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Streaming III: TechNook 365

In the previous two weeks, I told you about streaming on-line content in the Arts (Stratford Festival) and STEM (*STAR Net*), as part of my introduction of TechNook to you, both possible at no or very little cost. Here's more.

The **Pittsburgh Cultural District**, absent a live holiday season, and in-line with the Stratford Festival, hopes that you'll stay connected with it during the COVID-19 crisis (<https://trustarts.activehosted.com/index.php?action=social&chash=d43ab110ab2489d6b9b2caa394bf920f.1856&s=7940ecd646d97efc7737059621e5fdcc>) to enjoy: Harris Theater @ Home, a virtual cinema experience; BNY Mellon's JazzLive @Home; and EQT Children's Theater Festival @ Home. That's just what's up on-line presently.

"The **vision** of the **National Girls Collaborative Project** (NGCP) is to bring together organizations throughout the United States that are committed to informing and encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)." You can read all about the Project at <https://ngcproject.org>.

You can watch a specific, archived, on-line Town Hall video product at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIVbAnw4XJw>. "This Town Hall, organized by Career Girls and the National Girls Collaborative Project, focused on hearing the voices of women and girls as they explore exciting careers in cutting edge technologies that require creativity and imagination. Role model experts shared their stories of nurturing their interest in math and science into rewarding careers."

Girls can, of course, access this information freely on-line directly from home without a library, but will they, within the wild-west of the Internet, even know that it's there to find? We know from experiences with the Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair that the vast majority of kids need a lot of Internet guidance. Our libraries need to help guide them by differentiation, promotion, and streaming programs.

Access to the **American Chemical Society** (www.acs.org) usually requires personal membership, currently costing up to \$175 annually. I am a member. The member can be a Library Director, who thereby gains access to the various ACS STEM educational resources for kids. However, that is not even necessary currently. "The ACS Education Division is making educational resources available by topic to aid parents and teachers in student enrichment during this time of distance learning. We have bundled materials from the Reactions Video series, C&EN [Chemical & Engineering News], our magazines within the Education Division and our portfolio of hands-on activities for students in grades K–12 and beyond. These resources focus on five topics — The Earth, Water, Food, Health & Your Body, and The Periodic Table — and put a spotlight on the connection between chemistry and everyday life."

The ACS is now freely sharing its excellent educational resources with families and students at <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/resources/topics.html>, and there are videos to stream among the offerings, as well as other items.

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On October 22-23, more than 4,800 3rd to 12th graders participated in the **Carnegie Science Center's virtual ChemFest** (<https://carnegiesciencecenter.org/educators/themed-field-trips-chemfest/>), to celebrate National Chemistry Week in partnership with the ACS, for free. The Carnegie Science Center was unable to stream into individual homes, only to live classrooms. From the Science Center's following update to its volunteers: "Science Center educators collaborated with chemists and STEM professionals from local companies and universities to stream live career conversations, demonstrations, and educational videos directly into classrooms across the region. Given the huge response from teachers who registered, it's clear that schools are seeking out quality virtual programming that can support their curriculum and spark their students' interest in STEM."

If that's the case, then WLN libraries should be doing a similar thing, year-round, for learning at the library or home, especially because, over a long time period, they have struggled to find a way to substantially connect with teens. There has been no more difficult target audience than that to reach. So, with this knowledge, and what else I've told you in the last few weeks, TechNook streaming within the library makes sense, especially with the additional initiative of communicating access to 24/7 on-line content directly into homes. We call the total product package TechNook 365! There will be more exciting progress reports in coming articles.

Charles B. Greenberg,
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