

Executive Director's Report

By Annette DeFaveri.

The post-conference period is an unusual time. One feels that all the frantic work should be in the past, but in fact the days are almost as busy and certainly as interesting.

Conference survey results

The formal conference assessments are now in and what a pleasure it is to read them. Thank you to all who took the time to complete the online survey and for putting much thought and consideration in to your responses.

Of the people who completed the survey 51.0 percent rated the sessions as above average and 31.4 percent rated the sessions as excellent. Comments about the overall conference include:

"...one of the best conferences...because of the interactivity of the sessions and the variety of sessions available."

"...engaging, informative and left me wanting to hear more."

"... great opportunities to network and to learn more about the library world."

What can we do to improve?

Most of the feedback we received was positive and thoughtful. But from a planning perspective I was most anxious to see the answers to the question "What can we do to improve the conference?" This question was an opportunity for members to make suggestions for future conferences and for the Conference Planning Committee to benefit from the creativity and insight of BCLA members. It is often easy to recognize things that need to be improved, but making suggestions on how to improve is the most welcome and useful feedback we could hope for.

One participant noted a lack of sessions geared specifically for new librarians and new members of the library community. The suggestion she made was to consider a social event that focused on new library workers that would help introduce them to the diverse work environments throughout the province.

Several respondents commented on the choice of events, timetable, and organization on Saturday. Suggestions to improve *con't next page*

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the structure of Saturday's sessions included moving the AGMs to the end of the day and having a keynote speaker first thing in the morning; shorten the Saturday lunch break and open it to all delegates thus creating a better networking opportunity; carry the enthusiasm from the Friday afternoon (eBook) session over to an organized dinner for all attendees.

These, as well as all other suggestions will be part of the Conference Planning Committee debriefing meeting.

What did you enjoy?

It was very rewarding to read about the things that people enjoyed at the conference. Some comments include:

"...meeting colleagues and learning about what other libraries are doing."

"... the new ideas that keep us all improving."

"... engaging with colleagues and being re-energized."

"... the focus on working together that linked the sessions."

"... the opportunity to be challenged by current thinking."

"...the high quality of the sessions and the mix of session topics."

Preparing for the next conference means that we will keep all of the comments, both positive and constructive, in mind as we endeavor to provide an even more successful conference experience for delegates in 2013.

And ... the food

Any finally, talking about the conference evaluation wouldn't be complete without some discussion of the food. If you read the recent ED Update you know that planning the food for the conference was an agonizing process for all involved. Reading the comments about the food was almost as agonizing. We received pretty much every comment one could think of about the food. Comments ranged from great to poor food, from not enough to too much food, from more hot to more cold food and finally from why do we have food at all to why can't BCLA provide food at every meal time? Generally the comments were positive, but it is clear that planning food for up to 600 people and doing it on a budget is never going to let us please all the people all the time. I do promise though that we will always be looking at ways to make the meal experience as satisfactory as possible!

Among the most successful food events were those provided by our sponsors. Thank you to the following sponsors:

- McGraw-Hill for the ice-cream break
- CVS Midwest Tape For the BCLA AGM Breakfast
- ULS for the Awards Lunch
- Gale Cengage for the Presidents Reception
- CUPE BC for the Friday lunch in the Trade Show
- Ebsco for the eBook session snacks.

Thank you to all who attended the 2012 BC Library Conference. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you who have only been names in my email. I look forward to next year!

Annette DeFaveri is BCLA's Executive Director.