



# “Planning to plan” Laying the groundwork for the East Bonner County Library District Strategic Plan



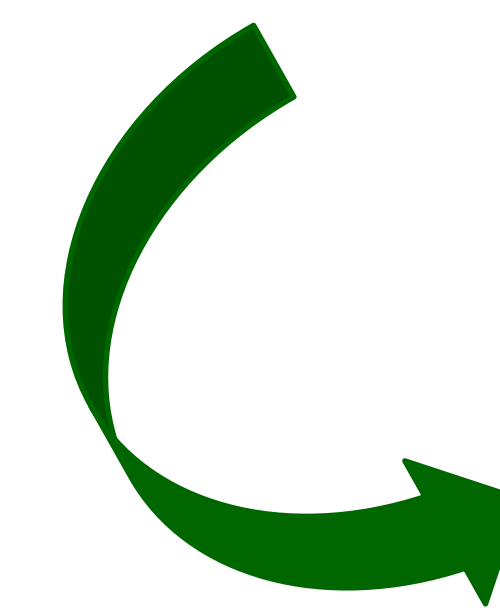
Vanessa Velez, MLIS | Capstone 2015, UW iSchool | Project sponsor: Ann Nichols, Director, East Bonner County Library District

## Description

1. EBCL administration expresses “desperate need” for a Strategic Plan
2. Dialogue defines scope of project:
  - Create staff buy-in
  - Synthesize existing data (old plans, survey results, etc.)
  - Gather new data
  - Research industry standards to create modern Strategic Plan template
  - Deliver complete working outline of a plan with clear guidelines for next steps

## Methodology

Used Sandra Nelson’s *Strategic Planning for Results* (PLA, 2013) to guide research



## Outcomes

- ★ An up-to-date Strategic Plan helps the Library District prioritize decision making to align its service responses with community needs and goals
- ★ Starting the Strategic Planning process in a gradual, unobtrusive way makes it seem less intimidating to the library administration and staff

## Next Steps

EBCL will have a working Strategic Plan template and a set of guidelines and recommendations for its completion, including:

- Creation of a Strategic Plan committee to oversee the process
- Focus group research to gather more community input
- Workshops and other staff team-building exercises to ensure continuing internal support and buy-in
- How to deliver the final product to the Board of Trustees and introduce it to the community



Sandpoint Branch



Bookmobile



Clark Fork Branch

