2017 WLA Conference

Online Evaluation Results

The 2017 WLA Conference was held November 1-4 at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma. Following the conference, WLA asked attendees to fill out an online evaluation form. The following report gives an overview of the results from that evaluation. Full evaluation results will be shared with the 2018 Conference Committee in an effort to plan an even better event for next year.

With over six hundred attendees and nearly one hundred programs, this was the largest conference in WLA's history. Thank you to everyone who attended and filled out the evaluation form. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us plan for future conferences.

**Part I**

We asked attendees to evaluate their experience in these six areas at the 2017 WLA Conference.

- **Conference website**
  - Excellent: 56.2%
  - Good: 45.4%
  - Satisfactory: 14.6%
  - Poor: 9.2%
  - Not Applicable: 16.2%

- **Conference registration**
  - Excellent: 23.8%
  - Good: 29.2%
  - Satisfactory: 16.2%
  - Poor: 12.4%
  - Not Applicable: 35.1%

- **Hotel facilities & services**
  - Excellent: 32.4%
  - Good: 32.4%
  - Satisfactory: 16.2%
  - Poor: 12.4%
  - Not Applicable: 16.2%

- **Conference meals & refreshments**
  - Excellent: 24.3%
  - Good: 44.9%
  - Satisfactory: 9.2%
  - Poor: 5.2%
  - Not Applicable: 7.1%

- **Quality of programs**
  - Excellent: 44.9%
  - Good: 44.9%
  - Satisfactory: 10.2%
  - Poor: 0.9%
  - Not Applicable: 0.9%

- **Exhibits & exhibitors**
  - Excellent: 21.6%
  - Good: 52.4%
  - Satisfactory: 16.2%
  - Poor: 12.4%
  - Not Applicable: 12.4%

**Part II**

What was your favorite part of this year's WLA Conference?

"**Being a presenter for the first time! It was a wonderful experience! And ... the incredible quality of each presentation and keynote and author experience I went to. Exceptional conference!"**

"**Getting to know colleagues at the Mad Hatter's Feast."**

"**Great offerings that were so very relevant to our patrons' needs: open data, social justice, legal resources, media literacy, indigenous authors & more.**"

"**Loved the venue, the location was great, and many of the sessions were really, really fantastic! Thank you for putting this together. It was definitely the best WLA conference I have attended."**
"I'm so glad I went to this conference. It is the first time I've ever fully identified as a librarian after having left the classroom 11 years ago. This conference helped me in my professional growth."

"I really appreciate having a space for academic, school and public library folks to converge and share ideas. There are few places in which to do this. Thanks for making it happen!"

What was your least favorite part of this year's WLA Conference?

"The location for the exhibitors and having to go to a separate building to attend the meals, receptions, and visit the vendors, it was cold and wet and not fun walking from one building to next in the cold. Also the area was not a comfortable cozy area, seemed very dark and cold."

"The hotel layout was hard on the knees."

"Wi-fi was so spotty. This hampered flow of information during programs & was a frustration for attendees."

"How the exhibitors were set up, didn't seem fair to them or easy for attendees to see everyone equally."

"There were no gender neutral bathrooms available."

"The school library summit sessions and the regular conference sessions times did not match up. I wasn't able to go to a session because I would of only been able to go to 1 or be late to others."

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**Part III**

We asked attendees to evaluate the importance of the following factors in their decision to attend the conference.

**Sessions**

- **Very Important**: 73.3%
- **Somewhat Important**: 23.6%
- **Not Important**: 5.1%
- **Not Applicable**: 0.0%

**Keynotes**

- **Very Important**: 59.3%
- **Somewhat Important**: 25.1%
- **Not Important**: 19.5%
- **Not Applicable**: 0.0%

**Networking**

- **Very Important**: 49.3%
- **Somewhat Important**: 54.5%
- **Not Important**: 0.2%
- **Not Applicable**: 0.0%

**Preconferences**

- **Very Important**: 51.8%
- **Somewhat Important**: 22.5%
- **Not Important**: 14.7%
- **Not Applicable**: 11.0%

**Exhibitors**

- **Very Important**: 35.6%
- **Somewhat Important**: 46.1%
- **Not Important**: 14.1%
- **Not Applicable**: 4.1%

**Location**

- **Very Important**: 39.3%
- **Somewhat Important**: 39.3%
- **Not Important**: 9.9%
- **Not Applicable**: 9.9%

**Cost**

- **Very Important**: 45.5%
- **Somewhat Important**: 45%
- **Not Important**: 4.5%
- **Not Applicable**: 4.5%

**Professional duty**

- **Very Important**: 35.6%
- **Somewhat Important**: 35.6%
- **Not Important**: 7.9%
- **Not Applicable**: 21.9%