



OYAN Annual Review, August 2022

In spring 2022 library staff in Oregon were invited to share how we are rebuilding as we enter year three of the pandemic. Reading their survey responses, I got inspired, laughed, cried, thought deeply, and got great ideas. Most importantly, reading all the thoughts my colleagues bravely shared made me feel proud to be part of this library community.

**I hope you enjoy the following
#OYANReview2022!**

**Katie Anderson,
OYAN Publications Manager**

The activity helping me rebuild is...

Talking with kids and teachers on a regular basis, when I can. It keeps my head in the game and helps me adapt our program to our audience.

Anonymous

The activities helping me rebuild are...

Mindfulness breathing practices through the Meru Health app, a program available through the Oregon Educators Benefit Board.

**Debbie Pfeiffer, Burns High School
(Slater Elementary & Hines Middle)**



The activities helping me rebuild are...

**Processing books.
Rethinking my
scope and sequence.**

Anonymous

The activities helping me rebuild are...

I am leading a Library Affinity Group through the local Education Service District, reading as much as I can, and attempting to breathe more deeply.

**Marie Felgentrager,
Roseburg High School**

The activity helping me rebuild is...

I run twice a week with a friend. I really think that helps me clear my head and stay positive while attempting to navigate these uncertain times.

**Caitlin McMahan,
Eugene Public Library**

The activities helping me rebuild are...

D&D

Taylor Worley,
Springfield Public Library

The activities helping me rebuild are...

**20 minutes of yoga
most mornings.**

**Suzanne Harold,
Astoria Public Library**

The activities helping me rebuild are...

**Gaming tournaments,
they're still well-attended.**

**Ian Duncanson,
Beaverton City Library**

The activities helping me rebuild are...

**Reading only books with
BIPOC and/or queer
representation.
Also, cookies are good!**

**Lisa Elliott,
Tigard Public Library**

The activity helping me rebuild is...

At least for the moment, I am giving myself permission to do "easy" programs - low prep/high connection - Jackbox games, art nights where we all work on art projects and talk, and our super-chill teen writing group, book club - and to repeat as necessary.

**Sonja Somerville,
Salem Public Library**

The activity helping me rebuild is...

Only working 8 hours a day.

Anonymous

Screaming into the void, releasing the trauma held in my body with movement, yoga, medication, meditation, psychedelic music, making up mythology and songs with my family, 90s hip hop, reading for queer joy, letting others be uncomfortable with my gender instead of me, radical not giving a shit, therapy, opera and I'm not even kidding, try some Puccini when everyone sucks, it's truly therapeutic, something called Dad O'Clock where I go do a Dad Project for an hour, making valentines for everyone who ever did something nice for us, making care kits for kids in foster care, cursing a lot, financially supporting LGBTQ refugee resettlement programs, leaning into Queer Eldership and club membership with my family. Current clubs are: Reading Club, Star Club, Puzzle Club, Art Factory, Coze Club, and Sunset Appreciators.

Lou

I'm rebuilding with an equity focus by...

**Starting each day thinking
about addressing equity with
all of my responsibilities.**

Anonymous

I'm rebuilding with an equity focus by...

I started a Social Justice Book Club; I added Spanish language books to the teen collection for the first time; we published and promoted a trio of book lists for Gay Lit, Lesbian Lit, and Trans/Non-Binary Lit.

**Sonja Somerville,
Salem Public Library**



I'm rebuilding with an equity focus by...

**Paying attention to who I call
on during lessons.
Encouraging everyone to be
involved in all discussions.**

Anonymous

I'm rebuilding with an equity focus by...

**Curating a diverse collection
and continuing my own
education, while trying to
find ways to support equity
in an overwhelmingly white
community.**

Suzanne Harold,
Astoria Public Library

I'm rebuilding with an equity focus by...

Looking for new connections
with our Latino community.

Anonymous

I'm rebuilding with an equity focus by...

**BIPOC, elders, LGBTQ crew,
children to the front!
Not letting all the rich white
people in this town push
their ideas on everybody else.**

Lou

I'm rebuilding with an equity focus by...

