

Default Report

Core Forum

December 7, 2022 10:56 AM MST

Q1 - What is your level of satisfaction with Core Forum 2022?

What is your level of satisfaction with Core Forum 2022?

High

good

Very high!

High

Fairly high!

very satisfied

High

high

Very high

Um, on what scale should I rate my level of satisfaction? It was a good conference...not the best I've attended nor the worst!

Medium

Excellent

It was okay, but didn't have as many classes relevant to me as I thought it would when I registered.

Meh

very satisfied

Very satisfied

Somewhat satisfied.

very satisfied

Very satisfied

moderately high

What is your level of satisfaction with Core Forum 2022?

very high

Very High

High

Very satisfied

Mid level

Moderate

Q2 - What did you like most about the conference?

What did you like most about the conference?

I loved that it was much smaller than a big ALA conference, it really gave me a chance to connect with people and interact more with the presenters.

I liked that there were several presenters on cataloging/

I liked that it was smaller and took place all in one hotel. Topics covered were useful and the speakers were overall very good. The preconference library tours were great.

The metadata track presentations and the chance to talk to vendors without interruption

The smaller group of attendees was wonderful.

Networking and the key note at the beginning and end of the conference.

Larger conferences can feel overwhelming due to the number of attendees, sessions, etc. Core was a good size, with a wide variety of topics and an interesting mix of people. Everything was so well-organized and it felt like the conference was executed well by all of the people involved.

There was a lot of offerings in technical services and technology and a good give and take between speakers and audience.

I liked that it was small and that there were a couple of days of dine-arounds which offered a lot of opportunities to meet and talk to people.

Nice location, small, easy to talk to attendees.

There were a good number of people who could be prospects, and the programs mostly covered topics of interest to our clients.

Moody closing keynote

Meeting other library professionals and learning from them as presenters and fellow attendees

Seeing colleagues after a hiatus

Making connections with other attendees. I made many, many useful connections and some new friends. Salt Lake City was a terrific location, and the hotel was a nice location.

I liked the built-in breaks between sessions and the extra-long lunch breaks as well. The subject matter was really interesting, and I always had multiple presentations I wanted to attend.

I love that it didn't run through the whole weekend like the Annual ALA Conference does. Thanks for ending it on Saturday! The location was good too with really pleasant weather. Parking was no trouble with the large parking garage nearby with enough to spare. Registration cost was reasonable.

Size and scope of programming

I liked the variety of sessions and how well planned out the schedule was.

smallish size, everything in 1 location, excellent local arrangements, pre conferences, reasonable cost including an international rate which really helped, streams

What did you like most about the conference?

The size of the venue and scale of the conference/number of presentations. I love when a conference is in one spot and I don't have to do too much worrying about where to be.

The sessions were really wonderful and applicable to the work I do.

The keynote about the importance of games was so awesome.

I really appreciate that the conference came to Salt Lake City. I'm in the area and it was a great opportunity to send some of the people on my team to Core who would not otherwise be able to attend a national conference. Also, the programs had a good mix of representation among the three former divisions/topic areas that make up core

It was small and easily accessible since everything was in the same area and in the hotel where we were staying.

I had a good networking dinner, although the topic selection was spotty (all of "Technology" as one topic). I was able to attend the preconference on privacy and learning analytics, which has a very good program.

I liked that there was even representation of each of the Core Sections in the presentations.

Being able to attend a conference and still have a weekend day to recover. Not being as large and therefore not having to deal with getting from place to place. Having easy to see tracks. The overall feel was one of more intimacy and not being lost in a crowd. Time of year is also a positive as flights tend to be less expensive, accommodations less expensive and available, and most importantly it does not fall during the typical semester end/beginning or during a period when statistics or fiscal years are at an end or beginning.

I really appreciated the amount of tracks in the program! And that there were tracks specific to different areas of focus. I also appreciated the keynote presentations.

There were a number of excellent sessions, and I often could not choose which breakout to attend because there were more than one that sounded good.

I like how casual it felt also the keynote speakers were great. The topics were interesting and not typical "vision of libraries" talks. It was nice to learn without thinking about implementing. The location was wonderful. And the pace of the city made for a relaxing backdrop.

The ability to network with like-minded colleagues.

It was in person! I appreciated the size of the conference, location, networking opportunities, programming.

