



The benefits of attending IFLA conferences

Executive Summary

The IFLA Section for Libraries and Research Services for Parliaments wanted to understand more about the benefits that participants got from attending the annual preconference and/or the main IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) conference. A survey was developed which 65 respondents completed from 44 countries from all the regions of the world. All the respondents work in parliaments, most as employees and a few as parliamentary development consultants.

Employers paid for 70% of participants to attend the conference, with relatively small numbers who paid for themselves, or were paid for by either a donor organisation or Library Association. Nearly 90% of participants rated the preconference which is focused upon the work of Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services as more useful than the more general IFLA conference focused on the work of libraries generally.

Benefits of attendance

The key benefits of attending the conference for their organisations were described by respondents as:

- Learn from other parliamentary libraries/research services
- Gather new ideas to develop your service
- Identify future trends that will affect your service
- Assess your service against international best practice for parliamentary libraries/research services

Respondents also mentioned the benefits of identifying which other parliamentary libraries/research services to work with, or promoting your service. Some respondents mentioned having a broader context, or building a network to call upon for specific benchmarking requests and exchanging information about best practice.

¹ Participants at the 29th IFLA pre-conference, Singapore 2013. Photocredit: BeckerFraserPhotos

There was even greater congruence from survey participants when it came to identifying what the personal benefits were from attending the IFLA conference and just under 90% identified three features:

- Networking with the international community
- Professional development
- Identify new ideas

Focus group members said it was hard to differentiate between individual and organisational benefits of networking, as networks are maintained by individuals and used for business benefit. They spoke of the inspiration they received from attending a global conference and meeting people all around the world working in similar environments and facing similar challenges. This results in deep knowledge sharing and increased motivation for the work of parliamentary libraries and research services upon their return home.

“It is more like education than training – your thinking develops, you get insights, arguments, evidence, bad examples as well as good. It isn’t so much that you get products to slavishly reproduce as your practice is better informed, stimulated – not necessarily in a direct way. And the network has been very useful in informing/supporting initiatives between the conferences.”

What would make it easier to attend

There were several important threads in the answers which all tended towards reducing the cost of attendance. The ideas included having the conference venue in your own region, or making the conference shorter or providing more opportunities for funding. More relevant programming was important to some, as was a support letter from the Section Chair. Language assistance was mentioned by about 11%.

Recommendations for IFLA Section leadership

- Advocate with the Association of Secretaries-General of Parliaments (ASGP) by sending a report to ASGP, writing an article about the IFLA Section’s work for the ASGP Newsletter, and a general invitation via ASGP, so that our profile is raised with Secretaries-General
- Engage with other parliamentary forums (e.g. World e-Parliament, IPU Assemblies etc.) to raise the profile of the IFLA Section’s work
- Post an Invitation letter from Chair on website for downloading that outlines the benefits of attending the conference
- Make it easier to understand how the pre-conference, the training day and main conference work together for first timers considering attending
- Post a Communique/one page report on website for delegates to present to their own parliamentary leadership shortly after conference
- Ensure relevance of theme to parliamentary work
- Consider Webinars and other ways of attending remotely
- Arrange for Podcasting presentations where possible

Ideas to advocate for change with IFLA leadership

- How to shorten the length of the conference for participants attending both the preconference and the main conference
- Hold business meetings simultaneously with the conference sessions (as the second Standing Committee meetings are held) to reduce the impact of the two slow days between the pre-conferences and the main IFLA conference getting under way.
- Reduce the registration fee, especially for developing countries

IFLA Section for Library & Research Services for Parliaments

Report on Survey about Attendance at IFLA Conferences

Background to survey project

The Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section was successful in bidding for funds for a project to evaluate the benefits of attending IFLA conferences. The suggestion for the project came from the 2012 IFLA conference in Helsinki and was seen as very beneficial in supporting colleagues who were making the case to attend future IFLA conferences. The project aimed to understand the benefits of and drivers for attendance at the IFLA conferences. It is intended to be used by the leadership of the IFLA Section for Libraries and Research Services for Parliaments to maximise the benefits for attendees and help others to make the case to attend.

