
E-ALERT is compiled based on an email service we receive from the Department of State's Office of International Information Programs. We are sending it to you to alert you of the latest issues and debates in the United States.

It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

Please contact the Information Resource Center if you have problem retrieving any of the documents listed. To cancel this service, please reply to the present message and type "unsubscribe" as the text of your message.

Title Index

The Consequences Of Dropping Out Of High School: Joblessness And Jailing For High School Dropouts And The High Cost For Taxpayers. Northeastern University. October 2009.

Item#1

The Early Learning Challenge Fund: Increased Federal Role In Early Education. Heritage Foundation. October 6, 2009.

Item#2

Immigrants And Health Care Reform: What's Really At State? Migration Policy Institute. October 5, 2009.

Item#3

Information Literacy: Essential Skills For The Information Age. The Information School of the University of Washington. March 2008.

Item#4

Measuring Immigrant Assimilation In The United States. Manhattan Institute. October 2009.

Item#5

Meeting The Climate Challenge: Core Elements Of An Effective Response To Climate Change. Center for American Progress and United Nations Foundation. October 6, 2009.

Item#6

Most Would Use Force To Stop Iranian Nukes. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. October 6, 2009.

Item#7

Risk And Recovery: Understanding The Changing Risks To Family Incomes. Urban Institute. Web posted October 12, 2009.

Item#8

Software Piracy On The Internet: A Threat To Your Security. Business Software Alliance. October 2009.

Item#9

Why China May Stumble. Council on Foreign Relations. October 13, 2009.

Item#10

Wikipedia & Information Literacy. University of Wisconsin. April 2009.

Item#11

Reports

Item#1

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DROPPING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL: JOBLESSNESS AND JAILING FOR HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS AND THE HIGH COST FOR TAXPAYERS. Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University. Andrew Sum et al. October 2009.

The paper identifies a series of employment, earnings, income, and social difficulties faced by the nation's young adults lacking regular high school diplomas or their equivalent. These social and incarceration problems of young dropouts are quite severe among all gender and race-ethnic groups but are frequently more severe among men and Blacks, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.clms.neu.edu/publication/documents/The_Consequences_of_Dropping_Out_of_High_School.pdf [PDF format, 16 pages].

Item#2

THE EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE FUND: INCREASED FEDERAL ROLE IN EARLY EDUCATION. Heritage Foundation. Lindsey Burke. October 6, 2009.

In September, the U.S. House of Representative passed H.R. 3221, the "Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009" (SAFRA). It includes an \$8 billion Early Learning Challenge Fund (ELCF), which provides grants to states to reform and increase their early education and care programs. If enacted, SAFRA would significantly increase the federal government's role in preschool education. The report discusses the possible results.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Education/wm2643.cfm> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

IMMIGRANTS AND HEALTH CARE REFORM: WHAT'S REALLY AT STATE? Migration Policy Institute. Randy Capps et al. October 5, 2009.

Health care reform proposals under consideration in Congress that would exclude many legal immigrants from core benefits and impose new verification requirements would have important spillover consequences for taxpayers and other health care consumers, according to the analysis in the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/healthcare-Oct09.pdf> [PDF format, 38 pages].

Item#4

INFORMATION LITERACY: ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR THE INFORMATION AGE. The Information School of the University of Washington. Michael B. Eisenberg. March 2008.

The paper offers an overview of Information Literacy (IL) focusing on three contexts for successful IL learning and teaching: (i) the information process itself, (ii) technology in context, and (iii) implementation through real needs in real situations. The author covers conceptual understandings of IL, the range of IL standards and models, technology within the IL framework, and practical strategies for effective IL skills learning and instruction in a range of situations.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://publications.drdo.gov.in/ojs/index.php/djlit/article/viewFile/288/182> [PDF format, 9 pages].

Item#5

MEASURING IMMIGRANT ASSIMILATION IN THE UNITED STATES. Manhattan Institute. Jacob L. Vigdor. October 2009.

The year 2007 marked an economic turning point in the United States. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the nation's economic output peaked late in the year and then began to contract. This development affected immigration in two important ways: immigrants began arriving in fewer numbers than they have since the 1960s; and those immigrants who not only arrived but stayed fell further behind the native-born population economically. Economic assimilation declined even among immigrants who arrived more than a decade ago, indicating that differences between that cohort and the native-born population widened.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/cr_59.pdf [PDF format, 52 pages].

Item#6

MEETING THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE: CORE ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE. Center for American Progress and United Nations Foundation. October 6, 2009.

Achievable gains in energy efficiency, renewable energy, forest conservation, and sustainable land use worldwide could achieve up to 75 percent of needed global emissions reductions in 2020 at a net savings of \$14 billion. These actions, along with additional investments in climate adaptation, would deliver a wide range of economic, security, and environmental benefits in developed and developing countries. According to the report, greater international support for these core elements would make an immediate contribution to solving the climate problem and help to achieve a new international climate agreement.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/10/pdf/UNclimateissues.pdf> [PDF format, 15 pages].

Item#7

MOST WOULD USE FORCE TO STOP IRANIAN NUKES. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. October 6, 2009.

According to the Pew survey, the public approves of direct negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program, although most Americans are not hopeful the talks will succeed. And a strong majority – 61% – says that it is more important to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, even if it means taking military action. Far fewer (24%) say it is more important to avoid a military conflict with Iran, if it means that the country may develop nuclear weapons.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/550.pdf> [PDF format, 8 pages].

Item#8

RISK AND RECOVERY: UNDERSTANDING THE CHANGING RISKS TO FAMILY INCOMES. Urban Institute. Gregory Acs et al. Web posted October 12, 2009.

The paper examines the characteristics and circumstances of families vulnerable to sharp income drops and those most likely to recover financially. More than 13 percent of nonelderly adults in families with children will see their incomes fall by half at some point over the course of a year, and about 40 percent fully recover within a year. Those who lose jobs or have an adult leave the family are more likely to have a substantial drop in income and are less likely to recover. The paper uses data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation, which collects data every four months and can provide information on short-term income loss.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.urban.org/uploadedpdf/411971_risk_and_recovery.pdf [PDF format, 30 pages].

Item#9

SOFTWARE PIRACY ON THE INTERNET: A THREAT TO YOUR SECURITY. Business Software Alliance. October 2009.

Individuals are turning to peer-to-peer (P2P) networks and auction sites in staggering numbers to acquire or transfer illegal software and in doing so are harming the economy whilst exposing themselves to malware, identity theft and criminal prosecution, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://global.bsa.org/internetreport2009/2009internetpiracyreport.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages].

Item#10

WHY CHINA MAY STUMBLE. Council on Foreign Relations. Steven Dunaway. October 13, 2009.

China's continued impressive growth is by no means assured, writes the author. Without basic changes to its economic model, including rule of law reforms, it could face considerable struggles, he says.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/20384/why_china_may_stumble.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fregion_issue_brief [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11

WIKIPEDIA & INFORMATION LITERACY. University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. Eric Jennings. April 2009.

Wikipedia is a new generation research tool that many students utilize. It is often in the top 10 results in a Google search. Since students use Google a lot, often before they use a library's online catalog or one of its databases, Wikipedia has become a big part of student research. Because of this, some in higher education (librarians, professors, and administrators) discourage its use and/or ban it, according to the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/waal/conferences/2009/postconference/Wikipedia_information_literacy.pdf

[PDF format, 2 pages].