

## Meeting summary for Networking with Library Consultants (02/21/2024)

### Quick recap

The meeting centered around discussions about library consulting and networking. Attendees introduced themselves and shared their roles and experiences. The agenda included breakout sessions for attendees to get to know each other and discuss various topics related to library technology and community engagement strategies. The conversation also focused on the use of technology in libraries and strategic planning. The meeting concluded with a discussion about an upcoming Interest Group Week session on library consulting.

### Summary

#### Library Consulting and Networking Meetup

Curtis initiated a discussion about library consulting and networking, encouraging attendees to share their LinkedIn profiles and introduce themselves. He proposed an open conversation about their roles and experiences and offered his email for attendees to request a copy of the chat if they preferred not to post it publicly. Curtis also outlined the meeting's agenda, which included breakout sessions for attendees to get to know each other better and discuss various topics related to library technology and community engagement strategies.

Anne, a recent retiree from UNC Charlotte's library, shared her plans to focus on strategic planning and marketing consulting, while Kim, a long-time librarian, acknowledged familiar faces and hinted at her plans to explore AI in her consulting work.

#### Libraries, Consultants, and Technology

Kim shared her experiences as a consultant and her current work with public libraries, focusing on using data and program evaluation to demonstrate their value. She also expressed interest in exploring the social value of libraries and their impact on communities.

Carson, a library technology consultant, discussed his 12-year consulting career, emphasizing his focus on building the library's capacity to serve people through technology.

Janet, a library consultant with Re, spoke about her work on strategic planning and facility-related planning for public libraries. She highlighted the firm's expertise in community engagement and marketing but noted that technology was not their core focus.

#### Consultants Share Experiences and Projects

The meeting introduced several consultants who shared their experiences and current projects.

Christine mentioned her focus on open source and web accessibility.

Eileen Palmer talked about her retirement and her involvement in strategic planning and library board director searches with Library Crossroads Consulting.

David Tyckoson, a retired reference librarian, discussed his online and face-to-face workshops and his interest in learning more about the group's work.

Martha Kyridou shared her work in measuring library service quality and her shift to strategic facilities planning and local government consulting.

Genevieve introduced herself as a new member of the group, having spent most of her career as an academic public services librarian.

### Consulting and Leadership in Libraries

Genevieve shared her experience working as a consultant for Lac Federal on a digital strategy project for the National Library of Medicine. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to connect with the group and find support.

Lorene then introduced herself, detailing her extensive experience in various library roles and her transition to leadership and consulting. She shared her initiative to monetize her expertise in problem-solving and management through a newsletter and podcast and emphasized the importance of leadership training in the field.

### Introductions and Library Services Discussion

The meeting involved introductions from several individuals about their roles and experiences.

Lorene initiated the discussion about her work and challenges with LinkedIn password access.

Jeannie introduced herself as a soon-to-be-retired library director who planned to focus on her administrative support business.

Rob shared his experience as a library consultant for 15 years and his current role in community engagement.

Bryan introduced his company, Paper Boy Digital Consulting, which supports libraries in their digitization efforts.

David Belanger shared his extensive experience in library management and his current role as an independent consultant focusing on strategic planning for public libraries.

### Breakout Rooms and Technical Issues

Curtis and Amber discussed the use of breakout rooms in their meeting. Amber had opened four breakout rooms for the participants to join and move around in as they needed.

Curtis later shared the agenda and thanked everyone for their participation. He also suggested that participants could share any insights from their breakout discussions as they wrapped up the meeting.

#### Joyful Projects and Library Consulting Interest Group Week

The team discussed their individual projects and roles, with Carson highlighting David Tyckoson's project on creating onboarding modules for library staff.

Kim shared her shift towards tasks she finds joy in, advocating for the same focus for the team.

Lorene discussed her podcast production, mentioning its use in the library school curriculum.

The team agreed on the importance of joy in work and sharing educational resources.

The team wrapped up their discussion with Curtis emphasizing the upcoming Interest Group Week, especially the library consulting interest group session on March 7th at 1 PM Central Time, featuring three speakers discussing how to find a library consultant.

Amber was thanked for providing a registration link and promised to send a recording of the session to Curtis.

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