One of the goals was to establish an evaluation methodology for attendance at the IFLA conference (and pre-conference) by conducting a survey of members of the Parliamentary Section who have and have not attended IFLA conferences in recent years. For those who have attended, it will establish the benefits of attendance and the elements of the programme that have been most and least useful. For those who have not attended it will assess the reasons for non-attendance and drivers that would increase attendance.

Another goal was to align with IFLA's key initiatives, as it is through attendance at the conference, most members of IFLA are exposed to those initiatives and have an opportunity to contribute to them. Members can be inspired to play their own special part in making the Key Initiatives real once they return home.

Methodology

The methodology consisted of these phases:

- literature review of evaluation methodologies
- recommendation to sponsor for methodology
- agreement to methodology, design and sign off of survey
- survey issued
- preliminary analysis of survey responses
- presentation to preconference and focus group discussion
- final analysis of survey responses
- report prepared

With the global spread of Section members and interested parties, the most practical way to conduct the survey was online. Survey monkey was chosen and the survey was advertised using the extensive mailing lists of the Secretary of the Section (about 500 individuals).

Anticipated Beneficiaries and Stakeholders

The main stakeholders were envisaged as:

1. Members of the Parliamentary Section
2. Parliamentary administrations (who need to approve budgets for travel to IFLA conferences)
3. Other IFLA Sections
4. IFLA conference organisers

Expected Outcomes and Results

- Focused ideas for implementation at future IFLA conferences which should lead to higher attendance
- A report for use by Section members when making the case to attend future IFLA conferences
- A toolkit for other IFLA Sections who may wish to conduct similar evaluations to be published on the website

Survey results

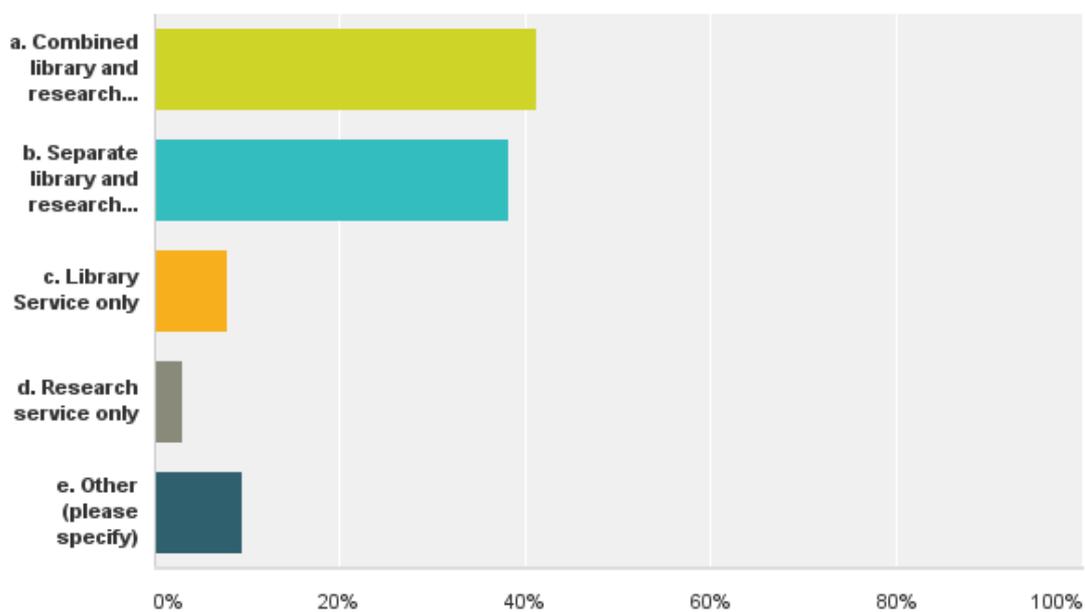
Where do survey respondents come from?



