

## PALS – Promoting Arizona Library Sustainability

Arizona received a grant from WebJunction under its Rural Library Sustainability (RLS) program. The grant focused on workshops and related resources to provide rural librarians with tools and ideas to address the issues and challenges they face in sustaining public access computing.

In Arizona we combined the Rural Library Sustainability program goals with those of the EqualAccess Libraries initiative. Creating a workshop that blended these complementary programs benefited rural librarians with a more robust regional training experience than RLS alone. The 1.5 day workshop was held in Show Low, Sierra Vista, Flagstaff, Safford, Parker and Casa Grande.

Participants developed a short-term Action Plan applying Access Skills to three of the seven RLS focus areas: Library Connections, Technology Connections, Upgrade and Maintenance, Staff and Patron Training, Funding, Outreach and Advocacy. To continue the idea sharing beyond the workshop, participants were encouraged to participate in WebJunction's online community via the RLS discussion forums or by using [www.ea.webjunction.org](http://www.ea.webjunction.org).

### **Post-Workshop Evaluation for PALS (based on 84 of the 86 participants):**

- 70% rated the workshop content as "extremely valuable"
- 80% rated the workshop content as "current & relevant"
- 85% rated the workshops content "helpful to me"
- 76% "strongly agree" that the workshop inspired them "to take action"
- 70% had connected with "new people in Arizona who have the same challenges and opportunities" because of the workshop
- 88% rated the overall workshop as "valuable"

### **PALS participant comments:**

- *I really enjoyed this workshop. I feel very powerful to go back to my library and promote all the ideas I've learned.*
- *Very impressive how you melded the two topics so well to make a very effective workshop.*
- *Good interactive exercises for idea exchange... good planning tools to use later.*
- *Got an expanded view of what we can do as a rural library ... have a better idea of the resources available to help.*