



**Oregon Library Association Conference, April 25-27, 2012
Riverhouse Convention Center
Bend, Oregon**

Overview

The 2012 Oregon Library Association Conference marked the first time in 16 years that our association would meet east of the Cascade Mountains. For the conference committee this presented the challenge of the unknown. Would people attend a remote conference? How would a new venue be able to handle a conference of this size? And most importantly would it snow?

Thanks to an incredibly dedicated and talented team these issues were overcome. The conference exceeded our profit expectations; attendees enjoyed both the quality of programs and, for the most part, the venue.

Todd Dunkelberg, Conference Chair
Deschutes Public Library

Liisa Sjoblom, Local Arrangements Chair, Printed Program &
Conference Treasurer
Deschutes Public Library

Abigail Elder, OLA President
Tualatin Public Library

Camille Wood, Program Chair
Crook County Public Library

Jane Tucker, Program Committee
Astoria Public Library

Jane Corry, Program Committee
Multnomah County Library

Carrol Barton, Program Committee
Lane Community College

Kris Lutsock, Program Committee
McMinnville Public Library

Michele DeSilva, Program Committee
Central Oregon Community College Barber Library

Ann Miller, Program Committee
University of Oregon Libraries

Kate Cleland-Sipfle, Showcase Coordinator
Southern Oregon University Library

Mark Hovey, Technology Coordinator
Deschutes Public Library

Darci Hanning, Registration
Oregon State Library

Wylie Ackerman, Registration, Webmaster &
Conference App
Deschutes Public Library

Cathy Zraggen, Volunteer Coordinator
Deschutes Public Library

Lynne Mildenstein, Exhibits Chair/Fundraising, Printed Program, &
Conference App
Deschutes Public Library

Jo Caisse, Communications Chair & Printed Program
Deschutes Public Library

Overall Conference Challenges/Recommendations

The biggest challenge for planning the conference lay in coordinating programming submissions from the various OLA divisions. It is difficult to develop a common theme or variety of programs when submissions come from a multitude of divisions that do not ever meet and plan together ahead of time. That said, the variety and quality of programs presented were quite strong for this conference.

Recommendations/Observations

- Division leaders take some time at the annual OLA retreat to discuss upcoming conference themes and expectations for division programs.
- Virtual conferencing capabilities are extremely helpful for conference planning.

Attendance

OLA 2012 Conference Registrations

	OLA Members	Non-Members	Other	Total
Full Conference	242	64	42	348
Thursday Only	34	50	7	91
Friday Only	6	13	2	21
Total	282	127	51	460

Registration Recommendations

- Many people want to register on the posted start date for online registration. The form needs to be up and running that day.
- We had many requests for more detailed session and presenter information at the time of registration. This can only happen with full information from program committee.

Conference Budget

Initial estimates for profits were at \$26,000. Actual profit came in at about \$27,600. For details please see the attached budget document (Appendix A). Items of note:

- Tradeshow fees were underestimated by half. Part of this was due to the cost of signage which was not included with the booth charges.
- Speaker fees were significantly lower because the keynote speaker was local and the banquet speaker's fees were covered by his employer.
- When estimating meal costs, note that the conference center does not include the service charge with the food minimums. Add the service charge up front with the estimates.

Recommendation

- Costs have gone up to put on conferences, but even the \$5 increase in registration fees does not cover these increases. The OLA Board and future conference committees will need to seriously consider raising registration fees if the conference is to continue as a viable money making venture.

Exhibits Committee

OLA 2012 at the Bend Riverhouse Convention Center had 39 registered exhibitors with 38 in attendance. Overall the exhibitors were satisfied with the conference and believed attendance and exhibit participation was good.

It is getting more difficult to attract and convince vendors to exhibit at the OLA conference as many vendors are cutting costs and pre-selecting the larger conferences for attendance and contributions. See Appendix B for Exhibitor evaluations.

Exhibits Price

Central Oregon is considered "remote" by some standards. That along with the bleak economy helped the Conference Committee determine the price for a booth. The price remained the same as previous year's conference: commercial, \$400 and non-commercial, \$300. There was no price break for early registration.

The Committee also decided to only sell booths and no tables. This is different than past conferences options. No vendors inquired about pricing for tables instead of a booth and this did not appear to be a hardship for any vendor.

Tables were provided for OLA divisions and roundtables at the Committee's expense. Only four tables were required. *If more tables are requested from the different OLA units, this expense might need to be passed onto the requesting OLA unit.*

Exhibits Registration

Registration was done via Memberclicks on the OLA website. Most vendors paid by credit card but twelve did pay through check. Payment by check is the only option for some vendors especially those affiliated with a university or other larger parent organization. Prompt payment was received by all.

Sponsorships

Many phone calls and emails were sent to solicit sponsorships. What was interesting this year was that three of the major sponsors, CivicTechnologies, Mango Languages, and MidWest Tape, opted to not exhibit at the OLA conference but were more than happy with the opportunity to sponsor a lunch or keynote address.

In-kind donations were also offered. Boopsie supplied an OLA conference app which was well received and used by many. Gale Cengage also expected an in-kind donation in lieu of a speaker fee for Stephen Abram. However, this information was not communicated to anyone in the conference committee and there was some last minute signage created.

Raffles

As with past year, vendors could provide raffles at their booths. Requests were made to let conference committee know if they were going to provide raffle prizes before the program was printed. Some vendors complied, some did not.

Facilities - Exhibits

Most exhibitors were happy with the Riverhouse Convention Center. The one exception, and it was a large one, was the lighting in the exhibit hall. The Conference Committee knew this would be an issue but little could be done about it. This information was shared with the Riverhouse and it is hoped this will be remedied for the next conference in Bend.

Some vendors thought the cell reception and wireless were great while others had difficulties. The committee did pay extra for a dedicated exhibit hall router and all vendors were told which wireless service point had best reception in the hall. Those that had problems may have used the wireless on the main floor which was poor or had little to no connectivity in the exhibits area.

Since all booths were priced the same, vendor booth placement within the facility was determined by sponsorship and or raffle prize offerings and date of registration. As a result, some vendors felt they were not in a very visible space.

The Riverhouse provided all vendor shipping and arrangements as well as booth setup and take down. This confused some vendors since they were used to dealing with a separate service provider for this such as PEDCO. This information was on the OLA exhibitor website for many months but some vendors were still confused. Questions were answered via email or vendors were referred to the OLA website information.

Programs

A call for conference preconference and program proposals was sent to the Oregon libraries discussion list on August 15 and September 22, 2011. The Program Committee met on October 17th to review program proposals. By then we had received 5 preconference proposals, and 76 program proposals. Since the number of program proposals exceeded the available slots, the committee discussed methods of deciding which proposals to accept.

The Program Committee met again November 10th (using GoToMeeting) to winnow proposals to the 54 slots available. Each committee member representing a unit of OLA took responsibility for prioritizing programs from unit members, which was extremely helpful in the decision-making process.

A draft program grid was sent out for review on November 17th and a number of helpful corrections and suggestions were incorporated.

Committee members assisted in rounding up final program information, but even with their help on January 4, 2012 there were still 20 programs for which final information was unconfirmed, despite repeated reminders.

An email was sent in early December to all OLA division, committee and round table leaders asking if they wished to hold a business meeting at the conference. Eight units responded and the cutoff date was set at February 8, 2012.

A draft of the program grid with room assignments was sent out February 24, 2012. Many important changes were suggested, especially by conference committee members with previous conference experience. The room assignments were finalized on March 5, 2012.

Throughout the program planning process many program organizers/presenters had questions. Common questions included those related to technology or room setup, requests for a different program slot, or inquiries about whether presenters needed to register for meals and/or the conference.

Cancellations: Two programs were cancelled; one replaced and one not replaced.

Recommendations/Observations:

- Some spaces were too small for the audience.
- Full descriptions are needed before registration begins.
- Divisions need to be aware of their full responsibilities especially for such events as division dinners/receptions.

Communications/Publicity

Conference Announcement Postcard: Ann Hettinger/DPL Graphic Specialist designed postcard based on OLA Conference Logo (draft of postcard included in this report.) The reminder conference announcement postcard was mailed out to OLA Members and OASL members in January 2012. (2012 was the vote on the merger between OASL and OLA for both OLA and OASL.)

Libs-Or and OLA Hotline: January 2012 I started sending articles on a regular basis to Libs-OR, February, 2012 I started articles on a regular basis to OLA Hotline. As the conference drew nearer, I increased my frequency of my communications to Libs-Or to a weekly basis.

After the conference ended, I sent one last communication out through Libs-Or and Hotline to remind attendees to complete conference evaluations.

Printed Program: I started the layout of the program in February with the help of Liisa Sjoblom. I would recommend for the printed program, to solicit support from someone who has done a conference printed program in the past. Lynne Mildenstein also helped with the printed program. Both Lynne and Liisa's support were invaluable. The printed program took a great deal of time to complete so again, start this process as recommended in the OLA conference handbook in January or even earlier.

When finalizing the printed program, I recommend having several of the conference committee proof the printed program draft, especially the program chair before sending to the printer.

Press Release: A press release was submitted to the local media a few days prior to the conference by Deschutes Public Library's Community Relations Manager, Chantal Strobel.

Conference Site/Local Arrangements

Local Arrangements was handled by one person for 2012 with the assistance of four individuals handling technology during the conference. It is highly recommended that there be a larger committee of 3-4 individuals to cover technology & equipment, meals & breaks, and special events & entertainment. It is also recommended that someone with previous conference experience chair this small committee.

The conference committee held the first and last planning meetings on-site to meet with site manager and take a tour of the facility. Additional meetings were between the site manager and local arrangements chair to discuss room logistics and menu planning.

Conference Site

The conference was held at The Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center. Hotel room-night minimums were required as follows:

Guestroom Type	Rate Single/Double	Tuesday 4/24	Wednesday 4/25	Thursday 4/26
Two Queen Bed	\$125.00	25	41	41
One King Bed	\$125.00	10	10	10
Two Queen Beds, Riverview	\$135.00		25	37
One King Bed, Riverview	\$135.00		4	12
Gilchrist Suite	\$400.00		1	1
Total Guestrooms Reserved		35	81	101

Room nights were easily met with a few people booking conference rates through the weekend. While we booked above and beyond the conference minimums, we did not have trouble with attendees getting rooms at the conference hotel or elsewhere in town. Several additional hotels were listed on the conference site as alternatives:

- Bend Inn & Suites (www.bendinnsuites.com)
- Shilo Inn Suites Hotel (www.shiloinns.com/hotel_details.asp?PI=EBDOR)
- Sugarloaf Mt. Motel (www.sugarloafmotel.com)
- Other Bend Hotels – Visit Bend - ([www.visitbend.com/Discover Bend Oregon/Hotels Lodging Motels](http://www.visitbend.com/Discover_Bend_Oregon/Hotels_Lodging_Motels))

Complimentary rooms were provided for every 50 room nights booked. In addition, they provided the Gilchrist Suite for both Wednesday and Thursday night. Complimentary rooms were used as follows:

ROOM	NAME	#NIGHTS
Gilchrist Suite	Abigail Elder	2
Guestroom	Stephen Abram	3
Guestroom	Cathy Zraggen	1

Due to the number of room-nights booked, we earned additional complimentary rooms. We did not need those rooms so they calculated them into a credit of \$412.50 on the master account. Weekly room-night reservation reports were sent from the hotel to the local arrangements chair beginning February 1, 2012.

Preconferences, programs sessions, meals, receptions, and exhibits were held in both the new and old conference center facilities. For the most part this worked, although there were negative comments received about having to walk between the three buildings. In addition, the Sisters rooms were quite small and over-crowded on a couple of occasions. Signage to both the Sisters and Deschutes Rooms from the outside of buildings was also noted as an issue for attendees.

The only serious challenge with the meeting rooms was on Wednesday when another conference was finishing up in the morning. We were unable to set up the registration desk in the preferred location, but managed and moved the desk shortly after lunch on Wednesday. We also had to move the preconferences to different rooms to better group them together and avoid the other conference.

Recommendations:

- Meet early with the site manager to review the contract details for clarification. Be aware of hours contracted for meeting space and exhibits; provided equipment and Internet access; and food and room night minimums.
- If meetings are in multiple buildings, prepare directional signage where locations may be confusing.
- Note the ability to “flip” rooms between events. Most hotels need one hour (at minimum) to change the configuration of a room.
- If rooms vary in capacity, carefully review meeting room assignments with Program Chair.
- Check rooms for set-up first thing each morning (i.e. chair set-up, head tables, equipment, technology, water, etc). Monitor throughout the day to make sure presenter needs are met.

