On the Move: Navigating Library Technician Career Changes

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Presentation themes

- My background
- Transferring skills between non-traditional and traditional library work
- Making and adjusting to career changes
My background

- Graduated from Seneca’s LIT program in 2014
- Non-traditional library experience:
  - Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
  - Dysart and Jones Associates, primarily working with Rebecca Jones
  - Ontario Library Association
- Traditional library experience:
  - Vancouver Island Regional Library in Nanaimo
    - Information technician in the Creativity Commons (makerspace)
Transferrable
Hard Skills

- Database management
  - A database is a database. The buttons are just in different places.
- Resource management
  - Organizing information for easier use and discovery
- Searching
  - Abstract thinking of resources available
- Programming
  - Planning and execution
Transferrable Soft Skills

- Customer Service
- Time Management
- Conflict Management
- Emotional Intelligence
- Flexibility
- Initiative
- Teamwork: “We” vs “I”
Skills Gained from Non-Traditional Information Professional Work

- Meeting management
  - Coordinating with participants and arranging logistics
- Expertise with Word and Excel
- Social Media administration and campaigns
  - Newsletters, Targeted Emails, Facebook, Twitter
- Fundraising
- Bookkeeping
- Committee work and facilitation
- Working with Executive staff and board members
- Training resources development
- Database creation
- Leadership
Non-Traditional Opportunities

- Administration positions with:
  - Non-profits/associations/foundations
    - Charity Village job board
  - Cities/regions/districts
  - Consultant firms
  - Library vendors
  - Elementary and Secondary School or Public library executive offices
  - College and University offices
  - Government
Begin to Make Small Changes

- Make yourself **physically and emotionally** uncomfortable on purpose and with intention.
  - The next hard thing becomes a little less hard (but not necessarily easy).
- Yes I can, yes I can, yes I can.
- Therapy.
  - EFAP
  - [https://referrals.psychotherapyandcounseling.ca/](https://referrals.psychotherapyandcounseling.ca/)
- Focus on how you **want to feel** and then what you **want to achieve**.
Making a Move

- What is keeping you from relocating?
- Find an environment that fits your lifestyle
- Have an adventure!
  - The worst thing that can happen is that it doesn’t work out. It’s OK to fail.
  - Make a Plan B.
Successes

- Vancouver Island and Nanaimo community meets my needs and wants
- Workplace is engaging and suited to my interests
- Made some friends within the first couple of months

Challenges

- Adjusting my expectations for the job hunt
- Figuring out how to move across country
- Adjusting to a new way of working and working within a union
Thank you!

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