



# 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/>
- ▶ 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 and Challenges

- ▶ 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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