Building Resilience

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Kentucky Employee Assistance Program

What exactly is Resilience?













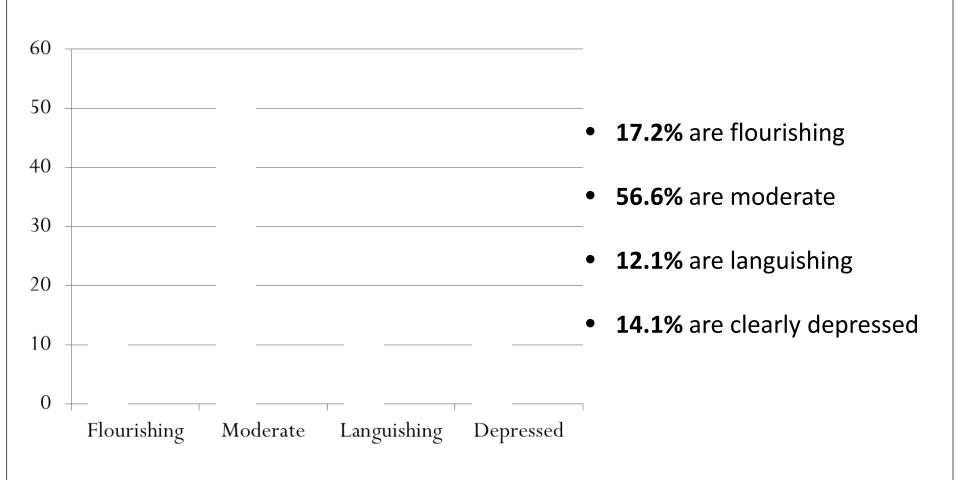
Resilience is the ability to withstand stress and bounce back from adversity.

Why Resilience is Important

- Health benefits:
 - Better Immune system
 - Cancer studies
 - Less Heart attacks
 - •Longer life
- More success sales

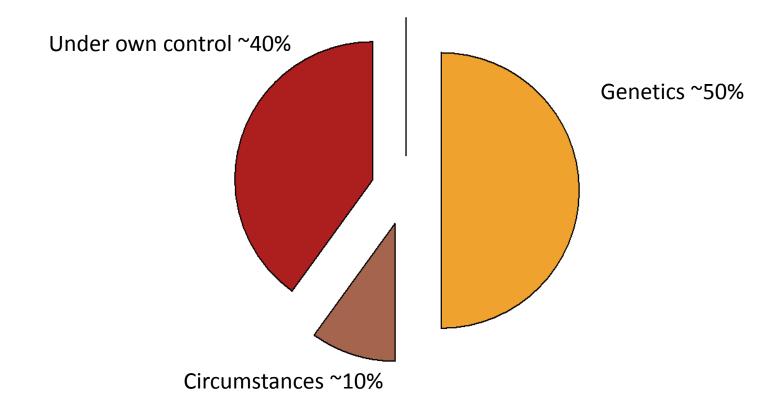


The Mental Health Continuum: From languishing to flourishing in life



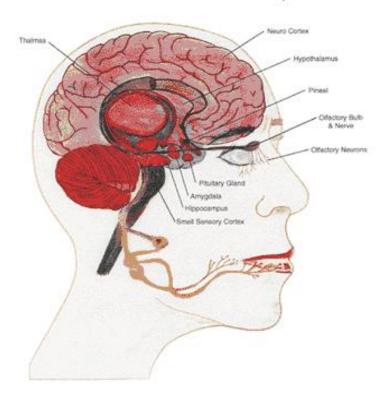
Keyes, Corey L.M. (2002) Journal of Health and Social Behavior. 43(2), 207-222.

