

ULA 2016 Survey Summary

119 Total Responses

Preconferences

Martin Garnar (27 respondents)

- 24 satisfied or very satisfied
- 3 neutral/dissatisfied

Sina Bahram (19 respondents)

- 15 satisfied or very satisfied
- 4 neutral/dissatisfied

Conducting Research (14 respondents)

- 11 very satisfied
- 3 neutral/dissatisfied

Empowering Employees (19 respondents)

- 12 satisfied or very satisfied
- 7 neutral/dissatisfied

Death by Powerpoint (13 respondents)

- 12 satisfied or very satisfied
- 1 neutral/dissatisfied

Implicit Bias (10 respondents)

- 10 satisfied or very satisfied
- 0 neutral/dissatisfied

Family Search (10 respondents)

- 8 satisfied or very satisfied
- 2 neutral

Selected comments:

- “The pre-conferences seemed a bit long. I felt like an hour and a half or two would have been sufficient.”
- “More of the sessions should involve breaking into small groups and interacting.”

Feedback on General Sessions

40 comments, overall very positive feedback with a select few noting dissatisfaction with the variety of programs (13 respondents of 116).

Themes: Overall Positivity

- “This was my first ULA Conference and after having just attended PLA for the first time last month, I was still impressed by the overall quality of this conference. There were many ideas that I garnered from this conference. Some sessions were more relevant than others as always, but I got a little something from all that I attended. It was also wonderful to bump into fellow cohorts and build some more networking, which you just don't get the same at national conferences I feel.”
- “It was helpful to me that sessions were categorized by library type, i.e. General, Academic, & Public. The presenters I saw were well prepared and knowledgeable in their topics. It was the best ULA conference I have attended to date!”
- “I felt there were just about the right number of sessions offered for each time-slot; I always found something interesting or relevant to attend, but I never had so many that I had to miss a lot that looked useful.”

Themes: Suggestions for 2017

- “More of the sessions should involve breaking into small groups and interacting.”
- “Some sessions were more of a "show and tell" or exhibit-style and others were more like workshops. It might be nice to differentiate these two styles in future.”
- “In regards to variety, considering the growing field of digital libraries, perhaps a few more panels/presentations relating to that topic would be beneficial.”
- “Would like to have some school librarian relevant topics, job fair, collaborating between different types of organizations”

Themes: Calls for More Children’s Programming (overall, 5 of 42 or 11% of comments related to this topic)

- “I am a children's librarian and would have liked more children's programming. I was disappointed on Friday that there were two very relevant children's programs and they were offered at the same time. I am not suggesting a full-on track, but it would be nice if presentations targeting the same group did not have to compete in the same hour.”
- “I would have liked to see more children's and teen focused sessions”
- “I think we need programming and YS sessions. There was only 1 storytime session, 2 on teens and a few general sessions. I think we need more specifically targeted to Youth Services librarians.”

Themes: Blood Drive

- “I thought it was brilliant to hold a blood drive throughout the day, allowing us to give blood when the sessions for a particular track were not compelling (which happens at least once in every conference!).”

Themes: Mixed Feedback

- “More public library offerings are needed.”
- “I loved that there were more options for public libraries.”

Silent Auction

95% of respondents knew about the silent auction

90% of respondents said there was enough time to view and bid on items

53% would be willing to bring an item next year

Selected comments (19 comments):

- “Let everyone know whether you can take credit cards prior to the event.”
- “I think it would encourage more bidding if pens were provided with the auction sheets.”
- “Have more lower priced items. I wanted to help, but couldn't afford it.”
- “It would be nice if the silent auction items were on display during lunch.”
- “Maybe allow people to begin bidding a little earlier in the day”

Networking Social

25% (29) attended

75% (89) did not attend

Data difficult to parse; only 29 attended but 80 people responded to questions about the networking social, they were likely thinking they were responding to opportunities to network at the conference in general rather than at the social specifically.

