Presenters

Emilie Braunel  
Director, Plum Lake Public Library (WI)

Jerianne Davis  
Director, Helvetia Public Library (WV)

Susan Green  
Director, Jaquith Public Library (VT)

Richard Styre  
Co-Director, Elk River Public Library District (ID)

Moderated by Margo Gustina  
Special Projects Librarian, Rural Library Service and Social Wellbeing
WELLBEING RESOURCES TOOLKIT TOUR

Emilie Braunel  Susan Green
Jerianne Davis  Richard Styre
Moderator: Margo Gustina
Foundational Belief

Anything worth building in your community through your library will be built:

• in small, repeated steps over time
• using your heart,
• in full view of your soul, and
• in partnership with the people and environment which surround you.
Support Understandings

We found that feelings of **BELONGING** factored strongly in people’s notions of living in their ideal community and that core to that valuation were feelings of **SELF-DETERMINATION** and **MUTUAL SUPPORT**.

Public libraries in these communities functioned as the **ORGANIZING CENTER** and **TRAILHEAD TO PATHWAYS** of belonging, power, and connection for residents, regardless of their status as newcomer, long-time outsider, or well-networked social butterfly.
Principles of Practice

Potential
Social Wellbeing
Self-Value
Humility
Complexity & Locality
Intention
Self-Reflection
Pathways
Aspiration

Your belief in your ability to work with community residents grows with your trust in individuals throughout your town or neighborhood, such that you can see and grow what works for all of you and the place where you live, making such growth ever easier and more impactful.
Welcome

We're glad you chose to visit. This toolkit was created by and with rural librarians, for library people from communities of all sizes.

Just Getting Started?

This is the first of many tools to help you better understand your own deep value to your community, and areas you may want to focus on in the future.

Click Here to Get Started on YOUR Path

Toolkit Index

Belonging  Capacity  Discovery  Self-Determination  Wellness

Building Local Political Voice & Power
Is Everyone Welcome in Your Library?

Primary author: Susan Green

Let's look at ways we can find out who is not coming into your library.

What is in this tool?
This tool will help you identify who is and is not using your library, and evaluate your current library practices to ensure inclusion.
Nature: Thinking Beyond the Walls of the Library

Primary author: Emilie Braunel

What is in this tool?

- Reflect on how their library currently supports their community’s connections with the natural world
- Investigate new opportunities for the library to support and engage with the community in natural spaces
Pathway to Community Knowledge

Primary author: Jerianne Davis

Open up an entirely new world to someone!

What is in the tool?
The following is designed to help you assess first your community and then your library work towards fostering lifelong discovery and knowledge. Our hope is that after using this tool, you as the library director will realize how amazing you are doing at fostering growth within the community, and what areas you need a bit of help and direction on.
Youth Empowerment

Primary author: Richard Styre

As a library we can help our youth to learn valuable lessons that will help them through life.

What is in this tool?

This tool will help you think through how your library can facilitate knowledge sharing to the younger generations, as well as some concrete ideas to get you started. The goal is to give children a way to be independent and inspire them to take the initiative to be self sufficient and productive.
Dare to Dream: Visioning Your Library

Primary author: Susan Green

I invite you and your community to go on a journey and experiment with what can be done to your library space if you all dare to dream.

What is in this tool?

- Look at your library through a new lens
- Write an aspiration for your library space
- Plan a project which enhances the library space
One of the most important dynamics for the long term health of a community is how well it can incorporate newcomers, especially those who do not have an existing social network to tap into.

What is in this tool?
This tool provides a series of considerations to help you see the library as a newcomer would. And to build resources that support them learning to make their way in their new town.
Starting Your Preservation Path

Primary author: Jerianne Davis

Telling the story of how your town got started can really help foster a sense of belonging and shared identity within a community.

What is in this tool?
The following is designed to help assess first your community and then your library work toward building resident belonging through a preservation pathway, and identify realistic ways to improve.
Questions for the Panelists?

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