There were 65 respondents who completed the survey from 44 countries across all regions of the world. Everyone who responded works within Parliaments, with a few parliamentary development consultants who work in various Parliaments and a few people working in Regional Parliaments such as the European Parliament and the Pan African Parliament.

Q5 Does your Parliament have:

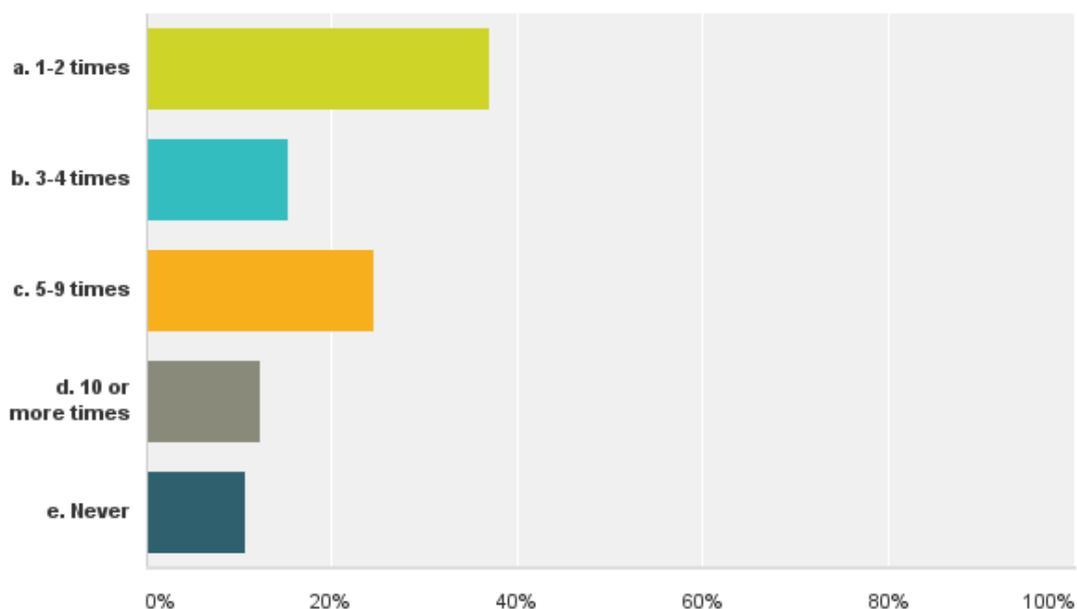
Answered: 63 Skipped: 2



The most common model is a combined Library and Research Service with 42% of the Parliaments using that model, closely followed at 38% by countries with separate Library and Research Services.

