# **HAPPINESS AT WORK**

Factors that influence contentment on the job



# What is Happiness?

☐ A state of well being or contentment.

-Merriam Webster Dictionary



### What is Work?

☐ Physical or mental effort or activity directed toward the production or accomplishment of something.

-Merriam Webster Dictionary



# What is Happiness at Work?

☐ A pleasurable state of well-being, contentment or satisfaction while making an effort to accomplish something.

-Merriam Webster Dictionary



# Why is Happiness Important?

"Happy people earn more money, display superior performance and perform more helpful acts which typically exemplify success at work...Positive affect leads to improved work outcomes."

-Boehm & Lyubomirsky



## Happy Employees

□ "Your happiest employees are 47% happier than their least happy colleagues."

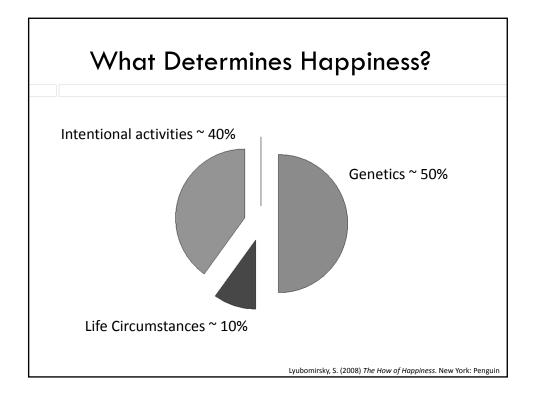
-Jessica Price-Jones

□ Are more resilient

-Fredrickson

□ Live longer and are healthier

-Danner & Chan



## Intentional Activities

Concrete actions that bring a sense of:

- $\quad \ \ \, \square \,\, Well-being$
- □ Satisfaction
- □ Engagement
- $\hfill\square$  Meaning in your work

# Find Meaning

"... of all the events that can make for a great workday life the single most prominent is simply making meaningful progress on daily work.

(Employees) have to feel there is something meaningful in what they do."

-Teresa Amabile



#### **Actions**

- $\ \square$  Define goals in your terms
- □ Find value in everyday tasks
- ☐ Believe in your own abilities
- □ Appreciate your small accomplishments

## Use Your Strengths

Job satisfaction increases when employees use their skills in a way that contributes to the organization.

People who know and use their strengths tend to be better performers.

-Gallup Polls 2011, 2012



## Areas of Strength

- ☐ Knowledge, curiosity\*, planning, goals
- □ Persistence, focus, organization, integrity
- □ Kindness, gratitude,\* forgiveness\*, humility
- □ Leadership, fairness, diplomacy, straight talk
- $\ \square$  Stress tolerance, self-regulation, vitality\*
- □ Optimism, hope,\* humor, open-mindedness
- □ Give and receive love\*
- □ Personal style

- Identify what you do well
- □ Listen to your feelings while working
- Know what activity precedes satisfaction and do more of it
- Pay attention to compliments
- □ Appreciate your accomplishments

# Smile and Laugh

#### Laughter...

- □ relaxes your whole body
- $\ \square$  boosts your immune system
- protects the heart by increasing blood flow
- relieves stress and improves mood
- □ helps defuse conflict
- enhances teamwork

-Melinda Smith, Gina Kemp, Jeanne Segal

- □ Greet people with a smile, even on the phone
- □ Tell a joke
- □ Keep a humor journal
- □ Think of something funny; laugh on purpose
- $\hfill\Box$  Laugh at situations rather than bemoan them

### Gratitude

Extensive psychology research shows that gratitude skills increase happiness.

-Emmons, Lyubomirsky, Seligman, Johnson



- □ Say "Thank You" every day
- $\hfill\Box$  Keep a gratitude diary, 3 to 5 things each day
- □ Appreciate yourself
- $\hfill\Box$  Look for a good in a bad

## Kindness and Generosity

Almost any act of kindness boosts happiness.

-Sonja Lyubomirski; David Hamilton

The secret to both happiness and productivity at work is in giving back to people.