Keynotes were great, and the discussion & q&a from most of the presentations were engaging. It was great to meet and talk to other librarians. I also liked the location being in a "smaller" city that isn't a typical location for ALA type conferences. It allowed for those in the Rocky Mountain and West to attend. I also thought the hotel conference rate was very reasonable.

It was enjoyable to be at a national conference that felt so intimate.

I enjoyed the long passing periods, full array of sessions, and engaging and interesting keynotes.

I appreciated the intimacy of a small conference -- giving many more opportunities to network. In addition, having the multitude of sessions in the hotel meeting space was a real bonus (vs. needing to walk back and forth to a convention center). The quality and diversity of session presenters and topics was very good. Both keynote speakers were inspiring. The breakfasts and break service was greatly appreciated. A great Forum for the first year. Congratulations to the planning committee and the Core staff.

the keynotes

the variety of programming and the 30-minute breaks

What did you like most about the conference?

Great keynote speakers! Lots of session choices for each "track."

Networking and presentations about current topics

The programs were so applicable to my job. The speakers, were very good. The keynotes inspired me.

Good size, interesting sessions with a nice mix of leadership and design related programs, thought-provoking keynotes, great people, well-organized.

Interaction with colleagues in person. The keynotes were EXCELLENT!

Variety of topics, excellent a

I liked that it was smaller than a big ALA (and so I didn't have to choose which session to attend based on whether or not I could walk there in time!). The schedule and pacing of the agenda was perfect - huge kudos to the planning committee for that.

I always enjoy networking at conferences. It's always so nice to talk with fellow professionals who are working in similar situations who either just solved a problem you're facing, facing a problem you just solved, or both facing a problem that you can brainstorm about.

Q4 - What would you have changed about the conference?

What would you have changed about the conference?

I wish the dine-arounds had been a little better organized - we were sort of just left to fend for ourselves in the lobby each night.

I liked the theme, but there needed to be more diversity in talks. Several of the presentations were about changing questionable subject headings in the catalog. The presentations started to repeat themselves.

Many of the presentations were heavily focused on academic libraries. I understand that public libraries may not have submitted proposals, but presenters could have done more to make their talks more generalized. If they could take one step back, and realize that their problems/issues/practices/etc. can relate to more than just academic libraries, it would be a better conference. Perhaps for 2023, when reviewing proposals, reviewers can look for this academic leaning and request that the proposers edit their presentations to make them more applicable to all libraries.

More variety in the metadata track - (there are more issues than DEI as important as it is)

Location of presentations available online/on Google calendar events. Location -- SLC wasn't great.

Would prefer to have conferences during the week and not on a Saturday.

more speakers from outside the field would be interesting. i liked the keynote speakers. and perhaps more opportunities to network. i tried the unconference sessions a couple of times, but there was no one in the room.

I don't think offhand of anything I would change. Maybe have another half day of the conference if you need more time to explore all the topics.

I went to a conference that had time set aside during the day for attendees to gather and chat informally around specific topics: streaming media, building projects, etc. It was a really great way to network apart from the dinearounds.

Add in opportunities for committee/section/interest group meetings/casual conversations. In sessions, give more attribution when the planning and delivery has ties to committees/sections/interest groups.

Better exposure for vendors. Being a first conference, there were a lot of gaps in communication. The raffle was a disaster. Conference planners could learn from how the library system user group meetings are run. Vendor sponsorship could be a wonderful, mutual benefit for the CORE if the conference is managed appropriately.

Choose a hotel with a large lobby bar, so attendees can network in the evenings

The breaks between classes were longer than I would have liked. I realize we all just survived the chaos of the pandemic and had to make serious changes at our libraries due to this, but several of the classes I went to spoke about this quite a bit, and I was burned out listening to that type of information.

No masks

Each session had so many presentations to choose from. I always had at least two that I wanted to attend but had to choose just one. Perhaps shorter sessions in order to have more sessions with fewer concurrent presentations?

The dine-arounds were good but trying to meet up with the group I had signed up for in the lobby was confusing. Next time, having a designated leader with a sign to help people find them would be ideal. Also, having interest group time built into the schedule (i.e., cataloging, buildings, tech services, etc.) would be nice.

Nothing prominent is coming to mind.

What would you have changed about the conference?

Broader programming for Metadata and Cataloging. DEI is important, but most of the M&C programming was "this is how we're doing DEI in our catalogs"

I'm not sure I would change anything. Maybe more vendors?

better descriptions of the sessions online. A lot of the sessions were really not what I expected.

Better breakfast options if breakfast is going to continue to be provided.