Q6 How often have you attended an IFLA conference

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0



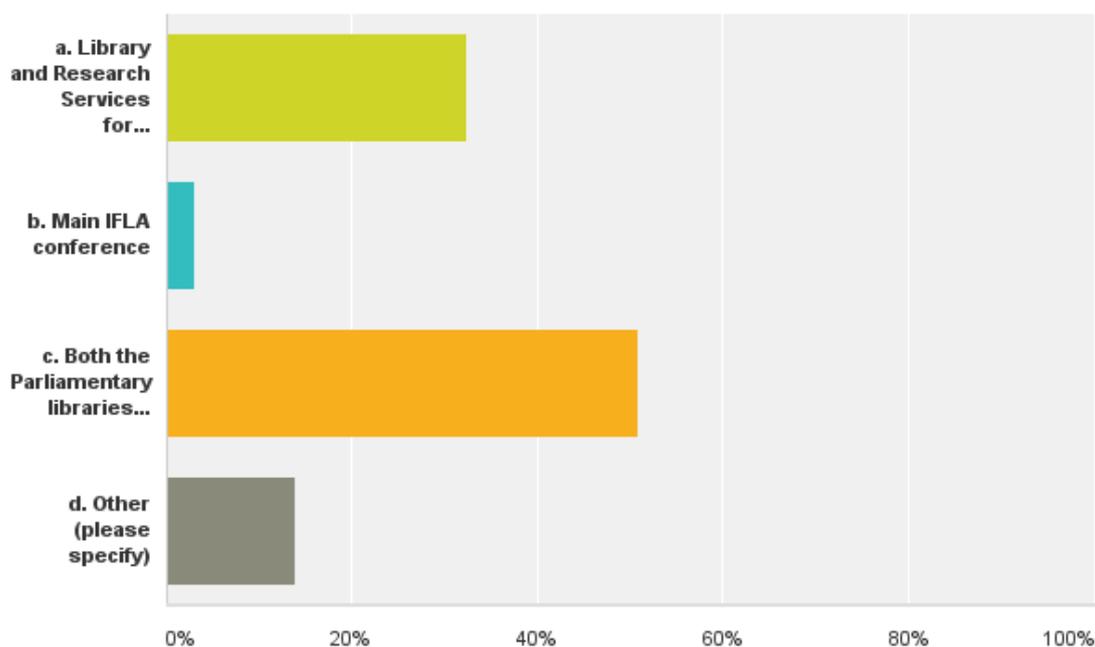
36% of respondents have attended 1-2 conferences, with 24% attending 5-9 times. 12% of survey respondents have never attended an IFLA Conference.

Question 7 asked: Do you usually attend:

- a) Library and Research Services for Parliaments Pre-conference
- b) Main IFLA Conference
- c) Both the Parliamentary libraries section preconference and the main IFLA Conference
- d) Other (please specify)

Q7 Do you usually attend:

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0



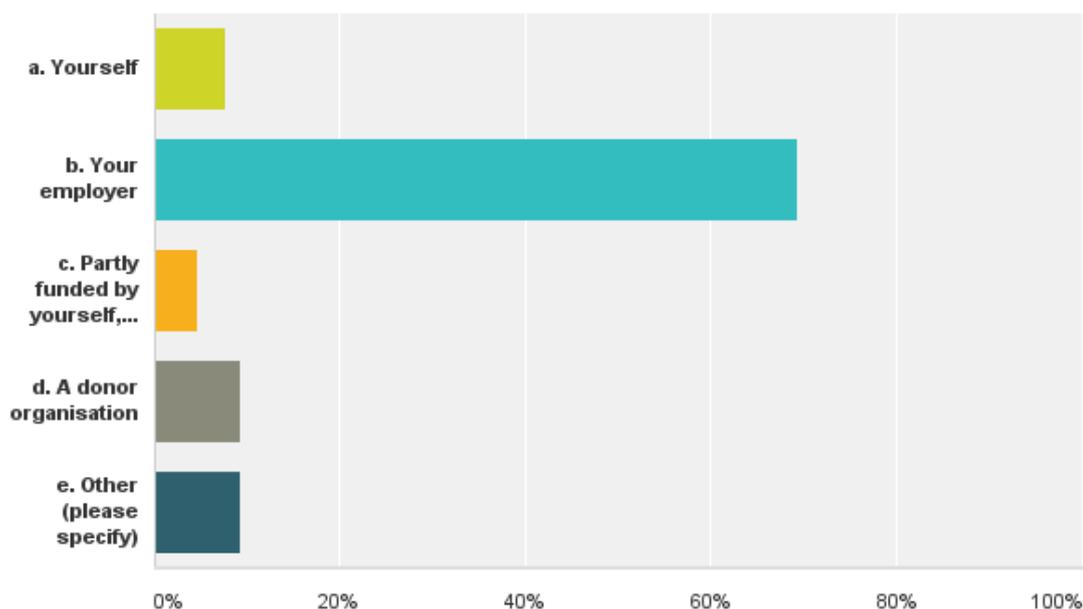
Half the respondents attend both the Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services preconference and the main IFLA Conference. 32% of respondents attend only the preconference which is focused upon Libraries and Research Services for Parliaments.