-Grant; Dunn; Post



- □ Compliment, thank you, act of kindness
- □ Speak respectfully, avoid criticism
- □ Develop a helping habit at work
- □ Volunteer
- □ Donate
- □ Do a favor

# Rethink the Negative Self-Talk

"To change our job we must change the way we think about it."

-Rao Srikumar

"Unhappiness is the feeling that accompanies negative thinking about our lives."

-Richard Carlson



- □ Take back your power of choice
- □ Notice and question thoughts
- □ Replace: can't, awful, should, and have to
- □ Change your focus
- ☐ Try an optimistic outlook
- □ Put it in perspective

## Build Relationships at Work

Experts at the Gallup Poll Organization suggest that people need to have good friends at work.

-Dilner

□ In research studies, social support was the best predictor of happiness during stressful times.

-Shawn Achor, Tal Ben-Shakar, Stone



- □ Smile and say hello
- $\hfill\Box$  Ask about family, mutual interests
- □ Walk with someone on break
- □ Positive comments
- □ Bring snacks
- $\ \square$  Find ways to make working together more fun

#### Take a Mindful Break

"Giving full attention to the present, without worries about the past or future."

-Thondup 1996

"The more rapidly I learned to quiet my mind and relax my body, the more restored I felt afterward."

-Thomas Schwartz



- ☐ Breathe slowly and deeply for one minute
- □ Find a quiet focus
- □ Picture peacefulness
- □ Relax in the present moment
- □ Stand up, stretch, and think "relax"

## Keep Moving

Research shows physical exercise strengthens the mind and the brain, reduces stress and promotes growth of new brain cells.

-Marissa Toussaint

Employees who have daily routines of physical activity at work tend to be more engaged and energetic on the job than those who stay glued to their chairs.

-S. Toekr, M. Biron



- □ Stand up
- □ Stretch
- □ Walk; plan to go with someone
- □ Get a drink of water
- $\hfill\Box$  Schedule an activity at the same time each day

# Take Control of Your Workspace

- □ Research shows employees who have some say in how their workspace is arranged are happier and more motivated at work
   Craig Knight
- □ Outer order contributes to inner calm

-Gretchen Ruben



- □ Personalize
- □ Organize
- □ Keep a plant
- □ Clean off your desk at the end of the day

# Workspace

□ "If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what then is an empty desk a sign?"

Albert Einstein

# Neat or messy...It's all relative



Picture (www.forbes.com)

# Choose To Be Happier At Work

- $\quad \Box \ \, \text{Healthy energy}$
- $\hfill\Box$  Optimistic frame of mind
- $\hfill\Box$  Personally meaningful goals
- □ Everyday acts of kindness



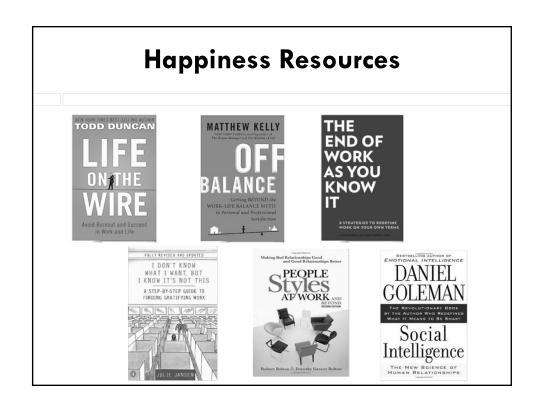
## Questions?



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Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
Division of Library Services





