Hi everyone! My name is Jennifer and for my entry in the Virtual Symposium I decided to do a 3-2-1 style presentation about three A-Ha moments, two things I want to learn more about, and one thing that I will do now. When I decided that I wanted to make a presentation, I wanted to challenge myself to use a tool that I had never used before. I chose to use Prezi because I have seen presentations that have been made with it and I liked how they flow. While I did have to play around with it for a while, it turned out to be a very manageable tool. Let’s get started.

[The Hyperlinked Library slide]

The Hyperlinked library was a brand new concept for me, as I’m sure it was for many of us, and I wasn’t sure what to expect when I started this class. The more I learned about this library, the more I started to view this class as about the future of libraries. Libraries are about more than just books, and our patrons expect more from us. I have highlighted the aspects of the Hyperlinked library that stood out to me the most here. In this model, the library is building connections in many different ways: between patrons and staff; between patrons and the library; between patrons; and between the library and the community. This is a powerful tool that can be used for the betterment of everyone. The library is everywhere and people can access it anywhere, like from the smartphone in their hand for example. The last aspect that I think is important is that change is inevitable. As time goes on, the library will have to adapt and change to accommodate the needs of their patrons and their community. Change can be difficult, but it is necessary since the library is a central part of the community.

[3 A-Ha Moments Slide]

These are my three A-Ha moments from the semester, in no particular order. The first one is “With people’s increased usage of and reliance on technology, libraries are playing a major role in educating their patrons about it”. While education has always been an important part of libraries, teaching people how to use technology is a more recent phenomenon. At my library, many of the questions we get from patrons are about how to use different forms of technology, ranging from e-mail to the printer to how to access e-books. The education that libraries are providing has become more technologically focused. My second A-Ha moment is that “Even traditionally ‘static’ places like museums can become participatory institutions”. My favorite module from the class was Week 6: Hyperlinked Environments, specifically the Hyperlinked Museums, Galleries and Archives section. The museums I have been to were very “traditional” in that you look at the artifacts, read the information card and move on. There was never anywhere to interact with anything unless there was a kid-friendly area. It was interesting to learn about the possibilities of a hyperlinked museum because I was then able to draw a connection to the Oakland museum that I talked about in one of my blog posts. I will be interested to see if that becomes a trend in the museum world. My third moment is that “People are relying more on mobile devices more than ever before and libraries will have to develop services to suit this medium”. Before taking this class, I knew that smartphones were a big deal because I don’t know anyone without one (even my dad, who held out for years because he couldn’t see the use of one eventually got one and now he loves it). People do so many different tasks with them, including work, school, and play, that libraries will have to keep this format in
mind when developing services and resources. People will want things that are compatible with
their mobile devices so that they can utilize what they need on the go.

[What I will Learn More About slide]
Here I will talk about two things that I want to learn more about. The first is “The
different ways that AI is being utilized in libraries”. AI is a topic that we talked about a few
modules ago in this class, but it is still new for me. I read an article before this class about how a
library was using a “Siri-like” fixture where patrons could ask questions and receive answers
without involving a staff member. I was shocked about this because I had never thought about AI
applications for libraries. I am curious now to learn more about how other libraries are using it
and the different applications AI has for libraries. The second thing is “How librarians are
striving to make library services and resources more accessible for everyone”. After this class is
over, I want to continue to learn about the strategies that libraries are utilizing to ensure that
people can access the library outside of the physical space. I know that things are uncertain these
days because of the pandemic, but in the future, I think that libraries will focus even more on
accessibility.

[What I Will Do Now slide]
One thing that I will do now is “explore ways to incorporate participatory service into my
library”. As I move forward in my library career, whether I stay at the library I currently work at
or move to a different one, I want to focus on developing ways to bring participatory service into
my library. The library is a fixture of any community and patrons want to feel like they are a part
of it instead of just taking materials home to enjoy. One of the aspects of the hyperlinked library
that will continue to stick with me is the idea of engaging with patrons and listening to what they
have to say. I think that this class has given me ideas about what the future of libraries may look
like and I will take this knowledge with me as I continue in my library career.

[The End slide]
Thank you for watching my presentation (or reading through the script). I have enjoyed
seeing the different ideas that everyone in the class has been blogging about. I wish everyone
good luck with the rest of your time in the program! Thanks again.