

Financial Empowerment Day at the New York Public Library

The Science, Industry and Business Division of the New York Public Library is located at 34th Street and Madison Avenue in New York City. As you would expect from a great library in one of the world's great financial centers, it offers every day an abundance of resources to all comers. April 26th was Financial Empowerment Day.

Fundamental issues involved in becoming financially literate are always available. On the spring overview day, representatives from the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, State organizations that oversee fraud and also offer college saving programs that are tax-advantaged on the state and local level. Help for small business including one on one consultation with professionals were available throughout the library.

Classes on *Investing Beyond the Basics*, *Your Health Insurance Options*, *Consumer Credit*, *safeguarding your credit and avoiding scams*, *Medicare 2013*, *Savings Fitness and Ready to Invest*, *Financial Independence*, *Making Smart Investment Decisions and Planning for the Future* kept participants hopping from room to room and stoking up their literacy.

Tax season is never over and the library connects people with tax specialists, credit crisis coaching and financial counseling throughout the year.

SIBL has an abundance of online financial resources: Banking and Credit, Bonds, Common Stock education, Insurance, Identity Theft Issues, Mortgages, Mutual Funds and Retirement information top the list.

SIBL is a One Stop resource for people beginning their financial education, at whatever age, and also for the most sophisticated investor or hedge fund manager, for that matter! Its databases include, but are by no means limited to: Bloomberg, Investext Plus, Mergent Online, Standard and Poor's Net Advantage, Morningstar and ValueLine Books.

And that is just to start. Visit the library if you are nearby. Visit the SIBL website from anywhere. Ask for help in person or online. A fabulous resource for everyone, because no one can afford to be financially illiterate.

And for people who do not have access to the Bloomberg Financial Site in their offices, the current Mayor provided this branch of the library with three terminals for anyone to use for an hour a day.