Jen Nelson, State Librarian
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What we’re trying to do

Respond to economic and community needs resulting from pandemic

IMLS ARPA Priorities:
• Digital inclusion
• Library services that meet community needs

NJSL LSTA Five Year Plan Priorities:
• Information Access
• Institutional Capacity
• Lifelong Learning

Connecting people with information through libraries
All About Literacy

Concentrated focus on digital literacy as companion to
• Workforce;
• Adult;
• English language, and;
• other core literacies.

Leverages libraries as place and libraries as people

Two models since circumstances differ from location to location
Connecting people with information through libraries

ACCESS NAVIGATORS

NJSI + PARTNERS LITERACY PROJECT
Connecting people with information through libraries
Who am I?

Scott Kuchinsky
Director Of Literacy Services
Plainfield Public Library
When Libraries Met Workforce Development
Or
Why I’m not allowed to make slides

- Two systems struggling to adapt to a changing world!
- Tossed together by chance!
- Torn apart by strife!
- Can true love conquer!? 
Trouble In Service Town!

Adult Literacy training and certification is a decentralized patchwork of disparate service providers.

• What even is Adult Literacy?
• Disparate Quality - Nonstandard
• Difficult to access (cost, geography, travel)
• Unstable
• Redundant and Inefficient. Lots of wheels being invented
• Greater degree of flexibility required
• Rate of change increased
Library World Under Siege!

Additionally, as public libraries move into the new century, to stay relevant and serve their core mission as the People’s university, they too must adapt.

• Maintain Relevance
• Connect to larger resources
• Secure Funding
What Happens When These Two Crazy Kids Get Together?
Episode II: Yes, Libraries Do That!

- Workforce Training particularly in the information age is Library mission consistent
- Libraries have a foothold in every community
- People like going to the library
- Government likes working with Government
- COST EFFECTIVE
PPL’s Story

And so it begins…

• Approximately 30 years

• LWD and WDB Partnerships

• Current State
KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL SYSTEM INTEGRATION

• Set scope that fills a gap in system
  • targeted clients
  • targeted training

• Speak the system’s language. Tame it! Make it your friend!

• ABS
Literacy Hubs and Spokes Design

- Create a Library Based Digital Literacy Certification program based on the PPL model that is Standardized and Replicable

- Hubs vs. Spokes

- “Classes” vs. “Labor and Literacy Lab”
Goals

- Leverage economy of scales to provide services in a cost effective manner
- Integrate Library led digital literacy and related services into a uniform front end with
  - System wide referral system
  - Standardized high quality training, support, and materials across multiple service tiers and various library sizes
  - Uniform metrics and reporting
- Establish Libraries as a key component in NJ’s workforce development system and forge connections with local libraries, AJCs and WDBs
- Support the growth and interconnection of Library led digital literacy programs
- Ensure equitable access by expanding geographic footprint of services through use of Hub and Spoke libraries
- Turn success of pilot into strong argument for stable continued funding
- System permeability/Decrease friction for clients
Questions?
Questions?
Thank You

Jen Nelson

jnelson@njstatelib.org