# **Happiness Resources**

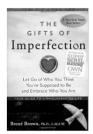










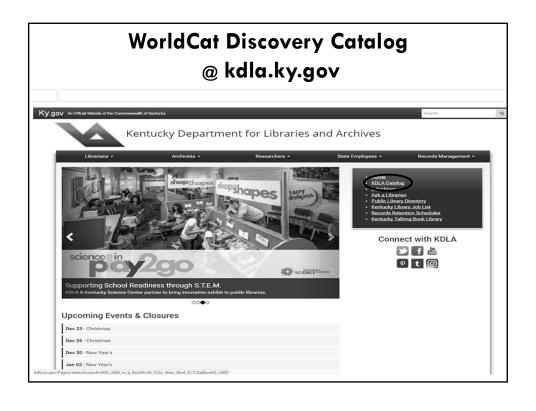


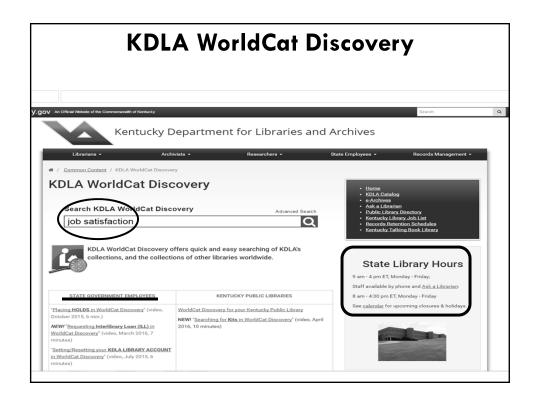


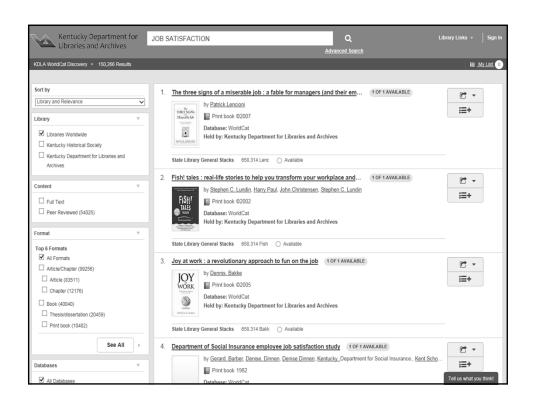
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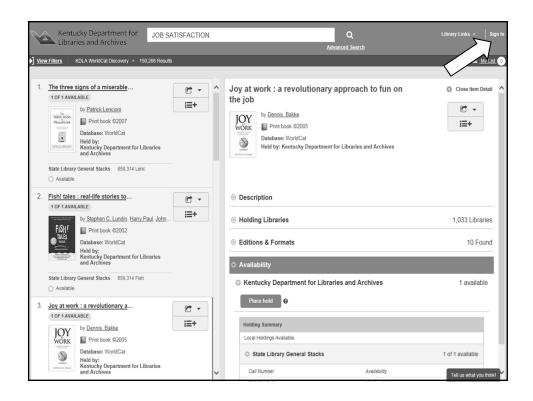


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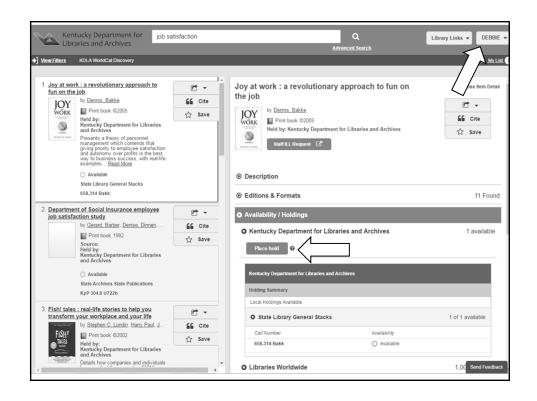