We can increase our happiness and optimism and thus RESLIIENCE



How Resilience Works

Limbic System Smell and Emotional Responses



Resilience is a choice

Choosing Resilience



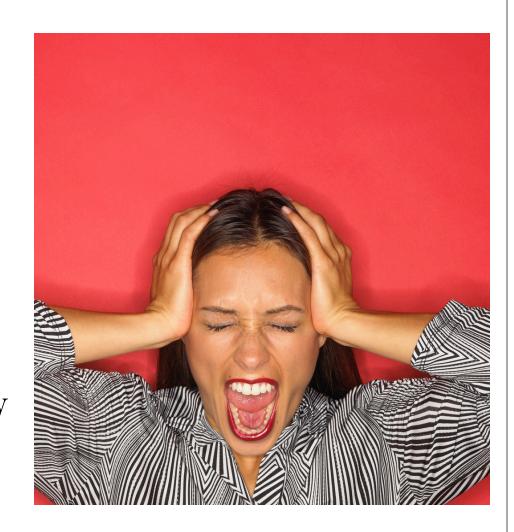
- Reality vs. Denial
- Responsibility vs. Victimhood
- Forgiveness vs. Bitterness
- Self-Forgiveness vs. Guilt
- Connection vs. Isolation
- Purpose vs. Powerlessness

Traits of Resilient People (Skills you need to build/exercise)

- Identifying and Managing Emotion
- Happiness
- Optimism
- Gratitude
- Savoring
- Relationships / Intimacy / Connections
- Compassion & Empathy
- Communication
- Forgiveness
- Mindfulness & Flow

Skill: Identifying and Managing Emotion

- Recognize and Identify the Emotion
- Pay attention to your thinking
- Challenge Negative thinking
- Managing the emotion by problem solving what's the best way to react



Exercise – Managing Thoughts and Emotion Healthy Thinking Log

Steps:

- 1. Recognize your feeling and responses.
- 2. Take a close look at what you say to yourself and recognize unhelpful, negative thoughts. Write them down.
- 3. Challenge the unhealthy thoughts and substitute a healthier, alternative response.

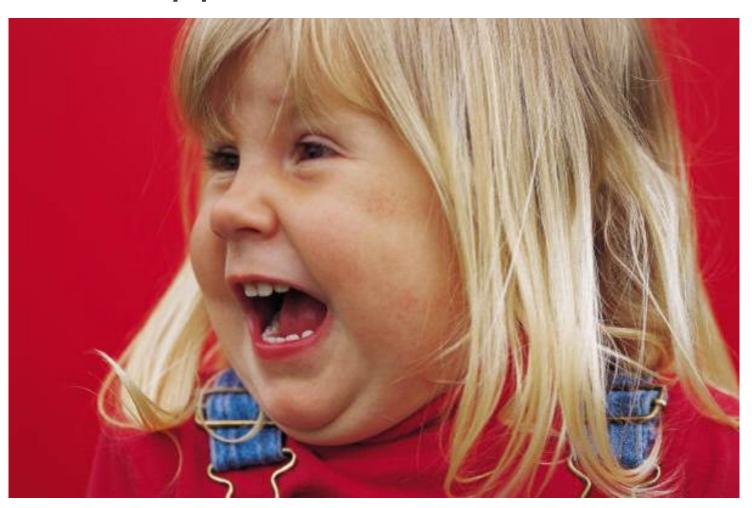
Log Example:

Feeling Negative Thoughts Alternative Responses

Discouraged What a terrible, lousy day. A couple of bad things have happened, but everything hasn't been a disaster.

Once you have healthy thinking about a concern you are able to move on to productive Problem Solving because you are no longer stuck in the emotion.

Skill - Happiness



Exercise - Happiness

• At least three times a day, try smiling more and acting as if you respect and like the people around you.

Make Happiness a priority and Make plans to be happy.
 Those who fail to plan, plan to fail. Just like in any other life domain, the successful pursuit of happiness requires planning.

Skill - Optimism



Exercise - Optimism

- "How can I take this situation and get the best outcome?"
 - Write your answers

• If you find it difficult to step outside of your usual pessimistic stance, try viewing the situation from a less personal perspective. Pretend that your situation is happening to a friend and not to yourself. How would you advise your fiend to view this situation?

Skill - Gratitude

"If the only prayer you said in life was 'Thank you,' that would suffice."

Meister Eckhardt



Exercise – *Gratitude* **The Gratitude Diary**

- Before bed write down one thing for which you're grateful.
 -or-
- Each day, write 3 5 things that you liked.
 - What happened to me?
 - What did I do right?
- Then write one thing that you *didn't* like.
 - Ask yourself: "And how is it also good, a blessing in disguise?"
 - Find two or three ways it helps you.