Question 8 was Who usually pays for you to attend the IFLA Conference?

- a) Yourself
- b) Your employer
- c) Partly funded by yourself and partly funded by your employer
- d) A donor organisation
- e) Other (Please specify)

Q8 Who usually pays for you to attend the IFLA conference?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0



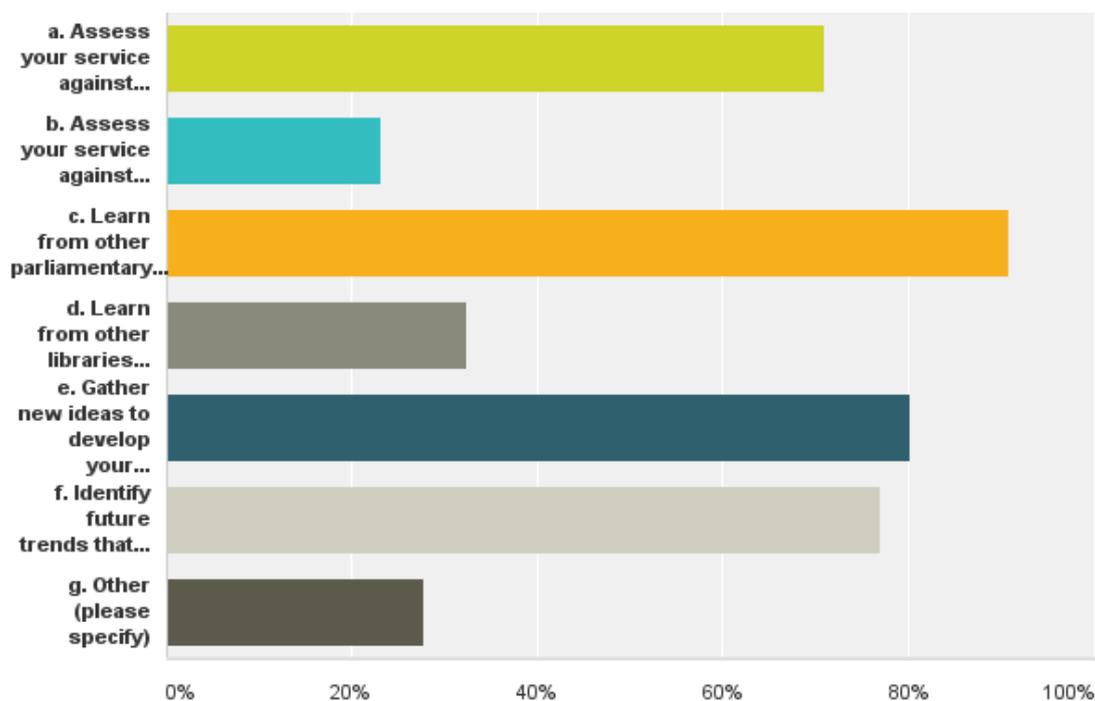
70% of respondents attend the conference with their employer paying for them, with small numbers paying for themselves, or paid for by a donor organisation, or a Library Association.

Question 9 asked: How does your organisation benefit from your attendance at an IFLA conference (check all options that apply)

- a) Assess your service against international best practice for parliamentary libraries
- b) Assess your service against international best practice for libraries generally
- c) Learn from other parliamentary libraries/research services
- d) Learn from other libraries generally
- e) Gather new ideas to develop your service
- f) Identify future trends that will affect your service
- g) Other (please specify)

Q9 How does your organisation benefit from your attendance at an IFLA conference (check all options that apply)

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0



Four answers were endorsed by more than 70% of participants as the most common organisational benefits from attendance. The numbers in brackets are the percentage of respondents who endorsed each item:

