

Sharon Streams: I'm Sharon Streams, and I'm the Senior Manager for Community Services at WebJunction. And I can tell you about what WebJunction is; it is an online learning community for library staff. So it's really connecting library staff across, mainly the US, but and beyond, around issues and learning that they need in order to maintain relevant vibrant libraries.

Interviewer: And what is it in terms of that set of things that you do that you think is relevant to 21st Century skills such as collaboration, creativity or ICT skills?

Sharon Streams: Yeah, I would say collaboration is really the foundation of what WebJunction is. At the start WebJunction was created as a collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and a number of state libraries around the country, to support libraries across the nation and then we take the knowledge and the skills of library staff across all of those libraries and we give them a space to share that knowledge with each other. And therefore to solve real life on the job problems from something as simple as 'how do I fix my broken printer' to 'how do we make sure that we have a library that is relevant and vibrant going forward into the future'.

Interviewer: Is there a good example of a single project that you can point to with sort of a best practice or of what you have done effectively in 21st Century skills space?

Sharon Streams: Yes, well, it's interesting, we've been using the very blueprint for the 21st Century Skills that IMLS created for direct work with the project that we're working on right now in collaboration with the State Library of North Carolina. We are helping to deliver training to public libraries in high need areas to support the job seekers and unemployed in their communities.

And of course we know that libraries are places that are getting inundated with patrons who are needing computer use and online search use and just information and knowledge in order to find employment or services that they need to maintain for their living while they are looking for work.

And so one thing that we did is we took the IMLS skills across that framework of collaboration and communication and technology and partnership and such, and we created a version of it that was specific to serving the needs of job seekers, small business entrepreneurs, unemployed and so we just took those core questions and said, 'okay, what does a librarian do in order to be 21st librarian in that space.'

Interviewer: Terrific, thank you very much. Appreciate it.