Skill - Savoring



Savoring

"I wondered how it was possible to walk for an hour through the woods and see nothing of note. I who cannot see find hundreds of things: the delicate symmetry of a leaf, the smooth skin of a silver birch, the rough, shaggy bark of a pine. I who am blind can give one hint to those who see: use your eyes as if tomorrow you will have been stricken blind. Hear the music of voices, the songs of a bird, the mighty strains of an orchestra as if you would be stricken deaf tomorrow. Touch each object as if tomorrow your tactile sense would fail. Smell the perfume of flowers, taste with relish each morsel, as if tomorrow you could never taste or smell again. Make the most of every sense. Glory in all the facets and pleasures and beauty which the world reveals to you."

Helen Keller

Exercise – Savoring Homework

- Focus on the sensory impressions in a moment-to-moment fashion.
 - Food
 - Activity (walking, running, sports)
 - Conversations
 - Friends
 - Recall & nostalgia

Bryant, F.B. & Veroff, J. (2007) Savoring: A New Model of Positive Experiencing. New York: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Skill - Intimacy/Make Connections



http://www.pbs.org/thisemotionallife/topic/resilience

http://www.pbs.org/thisemotionallife/video/tap-code

Exercise - Intimacy/Connection

*Nurture your friendships.

*Focus on Strengths.

Skill - Compassion



Exercise - Compassion

- As a goal, try to secretly serve someone each day.
 - Write a thank you note to someone you admire.
 - Do an anonymous good deed.
 - Pick up trash along a trail or road.
 - Look for a chance to serve in a group.
 - Write about your service in your diary.

Volunteer

Skill - Forgiveness

• "To lick your wounds, to smack your lips over grievances long past, to roll over your tongue the prospect of bitter confrontations still to come, to savor to the last toothsome morsel both the pain you are given and the pain you are giving back— in many ways it is a feast fit for a king.



The chief drawback is what you are wolfing down is yourself. The skeleton at the feast is you."

Fred Luskin, Forgive for Good, p. 77

Exercise – Forgiveness

- REACH (Everett Worthington)
 - Recall the hurt
 - Empathize with the perpetrator
 - Altruistic gift of forgiveness
 - Certify you forgive
 - Hold on to the forgiveness



Skill - Communication



Exercise - Communication

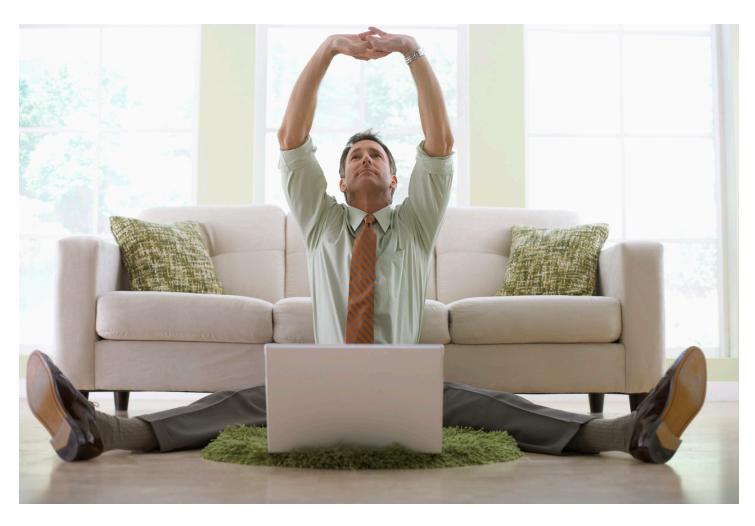
• Read a book about assertive, honest communication.

• Practice delivering difficult messages from your own perspective...

"When _____, this is how it impacts me _____.

I need ______.'

Skill - Mindfulness



Exercise – Mindfulness "How to set the reset button"

- Deep Breathing
- Autogenic Training

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=xcaRPOgOrmU&vq=medium

You choose resilience or unhappiness. What you exercise, you get more of.



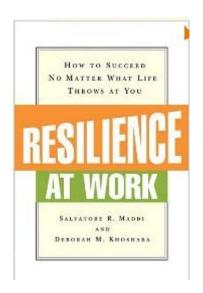
Exercise Resilience

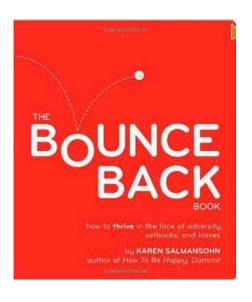
What will you take home?

