



*LIS students, librarians, and kids  
designing for rural libraries as equal  
partners*



## KidsTeam

A group at the University of Washington, KidsTeam partners with adults and children to design new technologies and technology-focused programming for kids. KidsTeam has successfully brought together LIS students, librarians and kids as equal design partners.

## Rural Environment

There are unique challenges to implementing co-design in rural library spaces, including distance from KidsTeam team members, building capacity, numbers of kids reached, and staffing.

## Remote

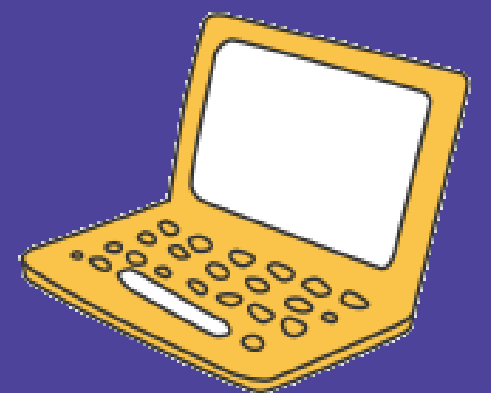
Even more challenging, this project was set to launch in Spring 2020 when COVID-19 hit, causing libraries to close to the public. How do we co-design with kids in libraries when we cannot gather in person?

## Libraries' Needs

Two libraries, diverging needs:

**Colfax Library** in Whitman County had the infrastructure to conduct synchronous, technology-focused Zoom design sessions.

**Chewelah Library** in Stevens County preferred an asynchronous, analog plan because of inconsistent internet access in the area.



## Delivered



### Colfax

Five weeks of 1-hour sessions focused on designing a Lego Mindstorms program with 5 kids ages 10-11 over Zoom.

### Chewelah

Created an infrastructure to get kids co-designing with LIS students and librarians in an asynchronous, analog format.

## Benefits

Established a venue for meaningful connection between library staff and kids in their communities, created an asynchronous model that could be useful for future projects, and laid foundations for a long-term relationship between KidsTeam and the rural libraries.



## Contact Us

Charlotte McGrew | [charlotte.e.mcgrew@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.e.mcgrew@gmail.com)  
Molly Benson | [mollymbenson@gmail.com](mailto:mollymbenson@gmail.com)



Information School  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON