

learning circles

OLA/WLA
April 18, 2019

Agenda



check-in



learning circles



case study: cologne
public library



q & a

Someone, who doesn't mind surrendering their privacy, (who can clearly articulate their needs), who is self-directed, who can differentiate between real and fake, with internet access, digital literacy, can memorize/learn, many times, anything (things that other people have decided that is worth their time to put online, and other people with agenda/bias), as long as they have the necessary support or resources, have access to someone else or communicate with someone who knows what you want to learn/ and can help you articulate, or knows what you want to learn, anywhere, online, with time, for some cost,

**meaningful
inclusive
effective
high-quality
learning**

**P2PU is a community of librarians,
educators, community organizers
and designers.**



**Together, we create and support
free, social, learning experiences in
our neighbourhoods.**



What is a
LEARNING
CIRCLE ?



Welcome to P2PU, the home of learning circles
<https://youtu.be/bQqmIS7WQa8>

Learning circles are groups of people who learn something together.



Learners meet
in a public space
like a library



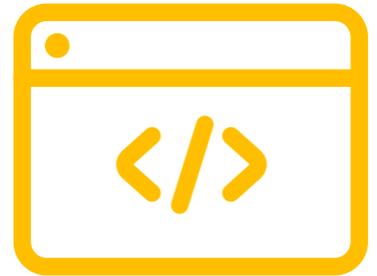
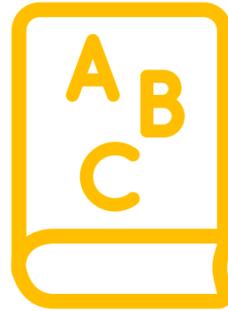
For two hours
a week for
6-8 weeks



To complete a
free online
course together

What can people learn?

Facilitators can choose from hundreds of free online courses that people have used in the past, or add a new course from anywhere around the web.



Each learning circle meeting has four components:

1. Check in
2. Coursework
3. Activity
4. Plus/Delta

1. Check in

First, there is a check-in to hear how everyone is doing, what they are working on today, and where they might need help.

2. Coursework

The heart of the learning circle is working through course materials. This can be done individually, in small groups, or all together gathered around a single computer or projector.

3. Activity

P2PU creates group activities, each 15-20 minutes long, designed to support peer learning and bridge the gap between the online course and real life.

4. Plus/Delta

To close, everybody shares one thing that went well that day ("plus"), and one thing to change for the next week ("delta").

Online learning, face to face

Learning circles subvert the traditional teacher/student format in favor of peer-to-peer learning.



Online learning, face to face

Every learning circle has a facilitator, who does not have to be a subject expert.



What is expected of a facilitator?

- ✓ Choose a course
- ✓ Publicize learning circle
- ✓ Set up the room each week
- ✓ Delegate tasks to participants
- ✓ Lead group discussion
- ✓ Foster curiosity and exploration

Elizabeth Lauke

Workforce Development Librarian

Washington State Library

Washington Library Trainers

Learning circles began at Chicago Public Library in 2015...



