



## More Virtual Engagement: What Might ALCTS Future Be?

### Background

#### Session web site

<https://alcts2017.learningtimesevents.org/d4-engagement/> (log in to see materials, discussion forum, survey link, etc.)

### Articles

Coalition to Advance Learning in Archives, Libraries, and Museums. "National Agenda for Continuing Education and Professional Development across Libraries, Archives, and Museums."

<http://www.oclc.org/content/dam/research/publications/2016/oclcresearch-national-agenda-lams-education-development-2016.pdf>

Farkas, Meredith. "A Learning Organization: Supporting Professional Development in Libraries," American Libraries, March 1, 2016. <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2016/03/01/a-learning-organization/>

LaGuardia, Cheryl. "Professional Development: What's it to You?," Library Journal, March 20, 2014. <http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/03/opinion/not-dead-yet/professional-development-whats-it-to-you-not-dead-yet/>

"Taking Action on Your Library Professional Development," Ideas + Inspiration from Demco. May 19, 2016. <http://ideas.demco.com/blog/taking-action-on-your-library-professional-development/>

### Topic precis

Virtual professional learning, networking, presenting, and information sharing are increasingly available and used by library employees of all stripes and in all settings. Virtual engagement can be timely, convenient, and inexpensive while engaging broad and diverse audiences. It has never been faster and easier to share new knowledge and pursue new skills. But what does this mean for library employees managing their careers and work lives? How can (and when should) managers and administrators promote these new opportunities within their organizations? And how does a professional organization foster, manage, and deliver on the promise of our ability to offer new kinds of virtual interactions and professional engagement?

ALCTS has developed and delivered many flavors of virtual learning and engagement experiences and most have been quite popular and reached traditional and new audiences. The Exchange has offered a new exploration and celebration of virtual professional and organizational engagement. It has attempted to push new boundaries in delivering programs and experiences like preprogram surveys, in-program polls, and post-program discussion forums. Your group's discussion is a great opportunity to join in reflecting on this experience and other virtual learning and engagement experiences and considering how we can make the most of their promise.

### Discussion questions

After viewing the session either together during the livestream or separately prior to this discussion, here are some questions to talk about.

1. **How have the group members participated in the Exchange?** Which sessions, which formats have they used? How deeply have the members of the group used the interactivity features?

Explore the different strategies group members have employed, what they found useful and what barriers they encountered.

2. **How have group members taken advantage of virtual learning, virtual professional dialogs, and virtual presentations over the past few months?** How was the Exchange experience different or similar?

Explore how group members are individually developing strategies and plans for themselves in using these kinds of resources. Discuss how your organization is helping or setting up barriers to individuals and groups in their efforts to engage with virtual engagement opportunities.

3. **How are organizations and institutions investing in creating virtual learning and engagement opportunities?** What kinds of programs do they offer and how are they delivering them? What are some of the most valuable things they are doing for your organization or group members?

Explore what you would like to see them more consistently do better. Discuss how group members could become involved in planning and contributing to virtual professional activities.

### Wrap up

The Exchange is still available for interaction and engagement. Encourage group members to visit the site and watch archived sessions, engage with resources, and offer contributions to the discussion forums. Consider leaving a comment on this session's forum describing your discussion today.