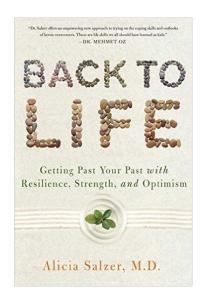
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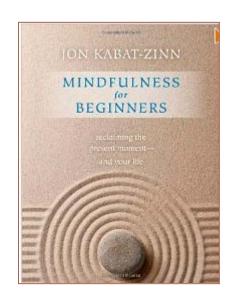
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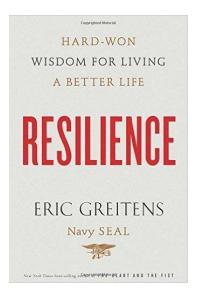
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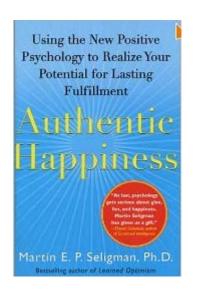


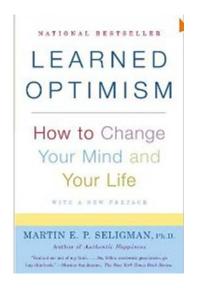


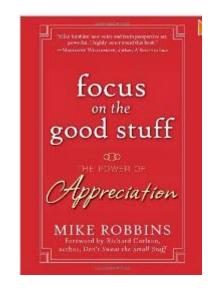




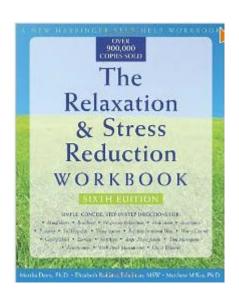


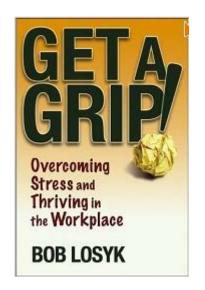


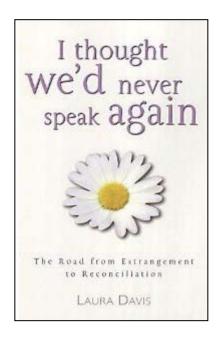


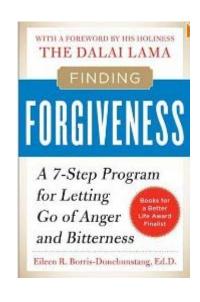


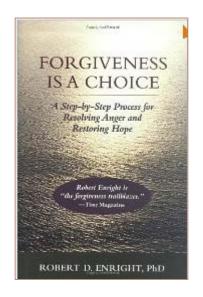
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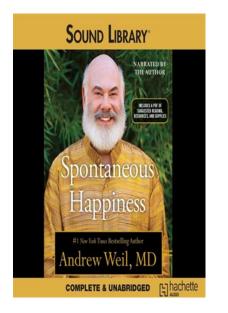