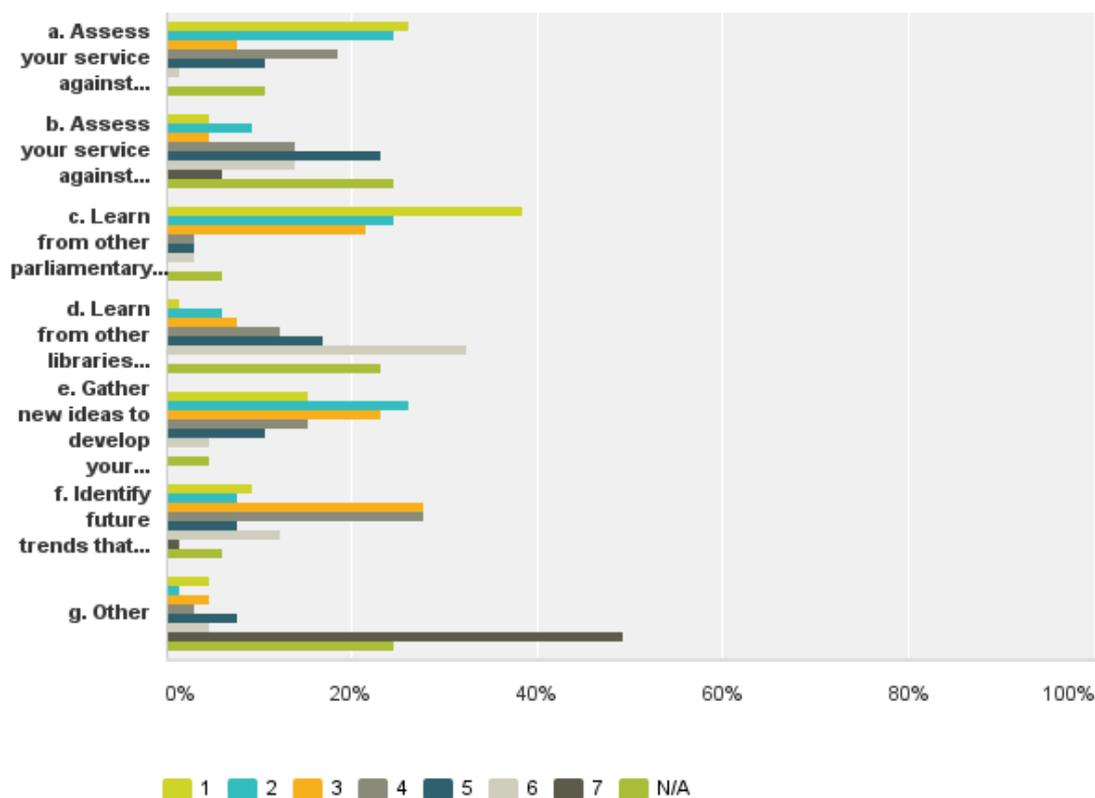
- Learn from other parliamentary libraries/research services (90%)
- Gather new ideas to develop your service (80%)
- Identify future trends that will affect your service (77%)
- Assess your service against international best practice for parliamentary libraries/research services (71%)

There was much higher endorsement of the benefits of sharing knowledge with other people working in a parliamentary library/research service. The endorsements of the benefit for sharing with libraries generally were around the 20-30% level compared with 70-90% for learning from parliamentary libraries/research services.

Question 10 asked participants to rank the benefits their organisation received.

Q10 Please rank the benefits your organisation receives (1= most important)