Meals

As usual, meal functions take a significant amount of time and planning. Meal options were selected in early December after tasting several of the vegetarian options at the conference center. DPL librarian Jenny Pedersen joined Lynne Mildenstein and Liisa Sjoblom for the tasting. She made some invaluable suggestions regarding the vegetarian meals including adding tofu to the vegan Asian stir-fry. Three options were given for meals with the exception of the breakfast buffets and the PLD dinner (they opted for just two choices).

Meal functions included the following:

Breaks	Wednesday AM/PM; Thursday AM/PM; Friday AM
Lunches	Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
Vendor Set-up	Wednesday Afternoon
OYAN Reception	Wednesday Afternoon
PLD Dinner	Wednesday
All Conference Reception	Thursday
President's Banquet	Thursday
Lampman Award Breakfast	Friday

Additional meal functions not covered in the master account were receptions for ACRL-OR, Emporia and San Jose State and the OCLC Update Breakfast. These were covered by direct bills to those institutions. Planning for receptions was a particular challenge due to the lack of meeting space and the location requirements for each group. The ACRL-OR reception was held in the bar, a first for the Riverhouse. The Emporia reception was held in the Gilchrist Suite thanks to the gracious offer of OLA President Abigail Elder.

Box lunches were ordered for the preconference lunch, but we opted to have them plated. This worked well since the number of preconference meals was quite small. The one issue we faced with preconference meals is that not everyone ordered a meal because they were presenting and did not register for the preconference. This is a concern each year and preconference organizers need to make sure their presenters are registered properly.

As with all meal functions, special dietary needs are always an issue. While it is easy to accommodate vegetarian options, vegan, gluten-free, lactose intolerant, etc. can be problematic. It is important for future planning committees be aware that special dietary needs are always requested. The good news is that there are relatively few for each meal.

The meal functions themselves ran fairly smoothly. During the Thursday lunch we realized that the reserved tables did not receive their meals in a timely manner. We spoke with conference center staff to ensure that reserved tables were served quickly. Despite this one problem, the meals were served in a timely manner and conference center staff was very responsive to attendee needs.

Recommendations

- Determine early what options the hotel can offer for vegetarian and other special dietary needs. Meet with hotel staff for tasting in November prior to final meal selections. Don't hesitate to ask for substitutions.
- Offer a different desert option (possibly a dish of fruit) for those with special dietary needs.
- Contact organizations who generally have special events such as receptions, breakfasts, and dinners to determine food/beverage selections and any necessary registration fees. Check with primary contact regarding any meals for award winners and presenters. Note that meals for such attendees are the responsibility of the sponsoring organization and not the conference budget.

- Obtain list of those with special dietary needs immediately when online registration closes and send to conference center staff. For particularly difficult food allergies (i.e. garlic, black pepper, etc) you may need to call the attendee to determine extent of allergy.
- Walk through meal function rooms 30-60 minutes prior to start of service. Check for table set-up and reserved tables. Reserved tables include 1-2 at the front for speakers, dignitaries, etc. and one at the back for the conference committee. Ask staff that they serve these tables first.
- Ask that wait staff not walk directly in front of speakers with large trays of food.
- Determine the hotel cut-off dates for meals and end online registration at least two days prior to that date. Get "final" meal counts to hotel by the cut-off date.
- Consider offering only two options for lunch – vegetarian and non-vegetarian. Much easier to manage two choices rather than three.

Technology

Overall, the technology needs of the conference were met with great success and only a few glitches. The contract with the hotel covered nearly everything including data projectors in all but 4 of the meeting rooms. We brought those in from the inventory of the Deschutes Public Library. DPL also provided a printer, 10 laptops, and various electrical cords. Wireless Internet was provided at no additional charge throughout the facility. We did pay an extra \$150 for a wireless hub in the Exhibits Hall to ensure access for vendors.

The one place where the communication broke down with the planning was regarding the initial set-up of equipment on preconference day. It wasn't made clear that we needed a laptop hooked up in each of the meeting rooms regardless of the actual stated need on the program proposal forms. The problem was quickly remedied and we had no further issues in this area.

We did have one major issue with Internet connectivity in the Sisters rooms. Our tech staff determined a work-around by accessing the hotel wireless instead of the conference center wireless. After that we had no problems with Internet connectivity despite our heavy use of the service.

Recommendations – Technology

- Verify technology/equipment charges with the hotel.
- Make sure that all of the information for the events other than breakout sessions is included in the grid from the beginning so there are not any surprises.

Additional Local Arrangements Activities

- Shuttle service provided Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. for dinner downtown. John Flannery owner of the GETIT Shuttle, Bend's own green bus, provided a guided ride to downtown for those not attending the paid meal functions. He offered a greatly reduced rate since we were a non-profit organization.
- We arranged for the Flash-Your-Badge program through the Bend Downtown Association for all conference attendees. If attendees showed their badge, they received discounts and specials from participating downtown businesses.
- The High Desert Museum provided coupons for a 20% discount on admission through the weekend.

- Visitor brochures were obtained from Visit Bend, the Central Oregon Visitors Association, the Downtown Association, and the Old Mill District.

General Recommendations

- Carry your cell phone and copy contact information for shuttle, committee members, etc to it prior to the conference
- Carry a copy of the daily sheets with you that include programs, equipment needs, meals, etc.
- Walk the conference center each morning to make sure everything is set-up correctly.
- Check in frequently with conference center staff and other committee members to ensure that everything is running smoothly.

Appendix A – Conference Budget

Event Budget for 2011 OLA Conference

Expenses

	Estimated	Actual
Total Expenses	\$60,375.00	\$2,500.00

	Estimated	Actual
Site		
Tradeshow fees	\$3,500.00	
Vendor snacks and supplies	\$125.00	
Equipment	\$8,000.00	
Showcase Tables	\$400.00	
Hotel & Conf. Center Deposits	\$0.00	
Totals	\$12,025.00	\$0.00

	Estimated	Actual
Publicity		
Postcard	\$500.00	
Program	\$1,500.00	
Postage	\$350.00	
Totals	\$2,350.00	\$0.00

	Estimated	Actual
Administrative Costs		
Memberclicks fee	\$4,500.00	

	Estimated	Actual
Meals		
Preconference Meals	\$3,100.00	
PLD Dinner / Reception	\$3,300.00	
ALA/PNLA Breakfast	\$600.00	
Thursday Breaks	\$3,500.00	
Thursday Lunch	\$7,000.00	
All Conference Reception	\$3,000.00	
All Conference Banquet	\$3,500.00	
OCLC Breakfast	\$1,750.00	
Lampman Breakfast	\$850.00	
Friday Break	\$2,000.00	
Friday Lunch	\$7,100.00	
Totals	\$35,700.00	\$0.00

	Estimated	Actual
Speakers (Keynote and Banquet)		
Honoraria	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00

Board Meeting Technology	\$200.00	
Office Supplies	\$250.00	
Tote Bags and Notepads	\$2,000.00	
Registration Supplies	\$600.00	
Totals	\$7,550.00	\$0.00

Travel	\$0.00	
Hotel	\$0.00	
Meals	\$50.00	
Thank You Gifts	\$200.00	
Totals	\$2,750.00	\$2,500.00

	Estimated	Actual
Total income	\$86,945.00	\$0.00
Total expenses	\$60,375.00	\$2,500.00
Total profit (or loss)	\$26,570.00	(\$2,500.00)

- Complete - SCC
- Complete - Other

Event Budget for 2011 OLA Conference

Income

	Estimated	Actual
Total income	\$86,945.00	\$0.00

Conference Registrations

Estimated	Actual		Estimated	Actual
160		OLA Members - Full Conference - Early @	\$130.00	\$20,800.00
40		OLA Members - Full Conference - Regular @	\$160.00	\$6,400.00
110		OLA Members - One Day @	\$90.00	\$9,900.00
30		Non-Members - Full Conference - Early @	\$160.00	\$4,800.00
5		Non-Members - Full Conference - Regular @	\$190.00	\$950.00
65		Non-Members - One Day @	\$120.00	\$7,800.00
25		Other* - Full Conference - Early @	\$100.00	\$2,500.00
5		Other* - Full Conference - Regular @	\$110.00	\$550.00
15		Other* - One Day @	\$70.00	\$1,050.00
TOTAL REGISTRATION				
455	0		\$54,750.00	\$0.00

*Trustee, Friend, Student, Unemployed, Conference Committee

Pre-Conferences (not including profit disbursed to sponsoring groups; all are full-day)

Estimated	Actual		Estimated	Actual
85		Conference fee per registrant @	\$10.00	\$850.00
85		Meal & equipment fee per registrant @	\$35.00	\$2,975.00
			\$3,825.00	\$0.00

Exhibitor/Vendor Registration

Estimated	Actual		Estimated	Actual
25		Corporate Booths @	\$400.00	\$10,000.00
10		Non-Commercial Booths @	\$300.00	\$3,000.00
10		Corporate Tables @	\$250.00	\$2,500.00
5		Non-Commercial Tables @	\$150.00	\$750.00
10		Free Tables @	\$0.00	\$0.00
			\$16,250.00	\$0.00

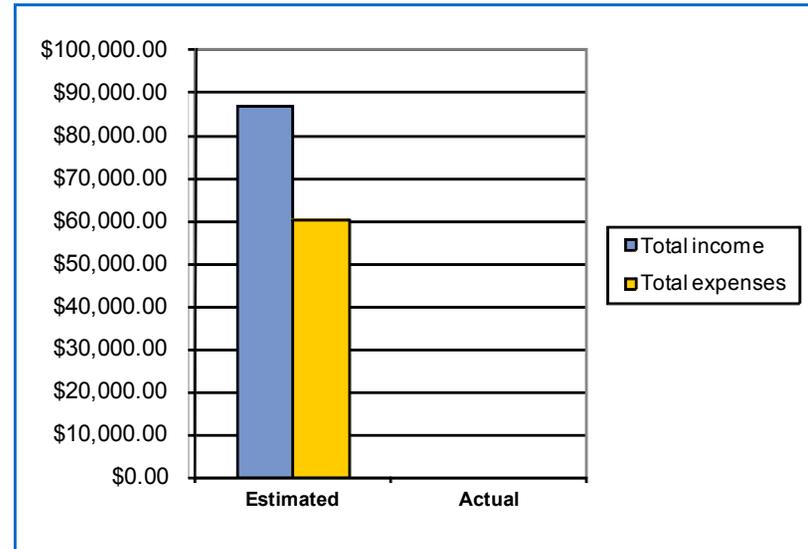
Meals, Sponsorships, Other

Estimated	Actual		Estimated	Actual
70		PLD Banquet @	\$35.00	\$2,450.00
20		ALA/PNLA Breakfast @	\$18.50	\$370.00
30		Lampman Award Breakfast (direct repayment) @	\$18.50	\$900.00
115		OCLC Breakfast (direct repayment) @		\$700.00
95		All-Conference Banquet @	\$35.00	\$3,325.00
10		Cancellation Fees @	\$10.00	\$100.00
1		Sponsorships (including bags and pads) @	\$3,650.00	\$3,650.00
5		Program/Flyer Advertising @	\$125.00	\$625.00
		ADA Fees @		\$0.00
		Credit for Deposit @	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
			\$12,120.00	\$0.00

Event Budget for 2011 OLA Confernce

Profit - Loss Summary

	Estimated	Actual
Total income	\$86,945.00	
Total expenses	\$60,375.00	
Total profit (or loss)	\$26,570.00	\$0.00



Appendix B – **EXHIBITORS’ SURVEY**

An Exhibitor’s Survey was provided with 74 percent of the exhibitors responding.

Below are results of the Exhibitors’ Survey followed by any exhibitor’s comments specific to the question.

Question 1: The information received before the conference was:

- Excellent: 15
- Good: 11
- Adequate: 1
- Needs Improvement: 0
- No Response: 1

COMMENTS:

- Exhibitor information online was very detailed and helpful.
- This was my first time. What was lacking for me was info on exhibit or loading/unloading procedures.
- I was not involved by Paul (Boopsie) said you guys did a great job getting everything done.

Question 2: At the Conference: Vendor Experiences

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>No Response</i>
Booth Location	15	9	4	
Facility	15	11	1	1
Traffic Volume	12	11	4	1
Technical Arrangements	17	9		2
No Conflict Times	13	12	2	1
Registration on OLA Website	13	10		5
Overall	16	10		2

Question 3: Would you like OLA to use this venue again?

