

**Getty-Dubay Italic Featured at**  
**ASCD Empower19: The Conference for Every Educator**  
Conference and Exhibit Show Runs March 16-19, 2019, in Chicago, Ill.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Portland, Oregon** — As part of its 40th anniversary year, Getty-Dubay Italic is excited to announce that it will be exhibiting the Getty-Dubay Italic Handwriting Program for K-6 at ASCD Empower19: The Conference for Every Educator at the Chicago Convention Center, March 16-19, 2019 in Chicago, Ill.

“We see the landscape of how we communicate changing before our eyes,” says Jonathan Dubay, publisher of Getty-Dubay Italic and son of author and handwriting expert Inga Dubay. “That has fueled a passionate debate about how to best support students in literacy and communication skills. It’s an opportunity for educators to consider research that says handwriting matters, and so does your choice of handwriting program. Italic handwriting is a well-established and logical alternative to conventional cursive that is legible, natural to write and easy to teach.”

One study to which Dubay refers is by Karin H. James at Indiana University (“The Importance of Handwriting Experience on the Development of the Literate Brain.” *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 2017, Vol. 26(6) 502-508). Young students who copied letters by hand showed significantly more activity in areas of the brain associated with literacy skills than students who typed those letters. “The handwriting experience can have significant effects on the ability of young children to recognize letters.”

Studies of handwriting with older children indicate a correlation between ease of writing and compositional skill. “Students’ sentence-writing skills, the amount they write, and the quality of their writing all improve along with their handwriting ... In grades 4 to 6, handwriting fluency accounts for 42 percent of the variability in the quality of children’s [compositional] writing.” (Graham, S. “Want to Improve Children’s Writing? Don’t Neglect Their Handwriting.” *American Educator*, Winter 2009).

However, handwriting instruction using conventional cursive is generally not effective. A recent study of elementary and high school students by Virginia Berninger, Steve Graham, and Naomi Weintraub (“The Relationship between Handwriting Style, Speed, and Legibility.” *The Journal of Educational Research*, 91(5):290- 297, May 1998) suggests that roughly 70% of students abandon the conventional, looped and 100% connected cursive they were taught, opting instead to combine joined and printed letters, or to print entirely.

Conventional handwriting systems require significant classroom time in grades 2 and 3 to accomplish a transition from a manuscript style to a joined-cursive style, for which the student must learn as many as 52 new letterforms. These new letterforms are rarely found in type. Conventional 100%-joined cursive methods typically have low retention rates; 2 out of 3 older students who have learned handwriting in this manner abandon it, and instead create their own style of writing, often using a mixture manuscript and joined letters based on models they find in everyday type.

The Getty-Dubay Italic handwriting program, on the other hand, provides a sequential transition from print to joined letters, where manuscript (often called “print”) and cursive

(connected writing often called “script”) forms are nearly identical. Italic letterforms resemble those found in type, even when joined. Cursive italic joins most, but not all lowercase letters, and does not join capitals.

Italic letterforms are similar to those commonly seen in print or on screen. They are based on elliptical shapes that conform to natural hand movements with few lifts of the pen or pencil. Italic capitals are based on historical Roman models.

Modern italic handwriting – not to be confused with “italicized” (slanted) font style – is based on an historical script that was in use in Italy as early as the sixteenth century. This script is the progenitor of the substantially more ornate nineteenth-century Spencerian script, which Palmer and others later adapted for handwriting instruction in the United States.

The Getty-Dubay Italic Handwriting Series was created in 1979 by Barbara Getty and Inga Dubai. Getty and Dubai are internationally known handwriting and calligraphy experts and educators. They have trained over 4,500 medical professionals in handwriting best practices and have presented their work at the World Health Organization in Copenhagen, Denmark and the International Patient Safety Conference in Florence, Italy. Their *New York Times* Op-Ed (“The Write Stuff”, September 4, 2009) makes the case for italic handwriting as a solution to the poor state of handwriting in America.

The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Empower19 conference and exhibit show brings together thousands of dedicated and experienced educators, practitioners, and administrators from around the world. Mr. Dubai will be available at the Getty-Dubay booth to demonstrate the Getty-Dubay Italic Program and answer questions.

For more information on Getty-Dubay Italic, visit [www.handwritingsuccess.com](http://www.handwritingsuccess.com), and for more information on ASCD Empower19, including registration information, visit [ascd.org/empower](http://ascd.org/empower).

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Getty-Dubay Italic began in 1979 as the collaboration between two like-minded educators, Barbara Getty and Inga Dubai. They recognized the need for an alternative to the conventional system for learning handwriting. Getty and Dubai set about creating instruction books for children – all handwritten – that were soon widely adopted by schools. A handwriting book for adults came in 1991, as well as two instruction books on calligraphy. Today, Getty-Dubay Italic is in use in business and education throughout the United States and internationally.

Getty and Dubai have offered 170 “Rx for Handwriting Success” seminars for medical professionals across the United States, and also have presented at the World Health Organization in Copenhagen, Denmark and the International Patient Safety Conference in Florence, Italy.

Getty-Dubay Italic has been featured in more than 75 journals and on television & radio including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Time Magazine* and NBC’s “Good Morning America”.

Getty and Dubai have written eleven books to bring legibility and ease to the everyday act of writing. They began their mission in 1979 to provide a new, viable handwriting system for children with the seven developmentally appropriate workbooks that make up the *Getty-Dubay Italic Handwriting Series*. These books and accompanying *Instruction Manual* are now in use in many schools and thousands of homes in America and abroad.