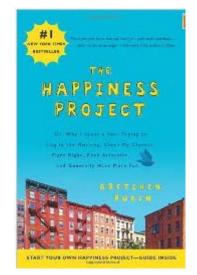


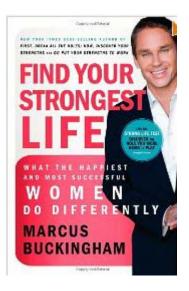












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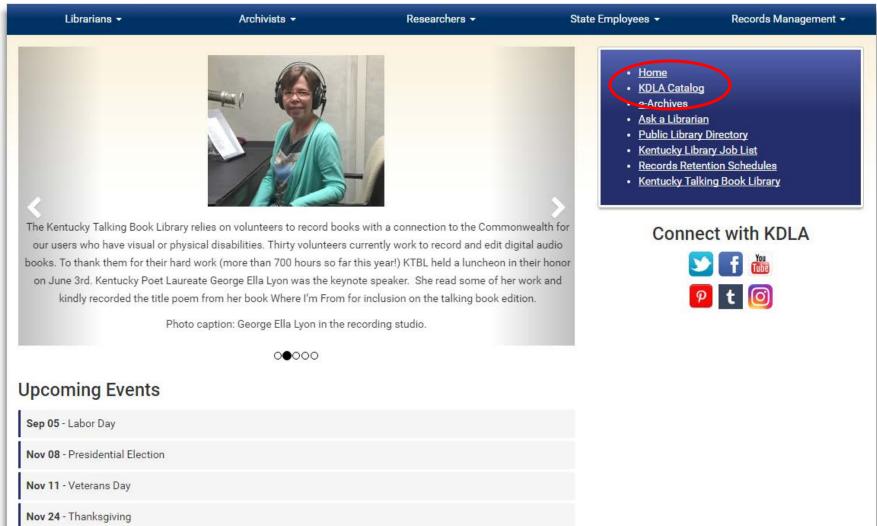
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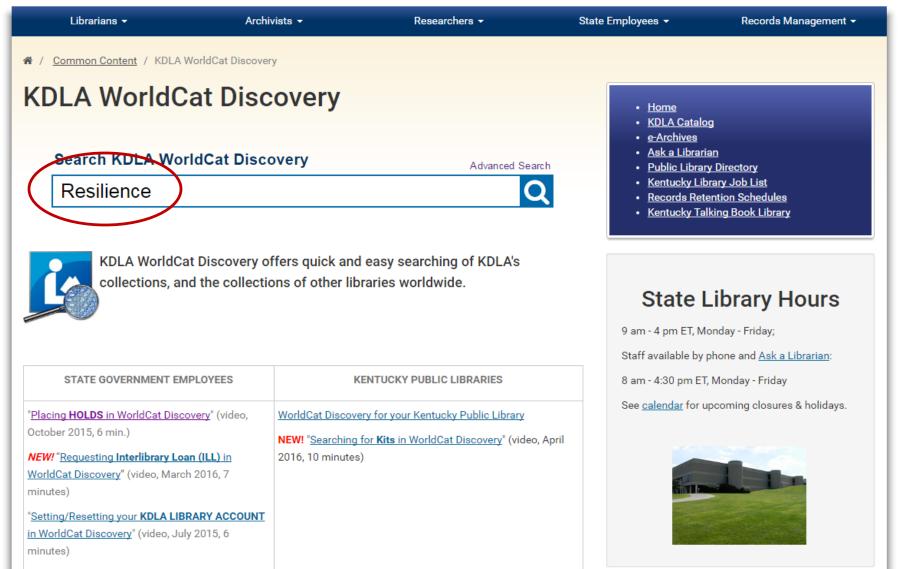
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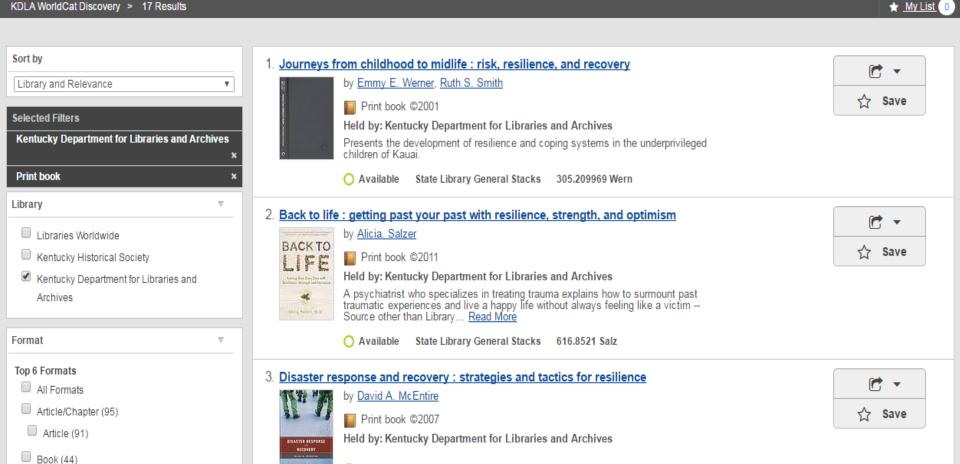
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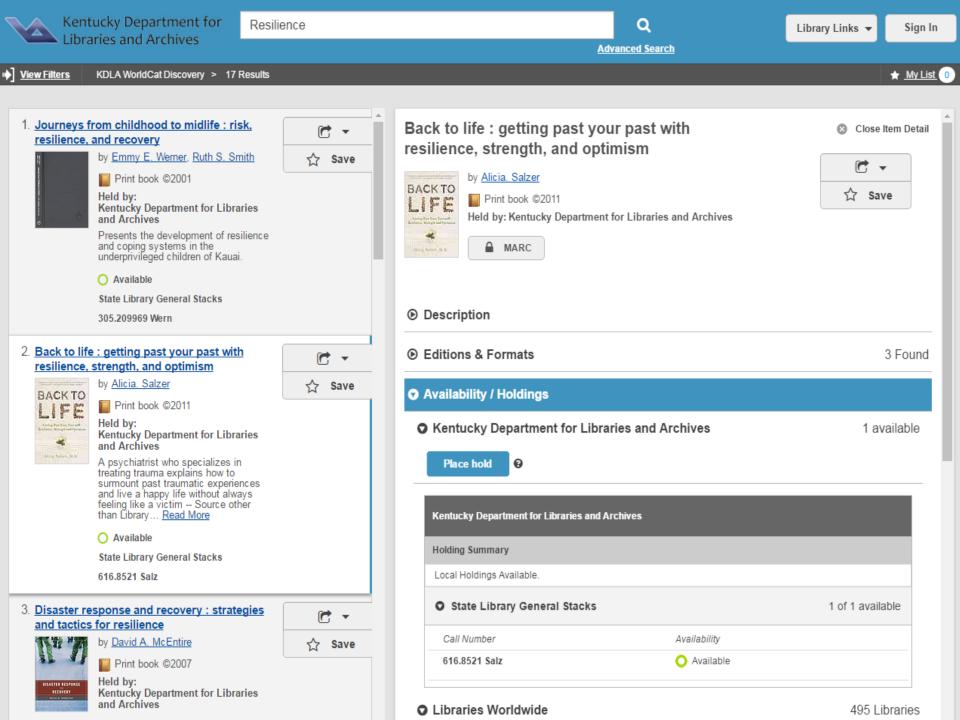