Yes – 25

No – 0

No Response – 3

COMMENTS:

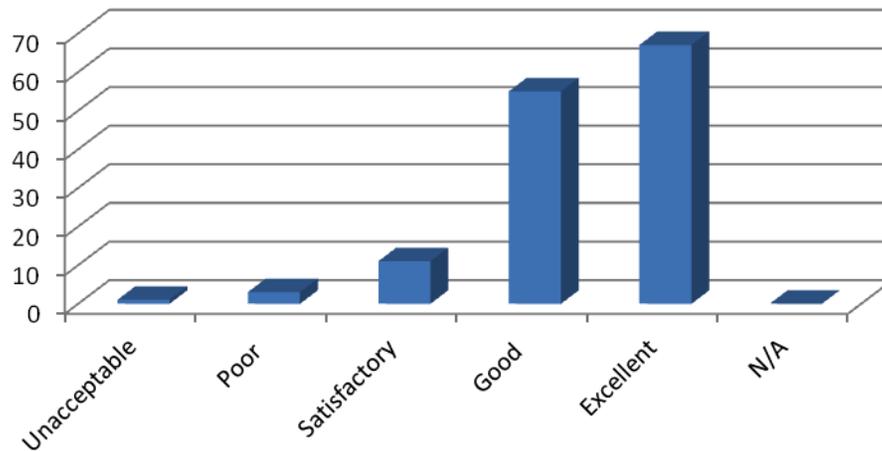
- Exhibit hall space a bit dark and no cell reception, other location in convention center would be better next time.
- I would come again, but we prefer Portland area venues because we are based there and would eliminate travel/hotel costs.
- No conflict times were great and brought people to the exhibits.
- Great service from staff.
- Nice to have an alternative to the Valley corridor.
- Central location.
- Librarians seemed excited to attend. The only downside is that Bend is a bit difficult to reach.
- Windows in exhibit hall and a little warmer.
- The venue was fine but I don't have an opinion either way.
- Because Bend is great and the venue was located well and clean.
- Nice setting, great area.
- Well attended, good facility
- I loved my room on the river. Everything was close and nice.
- A bit pricey – but wonderful location.
- Staff were great. Venue itself physically is dark except for the “bright” glare from overheads. I love this place otherwise—the convention center & Riverhouse accommodation & breakfast & staff are outstanding.
- Central location, nice facility, great food (Emporia)

Question 4: General comments to share (from exhibitors)

- Thank you for 1 full hour no conflict times. This is helpful as shorter times don't give people time for real conversations.
- Very well organized. Staff was very helpful. No conflict times were great and brought people to the exhibits.
- Thanks for a great conference.
- More availability of carts for vendors would be appreciated.
- I would have liked to be closer to the front entrance, we were on the back aisle, traffic wasn't as I would have liked. But I do like the fact that I was on the end of the aisle and could spread out! & that you had the eating tables extended down our way.
- During reception – locate food stations throughout the exhibit floor – booths near food were busy.
- 1 day exhibit with extended exhibit only hours
- I thought organization of the event was great. I liked the vendor events.
- Many thanks!
- The first day was quite lengthy (lasting until 7 pm) but it did provide librarians additional time to meet with the vendors.
- With the technical arrangements it was the wireless internet that I was having trouble with but it might have been my computer.

- Comments from the last row – not happy with location. Especially when food served was in the middle of room. No traffic
- Thanks for the free drinks. An OLA bag for each guest with vendor stuff in it.
- More opportunities – breaks for the attendees to see booths
- Lighting was poor.

Conference facilities rating



I thought the entire conference facility was perfect including both the hotel and convention center.

A little too cold in the conference rooms.

Not enough trash cans.

Going under or across the road was a pain.

Things were spread out and hard to find at first. Some rooms (eg Sisters A) were way too crowded.

The Three Sisters rooms were not great but everything else was fine

A little spread out. It did get us walking between sessions which is good. Would have been bad with heavy rain.

However, signage for outlying buildings (and sessions) was inadequate.

Was hard to get to conference center with all the stairs.

Entrance to the Sisters meeting rooms was at the front of the room (as set up) - very awkward for latecomers. Could they have been set up in reverse?

Running between three buildings got a bit hectic and the Sisters rooms were too small. Otherwise, a beautiful facility that lent itself well to networking.

a little too spread out; some rooms too warm

I liked the walk back and forth to refresh my brain.

Signage & mapping = horrible!!!; hard to get around for ADA folks

Great location, lots of space

The new conference center was excellent, hopefully the hotel will be able to make improvements to their rooms.

Wireless access was not available in the Sisters meeting buildings.

comfortable, AV worked well, Did not like using the 3 Sisters rooms though. Too small and stuffy. Liked the motels breakfast.

seems like the rooms were set up well, not too hot, not too cold, and the equipment was always ready and working. Yeah! I thought the location was excellent for OLA needs - meeting rooms, banquets space, exhibit space, hotel rooms.

very east access to all classrooms

The Sisters rooms were poorly configured in that participants had to enter the room behind the presenters. This was a distraction.

Obviously a beautiful location. Delicious food served at lunch. Three sisters rooms were tiny. Chairs were very uncomfortable for me.

Great facility!

Attractive facility. Some rooms too small to accommodate audience; separation of conference facility was sometimes awkward.

It was difficult for people who don't get around well to go between 2 buildings.

Nice rooms, beautiful river views, very friendly staff

Very helpful staff, nice facilities. Some rooms were too small/stuffy

Main conference center was beautiful, but it was time consuming to run across the campus for sessions held in far away in the Three Sisters rooms

Great facilities. Beautiful scenery too

nice rooms

No garbage cans in the rooms was confusing.

Several rooms were too small to accommodate the attendees and the noise levels in the Sisters Rooms were terrible--no buffering.

It was a hassle to travel back and forth between the Convention Center and the Hotel. Signage for the Sisters Rooms was insufficient.

really stuffy/too small room for 1st session on friday (3 creeks A)

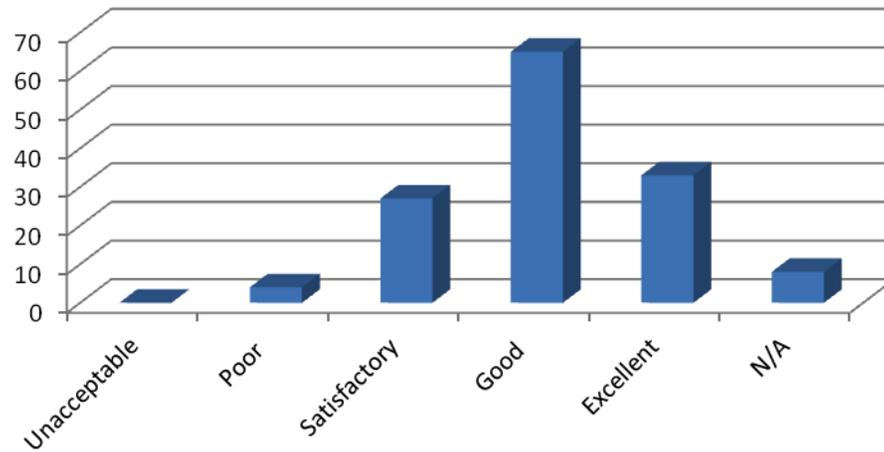
employees were unfailingly polite; but while the Lampman breakfast was still ongoing and before 10 am, they opened the dividers and started setting up for lunch.

Occasionally difficult to hear speaker; chairs too close together

It was difficult for someone with a slight handicap to get around the Riverhouse.

Often the speakers should have had microphones.

Exhibits rating



A little boring

Breaks were too long.

Exhibits were fine, but horrible lighting.

It was hard being in a "basement" with no windows

Good to see so many vendors!

not enough

missing the mom and pop outfits..

Obviously the lighting wasn't very good. I felt like I was in a dungeon instead of a basement - perhaps some free-standing lighting could be brought in?

nothing very exciting

never get enough

very limited

Nice set up--good place for breaks.

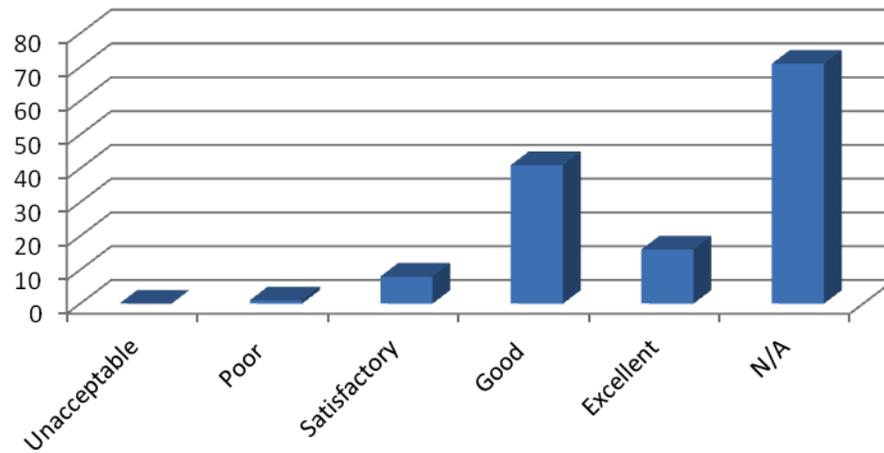
Nice diversity of exhibitors!

Good, but too much candy being given away.

Such a somber space

Way better than other conferences I have been to

Showcases rating



Showcases were fine, but horrible lighting.

Wish they'd be present longer.

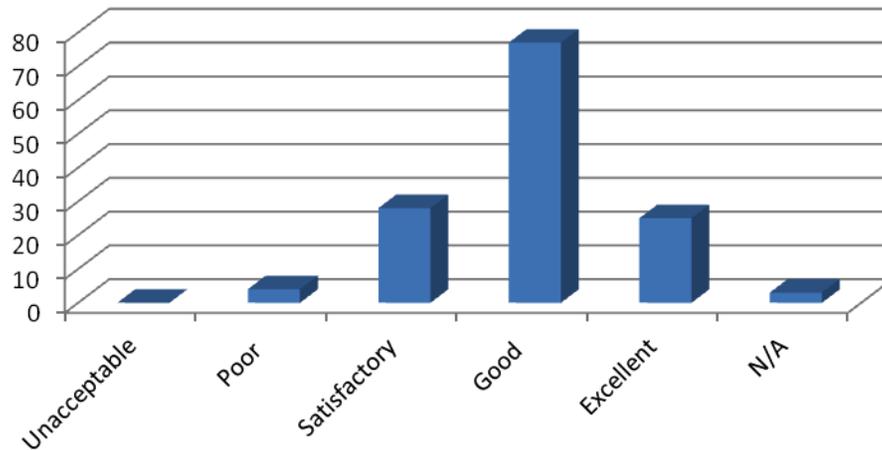
Showcase tables were in a very dark location

not sure what a showcase is...

liked them with the exhibits

The showcases were good, but the lighting in the room was terrible.

Conference website rating



I had trouble finding this evaluation

Early program info should include speaker names!

I would have liked to see speakers listed earlier.

Friday-specific program link still shows canceled Bill and Melinda Gates program.

It can be helpful to know who's putting on a session when you're trying to winnow down your choices. The early info was pretty skimpy. needs better integration of session info, preconf info, banquets, meetings, etc. It wasn't until nearly conference time that there was a whole, viewable program. The speaker at the PLD dinner wasn't listed anywhere.

I could find everything I needed

After the conference, make the evaluation and links to presentations more prominent!

I registered late and didn't get any additional information prior to my arrival in Bend.

Was hard to navigate on mobile device and boopsie did not seem to work right on my iphone.

I hate memberclicks. It's bulky and not easily searched.

thank you for posting the program early

LOVED the app!!

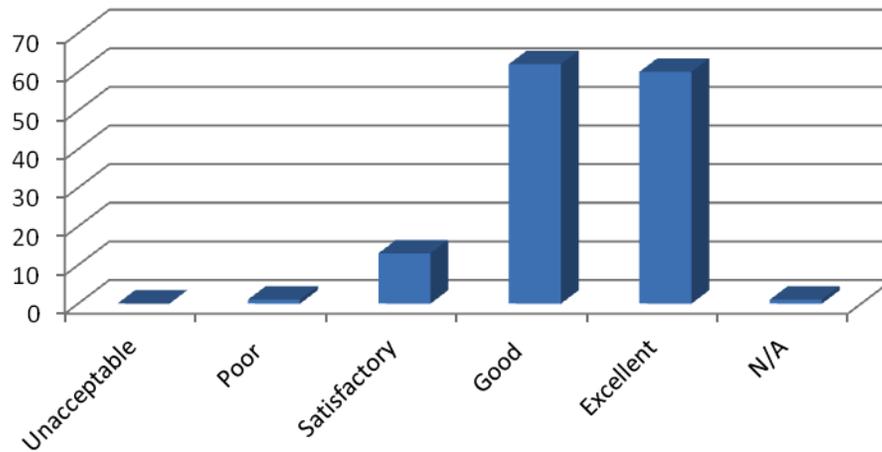
organization of the site felt a little clumsy/ hard to locate links

early-bird registration was late by several days at the very beginning

Nice discription of classes etc.

