

Libraries helping job seekers

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TRUMBULL -- In her quest to find a new job, Anne Dolce has found a new ally, or rather a number of them -- local libraries.

"I've started going [to the Trumbull Library] to network," said Dolce, who was laid off from a corporate administrative assistant job after she had moved from Florida for the post.

In recent weeks, she has found that a number of libraries in the region sponsor programs for job hunters, such as sessions focused on resume-writing or computer skills, as well as resources to guide them in their search.

So it was that the Wilton resident visited the Trumbull Library last Thursday after she heard about the launch of the Trumbull Business & Career Resource Center.

Developed over the past couple of years by the library, Trumbull Economic Development and several other organizations, the center boasts both physical and online resources.

It has its own Web site, trumbullresource.com, which organizers said is a "work in progress" aimed at helping entrepreneurs, existing businesses and job seekers find success.

Among its assets:

- n Trained reference librarians and counselors.

- n A dedicated section in the reference area with a

- changing selection of key books and periodicals.

- n Subscriptions to several online databases that would be prohibitively expensive for individuals.

Business leaders, town officials and job seekers gathered for the recent kick-off, as those behind it described how it came to be and how it can help different constituencies.

Although some companies have downsized, "it is not all doom and gloom in our community," said First Selectman Raymond G. Baldwin Jr. He said that some companies are expanding and looking for workers with the right skills.

The information can guide users toward various goals, including researching careers, finding suitable training and searching for qualified workers.

Even as it was taking shape, Linda Almonte, who was helping her husband's transplanted small printing company drum up new business, said library personnel helped her create lists of potential customers. She said that help has made a difference as the company has battled the impact of the recession.

Almonte had previously worked in large corporations with their own departments to handle such chores.

"I was amazed at all the information that could be pulled into one place," she said.

Indeed, Sue Horton, the library director, said anyone can find information, but really zeroing in on the most appropriate resource often takes a library skill.

Walter Dembowski, one of the reference librarians,

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said Trumbull residents may use the databases remotely, but that anyone can come into the library to do so. They allow users to customize lists of companies they want to contact using a variety of criteria, such as geographical range.

Karen Tracy, an executive with the Newtown Savings Bank, said the center would prove useful in the challenging economic environment.

"It's very timely," she said.

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