On the Move: Navigating Library Technician Career Changes

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Presentation themes

My background

Transferring skills between nontraditional 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

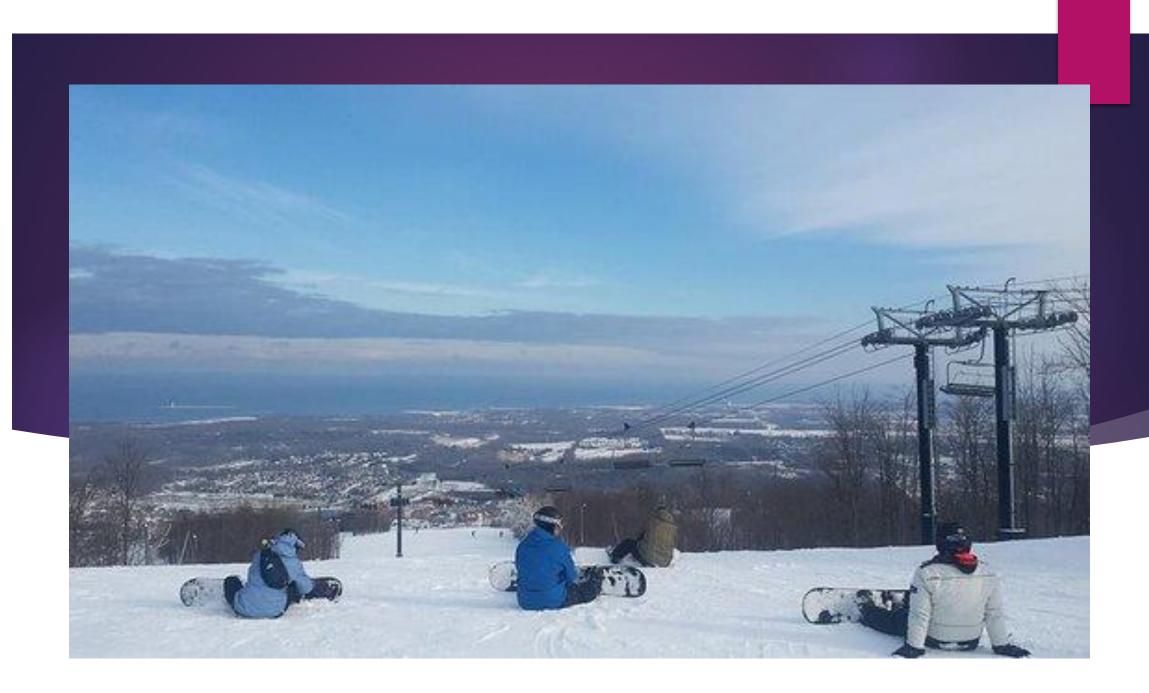
- ▶ Customer Service
- Time Management
- Conflict Management
- Emotional Intelligence
- Flexibility
- Initiative
- ► Teamwork: "We" vs "I"

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

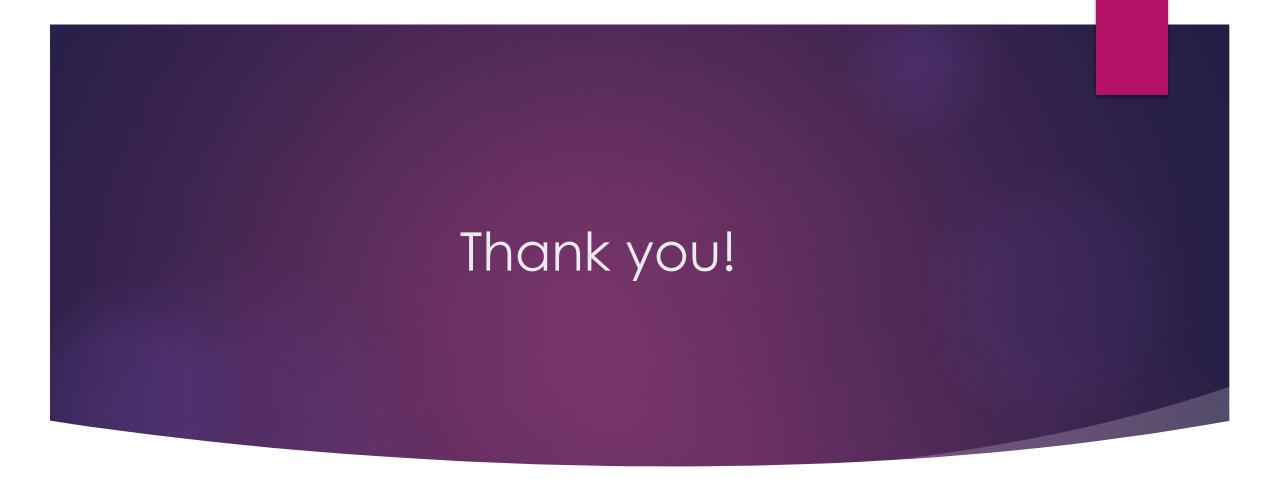
- Make yourself physically and emotionally uncomfortable on purpose and with intention.
 - ▶ The next hard thing becomes a little less hard (but not necessarily easy).
- Yes I can, yes I can, yes I can.
- Therapy.
 - EFAP
 - https://referrals.psychotherapyandcounseling.ca/
- ▶ Focus on how you want to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



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