Keynotes

Over 50% positive response regarding both keynotes

Selected comments (25 comments):

- “Great choices this year!”
- “Both of them were fantastic!”
- “I loved both of them. They were both interesting enough to keep me from falling asleep.”

Sina Bahram: All positive reviews, though a few comments that he was difficult to hear.

- “Sina Bahram was an excellent speaker and the topic of his keynote was very timely and applicable. I enjoyed this speaker and hope there will be similar speakers on similar topics in the future.”
- “Sina was brilliant, fast-paced, funny and very enlightening.”

Martin Garnar: More mixed reviews; most said he was enjoyable but not substantive.

- “A lot of the info from Garnar I already knew and got bored after a while. I would have liked more practical application.”
- “I enjoyed Gamar more but learned from Bahram”

Online Registration and Payment

96% found it easy and convenient and/or moderately easy and convenient

Poster Sessions (percentages do not matter on this question because people could choose more than one answer)

67 respondents found them well-placed and informative

18 found them well-placed but not too informative

24 thought they should be expanded

Exhibit Space (percentages do not matter on this question because people could choose more than one answer)

Vast majority responded positively that the space/exhibitors/exhibits were friendly and inviting/relevant/diverse/and informative.

Small minorities (less than 5 people) disagreed; a larger minority (11 respondents) found it too crowded.

Selected comments (20 comments):

- “Would have liked a few more vendors with a bit more variety. I found the few vendors I was looking for, but would've liked to see Recorded books or overdrive there.”
- “Please have more exhibitors!”
- “It may be a good idea to provide better hype and advertising for the posters. Many people don't even know they take place.”

Conference Facility

Most were very satisfied, satisfied, or neutral. Small minorities (1-4 respondents) disagreed, though a notable minority (17) were dissatisfied with the temperature.

[Note: Should we ask this question next year? There is very little we can do about the facility]

Selected comments (33 comments):

- “I wish they'd put more into soundproofing, what with Hill so close. Other than that, it's a very nice facility.”
- “I rode FrontRunner to get to the conference. The bus connections made for a very long commute from the train station to the conference center. Perhaps in the future, to encourage more environmentally friendly choices, ULA could provide attendees a shuttle to and from FrontRunner (at specific times--two near the start and stop of the conference day).”
- “Jets - not much you can do about that. Some of the speakers refused to use the mic. That's the speaker's fault - not the facility's.”

- “Perhaps I missed it, but recycling should have been available.”
- “It was chilly, but otherwise comfortable.”

Other services

Most people were satisfied with:

- Availability of Authors
- Space and logistics of book signing area
- Quality of Printed Program
- Notable minority (18% of respondents who answered this question) were dissatisfied with the usefulness of the printed program
- Contents of conference back
- Check-in process
- Area for distributing conference information
- Time to interact with peers
- Time to network

Selected comments (42 comments, majority commented on print program):

- “It was great to have everything online. I really didn't need the printed program. Maybe make them available, but not in every bag.”
- “I found it more convenient when the printed program summarized what each class was about”
- “Author panels conflicted with other conference meetings so I couldn't attend. Wished networking opportunities were during day and not in evening as I had to pick up child from daycare and couldn't afford to attend the lunches.”

Meals and Refreshment Breaks

Most respondents were very positive with a notable minority (20% of respondents who answered this question) dissatisfied about Friday's lunch.

Selected comments (41 comments):

- “It would have been nice to have muffins, bagels, etc. in the morning before starting. I did appreciate having the water pitchers in each room--that was nice to have!”
- “Something other than cookies for afternoon refreshments would be appreciated. Also, consideration of dietary needs during snack breaks, not just lunches (which is awesome!), would be nice.”
- “It's nice that you have the coffee available. If you had some herbal tea/hot chocolate that would have been useful for me and others. I bagel or muffin would have been nice mid-morning.”
- “The coffee/tea stations were awesome! Lunch on Thurs. was pretty light, especially for gluten free or vegetarian eaters. A potato, pasta, or other prepared salad would have enhanced the fresh/green salad.”