Things like Public Library dinner were not there at least that I could find

Registration process rating



Registration process comments

Registration confirmation gave the date for Wed. This was confusing when I signed up for Thursday.

Did not receive confirmation email after my library mailed payment (which the initial email said you would receive), other than that great.

Online registration receipt needs to show dates paid for.

I wish I could register more than one person at a time.

a little confusing, registered for thursday and friday, it said I registered for Wednesday

Staff was helpful when we made a registration error.

I registered late and didn't get any additional information prior to my arrival in Bend.

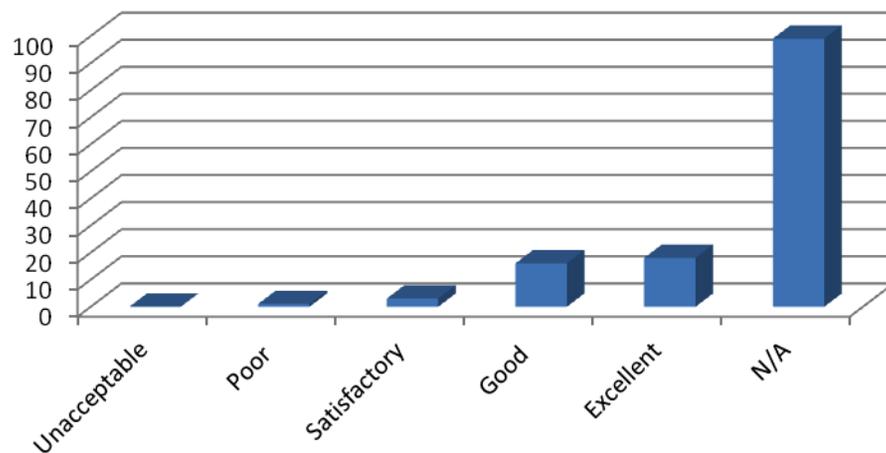
Very easy and they got my special request meals right

Very simple and streamlined

If only attending one day, it was a bit confusing.

It was rather problematic.

Pre-conferences rating



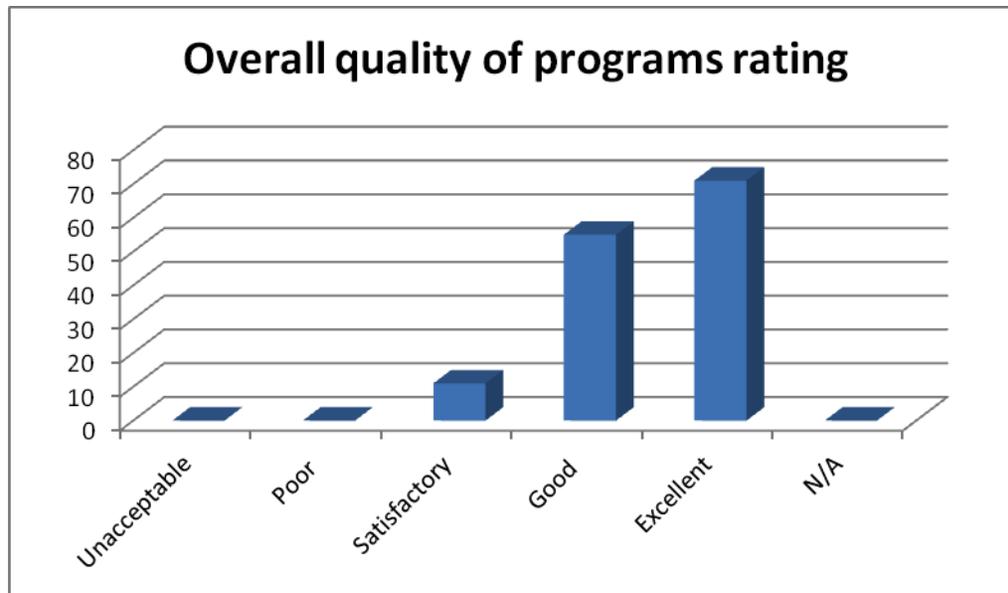
Chris Crutcher was wonderful, I just wish more people had attended to hear his wonderful IF message told through strong, heart-wrenching stories.

Chris Crutcher was amazing!

The RDA session was excellent

I was disappointed by the quality of the Online Learning pre-conference session.

Culture of Poverty was great



Some of the best I've experienced

I got a lot more out of the sessions I attended this year than the past several year. It was rejuvenating and got my mind buzzing with new ideas! The content of many programs was good, but after many years of attending conferences, I must say that librarians REALLY need to brush up their public speaking skills. Abigail Elder is an excellent speaker as were the banquet speakers, but session speakers and panelists are not very fluent, clear or interesting, I am sorry to say. Far too much reliance on mediocre Powerpoint. Simple things like standing up to speak, speaking clearly, practicing your presentation - these were not very evident.

Great variety. Could be more for children, but tons for teens!

Everyone was really focused and sharing, which was good.

good

I enjoyed everyone of my programs. The morning keynote speaker was wonderful! The evening was not. Too much into himself and too long pushing his own personal agendas and opnions.

I was very happy with all the classes I took

Most programs were taught as if every student had a similar background in the subject as they did.

Very good sessions this year. Could we have some circulation panels in the future?

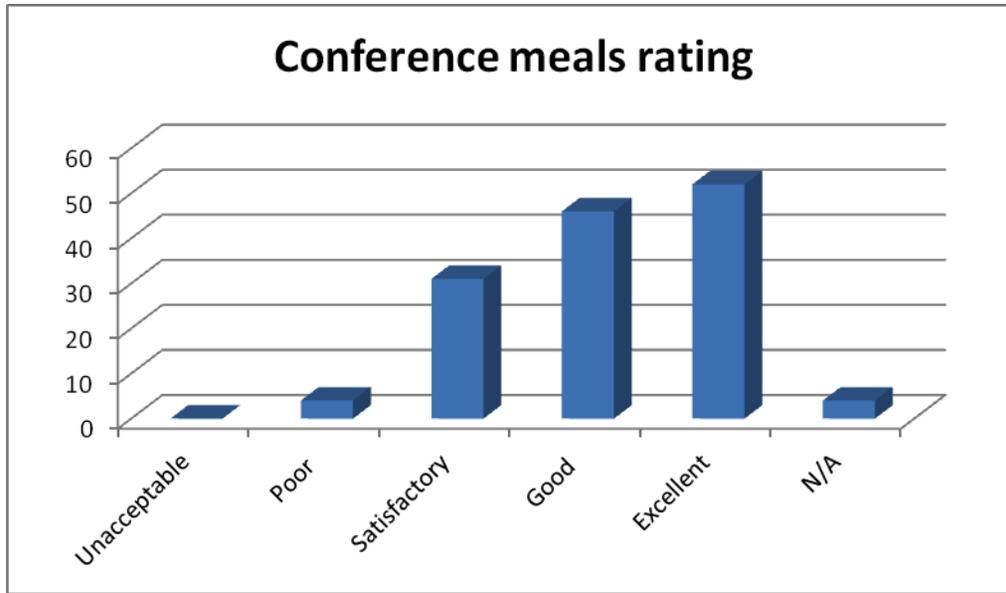
Excellent programs with knowledgeable and interesting presenters.

Great programs, however one or two unfortunately bad presenters...

I enjoyed the diverse selection of classes but would have appreciated actual handouts to take notes on as opposed to matching my notes to any printouts I made at a later date from Northwest Central

Some speakers were definately more prepared than others. Would have liked to have seen more handouts given to participants.

Conference meals rating



Pretty good compared to other conferences I've attended

Lighter fare and fruit desserts would be better.

Maybe folks could choose between fresh fruit or cake for dessert when they register--I know lots of folks on diets who cringed at the temptation of cake at every meal!

Food was good, except for the vegan stir fry option at lunch on Thursday - that was very bad.

I actually think there was too much food, but I realize that the rate conference center charge is partially tied to how much you spend on food.

Great food.

Would have liked coffee option with lunch. Prefer it with dessert.

Although there was 1 vegan entree (Thurs lunch), the rest of the meals were not vegan and there were no choices.

As a vegan, I would have appreciated a dessert alternative instead of being told twice by fairly crabby servers, that there was no such thing available.

I know dessert is an issue, but I do have a suggestion. At registration, could we opt for a lite meal that does not include all the cake? It was yummy cake, I just couldn't resist it and didn't want the temptation.

Less cake!

Best we've had in some time!

1) The vegetables were constantly too salty. 2) Would have preferred a choice of salad dressing. Minor complaints - food plentiful, tasty, deserts sumptuous.

I was very impressed with the wait staff. They were very unobtrusive and didn't interview with the speakers or events going on during the meals.

Thursday lunch not so hot, Friday lunch was great.

The pretzel snack on Thursday was a great idea for Natl. pretzel day except for Friday's lunch; the veggie stir fry was a mass of overcooked noodles with tofu chunks and very few vegetables to be seen. The remainder were very good, and the cakes were stellar. It seemed like the same menu at each meal. The chicken was similar each time and so were the salads (except for a Caesar on one day) The desserts also similar (all cakes)

Desserts were great.

The food was good, but there was WAY too much of it! Please cut down on the size of meals and lighten them up, especially lunches. Healthier break snacks would also be appreciated. With all the sitting, we just don't need prime rib lunches and cake at every meal! It was nice to have the breakfast buffet so one could select what they wanted.

can't get enough cake

Riverhouse food and snacks were awesome

Can't believe I'm going to say this, but it was actually too much food.

Thursday's entree of pork was delicious.

Better veg/vegan options needed - we eat more than noodles.

Delicious!

food was fine.

too much food/waste; lunches too heavy, something a little lighter would have been good

The kitchen seemed unprepared for special dietary requests, even when they had been listed ahead of time on the conference registration.

Very friendly servers, would have liked some alternate salad dressing choice (it's the little things)

Very good service

Wow! The meals both days were so delicious!

I had the pork at lunch on Thursday and the Lapman breakfast. Both were fabulous. The pork was SUPERB! Great snack, a protein choice for the afternoon snack would be great.

overcooked and salty

very limited options for special diets-- instead of just having less options for GF, maybe they could be considered in getting a whole meal. Also, having just a smaller lunch to pick off the croutons on a salad and no alternative to a dinner role or dessert is not sufficient.

I was not impressed with the Vegan StirFry and the wait staff seemed unorganized at my table. I would suggest having filled water glasses at each table instead of wasting tea (since many of us do not like tea). The rest of the meals were good.

SERVICE WAS NOT WHAT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN.

Service to the tables was inconsistent. Items in middle of table were difficult to reach. Seats and spacing crowded. Too many business matters/meetings done during meal.

Very well catered. I was impressed at how so many meals were delivered in a timely fashion.

Vegan pasta was gross, everything else was delicious

lots of cake; no alternative desserts for vegans

the vegetarian entrees were pretty bad

Very heavy. Too many sweet deserts. How about some fruit?

What was the best session you attended? Why?

It was a tie between Craftastic Programs for Teens and Library2Go. Both were exactly on target for my work.

Keynote follow-up. The speaker was engaged and discussed difficult issues with encouragement and ideas. He was from outside the library world and yet I can apply his work to mine.

Preconference on linked data for clear explanations of a timely topic.

Hosting and Facilitating Divisive Conversations. Robert Killen, the presenter, gave such a complete, detailed overview of how to create and manage these types of conversations. He also gave very specific responses to questions. I thought it was a very important and necessary discussion.

Options for Statewide collaborative borrowing - knowledgeable presenters, who had explored the issue thoroughly. When the heart of thing closes - the behind the scenes info that the press releases did not share

Measuring Now for Tomorrow. The DPL staff were extremely knowledgeable and prepared. Their slideshow was full of real-life statistics and examples. Inspiring use of statistics that encourages me to implement more measurement in my library. The OYAN book rave, 2-minute Oregon author reviews, and we're all documents librarians now sessions were also excellent

Had some very good sessions this year. The Thursday morning keynote speaker and follow-up session were very good.

The keynote address. Such valuable information that can be applied at any age. Conversation is our future, even children can learn the dialog skills he discussed. Very educational.

The one on the three libraries that closed and then reopened (Hood River, Josephine, and Jackson counties)--real world examples of making it work in "the new normal."

Carolyn Eagan from the Oregon department of Employment because she didn't talk about libraries. Library closure, reaction of communities when their libraries closed. Very informative on how they are operating.

Models of E-book acquisitions ... learned a lot!

When the Heart of Things Closes: Community Reactions to Times of No Libraries - Well planned...terrific speakers.

