Today’s Presenters

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Introducing Learning Circles: Online Learning, Offline

May 3, 2016
WebJunction Webinar
Annotation Tools

Click on the marker at the top left corner of the screen and the tool buttons will open.

Check mark

- Half-way down menu, click on square.
- Use the drop-down menu and choose the check mark.
- Click on slide to indicate choice.
What is your experience with online learning at your library?

- Never heard of it
- People use computers for e-learning, but we don’t have additional programming
- Already doing something like Learning Circles
What programs would you like to see more of in your library?

- **English**
  - ESOL, Writing, Fiction, Journalism

- **Job Skills**
  - Job Search, Resume Writing, Interview Prep

- **Exam Prep**
  - GED, SAT, Registered Nurse

- **Business**
  - Marketing, Personal Finance, Entrepreneurship

- **Digital Literacy**
  - Office, Email, HTML/CSS

- **Lifestyle**
  - Parenting, Nutrition, Happiness
The Problem

Traditional higher education excludes a large portion of adults. In the US, only 34% of 27-year olds have a Bachelor’s Degree.

- **HIGH COST**
- **LITTLE RELEVANCE**
- **LACK OF SUPPORT**
The Solution

HIGH COST
LITTLE RELEVANCE
LACK OF SUPPORT
ONLINE COURSES
LOCAL COMMUNITY
PEER LEARNING
Learning Circles

Lightly-facilitated study groups for learners who want to take online courses together in a public space.
2015 in Chicago
11 branches
18 Learning Circles
8 different courses
90 minutes/week
6-8 weeks
Advertised through the library

70% heard through CPL website
20% heard through flyer in the library
Others from friends, librarians, & Facebook
Attracted amazing audience

40% Never heard of free, online courses
25% Heard of them, never taken one
35% Taken an online course before

Diverse gender, age, ethnicity, & background
Accommodated many goals

45% to increase employability
25% for personal interest
15% for professional development
5% to accompany traditional higher ed
How it went

45%-55% retention over 6-8 weeks
35% plan to continue on their own
80% did work outside of Learning Circle
90% are interested in taking another
60% may want to facilitate in future
In the learners words...

- I set clear goals. 87%
- I achieved my goals. 69%
- I was supported by my peers. 69%
- What I learned is valuable to me. 90%
- Working hard led to achievement. 76%
- I want to take another Learning Circle. 90%
- Capacity for academic achievement grew. 83%
In the librarians words...  

- Deeper personal engagement with patrons  
- Gets adults in the door for programming  
- Also gets them to return (6 weeks!)  
- Answering a real community need—flexible based on each neighborhood  
- Exciting because it’s different—allows staff to use new skills
“The Facilitators continually made me feel comfortable. Which I really appreciated this, the informal atmosphere was great!”
“It was very intimate and I enjoyed our weekly sessions. I learned lot more than I knew about public speaking. I feel it helped my confidence level to be a better public speaker...I [am] looking forward to the next one.”
“I liked the accessibility of peers, building confidence in a safe environment. no pressure with our peer group and learning from our peer group.”
“[The best thing about my Learning Circle was] knowing that I was not the only one out there with a dream of writing and being able to share this with my fellow Learning Circle members.”
"I appreciate CPL’s commitment to learning and expanding tools of the library. I feel lucky to have the opportunity to take the class."
Summary of Findings

- Retention 5-10x higher than online courses
- Increases digital skills and academic mindsets
- Fosters digital inclusion/expanded access
- Supports diverse learner pathways
- Invigorates library/local communities
Open-source toolkit available now!
● Background on MOOCs
● Course selection tips
● Space/supplies tips
● Promotion templates
● Facilitation tips
● Recipe Cards
● Application
● Certificate
● Survey
Learning Circles are lightly-facilitated study groups for learners who want to take freely available online courses together, in-person. P2PU can help you create a Learning Circle, find a course to study, or join an existing Learning Circle. We believe that anybody can become a facilitator, and whether you want to run a single Learning Circle in your home or organize dozens across an urban library system, you’ve come to the right place. Below are the three steps we recommend you take to get going!

**STEP 1: CREATE AN ACCOUNT**

We highly recommend signing up to run your Learning Circle with our free software tools. These tools (collectively, we call them the Facilitator Dashboard) will generate a webpage where people can sign up for your Learning Circle, gather applications, allow you to communicate with learners via email or SMS, send learners automatic reminders before each Learning Circle, and prompt you to share weekly updates.
Create a Learning Circle

This information will be used to generate your public webpage for your Learning Circle. If you get stuck, the Facilitator Guide and the Facilitator Community can provide tips and suggestions. You can edit this form at any point in the future through your Dashboard.

* indicates a required field.

Choose the course that your Learning Circle will study.*

You can read more about each course here.

Or add a new course that isn't listed yet. Note that courses you add will be visible only to you.

