Community Check-ins II: Narrative Summaries
For the 2020-2022 Strategic Directions, Draft II

Vision: Our Communities Connected
County and counties, rural and urban communities, people and their interests, job-seekers and employers, people and books.

Mission: Connecting people, places, and things*
*Books, birding backpacks, meeting spaces, bus passes, computer help, events and programs, legal and tax forms, soft chairs, printers, movies, charging portals, friendly faces, live music, and much more! #whatsyourasterisk

We Value:
• Access for all.
• Working together.
• Diverse communities and ideas.
• Responsible use of public resources.

We Will Focus On:
Equity, diversity, and inclusion.
• Accessibility for those with disabilities.
• Collaborating with our diverse communities and organizations.
• Reflecting underrepresented groups in our collections, staff, and services.
Local communities.
• Celebrating local culture.
• Providing services for all district residents.
• Partnering with local agencies and organizations.
Children, teens, and young adults.
• Providing appealing spaces and engaging experiences.
• Reaching out to find out what they need and providing for those needs.
• Empowering them to build relationships with the library and within their communities.

Mason County
Shelton Timberland Library – 8 attendees

Vision
• Important to see children represented in the vision.
• Important to see people of all ages. Statement needs to be all-inclusive.
• What TRL offers is local and regional and beyond – ILL and reciprocal library cards give access to materials from several states and across the world.

Updated: 10/02/19
• These services open doors (draw a door!) to information and imagination.
• “People and books” needs to include other materials, not just books: media. The explanation needs to be broader.

Mission
• People, places, things should include mention of the human help that patrons receive like reference and phone assistance.
• Statement should mention training and online education for job seekers, lifelong learners, and those seeking educational resources for school.
• What about art on the walls in the library and displays?
• Public restrooms and Wi-Fi are also a big deal in this community.

Values
• Volunteers, contributions and public resources: think money, staff, and donations.
• Working together – with whom?
• Some preferred the term sustainable in lieu of the word responsible.

Focus Areas
• Specific to: Children, Teens, & Young Adults
  o Combining these age groups could create distance. Teens and young adults may resent being lumped in with children.
  o Focus on fulfillment for certain ages (transitioning) and age specific programming.
  o Narrow this age range down to one group.
  o Be aware of labels for age groups. 20’s and 30’s age group could be highlighted in the “Local Communities” focus area.
• Explore collaboration with transit system to help with mobile services.
• Safe place/opportunity to explore and talk about controversial ideas.
• Comment: Match warm tone of Values and Focus Area section in Vision and Mission by adding “Our”: Our Vision, Our Mission

Grays Harbor County
Hoquiam Timberland Library – 32 attendees

Vision
• Would like to see the vision mention children and safety, working with schools, education (especially lifelong learning).
• “People and books” library is more than books – remember collection is physical AND digital. Preservation of materials also important. As is the history of the district (rural importance key to the demonstration project).
• Staff are important, too!
• The audience mentioned the importance of access to physical libraries. Libraries provide social connections/community hub. Suggestions to maintain access, expand access, consider evening access.

Updated: 10/02/19
• TRL should address the financial situation with the public.

Mission
• Physical displays in libraries also important (think display cases and connection ALA and museums).
• Consider adding more to explain why “...to improve our lives and stimulate our curiosity”.
• Remember that librarians are trusted curators/guides of information. Help people find fact-based info. Maintain that role.

Values
• Diversity is good. Think about age, as well.
• In terms of accessibility, work needs to be done on the TRL catalog and web page.
• Working together. Work on library networks and support of rural schools.
• What about including valuing quality of life and/or enlightenment.

Focus Areas
• Local Communities:
  o Consider smaller rural museums for partnerships (example: WE Aquarium for SRP)
  o District partnerships. (examples: Washington Talking Book and Braille Library)
• Missing:
  o Communication across district/branches and with communities.
  o Building support/advocacy/funding
  o Building trust.
  o Preserving collections, old technology, and media.
    • Keeping book on CDs @ AB

Parking Lot Comments
• Dislike loss of collection to make space for people to visit.
• Dislike loss of confidence in TRL as a district.
• Concerned about privacy issues with online resources. Physical collection less open to privacy issues.
• Need to bring back the Friends & Board Forum. Missing out on the opportunity to work more closely with advocates.
• All materials need to float (example: Folktales need to be refreshed at some branches!)
• Form more local advisory groups to help with local and district issues.
• Can’t connect without a library.
• Focus on Library Legislative Day. Need advocates to work on this. League of Women Voters could help train volunteers and coordinate.
• Work on transparency and dialogue with communities.
• Library staff (current and past) on frontlines need respect and to be listened to. Allow them to voice the unique community opinions.

Updated: 10/02/19
Pacific County
Ilwaco Timberland Library – 7 attendees

Vision
- Wonderful!
- Remember balance
  - Purpose of TRL is rural library service where access is so important.
- Speaks to diverse communities.
- Speaks to physical distance across the district.
- “People and books” change to “people and materials”.

