

As Stephen is unable to attend Jim Keeley will be presenting his talk

Stephen J. Steurer
Correctional Education Association
8212 Lark Brown Road
Elkridge, MD 21075
Steurer1@aol.com

CEA LINCS Special Collections and Online Course

The Correctional Education Association (CEA) and the United States' National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) have formed a partnership to provide a web-based library of literacy resources related to correctional education. The Literacy Information and Communication System (LINCS) provides quality literacy information online. LINCS is comprised of many different Special Collections each devoted to a particular topic of interest. The Collections are:

- Assessment
- Correctional Education
- English As A Second Language
- Equipped for the Future
- Family Literacy
- Health and Literacy
- Literacy and Learning Disabilities
- Policy and Legislation
- Science and Numeracy
- Technology Training
- Workforce Education

CEA received a grant from NIFL to develop and collect content for the Correctional Education Special Collection. The purpose of the system is to make quality literacy information more available to literacy practitioners and students. NIFL developed the websites and provided a platform for searching for and viewing the content on the World Wide Web. "Content Development Partners" such as CEA locate the information for posting and NIFL is responsible for operating and maintaining the web technology that powers the site. In the case of the Correctional Education Special Collection, Eastern LINCS, based in Pennsylvania, actually houses our information on their computers. The overall effort produces a virtual library of quality literacy resources that can be accessed anytime from anywhere around the world.

CEA is in the fifth year of managing the content of the Correctional Education Special Collection. Our content selection is guided by our Core Knowledge Group (CKG). The CKG serves as an advisory board and provides us with information on topic areas ensuring the Collection is well rounded and representative of the diverse interests in the field of Correctional Education. The current CKG is comprised of representatives from the following areas:

- Professional Development & Training
- International
- Administrators

Female Offenders
Juvenile Offenders
Special Education
Literacy Instruction

In addition to the guidance from the CKG, the Collection uses Selection Criteria as a basis to ensure only quality materials are placed online. NIFL has general selection and then CEA has refined criteria specific to the Correctional Education Special Collection. The general NIFL criteria stress uniqueness and innovation and also require statements of authorship, dates, citations, ease of reading, and ease of obtaining the materials in their general criteria. CEA requires that materials must be related to correctional education and literacy and include only full text materials in the collection eliminating the need of the audience to go to other locations to obtain the materials. Many articles from the *Journal of Correctional Education* are included in the collection as links to websites with relevant, high-quality materials.

The specific selection criteria for the Correctional Education Special Collection describes the topic areas and the nature of the resources eligible for inclusion in the Collection. All of the selection criteria are posted on the NIFL site at www.nifl.gov/lincs/selection_criteria_1.html.

In addition to the special collection CEA provides online correctional education courses to new and veteran teachers who need “basic training”. The first CEA offering to teachers is called *Fundamentals of Correctional Education*. The course started in late 2004 and has attracted many teachers.

The presentation at the Australasian Corrections Education Conference will be a demonstration about the LINCS Correctional Education Collection and the CEA online course. Please visit the CEA homepage at www.ceanational.org for more details.