Conference Hotel

Most people did not stay at conference hotel; however, some folks called about the hotel and were told the reserved rooms for ULA were booked.

Selected comments:

- “Conference hotel told me they were booked. It was not true.”

2017 Conference

Vast majority will be attending; 10 respondents will be using hotel and remainder will not.

Most Enjoyable Experience in Layton

Very positive responses about keynotes, preconferences, staff training and empowerment sessions, and ability to network; several good comments specifically about the social media session from SLCPL librarians and Give Staff an Hour presentation from Jami Carter.

Selected comments (69 comments, see attached):

- “I really liked the teen programming troubleshooting sessions as well as the self-directed achievement session. Those would definitely be worth having back.”
- “Staff training tips. I will likely try out Jami's Give Staff an Hour.”
- “I liked the social media class by Salt Lake city main librarians. And the customer service class by Utah Valley University librarians.”
- “I liked many of the sessions. Books with Babies was fun (although I'm a medical librarian), and the pre-session on research and publishing was very helpful.”
- “I really enjoyed The Conducting research pre-conference session and would appreciate more like it.”

Additional Suggestions for Future Conferences

[Note: Can we combine these last 3 questions next year? They are redundant]

Selected comments (33 comments):

- “Technical services topics, information on electronic resources, information on linked data, bibframe”
- “Job hunting/side gigs for unemployed librarians, school librarian meetings/topics, panels from University deans, public library directors and principals about what they look for in an interview and how their organizations run the hiring process.”
- “Please, more children's services related sessions-- not just teen services.”
- “Project management and management courses.”

Additional Suggestions for Sessions at Future Conferences

Selected comments (46 comments):

- “Include more rural library subjects and struggles, suggestions on how to succeed on a small budget.”
- “It would be nice if the sessions were recorded! There were a few that looked so interesting that were slotted for the same time, and it would be so nice to pull up the presentation after the conference and see them.”
- “More vendors if possible.”

Further Comments

By and large very positive!

Selected comments (27 comments):

- “There are so many rural libraries in Utah, I wish ULA would create a funding mechanism that allowed small libraries to participate at a reduced rate. Small library staff have to do everything in their libraries and would benefit greatly from the support and training offered through ULA.”
- “Thanks for all your hard work!”
- “It was a great conference! Thanks!”

ULA 2016 Conference Evaluation

What was your most positive conference experience in Layton? What programs/events/opportunities would you like to see repeated at future conferences?

Answer Options	Response Count
	70
<i>answered question</i>	70
<i>skipped question</i>	49