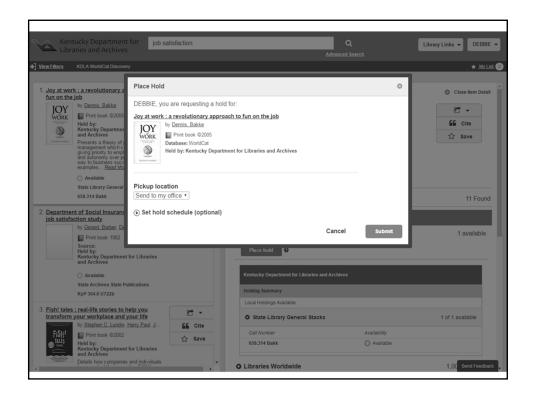


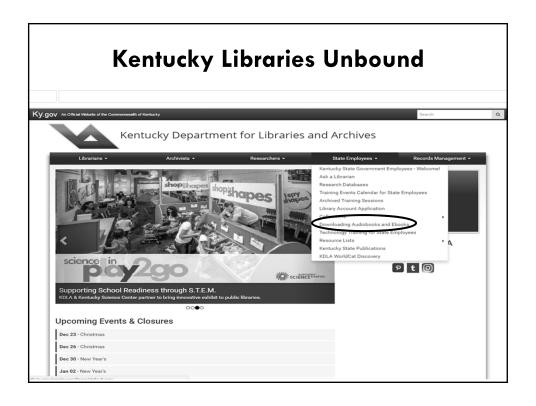


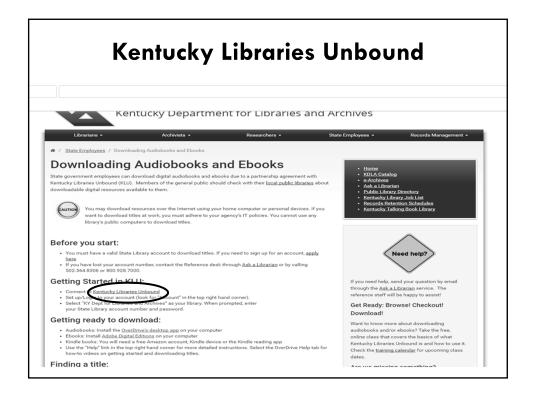


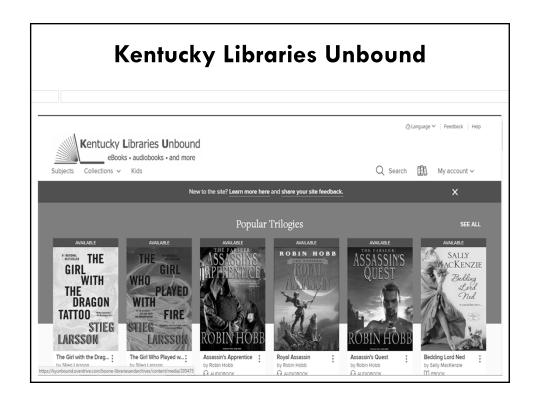






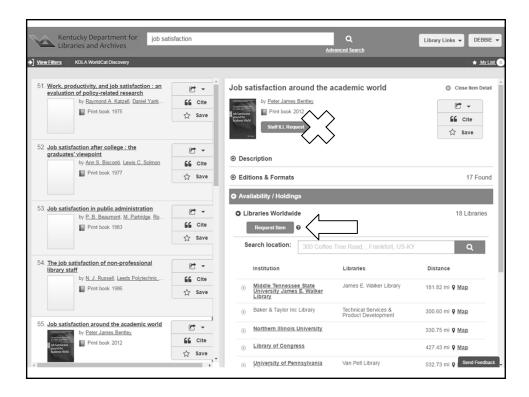


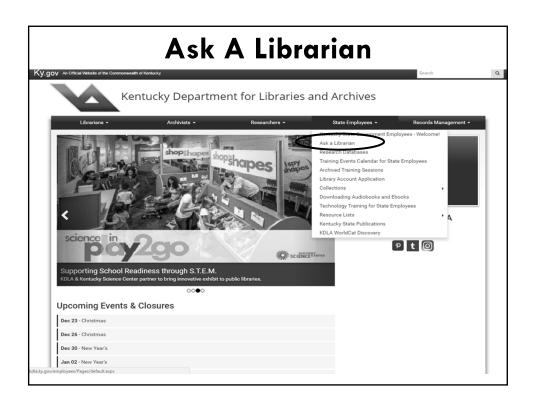


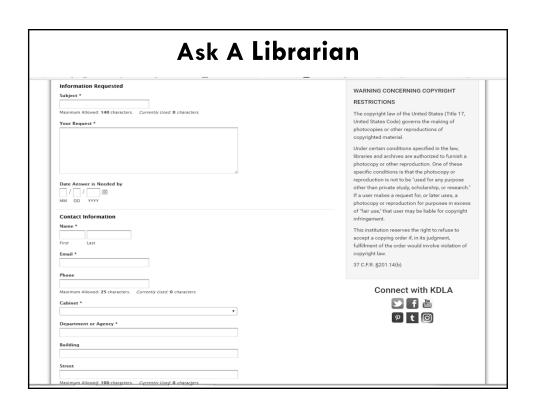


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