Listening.

Taylor Worley,
Springfield Public Library

I'm rebuilding with an equity focus by...

Trying to purchase books with all sorts of diverse characters.

Debbie Pfeiffer, Burns High School
(Slater Elementary & Hines Middle)

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of several books stacked on a wooden shelf. The books have various colored spines, including white, blue, and red. The lighting is soft and warm, creating a cozy atmosphere.

I'm rebuilding with an equity focus by...

**Looking for teens who don't
use the library often and
welcoming them in to a more
inviting space.**

**Lisa Elliott,
Tigard Public Library**

I'm rebuilding with an equity focus by...

Meeting kids where they're at. Different kids will have different needs. Making it clear that we will do our best to help kids no matter what's going on. Some kids will need help with finding a book for a book report, some kids will need a toothbrush because they don't have access to basic necessities. They can all come to the library and be treated with respect and helped to the best of our ability!

**Caitlin McMahan,
Eugene Public Library**

I'm rebuilding with an equity focus by...

**Researching the best titles to
support intellectual growth
of our students.**

**Marie Felgentrager,
Roseburg High School**

I'm rebuilding with an equity focus by...

**Including dual language
books in children's
storytimes.**

Anonymous

I'm rebuilding with an equity focus by...

Thinking about outreach and getting books to kids we don't normally see.

Anonymous

My short-term goal for rebuilding is...

Start!

Anonymous

My short-term goal for rebuilding is...

To connect with local middle school students and ask what they would like us to provide.

**Suzanne Harold,
Astoria Public Library**

My short-term goal for rebuilding is...

**Creating a fun,
welcoming environment.**

Caitlin McMahan,
Eugene Public Library

My short-term goal for rebuilding is...

**Clear the nonfiction of
outdated materials.**

**Marie Felgentrager,
Roseburg High School**

My short-term goal for rebuilding is...

**More opportunities for the
Teen Library Council.**

**Ian Duncanson,
Beaverton City Library**

My short-term goal for rebuilding is...

**Make the teen area
feel like a safe, welcoming,
fun space again.**

**Sonja Somerville,
Salem Public Library**

My short-term goal for rebuilding is...

Hold a BreakoutEDU Lock of the Day gathering at lunch in the high school every Thursday.

**Debbie Pfeiffer, Burns High School
(Slater Elementary & Hines Middle)**

My short-term goal for rebuilding is...

**Getting the word out again
about library services,
especially as
programming returns**

Anonymous

My short-term goal for rebuilding is...

Variety in the collection and offered activities.

Anonymous

My short-term goal for rebuilding is..

Declutter.

Anonymous

My short-term goal for rebuilding is...

**Focus on connections
between others.**

Lou

My short-term goal for rebuilding is...

**Clean up the collections and
space so they are
warm and welcoming.**

**Lisa Elliott,
Tigard Public Library**

My short-term goal for rebuilding is...

Review the last 4 years and use it as a base to recreate my scope and sequence.

Anonymous

My short-term goal for rebuilding is...

In-person programs.

Anonymous

My short-term goal for rebuilding is...

Build solid foundations; set myself up to be successful by making sure I'm doing the foundational work first.

Taylor Worley,
Springfield Public Library

My mantra for rebuilding is...

**Prioritize what is
most important.**

Anonymous

My mantra for rebuilding is...

**We are not a book warehouse.
We are not a book warehouse.
We are not a book warehouse.**

Anonymous

My mantra for rebuilding is...

In with the new!

Anonymous



My mantra for rebuilding is...

**Due diligence.
Make the task enjoyable.**

**Marie Felgentrager,
Roseburg High School**

My mantra for rebuilding is...

**Good enough
is
good enough.**

Lou

My mantra for rebuilding is...

There is no "going back to normal." We're building what we'd like to be going forward.

**Taylor Worley,
Springfield Public Library**

My mantra for rebuilding is...

In-person programs.

Anonymous

My mantra for rebuilding is...

One baby step at a time.

