Reaching Out: Expanding OER and Technology Integration in the School Library

The three-year IMLS Grant, Reaching Out: Meeting the Needs of Rural School Librarians, focused on building capacity of stakeholders to create, access, use, adapt and redistribute OER. Grant participants learned the skills needed to utilize Open Educational Resources (OER), to integrate digital applications into professional practices, and to serve as instructional leaders in their schools. The project addressed the needs of rural school librarians as they transitioned to a more digital-based environment. Through face-to-face and virtual opportunities, the project also provided librarians with opportunities to build capacity as instructional leaders.

The professional development led participants through learning about OER, curating OER, remixing OER and then creating OER. In addition, participants developed leadership and collaboration skills to work with colleagues and administrators to implement openly licensed content.

This interactive session will provide an overview of the courses and process the participants went through to go from limited to no open education resources implementation to creating lessons for OER Commons and sharing information with their staff and leadership.

Participants will leave with:
1. An understanding of the lessons learned and best practices for implementing open education resources and providing professional development.
2. A guidebook with the processes and resources to implement the project themselves.

Participants will be invited to explore the content created for the grant and share their experiences with content creation. A call to action for identifying barriers to K-12 OER implementation and providing solutions for overcoming those barriers implementing the learnings from the grant will be the culminating collaborative activity for participants.