Mission
- A library is sometimes just a place to be with people without being with people.
- A library is a second living room and therefor a personal space. People become covetous of their space.
- A library is also about experiences and not just physical things.
- Intergenerational connection should be highlighted. Person mentioned beauty of watching a children’s storytime and not being related to any of the children or parents there.

Values
- Public resources -> what does that mean? May as well just say money and make it clearer.
- Lost something by moving away from the word sustainable. It was clearer. Maybe framing it as management of money or sustainable growth. Or making wise choices with public funds.

Focus Areas
- EDI
  - “Accessibility for all at all stages of life and ability.”
  - Who are the underrepresented? Make this clearer.
  - Visual problems for folks is a big deal – can we address this by other means? Explore.
  - Work on networking with organizations/partners to provide resources and share what they may have rather than reinventing the wheel.
  - Bring solutions to light through outreach and promotion – better advertising.
- Children, Teens, and YA
  - Focus on valuing.
  - This is a large age group. Makes seniors feel left out. Maybe you should focus on a particular/more narrow age range and address a specific thing with that age group?
    - Suggestions included:
      - 11 - 16 year olds
      - Middle school aged (5-8th grade)
      - 18 - 20-somethings
    - Term empowering is kind of vague. Empowering them to what/in what way?
    - Too many “outs” in the “Reaching out...” goal. Reword.
Is there really a lack of engagement for teens? Maybe they are getting access in different ways (online).

Focus on building relationships among teens, community, and libraries. With caring adults in their community. Act as important guides in their lives.

The library doesn’t always “provide” sometimes it should just “connect”. Don’t do everything.

Parking Lot Comments

- Make sure the emphasis stays on rural libraries.
- Everyone should have more libraries!
- Would like to see the voters take more of a responsibility in funding better libraries.

Lewis County

Chehalis Timberland Library – 5 attendees

Vision
- Add connecting to the beginning of the sentence “Connecting Our Communities”
- Librarians are also a resource for our communities, not just the books.

Mission
- Can you make it rhyme? Might be catchier.
- “A librarian connecting people, places, things...”
- Where is TRL or libraries in the mission? Implied but not stated. It should be more obvious.
- In hashtag: should “whats” have an apostrophe?
- #whatsyourTRL

Values
- Learning!
- Safe spaces!
- Wise use of resources instead of responsible use?

Focus Areas
- Look good!

Parking Lot Comments
- Keep in mind that libraries are important in rural areas. They are limited in resources.
- Important to celebrate being different – libraries welcome and make safe those that are different.
- Focus on sustainability – this includes the budget.
  - Consider creating a special card that people could donate/pay to have.
  - Share amnesty day – people donate to erase fines.
- Library needs to provide quiet space in addition to community space.
- Ideas:
  - Bring back the TRL passport to show people how large and divers the district is.
  - Consider bookmobiles to reach underserved areas.

Updated: 10/02/19
“Whitman’s sampler” of books – mailed out or for pick up at libraries to expand genre reading.

Partner with other organizations/businesses to establish holds pick-up in unserved communities.

Find ways for volunteers to do more!

Figure out how to work with partners to help parents help kids – more parent education. Maybe the Boys & Girls clubs?

Advertising:
- Have you been to the library lately? Campaign. Show all ages represented.
- Library Open Houses periodically.
- Library Overnight Fundraiser

Thurston County
Lacey Timberland Library – 9 attendees

Vision
- Not clear enough.
- Strike county & counties.
- Would be better as statements/sentences and not phrases.
- Bringing communities together or interconnecting communities.
- Keep in mind that county represents political boundaries. We are not political.

Mission
- Want to see an intergenerational connection
  - Connecting to other people (storytimes)
- Use examples for people and places.
- Books and media or learning (more than books!)
- Would like to see something about censorship or free speech and freedom of information represented.

Values
- Definitely should have freedom of information here.
- Access for all
  - Some excluded by fines – how do they have access?
- Helping those with less
- “Effective use of resources”. Would be less reactive.

Focus Areas

They are good.
- EDI
  - “Reflecting underrepresented” – attempting to? This should show that TRL is taking action but is not there yet.
  - “Celebrating local culture” change to “sharing local culture”
- Children, Teens, and YA
  - Want to see intergenerational focus somewhere
  - Adding materials that focus on training/ed (Codepillars)

Updated: 10/02/19
o Focus on partnering with schools & sharing educational materials (learning boxes)
o Reach out to learn what they need first!
o Focus on safety (online/digital)
o Break up this category/focus on different things for different age groups
  ▪ Middle school
  ▪ Grade school
  ◦ Early literacy/early learning
  ▪ Parenting skills
  ▪ Providing resources for the next phase of life (changes as you grow)