

Presenters



Emilie Braunel
Director, Plum Lake
Public Library (WI)



Jerianne Davis
Director, Helveltia 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

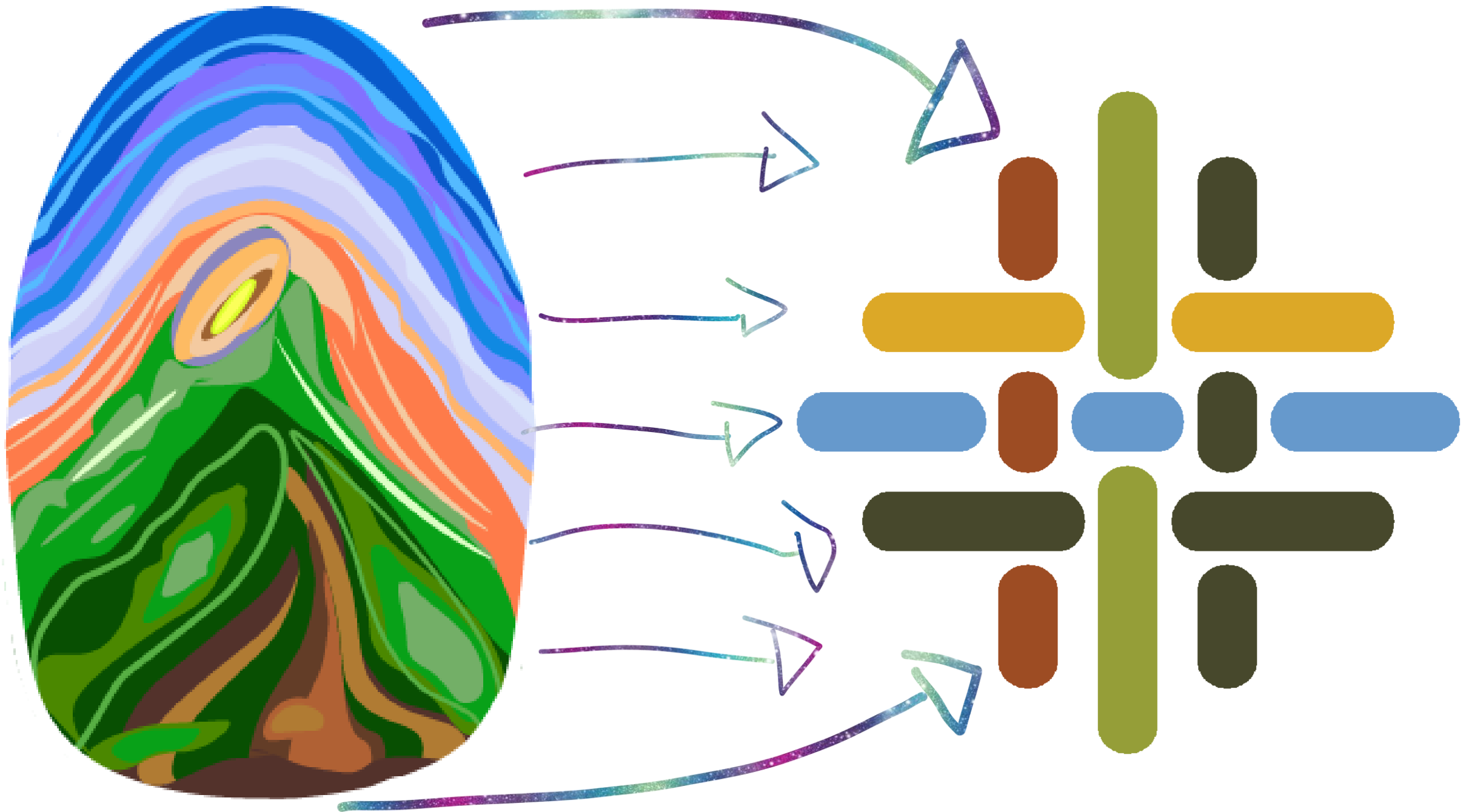
Susan Green

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.



Find Your Way

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

[PDF](#)

[ONLINE](#)



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



Library as Community Welcome Center

Primary author: Emilie Braunel



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.

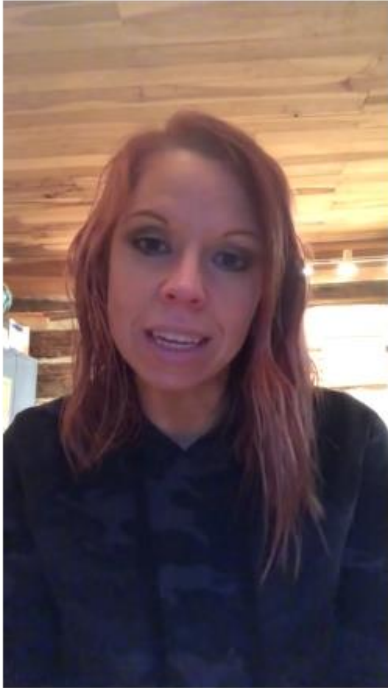
What is in this tool?

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?



Susan Green
Director
Jaquith Public Library (VT)



Emilie Braunel
Director
Plum Lake Public Library (WI)



Jerianne Davis
Director
Helvetia Public Library (WV)



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

WELLBEING RESOURCES TOOLKIT TOUR

PROJECT WEBSITE: <https://rurallibraries.org>

[/subscribe](#) | [/toolkits](#) | [/project](#) | [/about](#)

CONTACT: research@rurallibraries.org