Add a new course

Where will you meet?*

Name of the venue, e.g. Pretoria Library or Bekka's house

Where is the specific meeting spot?*

e.g. second floor kitchen or Room 409 (third floor)
Learning Circles

Study groups for people who want to take online courses together, in-person.

Sign up below for a Learning Circle in your area, or create your own!

Master new skills. Together.
In the library. For free.

Edgewater Branch Library is hosting study groups for learners who want to complete online courses together, in-person at the libraries. These are free, peer-supported courses designed to be taken by anybody.

GED® Prep Math begins Thursday, May 7 @ 6PM
Academic Writing begins Tuesday, May 12 @ 6PM

GED® Prep Math
Thursday nights
May 7 - June 11
6PM-7:45PM
6000 N. Broadway
2nd floor

Academic Writing
Tuesday nights
May 12 - June 9
6PM-7:45PM
4000 N. Broadway
2nd floor

Register online at http://chicago.p2pu.org

The Modern World, Part Two: Global History since 1910
Facilitator: Hyungyul Kim

Changer le monde: passions à l'action (comme créer son entreprise sociale)
Facilitator: Edgar Ornelas

Alternative Investments Education
Facilitator: Jenny Zhou

Pre-College English
Facilitator: Sebastian Panakal

Centre de Recherches Interdisciplinaires, CRI Paris
8-10 Rue Charles V, Paris, Île-de-France, France
Thursdays, 10 AM - 11:26 AM, Europe/Paris
8 weeks beginning 10 March 2016

399 Marine Pkwy, Redwood City, CA 94065,
Fridays, 2 PM - 4 PM, America/Los_Angeles
52 weeks beginning 18 March 2016

Little Flower Church Parish Hall
Pottakuzhi Jn., North Kollam, Ernakulam, Kollam, Kerala, India

6 weeks beginning 2 April 2016
Sign up for Finance for Everyone: Smart Tools for Decision-Making

In this introduction to finance course from Michigan learn to apply frameworks and smart tools for understanding and making everyday decisions.

at Harold Washington Library Center 5th floor, North Meeting Room, Chicago, Illinois, United States

Facilitated by James Teng

Course content from edX

This Learning Circle meets every Tuesday from 11AM to 12:30PM CDT starting 5 April for 6 weeks.

In one sentence, please explain your goals for taking this course.*

A successful study group requires the support of all of its members. How will you help your peers achieve their goals?*

Can you bring a laptop and headphones to the Learning Circle each week?*

How comfortable are you doing the following tasks?
reminder message automatically sent to learners 2 days beforehand

facilitator summarizes the week’s progress and agreed upon homework on dashboard, sends to learners

group meets in-person for 90 minutes - 2 hours, loosely following activities and prompts on recipe card

learners do agreed upon homework (if any)

prior week summary included in next week’s reminder

The goal for the rest of the session is to strike a balance between giving learners a chance to jump right into the course and taking time to create a comfortable space for the fledgling community. Both are important to the success of the Learning Circle.

GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER (O&A)
As the facilitator, it is important for you to prompt personal introductions in a way that will encourage conversation amongst the whole group. Frame this activity as a way for all of the participants to get to know one another, as a starting point for the work they’ll be doing together over the next 6 weeks – this activity is for them, not for you.

- First: Ask learners to share why they came to the Learning Circle and an example of a good learning experience they have had in their life.
- Next: Model an introduction by re-introducing yourself to start.
- Finally: Afterwards, summarise the learning experiences and share how you think this Learning Circle can develop into an inclusive learning community.

COURSEWORK (C/W)
- Direct participants to the course website and have them create an account on the platform. Use platform guides on P3PU website as needed.
- Encourage learners to poke around on the platform, together or on their own.
- To wrap up, ask participants to come back together as a group and share with the broader group some of the things they learned or are excited to start learning about.

ACTIVE GROUP EXPERIENCES (AE)
Talk about expectations for the group to draw in participation from all group members and help craft group identity. It’s okay if not everybody agrees on everything.

- First: Ask learners how they want to work with their peers in the coming weeks. Prompt learners with these questions:
  - Do you want to work through activities on a projector or work on their own?
  - Do you want to commit to doing work outside of the Learning Circle?
  - Do you feel like you have enough time to complete the course?
- Next: Based on the discussion, create a list of expectations for that group and discuss the Learning Circle format, time, and any agreements.

recipe cards begin on p. 29 of handbook
Certificate of Achievement

This certificate is proudly presented to

__________________________

for participating in the Fall 2015 Learning Circle

__________________________

Facilitator

Mark Andersen, CPL
What’s next?

• Talk to your patrons about online learning
• Explore free, online courses
• Download the Facilitator Handbook
• Find us at ALA! 830-10AM Saturday
• Email grif@p2pu.org to collaborate
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What are you going to do next?

- Nothing!
- Tweet about it
- Share archive with colleagues
- Download the handbook
- Run a Learning Circle
- Email Grif