Not much! I guess I'm a little old school, some of the emphasis I see in so many presentations today to make them "active" with breakouts sometimes works and sometimes doesn't. There has to be an appropriate amount of time in the session to actually get somewhere with these activities if they are planned. Also, sometimes I think it would be better for a lot of the presentations just to stay traditional with a presentation, then time for Q&A

There were actually quite a few programs that I wanted to attend that were taking place at the same time! But I'm not sure how to fix that. Scheduling it during the same week as the DLF Forum was tricky for me since I also usually attend DLF. I opted to go to Core this year, but the timing is less than ideal for the folks who are engaged in digital collections/metadata work.

Better metadata options. There was a lot about DEI, but it was all about subject headings and not everyone uses LCSH. Plus things were canceled and there was no notification or letting anyone know that things had been canceled.

Of tech, technical services, and library management, the technology-oriented sessions were disappointing, both in number and in actual library technology content. I also thought there was a major imbalance in the number of programs that addressed IDE issues through Library metadata and acquisitions. This is an important topic, but if anything the impact of the programming was diluted by having so many similar programs:
INCORPORATING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION PRINCIPLES INTO OUR METADATA EXPLORING EDI STRATEGIES IN CATALOGING AND METADATA DEROGATORY TERM ANALYSIS IN UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA'S CATALOG LICENSING AS ADVOCACY ANTI-RACIST ACQUISITIONS CULTIVATING BIBLIODIVERSITY IN ELECTRONIC COLLECTIONS WITH ALMA DIGITAL

Even though each presenter approached the topic of EDI in metadata/cataloging differently, it would have been nice to have other topics besides EDI.

As the conference moves forward it would be helpful to provide a level of mentorship or guidance to younger or first-time presenters. We will want to pass on the torch as it were and should do so through pairing more experienced with the less experienced.

Not having to wear masks. That seemed uncalled for given the direction the rest of the world has gone at this point.

More engaged time with the vendors. If there is only a small set of vendors perhaps set aside 30 minutes for them to give 5 minute pitches to boost engagement. The vendor raffle was unclear.

Lees simultaneous sessions.

Have the conference run Thursday and Friday rather than Friday and Saturday. Those of us presenting later in the afternoon on Saturday could not catch a flight home until Sunday. No rest before heading back to the office on Monday morning. I understand it is often cheaper to have a conference run during the weekend, but work/life balance often outweighs monetary cost!

An annual conference will be challenging for me to attend. I'd love to continue to participate and present at CORE Forum in the future, however with limited travel funds that don't stretch as far and competing conferences around this time of year, I know I will not be able to attend annually or next year. I also wish there were more afternoon snacks/treats.

The Seminar Theater did not have a microphone for presenters and this was not corrected throughout Friday (didn't attend Sat. so can't speak to that). The breaks between sessions felt a bit long; if they had been shorter, maybe more people could've presented.

using something like sched where folks can indicate which session they plan to attend may help with matching sessions to room sizes.

What would you have changed about the conference?

The Forum was well attended by academic libraries. I would have liked to have seen more participation by public library staff. Perhaps stronger -- and earlier -- marketing would help.

higher quality of sessions. Preconference as part of the conference with no extra fee. The cost of attending for those not covered with travel, hotel, registration, etc. was not worth it for the content. For something extra out of the cycle, you need to make it worth it.

there were too many DEI in cataloging presentations. They were repetitive

Make the online program searchable by presenter

Possible shorter breaks between sessions.

we had some sound coming from the presentation next door but it was resolved after a few minutes. the unconference didn't seem popular, at least when i popped in there was no one there.

Core seems to lack identity - the 4 areas feel like a hodgepodge right now and only 2 are really relevant to me - technology and leadership. Even still though, technology feels very narrow from the topics covered and could include other things like academic technology, for example. The conference focuses too heavily on cataloging and metadata, so maybe a little less of this...

Would love a virtual option or resources

The dine-arounds needed just a tiny bit more organization. The spreadsheet worked great, but when we all met in the lobby, there was no good way to find your group. If there had been printed signs, maybe - the first person there grabs the sign for their restaurant and then can hold it so everyone else can find them - it would have been so much easier to organize. I think some of the groups actually left early the first night, before all their people had showed up. The dine-arounds in general were a great idea, though, and I hope to see them again in the future.

I think the ongoing pandemic makes it difficult to meet in large groups, but I would appreciate more time/places for networking. In general I was very happy with Core Forum 2022.