We're all documents librarians now, because it was chock full of information

Becoming Thinkers by Barbara Steinberg. Barbara is a reading specialist (a teacher, not librarian) and she was able to provide children's librarians well-versed in early literacy very clear information about what happens next--how children actually learn to read. I was extremely impressed by how she, a non-librarian, was able to share this vital information and directly relate it to our work in libraries. She provided concrete suggestions on readers' advisory, how to answer parents' questions, and much more. It was exactly what I've been looking for the past couple years. I actually want to see her presentation again to really have the info sink in, and then have a facilitated conversation with other attendees to share ideas about how everyone is planning to integrate this information into practice.

I liked the content of the Embedded Librarians session a lot - practical, interesting and useful.

That's a toss-up between the keynote speaker's break-out session, and the DIGOR session with the central Oregon regional economist. The keynote speaker's message was inspiring and timely. The regional economist made a lot of statistics interesting, understandable, and even funny.

Becoming Thinkers: Helping young readers dig deeper. It gave us the theoretical underpinnings of what we do every day from the perspective of a reading specialist. The audience was very engaged, questions and comments kept flowing. The presenter adjusted her presentation to deal with the direction the audience went.

I can't remember the name, but it was the one that Anne-Marie Deitering and Kate Gronemyer did on Thursday. I think it was called "Can we do it all?"

Healthy Librarian. It directly related to my position. Provided me with information to offer staff as needed.

Becoming Thinkers. Barbara Steinberg is very passionate about what she does and that came across in her presentation. Also I walked away with so much more knowledge and understanding of what it takes to cater to children and their differing reading styles and levels.

Library2Go: good information, if depressing.

Graphic Novel session on Friday

Although I really liked the RDA session with Adam Schiff and Lori Robare, my favorite thing was the keynote by Robert Killen. He really blew my socks off. I have tracked down the books and articles he referenced in his talk and intend to read them. Thanks for bringing in an excellent and thought-provoking speaker!

All of the sessions I attended were valuable. Two highlights: When the Heart of Things Closes - all three speakers were well-prepared and compelling, and I learned a lot about library budgets and funding structures -Models of E-Book Acquisitions - Again, I learned a lot, and the case studies presented were fascinating.

I really enjoyed the keynote delivered by Robert Killen. His talk was thought provoking and inspirational and made me proud to be a librarian! Of the sessions given by librarians, I appreciated "Can we really do it all? The challenges we face as librarians who teach." The research the presenters did in preparing for the presentation was helpful in informing my practice and approach to teaching. This year all the sessions I attended were outstanding. I know you want one answer, but there were different benefits: Culture of Poverty pre-conf is still resonating and has fundamentally influenced how I work. Embedded Librarians was so exciting I emailed the notes to one staff member the minute it was over so that we could begin our own planning. When the Heart of Things Closes offered an inside look at how three communities coped with the closing of their libraries. The presentation was both

moving and informational. Dress your Message had a phenomenal turnout - I counted 80+ in the room. That session could easily have been extended another half hour to hour.

The last session on Friday for me was "When the heart of things closes". I really appreciated hearing what happens to rally folks when a precious resource is taken away from them, and what the community does about it. I grew up attending the Hood River County Library as was just sick when it closed for a year, even though I haven't lived there for 35 years (still have family in the area). My other favorite session was Mr. Heilman, "More than the numbers tell us". I have read his book "Overstory zero" three times. What a great, down to earth speaker! In fact, I am going to personally send him a thank you card for traveling all that distance to speak to us.

Robert Killen was a wonderful speaker.

Learned some good ideas at the session on advocacy done by Janet Webster and Abigail Elder.

Diane Satchwell was really informative and worth listening to, as was the final session with Buzzy Nielsen et al.

The keynote speaker for Thurs. was great!

Branding workshop. Emphasized importance of relating to the customer and listening to what they think and want in their library. Important to let the public know what we do!

Craftastic. Lots of fun. hands on information I can do at my library.

Libraries & Humanism: A Book Discussion - I didn't know what to expect, but the discussion leaders lead a lively, inclusive discussion of what it means to be a librarian and the role of libraries in the US. It would be great if OLA could create more opportunities for this type of ongoing discussion and how to articulate that we are more than just book warehouses and circulation stats.

Librarians as teachers; important to my new job.

"When the Heart of Things Closes" was the highlight of my conference. After only getting the news

media's side of the story of the three library closures, it was great to hear from the staff perspective. It was interesting to learn about the three different manners in which the libraries reopened, and it was educational in general to learn about library funding and community buy-in. Overall, I left with a firmer commitment to go back to my own library and work on community connections and superb service so that the library becomes more vital!

The keynote speaker was also excellent-- I appreciated a thought-provoking topic that applies to my professional and personal life.

Humanism and Libraries book discussion. Emily chose a great topic and gave us all a lot to talk and think about. Librarianship is not just what we do, it's why we do it, and that is a deeper question that deserves some more effort.

Dress your message - applied to me and my co-workers, on personal level.

Best session was the last one: Reaching Spanis-Speaking Patrons Online.. Good statistics about who population is. I look forward to seeing the final report/outcomes.

Statewide library card session. It allowed a diverse group of librarians to hear about a new proposal and provide good feedback to the committee.

I simply enjoyed the Teen Craftastic program. I walked away with some really great ideas for the kids.

2-minute book talks; except they had too many books to share and ran over their time

Becoming Thinkers: Helping Young Readers Dig Deeper

,Dynamic and knowledgeable presenter. Engaged the audience.

The best was the RDA implementation session by Lori Robare & Adam Schiff. Extremely informative and well presented. I also enjoyed the lost maps session by Kathy Stroud.

Keynote speaker

Stolen maps:

So fun and interesting!

When the heart of things closes:

Very informative and heartwarming. I learned a lot about different kinds of library funding.

Marketing and Branding

Gathering Statistics

I enjoyed the Keynote; it was not what I was expecting, but it was very interesting.

Will RDA kill MARC was my favorite session. I'm a relatively new cataloger & I found the contrast & differences that Kelli spoke of regarding RDA & MARC to be very thought provoking.

Robert Killen's two presentations on "Dialogue". His ideas can be applied to all of life, not just the library job.

Taking storytimes out to daycares. We're going to have to grapple with this, and it's good to have such concrete examples and how-to's to learn from.

My favorite session was "Oregon's Economy: A Regional Economist's View." The knowledgeable presenter made sense of Oregon's, and Central Oregon's, current economic conditions. Her clear command of the topic was also evidenced in her responses to attendees' questions.

preconference - information literacy online

Strategic Planning by West Linn's Director. Lots of content, well-organized, very useful.

The ones on specific genres for the ref librarian. (Documents, business) I liked that they were a pinpointed subject and the presentors in both were excellent. Great practical information.

Boomers: At the Heart of Your Library

It had a lot of good, practical information and examples. Also, a really good web site for an ongoing future resource.

Humanism and librarianship. It was a philosophical discussion and we don't often get that at a conference. It was a great opportunity to "think big thoughts" about the profession in a way I have not done in a while.

Mr. Killen was very good. Hard to pick one over the other.

Key note address

How to market your library. Gave some good ideas on how to get your library out in the community.

Libraries and Humanism. I appreciated that this session was scheduled for the end of the conference. It was great to have a time to reflect on what it means to be a librarian. I would love for all future conferences to schedule something similar as a final session on Friday.

The OYAN teen read. I left wanting to read all the books the CL's recommended.

Keynote. Very inspiring and useful.

Can't choose. Too many good ones and ones that I wanted to attend by couldn't because of presentation conflicts.

The state-wide cooperative borrowing session as it was more of a discussion than a traditional presentation.

OYAN Book Rave Good coverage of subject

Robert Killan's talk. The subject matter was timely.

Keynote. Really fantastic presentation.

Embedded Librarians--great ideas for outreach!

Legos, Pokemon and Book Clubs - most relevant to my work; nicely presented with helpful tips.

I have two: "Measuring Now for Tomorrow" on Friday morning; and "Becoming Thinkers" on Friday afternoon. I also attended outstanding YA sessions, but these two offered exceptional tools both on a conceptual level and a practical level. Barbara Steinberg is an inspiring and highly intelligent, incisive speaker.

The comics, manga and anime session was the BEST session that I attended. It provided so much hands on information that can translate into programming and collection development for a genre I don't know much about.

Hard to choose- loved ending the conference by discussing librarianship and humanism with the book group (great end to the event and I hope it beomes a tradition). But I *loved* the CSD session on teaching deep thinking through reading because it illuminates the early stages of our Info Lit continuum.

Humanism and Libraries: A new philosophy of librarianship; interesting and different from most conference sessions - discussion rather than lecture, well facilitated, interesting to think about some ideas rather than always focusing on the practical day-to-day aspects of librarianship (not that that's not important, too)

When the Heart of Things Closes. Valuable information shared by passionate librarians who did a great job of outlining differences and similarities in the challenging situations they encountered.

I really enjoyed Barbara Steinberg's Becoming thinkers: Helping young readers dig deeper. It provided the research to back many ways we already help growing readers. I just wish it was longer!

When the Heart of Things Closes - Good to hear from librarians who have had the worst happen to their system and managed to survive.

Toss up: Embedded Librarians was so inspiring and practical. It offered really cool ideas that could be put into play with very little prep or money. A Sense of Service was also inspiring and very thought-provoking. I loved the comments by the panel and the discussion afterward.

Keeping Public Libraries Public: good presenter, clear presentation, easy to follow, good points.

Preconference: Describing the Future: RDA, Metadata and Linked Data. This the the main reason I

attended OLA this year. I learned a great deal that will be of direct importance in my job during the upcoming year. The presenters did a fabulous job!

Boomers

Lots of good information on recruiting volunteers and making seniors more comfortable with their library.

The Government Documents session ("We're all government documents librarians now"). I learned about so many resources I wasn't aware of and it was extremely well presented!

Boomers, very informative

The keynote and his following program and the OYAN Book Raves. The keynote and program were really inspirational, but also very applicable to our work and lives. i wish he'd done a pre-conference! I could listen to that topic by him all day.

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,The ladies who did the OYAN Book Raves were fabulous! They were obviously knowledgeable, enthusiastic and energizing. Some of the other booktalks did the same books, not at all the same result!

The best session I attended was probably the one about how to invite participation in storytelling without losing control. It was fun and interactive and the speaker really knew what she was talking about.

Implementing RDA--Some really great real world tips by people who really understand cataloging and/or OCLC

5 Great ones--

, Hosting and Facilitating Divisive Conversations

, Oregon's Economy: A Regional Economist's View

, Library2Go: Where We Are, Where We're . . .

, Options for Statewide Collaborative Borrowing

, When the Heart of Things Closes

,and 1 Good one--

, Dress Your Message

,

Killen session on communication - beautifully presented, interactive, dense with information, much needed

Branding your library-- Bend public library. Amazing story

We're all documents librarians now. Practical and enthusiastic.

robert killian was amazing in opening our conference so i went to his session and was great! so much information for what is truly happening in our society today. libraries need to be in the forefront of communication.

All of the sessions I attended were great with LOTS of information. The "Options for a statewide collaborative borrowing: can we achieve a virtual, if not actual, statewide library card" provided the most food for thought and I'm curious to see how many libraries would be willing to participate

WHEN THE HEART OF THINGS CLOSES:TIMES OF NO LIBRARIES

,A REAL EYE OPENER. SO VERY IMPRESSED BY THE SPEAKERS.

"Measuring Now for Tomorrow". Well rounded presentation. Presentors were well prepared with nice powerpoint slides. Interesting and applicable. Presentation resulted in excellent questions from participants. Outside of the sessions...I thoroughly enjoyed the keynote speaker. Very effective message.

i love the branding one by dcpl staff. it was forward-thinking and related to my job. i also really enjoyed the economist one. it was great to get a broader view and very timely.

We're All Document Librarians Now: The presenters were passionate, knowledgeable and organized and presented a lot of great information without overwhelming us. The handout was great, too!

Graphic Novels: Selection and Programming.

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,The presenters were all very good at providing an overview of trends in this area, with very useful information on collection development and resources for reviews and programming.

Becoming Thinkers: Helping Young Readers Dig Deeper was so great. The speaker was an excellent presenter, and she facilitated conversation well. I came back with practical tips and a reminder of why I love working with kids.

Heather's session on Story Hour

I enjoyed the session with Robert Killen after he had delivered the Keynote address. It was an opportunity to explore, in depth, the ways to safely and successfully facilitate DIALOGUE with sensitive topics. Other people shared their successful experiences facilitating sensitive dialogue. I think creating a safe setting for dialogue would help enhance DPL's role as a community center.