Number	Response Date	Response Text
1	May 26, 2016 4:57 PM	I enjoyed the story time conferemce and the interaction with other libraries.
2	May 19, 2016 3:46 AM	Always looking for ways to imprive storytime, knowledge of current popular fiction and helping patrons find information.
3	May 16, 2016 6:50 PM	Martin and Sine Several sessions were very interesting: Bringing Conversations in Your Teaching, Literally, Health and Wellness Information for Librarians, and Establishing Discipline-Specific Information Practices.
4	May 13, 2016 12:41 AM	Librarians, and Establishing Discipline-Specific Information Practices.
5	May 12, 2016 9:49 PM	I enjoyed all of the children's programs I was able to attend the one day I was there.
6	May 12, 2016 9:12 PM	ethics, research services
7	May 12, 2016 3:46 PM	I really enjoyed the Baby storytimes session. North Logan's teen session was also really good.
8	May 11, 2016 7:51 PM	Logan library's UnConference was really good. I expect them to follow through on the information they offered to provide.
9	May 11, 2016 6:14 PM	These are some of the better preconference sessions I've been to at ULA. Nice job.
10	May 11, 2016 6:06 PM	I really enjoyed the conference. Sessions were interesting and the presenters knowledgeable.
11	May 11, 2016 5:57 PM	Good presentations and time to interact with colleagues. Thank you for providing a variety of sessions to meet the needs of the different types of libraries we represent, and for making sure there was something for everyone during each time slot. I've attended conferences where I wanted to attend 2 or 3 sessions one hour, then nothing appealed to me the next hour. For the most part, that wasn't the case this time.
12	May 11, 2016 5:34 PM	I really liked the teen programming troubleshooting sessions as well as the self-directed achievement session. Those would definitely be worth having back.
13	May 11, 2016 4:55 PM	definitely be worth having back.
14	May 11, 2016 4:08 PM	First was the location, there were some good presentations as well.
15	May 11, 2016 3:13 PM	the ILEAD presentation was great, and should be highlighted in the future.
16	May 11, 2016 2:45 PM	Talking with others during breaks.
17	May 10, 2016 11:53 PM	The Friday keynote on intellectual freedom.
18	May 10, 2016 10:40 PM	Learned some new things to take back to my library for the benefit of my patrons.
19	May 10, 2016 10:27 PM	Two keynotes was a nice idea. I liked them both. Loved the silent auction. Good cause, good fun. LDS genealogy classes were very interesting and I learned about new program possibilities.[] I liked the personality class, which provided helpful information on un-stressing more effectively.[]
20	May 10, 2016 8:43 PM	The two keynote speakers did a great job.
21	May 10, 2016 8:18 PM	The food.
22	May 10, 2016 8:16 PM	Sessions were great, ALWAYS cold drinks. Keep that up. I found the sessions on staff development and supervision especially helpful. I am also particularly interested in Special
23	May 10, 2016 7:42 PM	Collections and archives, especially audio-visual collections. I thought the keynote speakers where very interesting for everyone across the board - academic, public etc. More keynote
24	May 10, 2016 7:37 PM	addresses that appeal to the masses are awesome.
25	May 10, 2016 7:00 PM	The variety of presentations was great. I would like to see the silent auction again.
26	May 10, 2016 6:58 PM	n/a

27 **May 10, 2016 6:35 PM** I really liked the presenters and the information they had to offer. It was great to be able to share ideas with everyone.

28 **May 10, 2016 6:11 PM** There were several academic library sessions, more than in the past which was much better.
More presentations on Empowerment and working with staff would be good.[]

29 **May 10, 2016 5:49 PM** This conference seemed less rushed, which was very welcome!

30 **May 10, 2016 5:28 PM** Staff training tips. I will likely try out Jami's Give Staff an Hour.

31 **May 10, 2016 5:00 PM** The SDA introduction was fabulous, along with keynote by Sina.

32 **May 10, 2016 4:56 PM** Second keynote.
The network social at Kaysville Library was intimate and a great chance to look at another library. Loved it! 3D Printing was a great session as they answered many of my questions and had great experiences to inform their answers. Accessibility topics by Sina were great! Programming ideas are always great even if some of the teen ones overlapped. Keep up the variety!

33 **May 10, 2016 3:54 PM** The ability to network was wonderful at the Layton conference and I hope to have those type of experiences continue in future

34 **May 10, 2016 3:46 PM** conference.
I received my Paraprofessional Certificate!!
[]

35 **May 10, 2016 3:34 PM** Really enjoyed the Self-Directed Achievement session and hope to be able to implement this at our library.

36 **May 10, 2016 3:16 PM** Talking with fellow librarians but fear in talking about anything else.

37 **May 10, 2016 4:36 AM** It is hard to find 2 affordable and interesting people for keynotes. This should continue to be an essential part of the conference.
Interacting with library staff from other organizations, and being able to see what issues they are dealing with, and the types of solutions they are implementing.

38 **May 10, 2016 3:46 AM**

39 **May 10, 2016 3:04 AM** I liked the social media class by Salt Lake city main librarians. And the customer service class by Utah Valley University librarians.
I enjoyed networking and talking to the conference presenters after their sessions. It would be nice to build in a little more transition

40 **May 10, 2016 2:35 AM** time between session.