Q3 - What topics would you like to see covered at Core Forum 2023?

What topics would you like to see covered at Core Forum 2023?

I loved the cataloging classes and would love to see a greater variety such as linked data, bibliographic maintenance, changes, etc.

I gravitate to anything building/space related.

Metadata updates, crosswalks, updates to utilize RDA and un-siloing information

More DEI. More management.

I need more skills around having difficult conversations and managing change both as a leader and as an employee.

more variety of leadership/management sessions, with some nuts and bolts type stuff, and public libraries represented more. i hope Core tries to appeal to public librarians in the future.

Perhaps something on implementation of official RDA. How is it being implemented and what problems may arise.

More e-resources stuff!

Authorities processing, data remediation, open source systems, data enrichment

Has the pandemic created a new standard for personal space in a library? Bonding small projects for public libraries. Inflation Reduction Act and how public libraries can get a 33% direct federal payment on sustainability projects such as geothermal, solar, LED lighting, window replacement, etc. The mobile height adjustable service desk trend Acoustics 101

More classes for those newer to leadership positions

Data services in libraries; evolving organizational structures in technical services and libraries; evolving roles for librarians and other professionals in the academic library technical services functions

interlibrary loan/copyright issues; perhaps sessions with speakers discussing pros/cons of various library systems to give attendees a peak into different choices and implementation issues and experiences.

Surviving system migrations, identity management/authority control, ethics of management, managing staff changes (retention, short staffing, retirement), mentoring, open educational resources in libraries, future of MLIS education, tough conversations in management, how to retire

Being the leadership division, I was hoping to see some more sessions on supervision skills including team management, communication between supervisors and team members, mentoring, improving library team environment, etc. I did attend one session that addressed some of that and even though it was an academic library and I come from a public library, I found that session to be the most helpful. In some cases it felt that sessions were almost a project fair which I typically see at other conferences. I guess I was just expecting more pragmatic leadership development sessions from this particular event.

More on leadership and project management.

no Covid related sessions!

I thought there was a good range and variety of topics covered for Forum 2022 so a similar mix for 2023 would be appropriate.

What topics would you like to see covered at Core Forum 2023?

More technology related presentations. Former LITA member here I guess that is back to me and those with LITA interests, not to you!

I think more systematic approaches for evaluating metadata for DEI topics would be great - maybe a hands-on workshop?

More for catalogers that isn't LCSH based.

Algorithm bias; the changing landscape of online identity and authentication; machine learning tools in libraries; managing non-librarian coders and technologists who work in/for libraries. Always more on UX. Always more on privacy. Always more on accessibility.

There continue to be requests for staff space design and the wellbeing for library staff. I think this aspect crosses all CORE sections and allows for exploration of the various spaces that function very differently.

More of government documents, data and data management, interactive tech presentations.

Dealing with employee burnout.

Loved the cataloging and metadata topics, but due to the DEI theme, they were all the same! Would like more variety wrt cataloging and metadata. More tech as well. How about PCC updates, OCLC updates? There is a lot going on at the national level that Core members would benefit from knowing about. Poster sessions were good and presenters were engaging.

Many of the "tech services" related presentation were metadata & cataloging related. I'm wondering if the competition of Charleston drew collections and acquisitions related presentations away from this conference. I do like this being in the fall, however if it is annual, it might not see a balance of presentations on the tech services side when competing with Charleston.

More programming on dealing with the challenges our colleagues are facing from political spheres.

Levy campaign operations; more community engagement content.

innovative approaches to problems. Saturday and Sunday.

Ask Core leadership, including section leadership Work-life balance and burnout

How to work with city councils, mayors and boards to build the perception of the library to what it is and can become through impacting economic development, community, resiliency, and social community issues.

I would like to see the Consultants IG represented.

design-related programs, office spaces for staff, leadership and management topics

So much more on management and leadership! This is an area that we can never get enough learning and support, and most people don't have formal training before stepping into a management or leadership role. Loved the focus on assessment - more of this at all levels in an org, not just for assessment and data librarians. Academic and educational technology, learning analytics, digital publishing would all be great additions in my mind.

I think the topics covered in Core Forum 2022 were spot on - access and equity, technology, cataloging/metadata, leadership and management. I didn't really care about the stuff that was focused on building and interiors/furniture and design, but I'm guessing that's also under the Core umbrella, so it makes sense that it's here.

I always want more technology sessions. Sessions about programs that libraries have implemented.

