

Key Ideas from Small Group Discussion

Invitational Statewide Meeting about the Future of LibraryLinkNJ FY19 & Beyond: The Future of LibraryLinkNJ Services Monday, October 15, 2018 - Princeton Public Library

How do we get to the Future: Next Steps -- If LibraryLinkNJ dissolves...

Q1: What services would other statewide library organizations need to provide starting on July 1, 2019, and who might take responsibility for and provide those services?

- All groups identified delivery as a key service to be taken on by the State Library.
- Of particular concern are the innovation projects and who would be able to coordinate and offer them
- All the professional development, networking, Super Library Supervisor, MentorNJ, social media consultations, advice regarding who to hire for On-Site professional development workshops -- all of these take time and expertise developed by the LibraryLinkNJ staff. As an organization, LLNJ really is the best positioned to provide these services. The only way the State Library could take these on is if they had the necessary fiscal and human resources, possibly with a new staff member.
- The question ignores the bigger need to analyze how shared services across NJ are administered and how the State Library budget is constructed
- Ability to facilitate multitype cooperation & sharing - unique LLNJ role now, who would take that on as of July 2019?

Q2: How and to whom will you -- colleagues, libraries, and library organizations -- advocate for the continuation of statewide library services?

- There needs to be a reckoning as to the difference between short-term “gap” funding, and long-term strategic funding. Keeping LLNJ afloat for one more year is essentially useless without a more long-ranging plan. This lack of long-term financial planning is arguably what put everyone in the position in which we currently find ourselves.
- NJLA is working on a funding bill for \$750,000 in additional state aid to the Library Network Line.
- LibraryLinkNJ’s status as an entity bringing together multiple library types is something that ought to appeal very strongly to Governor Murphy. The network line item is specifically geared towards cooperative, collaborative work, which is a unique feature of LibraryLinkNJ. This is an element that should be part of our advocacy.
- It’s time to harness the concerns and energy of patrons, students, and community members, asking them to advocate on behalf of statewide library services to their local representatives.

Q3: If other organizations need to provide LibraryLinkNJ services starting in July 2019, what steps need to be taken to transfer the responsibilities and authority to administer those services?

- Create a transition team including current LLNJ staff members to pass on institutional knowledge regarding CE, Delivery, Innovation projects. The State Library's transition plan needs to incorporate both vision and leadership
- Before any other changes take place, the NJ library community needs to establish a baseline understanding of what constitutes equitable distribution of services
- Charge a group (existing or otherwise) comprised of diverse multi-type entities to list and prioritize services and associated costs & chart a course to transition these to the appropriate organizations, and sunset those which are not deemed priorities. Perhaps an external consultant is needed to maximize objectivity during this process.
- Can NJ's many professional library organizations streamline the CE services that they provide?
- The NJ State Library's planned survey regarding statewide library services is a good first step in the process of evaluating those services and planning for the future, but ultimately the NJSL must take decisive action. This will involve potentially unpopular decisions regarding funding for LibraryLinkNJ, which they'll have to make by the end of December.