**Opportunity Out of Adversity: Digital Access in Rural and Small Libraries Learner Guide**<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/opportunity-out-of-adversity.html>

**Event Description:** Opportunity often hides behind adversity. As libraries look to a future of post-pandemic challenges, from looming budget cuts to increasingly urgent community needs, David Lankes, in [The "New Normal" Agenda for Librarianship](https://davidlankes.org/the-new-normal-agenda-for-librarianship/), encourages us to consider framing the positive opportunities, rather than loss, in the changes that lie ahead. If we are intentional, we can use these circumstances to grow our organizations and to address the digital access disparities in small and rural communities. This presentation will explore how one rural library has improved internet access in partnership with an internet service provider, hosted telehealth appointments in collaboration with healthcare providers and transportation agencies, worked with schools to ensure opportunities for youth through esports, and improved digital literacy skills for patrons and local businesses.

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** | |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| **Understanding Digital Landscape and Potential Collaborators** | |
| What organizations already work with populations that are underserved and high need? Consider housing authorities, senior facilities, ethnic heritage organizations, food banks, veterans assistance, and mental health authorities, etc. (The resource [https://www.auntbertha.com/](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/SX-0C2kXA7tK730GS1L1Af?domain=auntbertha.com/) is helpful in trying to find local partner organizations that many libraries may not have traditionally considered as partners in digital inclusion.)  Are there local digital literacy providers or groups that can help assist with technical troubleshooting and training? Consider youth or high school programs that focus on IT, service organizations, or local educational institutions.  Are there local businesses or corporations that may be willing to donate their older, recycled computers to the library or for library lending programs?   If technology access and digital literacy is a challenge, what other avenues might be available?  Consider your local access television station, radio station, or a call-in line for homebound or otherwise disconnected citizens. | |
| **Funding** | |
| What can be done throughout the year to make sure your funding sources understand the library's value at budget time?   * Create a cloud-based folder for anecdotes and photos * Take the Edge assessment [https://www.libraryedge.org](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/jsh6C3130yf7ZKWMt2UTGs?domain=libraryedge.org/) * Review resources in WebJunction’s [Budgets and Funding](https://www.webjunction.org/explore-topics/budget-funding/see-also-links.html) topic area       How do you make time for long term goals? | |
| **Digital Literacy Resources** | |
| Now is a good time to revisit, assess and update the digital literacy resources you provide to your patrons, via your website, or through other online communication.   * WebJunction's [Teaching Patrons](https://www.webjunction.org/explore-topics/patron-training/see-also-links.html) topic area, for other links and resources * [DigitalLearn.org](https://www.digitallearn.org/) * [Northstar Digital Literacy Tests](https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/) to assess computer skills   List resources you would like to make available to your patrons: | |
| **Action Plan: (include some simple next steps, along with who, when, etc.)** | |
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Thank you to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, and Nicole Umayam at the Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records, for their resources that informed questions in this learner guide. See also the Know Your Community's Needs Worksheet, on TSLAC’s [Digital Inclusion](https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/tech/digitalinclusion) resources.