Debbie Pfeiffer, Burns High School
(Slater Elementary & Hines Middle)

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of several books stacked on a wooden shelf. The books have various colored spines, including white, blue, and red. The pages are visible, showing some wear and discoloration. A dark blue line forms a rectangular frame around the central text area.

My mantra for rebuilding is...

**Focus on individual
relationships.**

Lisa Elliott,
Tigard Public Library

My mantra for rebuilding is...

The library is for everyone.

Anonymous

My mantra for rebuilding is...

Adjust your expectations.

**Sonja Somerville,
Salem Public Library**

My mantra for rebuilding is...

**This can't be
worse than COVID.**

Ian Duncanson,
Beaverton City Library

My mantra for rebuilding is...

**Any month now we can start
in-person programs and
I can re-start teen programs.**

**Suzanne Harold,
Astoria Public Library**

My mantra for rebuilding is...

Slow and steady.

Caitlin McMahan,
Eugene Public Library

My mantra for rebuilding is...

The library is awesome!

Anonymous

The social media platform helping me rebuild is...

Instagram!

Caitlin McMahan,
Eugene Public Library

The motivation helping me rebuild is...

Necessity: the library is "home" to many teens who need a safe, comfortable, accepting environment, now more than ever.

Marie Felgentrager,
Roseburg High School

My thoughts about rebuilding are...

My biggest realization is that we've all been changed by this pandemic.

What teens needed or wanted in 2019 is just not the same. The big, zany fun, herds-of-kids events aren't just not possible right now, but don't seem as wanted.

I'm seeing and hearing so much more need to feel cared for, safe, valued, connected and need to update my thoughts about programming and teen services accordingly.

**Sonja Somerville,
Salem Public Library**

The therapist helping me rebuild is...

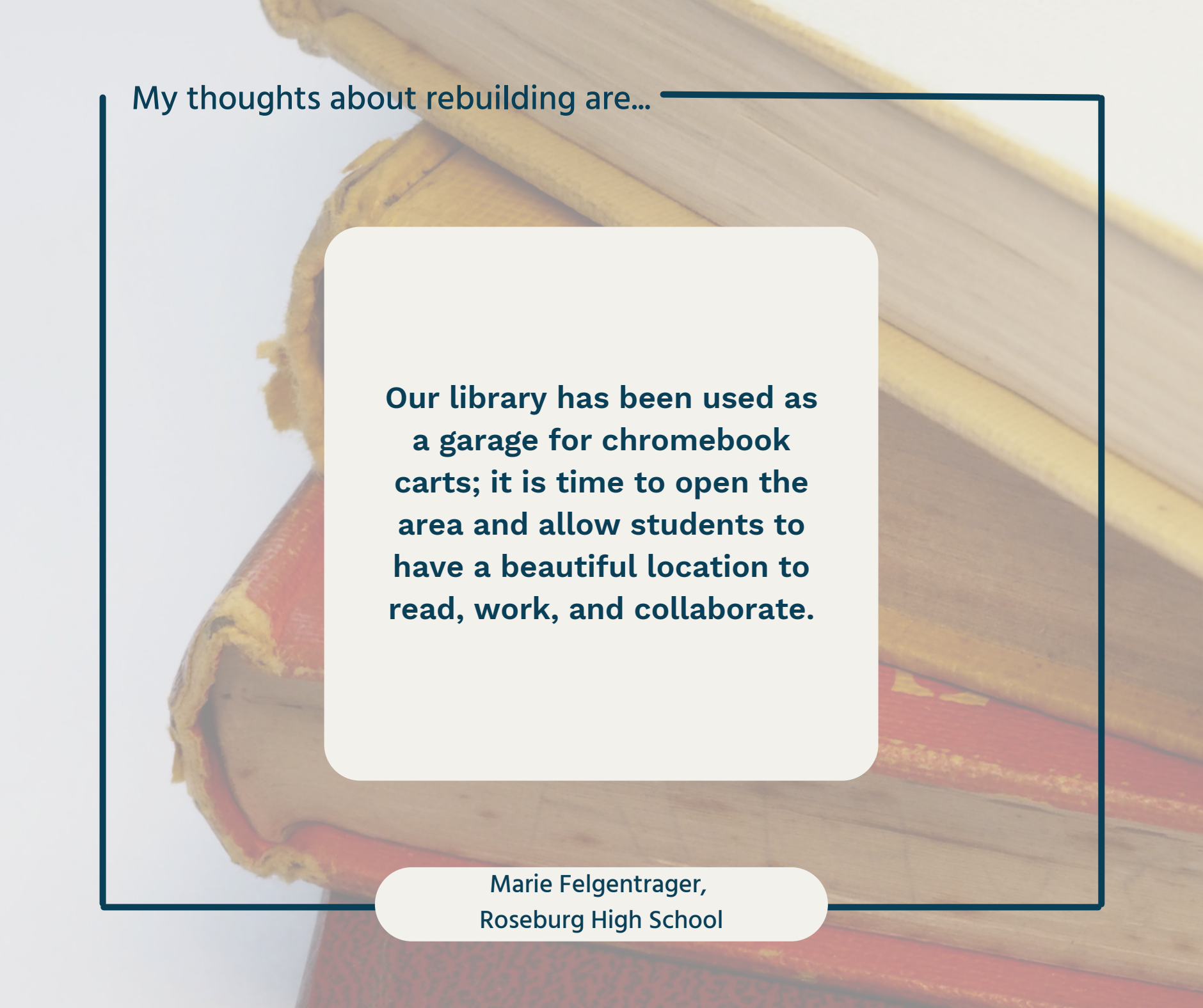
**convinced she'd be out of
work if capitalism didn't
exist.**