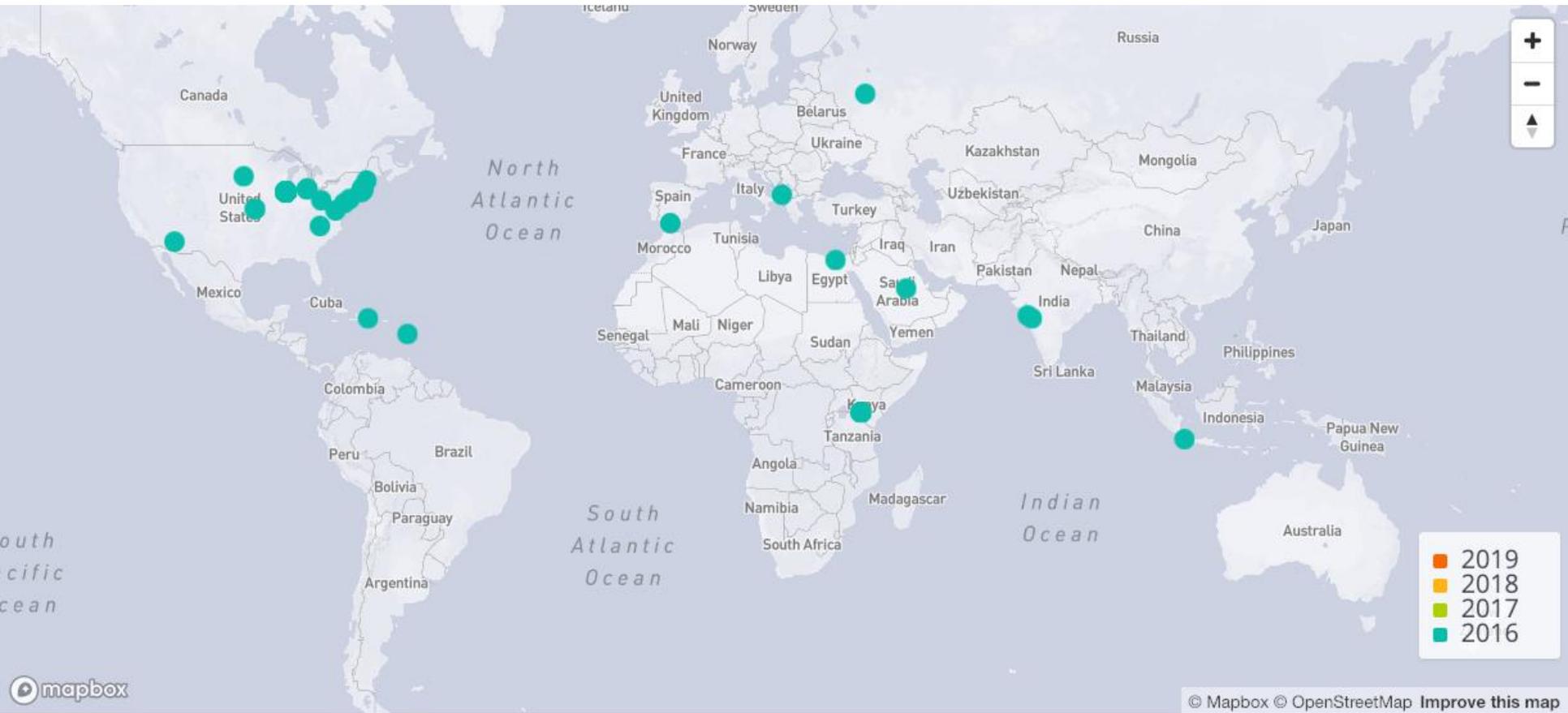


...and is now a global community.

Women's Leadership and Career Center

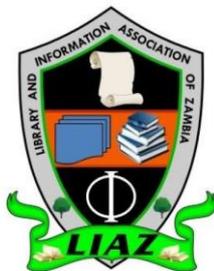


Chicago





Members of our network include:





Kansas City



Nairobi



Search the Catalog

Any Field

Go!



Exploring the Universe

Join a Learning Circle



Wednesday, August 08

6:30pm - 8:00pm

[Add to Calendar](#)



[Sumner](#)

Registration now closed



Learning Circles are in-person study groups for adults who want to explore topics through taking online courses together.

Would you want to live on Mars? Build the next generation of spaceships? Discover ways to use the energy in space to power our planet? Explore these questions about our universe and more! This Learning Circle will meet once a week, for 4 weeks during August. We'll take a look at the universe through the telescope lens of Ted Talks, Khan Academy courses, peer-to-peer discussions, and instructional videos. For more information, please contact Sumner Library's Adult Services Librarian, Laura Farrow, at 253-548-3548.

AGE GROUP: [Adults \(18+\)](#),

TAGS: [Get Smart](#),

Washington & Oregon

- Pierce County Library
- Multnomah County Library
- Spokane County Library District



Registration now closed



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AGE GROUP: [Adults \(18+\)](#)

TAGS: [Get Smar](#)

Buzz with a partner - 5 minutes

- **What do you like about learning circles?**
- **What concerns you?**
- **What do you need to do to start a learning circle today?**

We've found that learning circles

- Lead to retention rates 10x higher than online courses alone
- Increase people's agency as self-guided learners
- Increase people's ability to set and achieve their own learning goals

We've found that learning circles

- Invigorate community-based learning in libraries and education centres
- Create viable alternatives to formal education
- Support digital inclusion for people new to online learning



I like the camaraderie.
Yes, you get to learn a new
topic, but you also get to
BUILD COMMUNITY
and relationships.

QUMISHA
Detroit, USA
FACILITATOR

WE OFFER:

-  **Free software tools to help organize your learning circle**
-  **A variety of facilitation training resources**
-  **A repository of free online courses**
-  **A global community of support to help you realize your community learning goals**

Questions?

Stay connected

Join our online community at community.p2pu.org

Reach out to us directly at thepeople@p2pu.org



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