Grantwriting...it offered a variety of perspectives and different formats of presentation with each presenter.

Boomers: At the Heart of Your Library and Craftastic Programs for Teens.

Keynote address; inspirational, informative AND useful; wish I had gone to the session afterward

I believe it was called "Becoming Thinkers". I liked this because the speaker was very dynamic and the subject applies to me.

The best session was dress your message because it was fun as well as factual. However it was rather gender biased.

OLA Teen Rave because the book talks were great and gave me lots of authors/titles of books to check

out. The presenters were lively, kept my interest and gave me new information.

Craftastic Programs for teens.

,Very useful information.

I really enjoyed the keynote speaker. His speech was thought provoking and inspiring to me as a library employee.

OYAN (Oregon Young Adult Network). The presenters used their ebullient personalities when reviewing teen books so that I was encouraged to read most of them. They also handed out a brochure listing the books they reviewed.

"Hosting & facilitating divisive conversations"

,Following up on keynote speech, the speaker answered LOTS of questions and had very specific information & resolutions. Very useful and helpful.

Reaching Spanish-Speaking Patrons Online - It was good to hear about the Answerland project for looking to offer services in Spanish. Also, always great to hear from Yolanda Cuesta.

OYAN Rave? Presenters spoke clearly and with enthusiasm. I had been going to attend "A Sense of Service", but had gotten discouraged by earlier sessions and changed at the last moment.

opening session, Robert brought up a lot of things to think about. One of the statements was we were not born hating, it's learned

Dress for Success - interesting and helpful

All Together Now: Participation Storytelling and How to Do It Well with Heather McNeil was superb!

She demonstrated ways to get kids involved in the stories, yet stay in control of the program. She provided a lengthy bibliography of participation stories.

Heather McNeil's Storytelling Session.

The after school programs one on the last day.

What one element of the conference would you change? Or emphasize?

Emphasize networking among types of libraries.

There could have been a map showing where the rooms across the street were located. If there was no one to follow, I would not have been able to find the Three Sisters rooms. If not a map, then at least a couple arrows showing the way.

Make sure the Thursday evening banquet speaker has a set-time and let him/her know it will be monitored, appropriate language (intent may have been "shock," but got tired of hearing the word "bitch.>"). Also did not like the Gale/Cengage sales pitch in the end.

I would like to have a tour of the local libraries. Maybe a shuttle ride. What a way to support all Libraries.

I did not like the dinner speaker on Thursday evening. His speech was a self-indulgent rant that went on for an hour and 45 minutes. He insulted librarians many times during the course of the speech. Horrible!

Better promotion of all the pre-conferences.

Considering that most of our libraries don't have much money to spend, I think there's too much free time for visiting the exhibitors

The Three Sisters rooms were too small and hot. I'd like to see more talks on assessment.

I don't think I'd change anything, I thought it all flowed and worked tremendously well.

???

Try to schedule the business meetings so they don't conflict with receptions and allow more time for the business meetings.

I don't need to hear Mr. Abrams speak again. I think there was important material there, but the manner of presentation was so off-putting, I couldn't hear the material.

I thought it was very well run and scheduled. Enough time to socialize. Enough programs. Lots of fun.

re: topics: Seemed like good balance between academic libraries and public libraries.

more seating on the balcony for break times. Also, outlets closer to the pre-conference tables so we could charge our laptops and tablets while working on them.

more diverse sessions. so many on children's programs or "management" sessions, what does a shelve attend??

I like the thank you speeches during the awards lunch. Sure, makes the whole thing take longer, but that's OK.. The speeches are always heartfelt, sometimes inspirational, and important to physically recognize achievement for us all.

Make the opening speech a little more positive.

To repeat some of the sessions at other times so as to go to the ones you want when it conflicts with another at different time.

Having all the business meetings (and school receptions) at the same time made it hard to choose what to attend.

"

,Coffee at every meal would be nice.

,

,Maybe have one of the Keynote speakers on Friday."

More technology and e-materials focus. Have something like a roundtable on ILS.

I'm not sure...

I recommend including a clearer location map, and large clear directional signs, for the sessions included in other buildings. I got lost and asked motel staff where the building for my class was located. They directed me to "that empty area [pointing at the end of the parking lot]; the building is on your left past the weeping tree." Following their vague directions, and no directional signs, I walked beyond the north edge of the

parking lot 'til I encountered "Private Property" signs for a neighborhood. This took me at least 15 minutes out of my way down a trail in the woods, featuring yard debris from a neighborhood and what looked like an old homeless camp.

As an academic librarian, some sessions there were nothing that seemed really relevant, and other sessions there were three.

Exhibits were pretty sorry. Not very many or engaging. The room was dark and dismal. Needs improved lighting.

The key note speaker topic is rarely of interest to me and is not the best use of my time.

Maybe make the sessions a little shorter.

"How about an organized walk or run? We sit too much. Maybe a guided walking tour? Or a post-lunch 1K, 3K, walk/run? Something to make us healthier!

,Another suggestion would be to have one of the semi-annual Public Library Directors gatherings, or maybe the PLD dinner could be expanded to have more conversation and discussion."

Offering some of the more popular sessions an additional time

Not great having to walk between buildings.

Post cost of the conference sooner. Generally get info on the website sooner.

Change time of year so budget meetings of governing bodies don't coincide - makes it hard for managers to do both

I would have appreciated a glossary for the Data Curation talk. Most of the discussion was lost on me.

Showcases...give time to set up that does not conflict with other sessions.

The business meetings (of the divisions and round tables) all overlap and that's problematic for those of us that want to attend more than one.

Maybe next year we'll have the LIRT join the ACRL Division meeting and then break off into their own group. Still thinking about this.

Breaks were too long, lots of downtime. I felt like I was wasting time.

While I strongly support the OLA conference being held east of the mountains on a regular basis, I found it unfortunate that several sessions I attended were SRO. A conference venue that could accommodate all potential attendees seems preferable.

"As a first timer to OLA, I did not understand if I was invited to the various receptions, breakfasts, president's banquet, etc.

,

Less of "this is what we did" and more of "this is how you can do it"

Can we have more online handouts or ppt?

Some sessions could be more geared to staff. The ones I attended were more valuable to directors or staff that was in a position to purchase.

I would have liked it to have been easier to find or access the Three Sister rooms.

Can't think of anything.

The only thing I'd like to see be different next time would be trying to make sure all the speakers are ready to present.

I can't think of any.

More people should come to the banquet. There was the feeling this year that some people had heard the speaker before. I don't know what he cost, but maybe entertainment programs instead of a lecture - like a comedian we had one year or a great author or a cool journalist - would be more attractive for the price we have to charge.

better selection of sessions. Some I attended were duds or way too technical

NOT A LOT GEARED TOWARDS SMALLER LIBRARIES

The facility was inadequate. Travel between the convention center and the hotel was inconvenient. Signage outside directing to the Sisters Rooms at the hotel were inadequate. Map on back of program needed to include how each building was located in relation to each other. Sisters rooms were too small and access to rooms inconvenient.

If afternoon sessions were conducted in more of a symposium or interactive format than a Power Point presentation or lecture/audience format, I would be able to be more engaged than I was.

More sessions/day, shorter breaks, not so much food!

I wish there were better options for library workers and not just librarians.

Thursday was a very long day from keynote speaker to evening speaker. I would shorten that day and have the keynote speaker one day and evening speaker another day.

"Train other presenters in reviewing books, such as projecting their voice, handing out brochures and being more lively.

,Please offer coffee in the afternoon."

Wish there could have been more snacks available--really needed coffee in the afternoon.

Presenters had many opportunities to educate attendees about OLA but chose not to do so. It felt like they assumed everyone had attended before. But many of us were newbies!! Also, presentations I attended didn't involve much interaction w/audience. I wanted to be engaged and leave the room excited about my work.

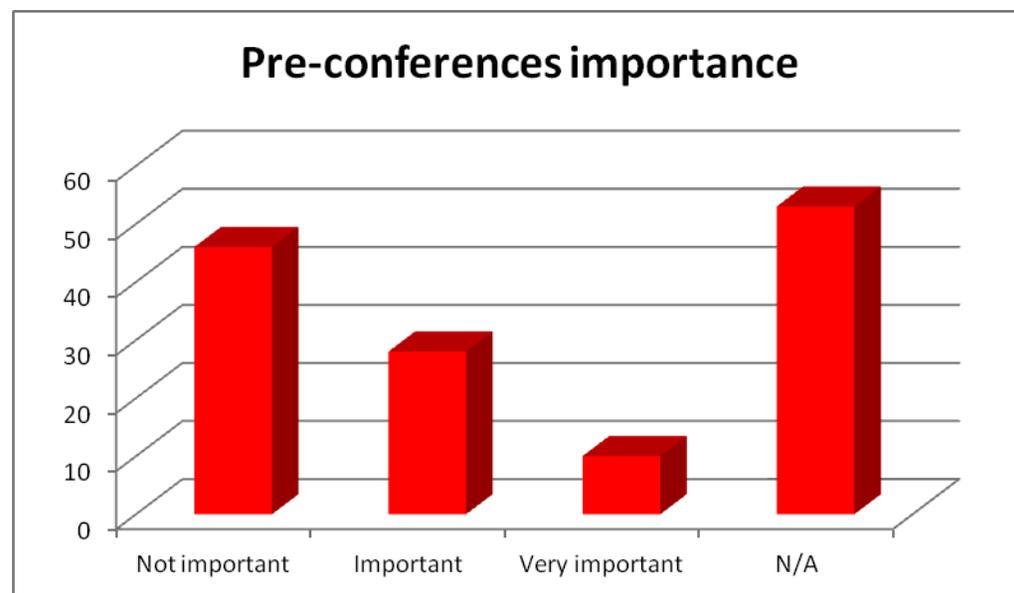
Not to sit with all your friends as this is the opportunity for you to meet other people w/in our industry, learn and share ideas.

Maybe shorter breaks - 30-45 minutes would be enough and not start so early?

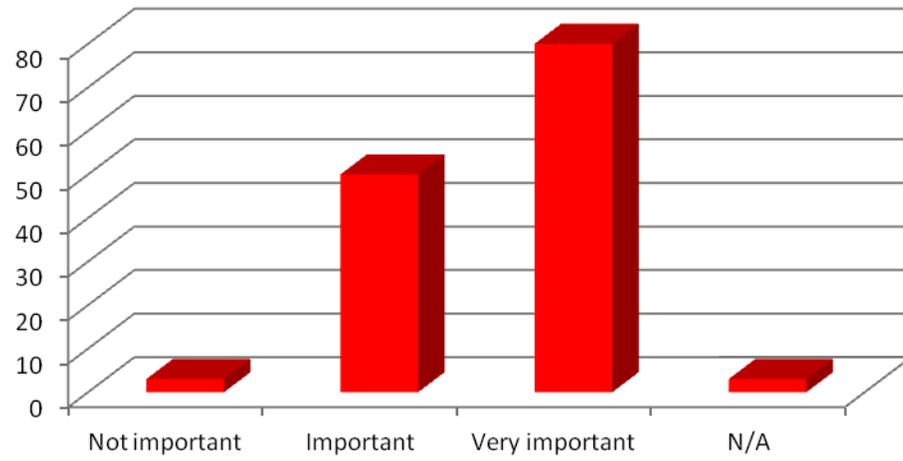
I would have changed the place because of having to run across the street five times during the day and no elevator in the Riverhouse. One librarian was on crutches. She had to drive across the street. Two others with a handicap had access difficulties.

Perhaps the sessions that were 90 minutes long could be made more dynamic, to keep your interest.

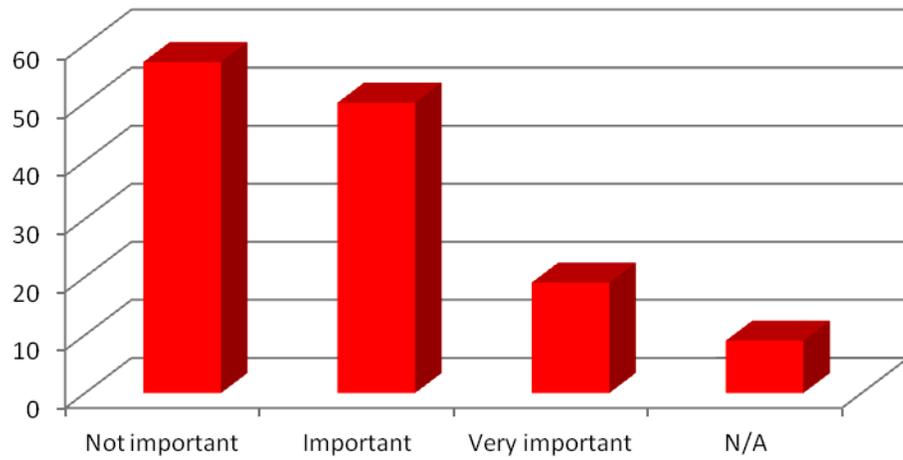
I would like to see more programs with practical advice and teaching of skills.