Lou

My thoughts about rebuilding are...

**I'm really worried that we're
going to forget everything
we've learned.**

Taylor Worley,
Springfield Public Library

A stack of several old, worn books with yellowed pages and various colored covers (red, brown, yellow). The books are stacked diagonally from the top left to the bottom right. The background is a light, neutral color.

My thoughts about rebuilding are...

Our library has been used as a garage for chromebook carts; it is time to open the area and allow students to have a beautiful location to read, work, and collaborate.

**Marie Felgentrager,
Roseburg High School**

My thoughts about rebuilding are...

Rebuilding feels like a strange and exhausting concept because it's all I've been doing for the past two years. We never stopped rebuilding, and renewing, and trying again and again as we respond to the pandemic. I kinda don't want to rebuild now. I just want to lay a good foundation and see what grows.

**Lisa Elliott,
Tigard Public Library**

My thoughts about rebuilding are...

I want to rebuild, but I'm so deeply exhausted from the past 2 years, and from still not knowing when it will be safe to do programs again - or even what metric to use.

Community spread?

Something else? I've been holding out for when our community spread is "low," but I'm wondering if that will ever happen.

Suzanne Harold,
Astoria Public Library

The advice helping me rebuild is...

The best advice I've ever gotten is to ask yourself if this will matter a year from now. If the answer is yes, then by all means stress out about it. If the answer is no, then it's not worth the stress. This seems more important than ever with the limited emotional energy I have these days.

Keli Yeats,
Multnomah County Library

The person helping me rebuild is...

**My therapist.
Bless her.**

**Taylor Worley,
Springfield Public Library**

My thoughts about rebuilding are...

**We are our only relevant
hope. We are our only
possible medicine.**

Lou

The obscure emotion helping me rebuild is...

That feeling you get when you look at your past self and she feels both within you and 10,000 years ago. I don't have a word for that feeling, but it has been sponsoring my life lately. It's helping me rebuild because it's teaching me that time is a wibbly wobbly, Jeremy Bearimy mess, and this too shall pass.

Lisa Elliott,
Tigard Public Library

The staff helping me rebuild are...

Our career (student-to-work) staff person and our homeless liaison staff person. They love the library and I'm getting ideas on how to connect with/through them.

**Debbie Pfeiffer, Burns High School
(Slater Elementary & Hines Middle)**

A background image showing a stack of colorful books, including titles like 'All the...', 'BIG BRISLEY', and 'Little...'. The books are arranged in a slightly overlapping manner, creating a sense of depth and variety.

My thoughts about rebuilding are...

I feel like I've just been kind of muddling along during the pandemic. I am hoping to get more focused, especially this summer during summer reading.

**Ian Duncanson,
Beaverton City Library**

My thoughts about rebuilding are...

The main thing we have to offer is our space. We have to get back to in-person soon. There are many aspects to a teen's health, and socialization is a big one. Getting them together with each other is pretty important.

Anonymous

The mindset helping me rebuild is...

**Start slow and
rebuild thoughtfully.**

Anonymous

My library is in a ground zero state, so I'm trying to focus on just getting books catalogued and organized and getting students in (when I'm just there one day a week).

I'm also trying to engage students, so I keep trying to tell myself ANY LITTLE BIT HELPS. And not get caught up in trying to keep up with established programs elsewhere, as much as I'd like to be at that stage.

Trying the "spaghetti" approach with activities to engage-- throw something at the wall and see if it sticks--but keep throwing it each week and see if there's an increase in interest.

**Debbie Pfeiffer, Burns High School
(Slater Elementary & Hines Middle)**

One of the best things I have experienced as we work towards rebuilding our teen services is to have open communication with work groups and staff as a whole. I think it's been an adjustment trying to get back to whatever normal used to be. Staff and patrons are pretty emotionally tapped out and many people are in a different place than they were in 2019.

Staff should feel supported not only in the ideas they have, but also in their mental and emotional health. By holding space to have those conversations I think makes staff feel heard and empowered. Honestly I think it gives people the feeling that they're in this with others, so maybe the task of returning to various services doesn't seem so daunting. It also creates space to share ideas about making changes moving forward.

**Caitlin McMahan,
Eugene Public Library**

The tips & tricks helping me rebuild are...

**Trying to focus on what value
the library can add to teens'
lives at this point.**

Anonymous

The tips & tricks helping me rebuild are...

**Resources: Teen
Underground Facebook
group, OYAN, YALSA, and
colleagues in other library
systems.**

**Suzanne Harold,
Astoria Public Library**

The tips & tricks helping me rebuild are...

Patience.
Manage expectations.
Redefine success.

Sonja Somerville,
Salem Public Library

The tips & tricks helping me rebuild are...

Sleep.

Anonymous

The tips & tricks helping me rebuild are...

Involving the whole staff is important. We have better networks working together.

Anonymous

The tips & tricks helping me rebuild are...

Introducing myself and learning other people's names! I have always found that positive relationships more than anything are what makes a great teen space.

The first step towards learning about someone is learning their name. That way the next time they come in I can say hello!

**Caitlin McMahan,
Eugene Public Library**

The tips & tricks helping me rebuild are...

**Research, listening, and
super detailed to-do lists.**

**Taylor Worley,
Springfield Public Library**

The tips & tricks helping me rebuild are...

Not trying to do everything at once - take gradual steps.

Ian Duncanson,
Beaverton City Library

The tips & tricks helping me rebuild are...

Even tho I am a staff of one,
I am not alone.

Anonymous



The tips & tricks helping me rebuild are...

**Focusing on my students'
needs and requests.**

**Marie Felgentrager,
Roseburg High School**

The tips & tricks helping me rebuild are...

Start small.
Have 2-3 sets of curriculum:
K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 2-5.

Anonymous

The tips & tricks helping me rebuild are...

Giving us permission to fail.

Anonymous

The tips & tricks helping me rebuild are...

Know that the act of showing up is sacred in itself.

Lou

The tips & tricks helping me rebuild are...

Setting aside specific time to work on collections. Cleaning up my desk. Getting to know individual teens.

Lisa Elliott,
Tigard Public Library

The tips & tricks helping me rebuild are...

**Joining a Makerspace/district
librarian, librarian
Professional Learning
Community in another part of
the state to get me inspired.**

**Debbie Pfeiffer, Burns High School
(Slater Elementary & Hines Middle)**

The tips & tricks helping me rebuild are...

**Stop listening to all the
conflicting advice and do
what I think is best.**

Anonymous

The half-baked idea I have for rebuilding is...

I want to start a library ambassador program in the schools, where kids talk to other kids about summer reading and how to get signed-up. I'm in discussion with the various parties at each school.

Anonymous

The half-baked idea I have for rebuilding is...

Focus on ways to find a great read in the library and online.

Anonymous



The half-baked idea I have for rebuilding is...

Spend a lot of time on a few teens, and hope that their love of the library will grow to include more of their peers.

**Lisa Elliott,
Tigard Public Library**

The half-baked idea I have for rebuilding is...

**Doing a Project Lit book club
or March Madness or...**

Debbie Pfeiffer, Burns High School
(Slater Elementary & Hines Middle)

The half-baked idea I have for rebuilding is...

**Heck, maybe we can hire
another member for the
team!**

Anonymous

The half-baked idea I have for rebuilding is...

**Sunset Club at the library.
Once a week making popcorn
and hanging out on the lawn
with camp chairs in silence
lookin' at the sunset. If I have
to trapped at work for the
sunset I'm dang well going to
make it so I can enjoy it too.**

Lou

The half-baked idea I have for rebuilding is...

**Collaborate with the local
County Library.**

Anonymous

The half-baked idea I have for rebuilding is...

**An "uncomfortable
conversations" book group
for teens, held in the local
bubble tea shop.**

**Suzanne Harold,
Astoria Public Library**

The half-baked idea I have for rebuilding is...

**Yoga on my lunch breaks
(that I never take).**

Taylor Worley,
Springfield Public Library

The half-baked idea I have for rebuilding is...

An adult crafting group.

Anonymous

The half-baked idea I have for rebuilding is...

I want to explore hybrid events that happen partly online and partly in person. What I learned from going totally online is that some teens need an option that doesn't rely on their parents bringing them to the library and/or dealing with the anxiety of being in a room full of strangers; but also some teens can't make virtual participation work because of technology limitations or just because it is unsatisfying.

My next goal is to find a way to accommodate both simultaneously or determine whether some events just always need to be virtual and some can be hybrid and some just have to be in person.

Sonja Somerville,
Salem Public Library

The organizational tool helping me rebuild is...

**Organization?
That's funny!**

**Lisa Elliott,
Tigard Public Library**

The organizational tool helping me rebuild is..

Slack helps a little. I do like Beanstack as well. Mostly my favorite tool is a giant wall calendar where I can map things out.

Anonymous

The organizational tool helping me rebuild is...

The YALSA Symposium.

Suzanne Harold,
Astoria Public Library

The organizational tool helping me rebuild is...

Spreadsheets.
They help me compare past
years side by side.

Anonymous

The organizational tool helping me rebuild is...

**Staff meetings where
we can reconnect.**

Anonymous

The organizational tool helping me rebuild is...

Trello and Microsoft Teams.

**Ian Duncanson,
Beaverton City Library**

The organizational tool helping me rebuild is...

At the beginning of each shift, I identify one task/duty as my #1 priority for the day. When unexpected things pop up, which they usually do, it helps me not feel as overwhelmed in the moment and like I accomplished something at the end of the day. I got that 1 thing done - success!

Anonymous

The organizational tool helping me rebuild is...

My planner

Caitlin McMahan,
Eugene Public Library

The organizational tool helping me rebuild is...

hahahahahahahahaha

Lou

A photograph of a library interior. On the left, there are tall white bookshelves filled with books. Some shelves have labels in Cyrillic. In the foreground, there are stacks of books on a wooden table. On the right, a large window looks out onto a street with trees and a white van. A person is visible in the background near the window. A modern light fixture hangs from the ceiling. A large, light-colored rounded rectangle is overlaid in the center of the image, containing text.

The organizational tool helping me rebuild is...

A vision board.

**Marie Felgentrager,
Roseburg High School**

The organizational tool helping me rebuild is...

BreakoutEDU right now.

Debbie Pfeiffer, Burns High School
(Slater Elementary & Hines Middle)

The organizational tool helping me rebuild is...

Graph paper and my favorite pens for highly organized to-do lists with color coding and the works!

Taylor Worley,
Springfield Public Library

The organizational tool helping me rebuild is...

Outlook calendar.

Anonymous