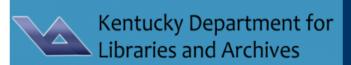
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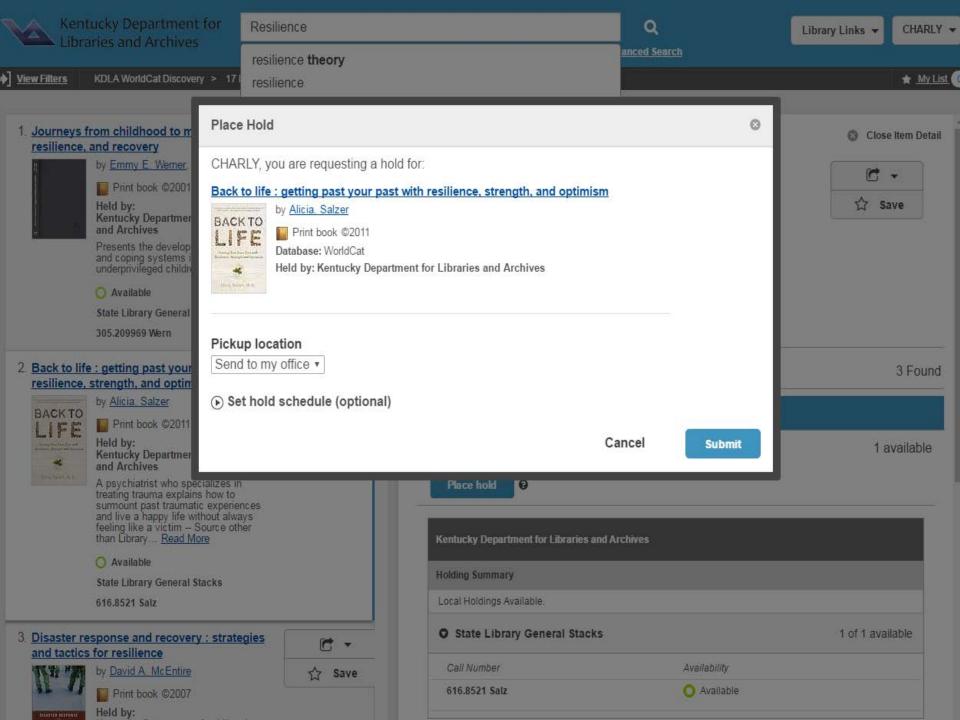
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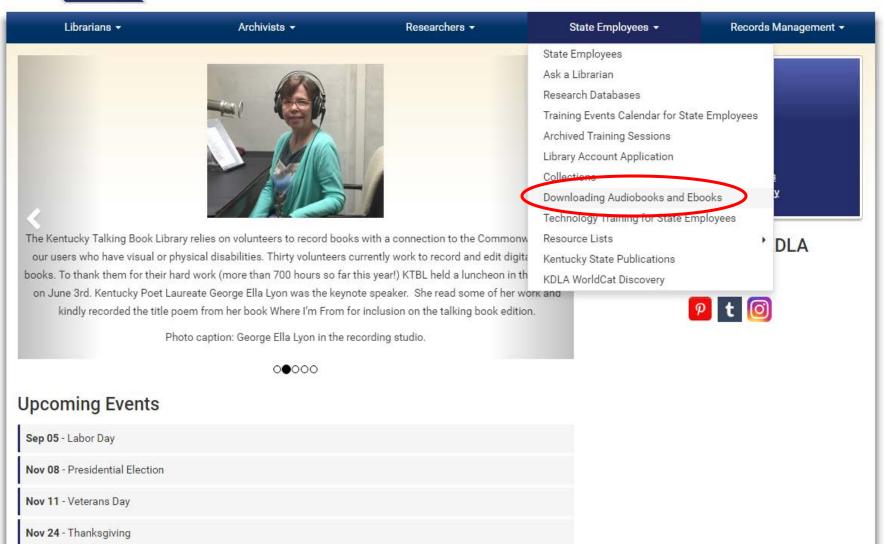
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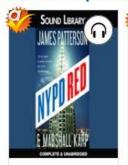
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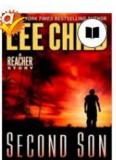
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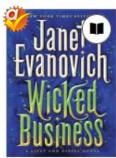
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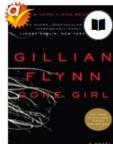
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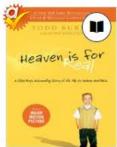
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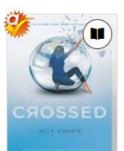












