**Learner Guide: Flexible Spaces – Flexible Futures**

<http://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/flexible-spaces-flexible-futures.html>

**Event Description:** As libraries continue to evolve as community spaces and information hubs, there is an opportunity to explore how patrons use library space and to create spaces that are flexible and adaptable to changing needs. Presenter Dri Ralph has helped lead the King County Library System (WA) through an extensive bond project which has included the renovation and/or building of 30 libraries. She will share highlights of their design choices, ideas for flexible use of space, and tips for engaging the community in the planning and design process.  
  
Be sure to also use the resources in the comprehensive [Transforming Library Spaces for Community Engagement](http://webjunction.org/documents/webjunction/transforming-library-spaces-for-community-engagement.html) Guide.

**Presented by:** **Kendra Morgan and Dri Ralph**

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

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| **Discussion/Reflection Question 1** |
| These are the four key points emphasized in the webinar for maximizing flexibility in your space. Consider how you might apply these to your space planning efforts:   1. **Space is elastic:** Rather than designate a fixed space for a singular activity, consider how your space can be used for multiple purposes. Envisioning multi-use space can meet community goals, while promoting functionality. 2. **Furniture rocks and rolls:** Movable furniture, such as tables, shelves or chairs on casters, facilitates flexible spaces. 3. **Patrons find the path:** Easily navigable layouts promote patron discovery. Clear, consistent signage can support this, and also be a fun design element. 4. **Collections are slender and modern:** Reclaiming your space may include removing long-standing equipment, or shelving, weeding or transferring established collections. |
| **Discussion/Reflection Question 2** |
| What spaces in your library can you consider making more flexible? And how? |
| **Discussion/Reflection Question 3** |
| In gaining meaningful feedback from the community about your flexible space, consider these questions you might ask as part of your proposal.  What will this space allow you to accomplish?  How can we continue to make this or other library spaces relevant to you? |
| **Activity 2** |
| As you work towards making your space more flexible and adaptable, what of these precepts do you **need to let go of**?   * “Fort Circulation” is necessary * Activity and noise will disturb our patrons * Projects get too messy and dirty * Community events should be separate from the main library space * The collection shall not be diminished * No room to do anything new * No money for innovation * Other |

| **Space Planning at Your Library** – use the following chart to assess current and desired status, and actions needed to modify. | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Space Element** | **Current Status** | **Desired Status** | **Modify/Replace/Remove** |
| Lighting (sample) | Too dim. | Good lighting for project based work. | Need to either upgrade bulbs or add additional lighting. |
| Lighting |  |  |  |
| Flooring |  |  |  |
| Power Outlets |  |  |  |
| Broadband/WiFi |  |  |  |
| Table(s) |  |  |  |
| Chair(s) |  |  |  |
| Shelving |  |  |  |
| Current materials |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |