

23 Things for Librarians Learning to Teach

By Colleen Bell and Tara Thompson.

If you work in a public service position within a library, chances are good that teaching at some level is a part of your professional life, whether it is one-on-one at the reference desk, teaching research skills to postsecondary students, or teaching computer and Internet skills to the public. But unless you're one of the lucky few who had the opportunity (and took advantage of it) to take a course on learning to teach during your graduate studies, you likely learned (or are learning) to teach on the fly, through trial and error and the occasional conference program or workshop.

Wouldn't it be great to have a resource to support you in your growth as a teacher? How about a community of like-minded individuals who, by sharing their experiences as teachers, are contributing to the development of a vibrant, supportive community of practice? To quote a well-used adage, "it takes a village" to create a teacher.

[23 Things for Librarians Learning to Teach](#) seeks to be such a community and resource. The project grew out of a program at the 2010 BC Library Conference and is modeled on the popular "23 Things/Learning 2.0" project developed at the Public Library of Charlotte Mecklenberg County (<http://plcmcl2-things.blogspot.com>) as a fun, collaborative way to engage library staff in learning about and using Web 2.0 tools.

Taking its cue from the original model, [23 Things for Librarians Learning to Teach](#) will be an online space offering self-paced information modules and activities to reinforce the exploration of fundamental ideas, skills, and strategies that form the basis of teaching in libraries. The site will also offer opportunities to share experiences and provide support to others in their growth and development as teachers.

This is a large project still in its infancy (see <http://23thingsbc.pbworks.com/>), and we are looking for additional collaborators. You don't need to be an experienced teacher - you just have to be interested in learning about teaching, exploring new ideas and helping to build a community of practice.

If you are interested in being part of this innovative project, please contact Colleen Bell <colleen.Bell@ufv.ca>.

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