**The Future is Now: Rural Library as Innovation Incubator**

**Event Description:** With the technology landscape constantly shape-shifting, libraries must respond as futurists to changing patron needs. Learn how to remain relevant, if not core, to your community's needs by providing the means and support for patrons to create and innovate.

Rural and small libraries with limited resources can become community innovation incubators, by providing patrons access to transformative technologies and by providing space for new ideas to be explored. Beyond makerspaces to editing suites and digital learning labs, libraries are empowering and impacting their communities, now and in the future. Bring your own story of library as innovation incubator and learn from others!

**Presented by:** **Tameca Beckett** and**Andrea Berstler**

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** | |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |

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| **Activity #1** |
| In the webinar, Berstler challenges us to **dedicate 1% of our time**—21 minutes a week—to sit down with pencil and paper and think about innovation possibilities. Try it for at least one month and then reflect on the impact.   1. Schedule 30 minutes on your calendar as “not available,” recurring for 4 successive weeks. 2. Find a quiet space where you won’t be interrupted; get out of the building if necessary. Shut down your electronic devices and pick up pen and paper. Think of a problem you’d like to solve. Start without limitations (no box), conjuring up what you would do if anything was possible; then ask “why can’t I do it now?” Doodle or sketch ideas; let ideas flow without judgment. 3. After 4 weeks, reflect on where your thoughts led you in the weekly thinking sessions. Did any unexpected ideas or solutions surface? Do you feel that the time was productive, even if in a non-linear way? |

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| **Activity #2** |
| Research from the Pew Internet & American Life project in January of 2013 examined not only how Americans are using public libraries, but also what sort of services and programming they think libraries should offer. Review this collection of **examples of innovative services provided by libraries**: <http://libraries.pewinternet.org/2013/01/29/innovative-library-services-in-the-wild/>  **Make a short list of 2-5 examples that you could see possibly implemented in your library.** |

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| **Question to consider/Discussion question** |
| If you could only work on **one innovation for the next year**, what would it be and why? |
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| **Activity #3** |
| Select one of your listed innovative services and visualize a time in 5-10 years. Imagine hearing a patron say anything about that library service. What would this “**dream patron testimonial**” be? |

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| **Activity #4** |
| The presenters suggest a method for prioritizing as you explore innovation in your library. With the everyday work of running a library, it’s difficult to set aside the time to look to the future. By categorizing activities in the following buckets, **Monday, Someday, or Never**, you can help identify those to begin with and those you should drop from the list.  **Monday Someday Never** |

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| **Action Plan** (include next steps, who, when, etc.) |
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| **NOTES** |
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