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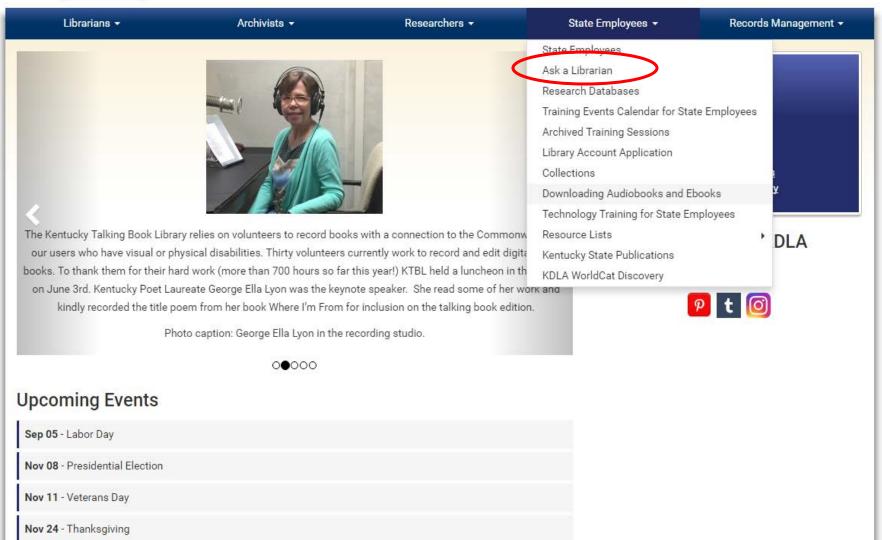
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