



Learning at Home:

Homeschooling, Distance Learning, and How Librarians Can Help Both

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What is Homeschooling?

- "A parent-initiated educational alternative" (Hawai'i DOE).
 - What homeschooling looks like can vary greatly depending on the family and can be customized for each student.
 - To be recognized as legally homeschooling in Hawai'i, families must follow Chapter 12 of the HI State Board of Education Administrative Rules.

What is Distance Learning?

- A "form of education in which the main elements include physical separation of teachers and students during instruction and the use of various technologies to facilitate student-teacher and student-student communication" (Encyclopedia Britannica).
 - Typically was seen in higher education with a focus on non-traditional students.
 - Majority of K-12 Hawai'i public schools shifted to this method in the wake of COVID-19.

Homeschool

- Usually an intentional, thought out decision made by the family
- Curriculum can come in a variety of formats based on individual need or preference
 - Often supplemented by extracurricular experiences and social opportunities

COVID-19 Distance Learning

- School at home
- Multiple children = multiple grades, learning styles, and needs
- Impact of COVID-19 to daily lives during stay-at-home orders
- Thrust upon families and teachers after pandemic-induced school closure
- Predominantly online or computer-based education
- Most schools unable to provide extracurricular activities through an online platform

HSPLS Online Resources:

- **Databases:**
 - **Encyclopedia Britannica Online:** K-12 and College/Academic.
 - **Explora:** Elementary, Middle, and High School.
 - **Gale Testing & Education Reference Center:** Practice tests for common high school, college, and post-graduate exams, scholarship search/database, and more!
 - **National Geographic Kids**
 - **Scholastic Teachables:** Repository of downloadable supplemental activities and worksheets for PreK-Gr. 8.
- **eBooks/eAudiobooks/Magazines/Periodicals**
- **Online Classes/Courses:**
 - **Gale Courses:** on coding, foreign language, music, photography, web design, writing, etc.
 - **Mango:** Learn over 70 world languages!
- **Streaming Services:**
 - **Kanopy:** Documentaries and educational children's shows.
 - **Scholastic Bookflix:** Pairs book adaption animated shorts with ebook non-fiction text and contains literacy support tools with reading comprehension supplements.
- **Virtual Programming:**
 - YouTube videos, Facebook Live, Zoom Book Clubs.

Selected Resources:

- Furness, Adrienne. *Helping Homeschoolers in the Library*. Chicago, IL: ALA, 2008.
- Gubnitskaia, Vera & Carol Smallwood, eds. *Homeschooling and Libraries: New Solutions and Opportunities*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2020.
- Lerch, Maureen T. & Janet Welch. *Serving Homeschooled Teens and Their Parents*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2004.
- Librarians Serving At Home Learners & Homeschoolers Facebook Group: <https://tinyurl.com/HomeschoolLibrariansFB>

How Libraries Engage Nationwide:

- **Library of Things:** Many objects that libraries circulate such as arts and crafts equipment, electronics and technology, musical instruments, science and maker kits, and educational toys or tools are useful resources for learning at home.
- **Parents & Caregivers Survey:** Get feedback on how your library is doing and how to best support them. Can be specifically for homeschoolers or COVID-19 related.
- **Curriculum or Book Swap:** Eco-friendly and cost-saving.
- **Connect New Homeschoolers to Local Resources & Groups or Create a Library Resource Guide for Educators:** A handout, bulletin board, webpage, pathfinder, libguide, newsletter, there are many options!
- **Homeschooling 101 Panel:** Invite experienced homeschool parents to share with interested audience.
- **Homeschool Hangout:** Fun, social program with different activities once a month: kids or teens.
- **Career Day/Trade Fair at the Library:** In-person or online. Can target homeschoolers if desired.
- **Show and Tell:** Students bring an object in a paper bag to share with participants. Beginning public speaking.
- **Art Exhibition, History, Culture, or Science Fair:** Can organize or partner with local homeschool groups.
- **Homeschool Book Club:** Can be for Families, Elementary, Middle Grade, Teen, etc.
- **Parenting Book Discussion Club:** Open to all parents/guardians!
- **Information Literacy Classes:** How to use databases, evaluate sources, create citations, etc.

Scan for Additional Resources:

<https://tinyurl.com/LearningAtHomePoster>

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