Q5 - Do you have any other suggestions for Core Forum 2023?

Do you have any other suggestions for Core Forum 2023?

N/a

another city like Salt Lake City, with restaurants close by and easy public transportation

having everything all in one hotel was convenient, but i didn't get a sense of the city and it kind of felt like it could have been in any city. maybe there's a way to incorporate the city more, wherever it is held in the future.

No, I was happy with how things turned out.

I found some of my interactions with Core leadership to be a bit cold and bristly. Staff were great, but I sat at a meal table with one leader who didn't converse with any other people at the table except someone they already knew, and in another instance leadership seem reluctant to introduce themselves in this role. Another kept talking about time zones and how tired they were. We all had to travel and are are tired ourselves, so this behavior seemed excessive. Overall leadership felt a little cliquy. Thomas and Brooke were very friendly and represented Core well however.

Repeat Anders Dahlgren's program (too few people attended in the lasts timeslot)

Opening reception aboard a Mississippi River paddle boat?

I'm glad to see the Forum is seeking input and hosted the Friday morning meeting to gather direct feedback from attendees. I know this division is still finding its feet with the consolidation and dealing with COVID, so this is all understandable. I look forward to seeing how Core continues to grow and improve.

no topics for dine arounds. I avoided this as I just wanted to socialize and not talk shop.

n/a

See comments about changes, suggested.

More sessions and better control over the situation. Also it might be a good idea to request digital copies of the poster sessions since some people wanted them.

I found the program of sessions very hard to use. It apparently used anonymized descriptions from the session proposals (e.g. "...In the Fall of 2021, the library initiated a feasibility study...") rather than de-anonymized versions that would have been more descriptive ("...In the Fall of 2021, the ABC Library at Big State University initiated a feasibility study...")

Continue to build upon the foundations that have made CF2022 a success. Demonstrate value for money and strive to give opportunity to more people to present either posters or presentations. Not necessarily more programs but seek to rotate the presenters. Getting funding at this time for travel and conference is easier when you can demonstrate that you will be an active member in attendance rather than a passive member. Getting good keynote speakers helps greatly and C. Thi Nguyen and Jonathan Moody were both rewarding, exciting, and energizing personalities and speakers.

Make it hybrid to include more attendees.

Do the dine arounds really need to have work themes? Thank you to everyone who put together the Forum. Great job!

Move CORE Forum to an every other year conference rather than annually. There are too many conferences that cover similar topics and compete with this one. To gain high quality presentations and greater attendance, a less frequent conference would be beneficial.

Do you have any other suggestions for Core Forum 2023?

Earlier and stronger marketing to draw more participation.

possibly printouts of the conference room floorplan

Thank you!!!

Keep doing what you did here.

Just dietary things - If you're going to provide a meal, include non dairy options and provide more protein options. There was no non-dairy alternative to milk at coffee bar, no non-dairy yogurt option, and no other protein alternative (e.g. hard boiled eggs). This feels like a basic requirement at this point - SO many people have dietary intolerances (esp dairy!), allergies and preferences. Not having these options means these people have to go elsewhere for those meals, and they won't be reimbursed for them by their institution, since technically some food was provided.

I still really wish that ALA would consider more hybrid conferences. I've planned ALA conferences in the past - some for divisions, some ALA midwinters and annuals - and it's really not as difficult or expensive as it was even two or three years ago. But with me already being required to attend LibLearnX and Annual each year because of my specific ALA involvement, it makes it really hard to justify going to Core Forum in person also - especially when it would involve going to New Orleans twice in 2023!

Frequent trips to cafe du Monde.

Q7 - We are looking for testimonials about Core Forum 2022. Would you like to share anything?

We are looking for testimonials about Core Forum 2022. Would you like to sh...

I loved the intimacy of Core Forum. I loved that it was focused on the technical side of libraries and leadership. I highly recommend it!

N/a

Packed into 2 days was a lot of material that was thought provoking and could lead to action. You got a lot of of return on money spent

The closing keynote was the most inspirational keynote I have attended at any ALA conference. Two days packed with great content.

n/a

It was great to see old colleagues from ALCTS, I appreciated the opportunity.

Q6 - Can we use your comments on Core Forum promotional materials? If so, please

type your name here.

Can we use your comments on Core Forum promotional materials? If so, please...

Sharolyn Swenson

N/a

Brian Falato

Joan Chapa

Seth Penchansky

Carla Gordon

End of Report