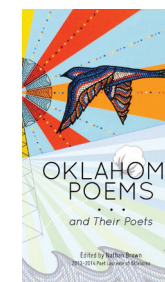
Voices in the Air celebrates the lives of people Nye finds inspiring. She begins each with a short informational bio about the figure.

Check it out... (<https://catalog.metrolibrary.org/?section=resource&resourceid=353655993>)

**Oklahoma Poems : And Their Poets Edited by Nathan Brown**

A look at the state's past and present as written by Oklahoma poets as well as poems about Oklahoma by visitors, edited by the 2013-2014 poet laureate of Oklahoma.

Check it out... (<https://catalog.metrolibrary.org/?section=resource&resourceid=5859986>)



NEW HIRES

Ashley McLain

NW Access Manager II

Melannie Chavez

AL Access Specialist I PT

Suzy Hough

WA Access Specialist I PT

Brooke Owens

BE Access Specialist I PT

Jenna Hunter

VI Access Specialist I PT

Huong Nguyen

BI Access Specialist I PT

Gregory Rahn

BI Access Specialist I PT

Piper Campbell

CT Access Specialist I PT

Susan Ebert

BI Access Specialist II HT

Laura Warren

WA Library Manager II

Jason Wiggins

VI Library Manager II

Anthony Alfonso

TP Technical Processing Specialist I PT

Blake Coward

TP Technical Processing Specialist I PT

Shelbie Marks

DC Teen Librarian I

PROMOTIONS & TRANSFERS

Kristine Magers

CD: CD Assistant to CD: CD Librarian

Tawna Dickens

VI: Adult Engagement Specialist II to BI: Access Manager II

Christina Winkle

SO: Youth Engagement Specialist II to SO: Teen Librarian I

Jennifer Adkisson

RE: Access Manager II to CL/CT: Access Manager II

RESIGNATIONS

Bridget Scheffler

DN Access Manager II

Andrew Wright

DC Access Specialist I

Lee "Leeanne" Hill

WA Access Specialist I

Nina "Suzy" Hough

WA Access Specialist I

Stafford Caldwell

NW Access Specialist I

Meredith Davis

ED Access Specialist I

Samuel Regan

VI Access Specialist I

Susan Hutchins

DC Adult Engagement Specialist II

Morgan Jones

PLA Dir of Strategic Planning & Projects

Julia McConnell

EPS Programs Manager

Melvin Nolin

SEC Surveillance & Security Officer

Andrea Gaither

TP Technical Processing Specialist II

COMING UP

April 18

Commission Meeting at
The Village Library

April 25

Staff Association
Meeting at Southern
Oaks Library

May 16

Commission Meeting
at Downtown Library

May 23

Staff Association
Meeting, location TBD



Metropolitan
LIBRARY SYSTEM