

# References and Resources

*The following reference list pertains to “What Every Librarian Should Know about Veterans and Public Libraries,” a webinar I created with close coordination with Infopeople and the California State Library. Please note that Infopeople webinars are supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. Also, the opinions stated here are my own, and are not necessarily those expressed or endorsed by the California State Library, Infopeople, or other organizations where I might work.*

## **REFERENCES**

**The following list represents websites, books, articles, or other references I have mentioned in a webinar or training presentation about libraries and veterans/military families. Please remember to visit [Make the Connection](#), also, if you would like to hear veterans and their families talk about their experiences in their own words.**

**Please feel free to post your recommendations about resources on the main page of this blog.**

Crisis Lines for Veterans. (2013). Retrieved online at <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Resources/SpreadTheWord.aspx>. *This page provides links to printing or ordering brochures and handouts for crisis lines for veterans.* See also [va.gov](http://va.gov).

Previous webinar on health resources for veterans by Infopeople, Kelli Hamm: [Operation Health: Resources for Veterans and Their Families](#). Webinar, June 13, 2012. Archived by Infopeople at the following URL: <http://infopeople.org/training/operation-health-resources-veterans-and-their-families>. *This is a very helpful site in learning about resources on healthcare for veterans.*

Hughes, M.A. (2011). Back on the home front. *Library Journal* (1976), 136(12), 40-42. *The article summarizes the greatest challenges facing veterans in their transition from the military in the post-9/11 era while offering a list of books that your library can add to its collection for veterans in your area. Please note, you can also work closely with your regional V.A. to obtain official copies of the V.A. handbook, and CalVet representatives publish an additional handbook for veterans in California. The California State Library also provides an updated list, including the works recommended by Library Journal and CalVet.*

[National Archives](#). (2012). Process for obtaining proof of military service. Retrieved online from the *Inside the Vaults* video podcast series. Retrieved online at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=6WXQMIR5xxk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=6WXQMIR5xxk). *This is an excellent resource for helping veterans and their families in your community learn about how*

*they can order new copies of their military records. In many cases, veterans are told that it is nearly impossible or may take years to locate and order a copy of their proof of military service. They can be reluctant to start the process for this reason. This video offers some hope and shows that the process might be simpler than what they were told. Most importantly, for veterans who have avoided seeking assistance for many years or decades, and for homeless veterans, this video is a starting point in getting reacquainted with the V.A. today.*

[National Resource Directory](https://www.nrd.gov/). (2013). Retrieved online at <https://www.nrd.gov/>. *A one-stop resource for looking up V.A. facilities and veteran support organizations by zip code, city, or county. Note: they publish a clearly written list of crisis hotlines in the lower left corner of the page. Visitors to this website can learn about the organizations that serve veterans, in addition to locations of V.A. facilities, through the site's search features. This is your starting point in connecting with those organizations. Remember, as librarians, we seek to assist veterans and the organizations that serve veterans. Congressionally Chartered Veteran Service Organizations can be see at the following URL:*  
<http://veterans.house.gov/citizens/resources>.

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. (2012). IB-10-441: Enrollment priority groups. Retrieved online at [https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/assets/documents/publications/IB-10-441\\_enrollment\\_priority\\_groups.pdf](https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/assets/documents/publications/IB-10-441_enrollment_priority_groups.pdf) *Please remember that this list of priority groups should not be used to discourage someone from seeking assistance from the V.A. It is only a helpful tool to show how many different people are entitled to benefits. Make sure that your volunteers and library*

*staff are properly trained to avoid speaking on behalf of the V.A.*

[Shasta Public Libraries](#). A great example of the simplicity of a pathfinder created by a public library.

<http://www.shastalibraries.org/spl/index.php?ref=Links/VeteranResources>

[Kern County Library](#). A great example of creative programming for veterans, Kern County developed a writing workshop for veterans. Programs and events for veterans need not require the discussion of their military experiences. Veterans often seek the community of other veterans. Even if your library cannot afford to create new programs for veterans, communicating to VSOs about ongoing events and programs that are already ongoing can be a great benefit to the veterans in your community.

[San Diego Public Library](#). A great example of success in building relationships, the Point Loma Branch Library has worked closely with local military representatives in addition to employees at the county level to create new programming and enhance their collection for veterans and military families. As a result, for example, they successfully hosted a book club for children of military families last summer.

Some of the earliest work by libraries with veterans was achieved years ago by the [Escondido Public Library](#) and the [Chula Vista Public Library](#). These libraries pioneered work with veterans in San Diego and represent a wealth of knowledge.

[California Center for the Book](#). As part of a One Book program sponsored by the California Humanities Project, the California Center for the Book will be offering resources and support for a California Reads project dedicated to veterans this summer. Cal Humanities will again offer grants to public libraries to participate in a statewide reading program, California Reads, in which libraries will anchor community-wide reads in 2014 about the issues facing veterans who are trying to reconnect with the civilian world. They have selected *What It Is Like to Go to War* by Karl Marlantes as their “one book,” and they’re developing support materials, ancillary activities and exhibits

[U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs](#). The official website for the V.A. is sometimes daunting to navigate, but you will appreciate the three departments featured across the center of their main page: healthcare, administration, and burials. Each department represents a wealth of knowledge and services available to veterans. Veterans can order a V.A. handbook or view it online through this website. The site also includes tools for finding a V.A. location or local V.A. representatives. If the website is overwhelming, however, I recommend that the veteran seeks the local office for the County Veteran Service Officer.

[Blue Star Families Network](#). (2012). Retrieved online at <http://www.bluestarfam.org/>. *For librarians in communities where there is a large military presence, programs and services for military families are an additional opportunity to connect with the people in your area. Blue Star Families work directly with the Department of Defense to provide support for military families when a family member is deployed overseas. They are often one of the first organizations to assist a family during crisis. Visit this website to learn more about how they*

*were established and the services they provide in your community.*

***The above references, in addition to connecting with your area V.A. representatives and county veteran service officer, are what I regard as the essentials for librarians learning about the veteran community. There are many other helpful resources out there in addition to the above. This is my starter kit list. Please add your recommendations to our blog.***

If you have additional questions, you can also contact me by email at [mulvihill.librarian@gmail.com](mailto:mulvihill.librarian@gmail.com). I will continue to add references to this site and hope to facilitate an ongoing discussion among all librarians who are interested in serving the veteran community through this blog or through [our group on LinkedIn](#).