41 **May 10, 2016 1:50 AM** I loved the networking social, especially being so new to the profession!!
I enjoyed the lunch. I am gluten free and it was better than most places. I would love to see this standard every year. []
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42 **May 10, 2016 12:31 AM** The most positive were a few of the classes including the obituary database one and the one on customer service presented by UVU.
I think learning about a new infographic tool was my most effective takeaway for attending only one day of conferences.[]

43 **May 10, 2016 12:22 AM** I liked the opportunity to network at lunch and between classes.

44 **May 10, 2016 12:19 AM** Both keynotes were excellent

45 **May 9, 2016 11:59 PM** Session about social media and graphic design principles. More hands-on session next time.

46 **May 9, 2016 11:55 PM** Diversity of presentations
I attended a Teen Programming unconference that felt as if it was cut short due to the time allotted. I wish that it was longer so we could have discussed more. If there's another unconference in the future, would like more time.

47 **May 9, 2016 11:29 PM**

48 **May 9, 2016 11:15 PM** The presentation rooms were great, will this be the same next year??
I enjoyed meeting people from libraries across Utah. I am new to the area and this was a very positive networking and learning

49 **May 9, 2016 11:08 PM** experience for me.
Networking. It was great to see "old" library friends and to make new ones. I liked hearing what some had to say in their sessions,

50 **May 9, 2016 11:02 PM** and what they had to say just in passing.

51 **May 9, 2016 10:50 PM** more for public libraries

52 **May 9, 2016 10:37 PM** It's always fun to see those you don't get to meet on a regular basis and to meet new people.
Seeing people I knew and getting to know more people. Also, the exhibitors are part of the reason I attend--I want to see them in

53 **May 9, 2016 10:29 PM** person and talk to them about our products and take a chance to thank them.

54 **May 9, 2016 10:15 PM** I really like volunteering at the registration desk. It was a good way to start the day and I would be happy to do it again.

- 55 **May 9, 2016 10:10 PM** Seeing my librarian colleagues and meeting new folks.
Most positive experience was Garnar's precon. I appreciate an intellectual freedom person who understands that we work within parameters (law, local politics), but still champions IF. Also, the FamilySearch precon was great. Sometimes it has been "What's new at FamilySearch?" and the answer seemed to be, "Nothing. Let me tell you what we did in the past." But the presentations
- 56 **May 9, 2016 10:08 PM** lately have been very much the opposite. Good! Enlightening!
I liked many of the sessions. Books with Babies was fun (although I'm a medical librarian), and the pre-session on research and
- 57 **May 9, 2016 10:07 PM** publishing was very helpful.
- 58 **May 9, 2016 10:04 PM** I learned a lot about other library's from the conference sessions, and how we can do things better in our small library.
- 59 **May 9, 2016 10:00 PM** Good choice of classes.
- 60 **May 9, 2016 10:00 PM** Keynote speakers were excellent.
- 61 **May 9, 2016 9:57 PM** All of the sessions I attended were very good.
- 62 **May 9, 2016 9:54 PM** My favorites were Death by PowerPoint, Management pre-conference, and Self-Directed Learning.
- 63 **May 9, 2016 9:52 PM** The individual sessions were the most beneficial to me.
Great location and great space. Conference was well laid out and ran smoothly - kudos to all the planners! I thought Catherine
- 64 **May 9, 2016 9:51 PM** Soehner's presentation/training was very well done, in particular.
The blood drive.[]
emergency preparedness[]
- 65 **May 9, 2016 9:50 PM** LDS author session
- 66 **May 9, 2016 9:47 PM** The keynotes were fantastic. Jami Carter's presentation on Self-Directed Achievement was also great.
- 67 **May 9, 2016 9:44 PM** Informal networking.
- 68 **May 9, 2016 9:41 PM** The digital accessibility given by Sina Bahram was very informative, eye opening, and presented very well.
- 69 **May 9, 2016 9:39 PM** More and more about accessibility.
- 70 **May 9, 2016 9:37 PM** I really enjoyed The Conducting research pre-conference session and would appreciate more like it,