

## Virtual Gaming Programs: Resources for Fighting Social Isolation with Gaming

Presented at ALA Midwinter 2021 - Monday, January 25, 2021 @ 10am Central

**Description:** Libraries across the world are utilizing virtual gaming tools like never before. In 2020 we saw the dramatic rise of virtual escape rooms, Animal Crossing events, virtual role playing, and board game programs. GameRT members will discuss some ideas and tools that make hosting virtual gaming events a breeze. We will also be joined by an industry professional to discuss some of the changes in gaming and share the gaming industry's outlook for the future.

### Panel:

- **Dan Major**, [dmajor@orionlibrary.org](mailto:dmajor@orionlibrary.org), Adult Services Librarian, GameRT Board of Directors
- **Erica Ruscio**, [eruscio@ocln.org](mailto:eruscio@ocln.org), Young Adult Librarian - Ventress Memorial Library, GameRT Board of Directors
- **Rebecca Strang**, [rstrang@naperville-lib.org](mailto:rstrang@naperville-lib.org), Children's Librarian - Naperville Public Library, GameRT Board of Directors, Game Studies Instructor - Loyola University Chicago
- **Jeff Pinsker**, [jeff.pinsker@amigo.games](mailto:jeff.pinsker@amigo.games), CEO - Amigo Games, Games Manufacturers Association Board of Directors

## RESOURCE LISTS

### Video Game Resources

- [Battle.net](#) - includes free games like Hearthstone, Heroes of the Storm, and Overwatch
- [Magic the Gathering Arena](#) - free online version of Magic the Gathering; [Free promo material for libraries/schools/community centers](#)
- [Fortnite](#) - free to play on PC
- [Steam Free to Play games](#)
- [Among Us](#) - Free mobile app

### D&D Resources

- [Schmeppy](#) - a free, simple 2D battle mat that is compatible with most devices.
- [D&D Beyond](#) - free for players to join and ease of use in character creation and rolling during gameplay; [Free legendary bundle for libraries/schools/community centers](#)
- [Roll20](#) - an integrated online gaming tool
- [Rolladie.net](#) - virtual dice rolling

### Board Game Resources

- [Board Game Arena](#) \*~ \*Free options
- [Tabletop Simulator](#) ~ ~Paid options
- [Tabletopia](#) \*~
- [Yucata](#) \*
- [Steam](#) \*~
- [Jackbox Games](#) ~
- [Codenames](#) \*

### DIY Group Game Resources

Games built by Rebecca using [Canva](#) - templates require an account, PDFs can be downloaded as is. PDFs are not branded or watermarked. Free to share. Do not sell.

- Winter Category Round Up: [Template](#) / [PDF](#)
- Who's That?: [Template](#) / No PDF
- Scavenger Hunt: [Template](#) / [PDF](#)
- Emoji Game: [Template](#) / [PDF](#)