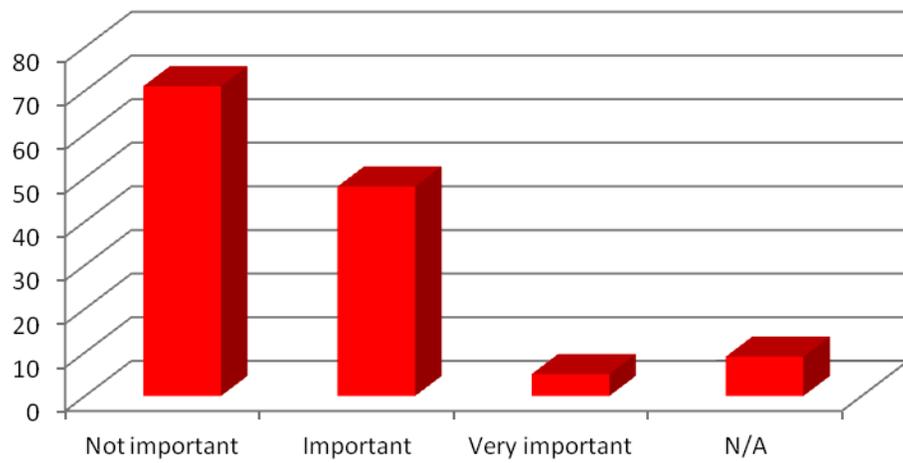
Programs importance



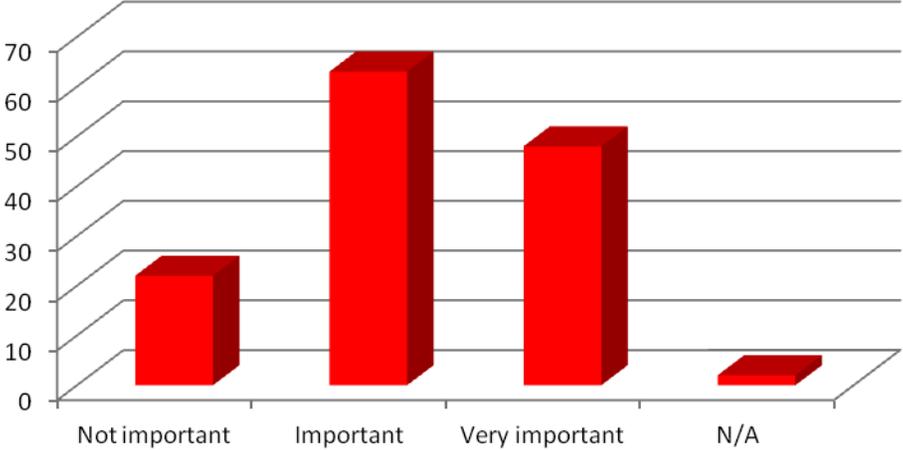
Keynote/Banquet Speakers importance



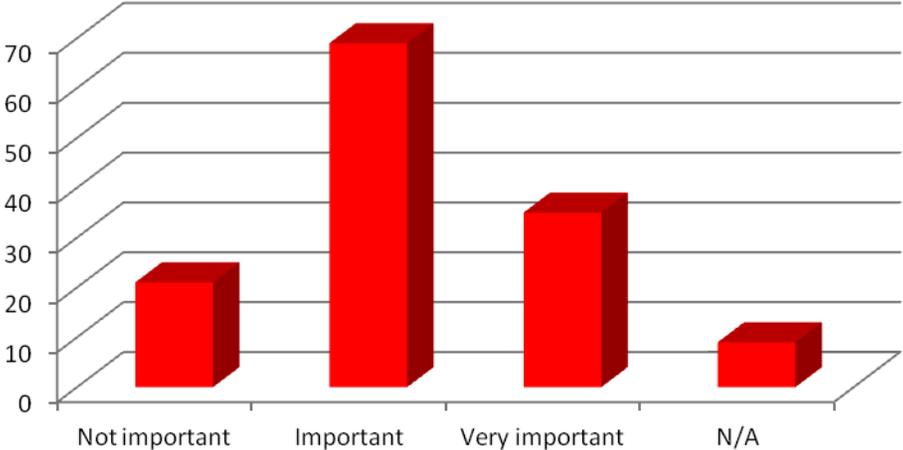
Exhibits importance

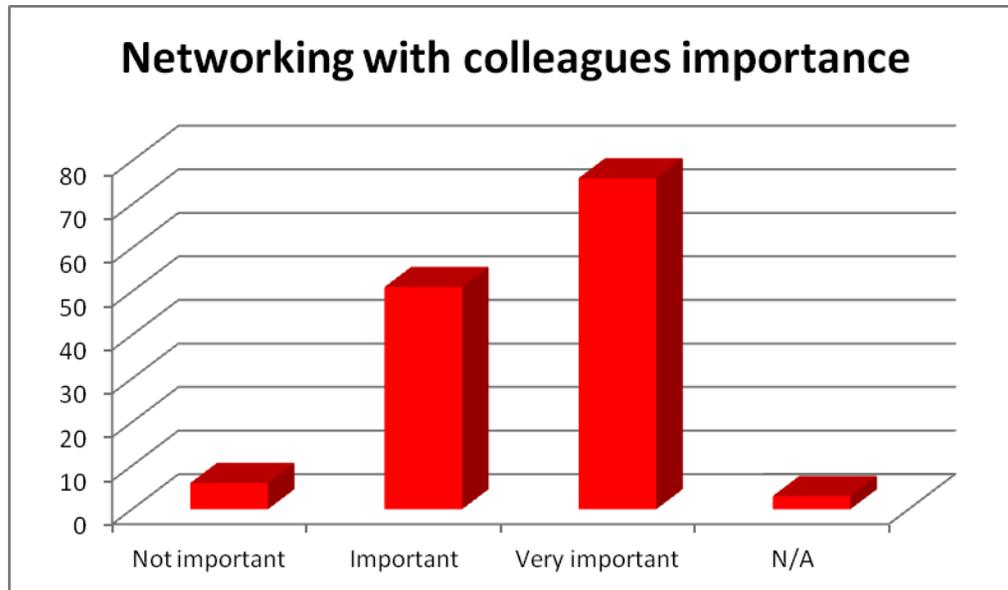


Location importance



Cost importance





Comments on what is important

Location and conference facility were fantastic.

I go to OLA to see colleagues I don't normally see and hear what's happening around the state.

Having attended OLA for many years, I think the networking aspect is far and away the most important draw for me. In second place, would be the speakers.

The location of this conference was excellent. Centrally located, geographically. I think sometimes we only think of the valleys where the population is higher.

A wide variety of sessions on topics that either relate to my job, or expand my horizons, is important to me. I don't think I've ever attended a conference just to hear the keynote. Considering what I'm assuming is a good deal of expense, is a banquet speaker necessary? Maybe some local school or amateur music or other performing groups could provide some entertainment at low cost?

Networking with colleagues is very important. Helps to charge up staff.

The changing location has many benefits. I would go back to Bend again and even to eastern Oregon or southern Oregon. I like seeing these libraries in outlying areas. However, the central location of the valley does draw more people.

When conferences are in Portland or in the "Valley" it limits the number of staff that are able to attend, either because of the distance or cost of hotels, or bad weather over the mountain.

When conferences are in Portland or in the "Valley" it limits the number of staff that are able to attend, either because of the distance or cost of hotels, or bad weather over the mountain.

Important to have strong speakers -- maybe more speakers who work outside of libraries to give us a different perspective.

"I like having pre-conferences but they aren't always applicable to me.

,Programs are the heart of the conference for me, what topics offered help me decide if time/travel/cost is worth it (which also ties into location & cost).

,Networking was difficult when the hotel/conference property was so large and widely distributed."

The chairs for the pre-conference made a HUGE difference since we had to sit all day.

I like the sessions that provide for interaction with the group. This was also a very good year for the public library division meeting as standards are an important part of our work.

of interest to myself, either personally or at work

It's important to provide diverse programs presented by quality presenters

Appreciated meeting folks from Baker and other points east.

Basically any session/program that helps me to develop professionally is seen as important by my standards.

As a DPL Support Staff member, I valued the opportunity to attend OLA workshops and meet Library professionals from libraries around the state and to attend [overall] excellent sessions.

Bend was awesome!

Location in Bend is central for the state. Makes it easiest for everyone in the state to attend. Conference center is very attractive.

For me the programs are the most important. I go to learn new things and connect with other librarians about similar programs, issues and challenges.

When conferences are in Portland/Vancouver or Salem, I tend to attend the day sessions and go home at night and I don't really feel like I fully participate in the conference. Having to stay in Bend gave me more opportunity to "be" there and to network with many folks I hadn't really seen in awhile.

I enjoyed the conference. However, I know lots of librarians who do not attend OLA and say it is because they find other conferences, especially Online NW and the Oregon Virtual Reference Summit, more worth their while. I think that OLA should look at what those conferences are doing that is unique and, if possible, do more to bring those conference attendees to OLA.

It was very nice being able to associate with colleagues

Love OLA conferences and the opportunity to network with my colleagues around the state.

I have presented the last few years which is one reason I have attended. But the quality of programming is quite good (having just attended another state's annual conference I saw a stark difference, in our favor)

not conflicting with budget meetings

Thanks to all those who were involved in the planning and execution of the conference.

Opportunities to network are the key for me. Everything else is just icing.

Probably the most valuable thing about any conference is talking with colleagues about what they are doing, what choices they are making, and how their libraries work. That happens in formal program sessions, but also and perhaps most importantly in our time to talk together.

Networking was my primary goal.

I'm on the Board so none of these were the motivating factor for attending, although under normal circumstances I would have found all of the above important with the two very important things being Networking and Programs.

Having recently moved from another state, I have to commend you on including the lunches each day. The state I came from did not do this and people would disperse to go find lunches and we would lose them for the rest of the day, sometimes.

The chance to get together with colleagues is of primary importance. Also the chance to get out of my daily sphere and think again about why I became a librarian and what a great profession it is. I can always find interesting sessions.

"Being a speaker was an important factor; I suppose that falls under ""programs."" I appreciate that OLA keeps costs reasonable.
,It would be nice if business meetings could be staggered somehow so that groups didn't compete as much for attendance. e.g. LIRT and RRT"
Key note speaker was excellent, was his talk to us recorded & available on dvd?
Continuing education, and the opportunity to talk with other libraries.
OLA had outstanding programs this year. That's what people always look at to see if it's worth coming. Good variety, good quality.
it's important to have 3-4 session that i know i will get something out of them that i can bring back to work with me.
The ability for most of Central Oregon library staff to attend was wonderful, networking was great! It was wonderful to get information on current issues.
Location was very important in allowing more staff from libraries on the east side of the Cascades to attend. Opportunities to network with staff from other libraries thereby fostering the feeling of being a part of a larger, state-wide community of professionals. Keynote speaker was fantastic and a great kick-off for Thursday sessions.
I am grateful to the library for giving me the opportunity to attend this.
Learning is most important to me, that's why I attend.
If these elements were not at least important, I wouldn't attend
The variety and content of programs are very important. Location is also important, I had a hard time with windowless rooms.
I was very lucky that the conference was held in Bend where I live and work and that DPL was willing to cover my costs. This was my first OLA Conference. I looked forward to learning new information and spending time with peers from other libraries.
Meeting other library employees, hearing motivational speakers, seeing what the vendors were offering.
Networking is SO important--it gives one a "lift" when you are going through problems on the job.
When you take time away from the library on company time and expense it should pertain to the subjects you will encounter.

What could we have done to make this an even better conference?

We had a lot of programs so I missed several due to conflicts. I would love to be able to pick up the booklists discussed (although I hope they will be on NW Central). I wish there was a way to share the conference with those unable to physically attend - broadcast the keynote and selected sessions?
I can't identify one thing.
Give the 2-minute Oregon Author reviews a longer session - it always runs over, and was put in a 1 hour session. It should definitely be in one of the 1 1/2 or 2 hour sessions - it is always excellent and deserves more time!
Had a different banquet speaker Thursday evening.
It was really good, on the whole, especially the location.
Nothing.
The only thing I would have changed was the weather, otherwise it was all perfect.
I would have liked a list of attendees, maybe.
Having a little more info about the location of the conference rooms would have been helpful. (Getting to the Three Sisters rooms was confusing since the maps on the back of the program didn't show these in relation to the building where they were located.)
This conference was pretty outstanding. There is nothing about the conference to improve. This is a personal thing, but I would have liked the shuttle to run during the day when the downtown shops were open. The advance notice of participating stores yielded me a list of places I

wanted to see and the Flash your Badge idea was inspired -- but the stores pretty much closed at 5 pm, when the shuttle started. I went down once by car, but the parking was too hard to deal with, so I just looped back to the conference without stopping.

The planning committee did a *wonderful* job. I know it is a tremendous amount of work. Bend is a good location for a change.

Thought that meal costs were pretty high. Otherwise, enjoyed the location, hotel.

Sunshine?

This was my first time in Bend and it was beautiful, and the Riverfront was nice, but I would have kept the conference to the Conference Center if possible. There were perhaps too many concurrent tracks this year.

coffee tables upstairs during morning until afternoon.

Shorter sessions. By day two sitting for 1 and 1/2 hours for each sessions was too much. More guest speakers, instead of sessions??

patries and coffee at the keynote would have been nice.

It was really quite good.

I didn't appreciate the short shrift given to awards & prize winners at the Friday lunch. Made the lunch less enjoyable than usual.

Enhance wireless access coverage outside of the main conference building, in the remote conference rooms.

I wish I could have attended more than one day.

Nothing, I thought it was great.

Move up the timeline on getting session information online, with full descriptions like we've had in the past.

The conference would have been improved, in my opinion, by leaving more room between the attendee's chairs in the sessions.

Shorter breaks. With so few exhibits we don't need an entire hour 3 times. Maybe some place or time set aside for "chatting" with one another over a specific topic.

Can't think of anything.

see comments about the food and about walking!

Make the banquet keynote more affordable.

No blizzards would have been greatly appreciated.

Get that stupid app to work on my phone. ;>)

Maybe set aside time during the conference specifically for those conversations between colleagues. I know we make it happen informally by going out together in the evenings (and skipping sessions together or ignoring vendors during the breaks...), but what if this time were an official part of the conference?

I thought this was a great conference and it had strong programs. I wouldn't ming more time for structured talking (e.g., the book group model).

It was a wonderful experience overall.

Clearer invitations to the president's event.

Is there any way OLA would ever have the conference over a weekend? It would be easier for me to attend more than one day in that case.

Slightly shorter sessions so we could attend a 4th session (thursday)

Can't think of anything

don't know

better food. Also, staggering of good programs. I felt that there was a pot of riches for programming on Friday, but Thursday was a bit weak.

Could popular programs be staggered over both days?

Included a better map for attendees to find the Sisters and Deschutes Rooms--alot of us were wandering the parking lot of the hotel.

SOME OF THE SPEAKERS NEED TO BE BETTER PREPARED.

A better facility. While a beautiful facility, I felt the combination of using the hotel and convention center lead to really difficult logistics. More dynamic topics. More interactive presentations.

I'm almost embarrassed to admit this, but I wish that there had been coffee available throughout the day (or at least during lunch).

Some guidance with the map of the convention center about traveling from there to the workshop rooms in the Deschutes and Three Sisters buildings would have been helpful.

Not sure. It was more inspiring than I expected it to be.

Conference maps and coffee more widely available and visible.

better weather (ha!);

See my comment above about length of day.

Coffee available in the morning.

Do a better job training presenters. Offer coffee in the afternoon.

There are always too many choices for programs and while we are trying to dash between a couple of favorites, or sitting in our top choice, we are wondering what we are missing in other programs--a bounty of riches. It would have been good to have some repeats in the afternoon sessions.

More advertising of programs by sponsoring groups to inspire more people to attend.

I think everybody did a wonderful job! It felt very organized, enough time was allowed between classes.

Chosen keynote speaker was excellent! Chosen Banquet speaker at first was entertaining and informative and later had too many lists that librarians already knew most of the material presented, foul language, and offensive particularly to women. This was my first banquet. The food was excellent. The speaker may keep me from coming again.

Do you have any ideas for topics or speakers for upcoming conferences?

More debate, discussion, dialog based on Stephen Abram's ideas. He offered lots and lots of potential solutions and very provocative perspectives. How to interact/network with your community and increase awareness of library services in this time of budget cuts.

"Branding, e-books and funding!!!!

,Repeat!

"

,RDA (Resource Description & Access)

,Mobile catalogs/web design/instruction"

Next year I would love to see a panel presentation from people who attended Becoming Thinkers by Barbara Steinberg this year describing how they've integrated what they learned into practice over the year--perhaps with a little review of the info Barbara presented so those new to the topic can participate easily too.

More on adult reader's advisory, and on serving and engaging older adults.

"whole book approach from Eric Carle museum

,Visual Thinking Strategies"

Assessment, assessment and more assessment

More supervisor management sessions

I'd like to hear about how libraries are moving with the times.

The positive tone of this conference was uplifting and inspiring. There are budget problems to be sure, but the sessions I went to focused on what we are doing that is working. It makes for a real energy builder when a conference session can acknowledge a problem exists yet focus on solutions.

More programs for Administrators would be helpful. Advocacy is always a good topic, futurists are beneficial. Successful programs from other states about advocacy would be good. (for eg. soon-to-retire Norma Blake, NJ State Librarian, would be a great speaker to invite. NJ State Library has done so much to promote library services)

More with teens and volunteers

More digital topics, storage/costs planning & preservation planning (which I know were offered but I couldn't get to them.)

School and public library partnerships; how to create and deliver booktalks; creating booktrailers with online programs

local authors,

no

ILS consolidation.

Not at this time.

"Continue with genres (ie business and documents) So maybe computer books, art and craft books, travel books, history area,

,And more on adult classes. One year you brought in a legal session for public libraries and it was excellent. I still use the material. Maybe a medical librarian could come and share about good sources. "

no.

"How can OLA support the integration of OASL members and lobby for better support for school libraries?"

,Creative funding strategies for public libraries."

Dave Lankes.

"Oregon's economic forecast

,Oregon's communities

,Quality of life

,Communication"

Bullying.

Maybe have one "buzz" session in every time slot, with moderated small-group break-outs on a different topic for each slot, such as programming and outreach for various audiences ("teens in this corner, Boomers in this corner, Spanish-speakers in this corner..."), fundraising, partnering with community organizations, technology choices (e.g. configuring public computing stations, ILS/LMS, e-formats), staff training, etc. Maybe poll membership for buzz topics while planning the conference. No panel, no presentation, just a designated time to talk with other library folks about issues of interest and hear back from the rest of the group.

I would like more sessions on small children ages birth to 2.

I hope that work will be done to map out the IL continuum for K-12 and that someone will report out on that at the next conference. I would also like to hear about partnerships with K-12 librarians (particularly around instruction). I'm also interested in hearing about what's going on around serving incarcerated students (students in prison who are taking courses that have a research component).

More on preschool storytime.

It might be interesting to have a session on how to start/what to do with a bookclub.

no

I wish that there had been more sessions devoted to reference/information services.

A presentation on evaluating open source Intergrated Library Systems, such as Koha and Evergreen. Please continue to have sessions about Library2Go and e-book readers, e-book collection development, and e-book/reader issues.

Maybe something on the interaction of Libraries and Friends groups.

Creating a safe space for honest community dialogue was a large part of Killen's speech. If there is a library system that has successfully implemented this idea, I think it would be helpful to hear about their process--successes and difficulties.

ebooks with younger readers (what? how young? how to do it?); community partnerships in general, and between different types of libraries; international travel and libraries; adult basic literacy programs, bilingual and first time readers; making book clubs work;

Ways to mend and bind materials. It would be nice to have a hands on. I heard great commentary on all the available hands on programs.

More information about the future of libraries

Not at this time.

Are you willing to serve on future conference committees?

"I would be willing to help, if needed.

,BJ Toewe

,503-588-6084

,bjtoewe@cityofsalem.net"

No.

Not yet.

I am interested in participating in plans for the joint WLA-OLA conference next year. I came to Oregon from Washington state, and have friends at Fort Vancouver Regional Library in particular. Abbie Anderson / aanderson@cclsd.org / 541-756-1073 (library) 360-431-8640 (cell)
Yes, at some point, perhaps after term on the Board.

Additional comments?

The physical setting was good but the smaller rooms a bit difficult due to the entrance.

It was just an excellent conference and having it in Bend was just icing on the cake.

Excellent keynote speaker on a different, but very important topic. Lots of food for thought and very applicable to libraries.

As you can tell, I was very disappointed in the Thursday banquet speaker

I am looking forward to the next year. The ideas and concepts that were discussed in the sessions were very inspiring. I found some useful ideas for 8 year old children and that is a range I feel I am weak. So thank you.

Great job!!!!

I appreciated the "Keeping Public Libraries Public" presentation without the reference to Darth Vader as in last year's conference.

The professional development provided in the pre-conference and sessions was particularly good this year!

Overall, it was a good conference at a lovely facility, and I came away with valuable new ideas.

Where I lived before, the state library conference was very geared towards public librarians. I found this conference to offer a very nice mix of programs where, as an academic librarian, I didn't feel bored or underrepresented.

So many interesting / relevant sounding programs were offered, that it was hard to choose between them! Great job on coming up with session topics.

"Providing the shuttle to downtown was a great idea. I took advantage of this, and the driver was extremely knowledgeable about restaurants, etc.

,'Thank you to all of the planners who put the conference together! It was a worthwhile, informative, and fun experiences."

Great job and thanks to all who made this conference happen. You all did a phenomenal job.

The Oregon book review workshop was ok, I felt like the last speaker could have implemented some of what the Keynote speaker talked about in regard to respecting other peoples opinions and perspectives.

Great location. Well-organized conference!

Thanks!

"Although I like the idea of online videos for the presidential candidates, I like the speeches at the conference.. Folks don't always know the candidates, and seeing and hearing them helps the process of selection.

,'This is one time a year for 500 of us to share experience. Take advantage of that and make space so that it can happen."

Try to have the keynote speaker under a spotlight. I Have seen this at many conferences, and so perhaps, unfortunately, not a possibility with the facilities. But in a large room, the speaker is in the dark without a spotlight. I noticed at this conference there were can lights above the speaker, but they were not on.

It was a somewhat peaceful location next to a river. It seemed like it was a bigger place. In Salem you tend to see the same people over and over and over (which is not necessarily bad) and in Bend it felt like I wasn't always running into the same faces - I saw a bunch of different folks which was good. The vendor space was definitely much better in Bend than our last conference in Salem.

Thank you! It was fun conference.

Great having OLA back in Bend, evn if it was chilly.

Thanks for your hard work!

Its always a challenge to have material that works for a large metro library and a small rural library. Keep that challenge in mind as you choose your programs. This year was a nice balance.

Overall, really a nicely done conference...congratulations on a job well done!

Thank you for all the work that you did to put this conference together!

"Stephen Abram's presentation was really offensive. It was the first time I attended the dinner (so that I COULD hear him speak) but I took away a totally different view of him and it is not positive. One can goad people to action without cursing and belittling them all evening.

,Shame, Stephen!"

Thank you for an outstanding conference!

Thank you! ~Michele Burke

Overall, a really well organized, interesting and worthwhile conference.

Very impressed. Oregon is miles ahead of many states library conferences.

Thank you!

Love Bend!

Thank you for holding it in Bend.

Thank you for everything and thank you for coming to Bend!

Great job to everyone! I thought it was fabulous.

It was really fun. Thank you so much for the opportunity to go!

loved having it in bend, maybe later in the year so we get more sunshine!

Overall, a really well-organized conference! Thanks for all of your hard work!

It was one of the best OLA conferences I've ever attended. Thanks a lot for all the great work of the conference committee!!

"At the Lampman Breakfast, they started breaking down walls well before we were supposed to leave the room. VERY rude, and made people feel rushed, like they were supposed to get out.

,Also, more ""poster session"" type things would've been nice...not formal programs, but people who had ideas/presentations that they could share in a poster, and you could chat with them.

,Having an organized Bend outing would've been nice, or a trail map for nearby places to hike, or lists and contacts for activities...shopping, outdoor play, museums, etc."

I enjoyed the conference and was thankful I was able to attend. As I commented earlier, it would be nice if there were exhibits and sessions to include everyone and not just the title carrying librarians.

"I may be one of the few people who thoroughly enjoyed the evening speaker Stephan Abrams. It had been a long day and I was dragging, but perked up immediately when he spoke. I was energized by his enthusiasm and the possibilities that he offered for the libraries of the future.

,"

Well done!

Thanks for having the conference in Bend where I live!

An excellent conference--I know how hard everyone worked on it.

I only attended Thursday. I attended Robert Killen's presentation, Boomers and Oregon's Economy.