**Virtual is Here to Stay: Making Online Sessions Fun and Focused**

Let’s face it – online meetings and events are here to stay. Whether it’s delivering online programming, facilitating staff meetings, or orchestrating an online conference, we are spending many hours online, trying to connect with others while staring at a screen. "Zoom fatigue" is real, but there are ways to mitigate it. Learn strategies to plan, design and host live online meetings or presentations that will energize, inform, and encourage your library audience to settle in, participate, and learn. Together, we’ll find that virtual can be fun and refreshing!

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/virtual-is-here-to-stay.html>

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| **Zoom fatigue is real!** |
| The pandemic has prompted most of us to spend a lot more time interacting with co-workers, friends, and family online. * What do you find most draining about being online?
* What advantages, if any, do you see about your increased online interactions?
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| **The Role of the Participant** |
| Pivoting from in-person to virtual has presented new opportunities in our professional and personal lives. What are ways you like to be engaged online as a participant?  |
| **Create the Whole Environment** |
| There’s a tendency to focus attention exclusively on a single live-online meeting or event. However, it’s important to remember that the live event is experienced within a wider environment in time and space.For the following suggestions for enriching engagement and integrating the online and offline spaces, * check off those you’ve already tried or experienced
* highlight those you’d like to try (or suggest to event organizers that they try)
* add any notes about how you might adapt the strategy
* Welcoming confirmation message
* Clear orientation to the online environment
* Opportunity for learners to get to know each other
* Collection of related resources
* Learner guide or workbook
* Pre-work to prepare for live session(s)
* Space for offline discussion and reflection
* Assignments and/or project work
* Sub-groups for collaboration on assignments or projects
* Final peer critiques and reflections
* Follow-up message with appreciation of participation

What other ideas do you have for continual engagement and building a virtual community? |
| **Liven Up the Live Sessions** |
| Virtual sessions can be fun and focused. Including creative activities can go a long way to foster connection and engagement. These should be relevant to your session audience and goals.For the following suggestions for livening up your live sessions, * check off those you’ve already tried or experienced
* highlight those you’d like to try (or suggest to event organizers that they try)
* add any additional ideas
* Chat exercises
* Screen annotations
* Breakout rooms for small groups or 1:1
* Participant video and backgrounds
* Special event celebrations (e.g., accomplishments, holidays, etc.)
* Collaboration activity (e.g., Brain Yoga, small team exercises, etc.)
* Physical activity (e.g., breathing, standing/stretching, etc.)
* Art exercises (e.g., coloring, doodling, pipe cleaners, etc.)
* Theme-based activities
* Pre-event surprises (e.g., items useful for work, fun snacks, etc.)
* Meeting boxes
* Contests and prizes

Additional ideas:  |
| **Action Plan: (include next steps, who, when, etc.)** |
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 **Relax and color**