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0

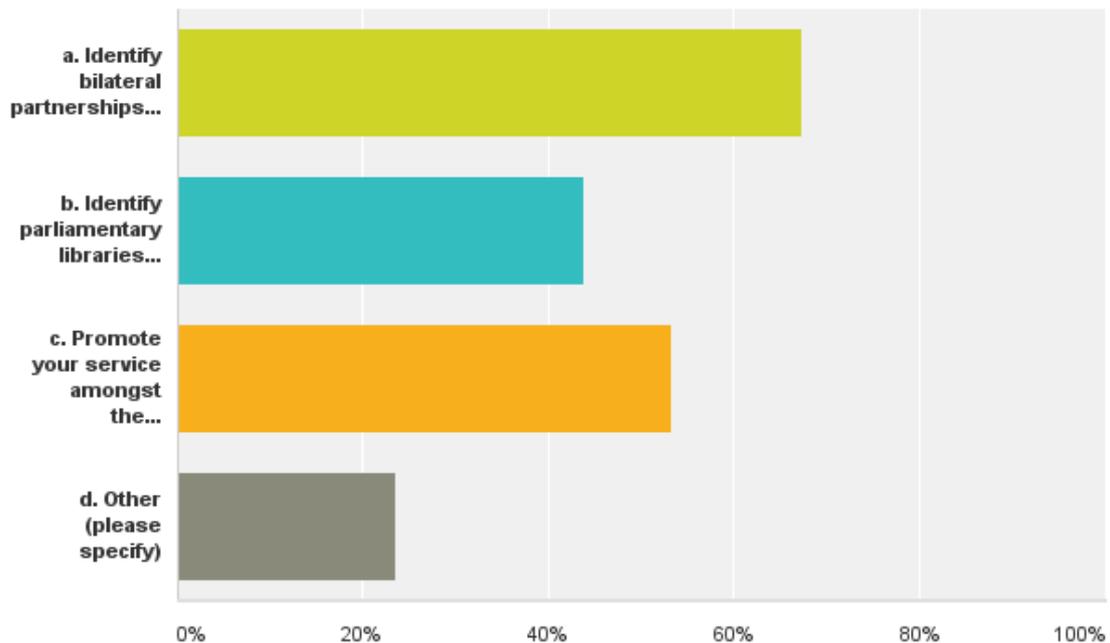


Question 11 was: How does your organisation benefit from being part of the international community? (Check all options that apply)

- a) Identify bilateral partnerships to assist your service to develop
- b) Identify parliamentary libraries that need your assistance to develop
- c) Promote your service amongst the international community of parliamentary libraries
- d) Other (please specify)

Q11 How does your organisation benefit from being part of the international community? (Check all options that apply)

Answered: 64 Skipped: 1

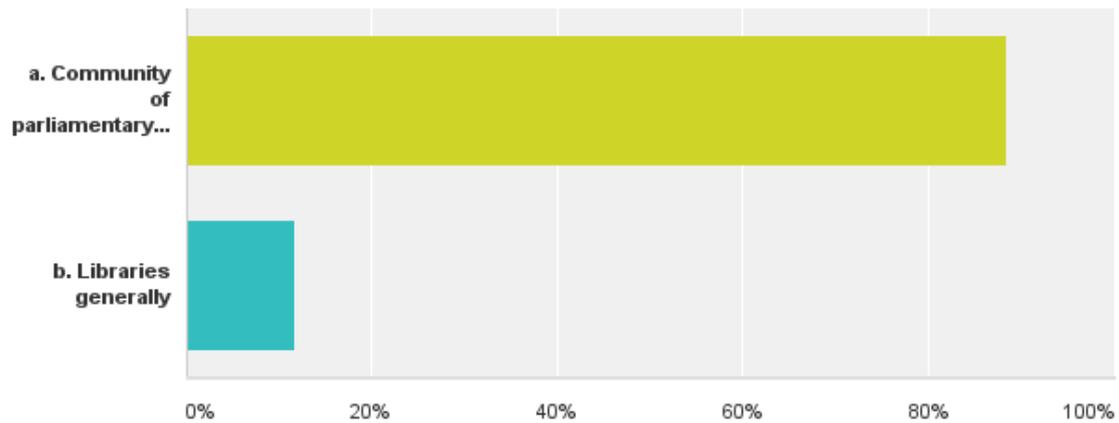


Networking is often mentioned as a value of attending a conference. This question sought to understand what tangible benefits there are to an organisation from networking. As well as the benefits of identifying who to work with, or promoting your service, respondents mentioned having a broader context, building a network to call upon for specific benchmarking requests and exchanging information about best practice.

- 68% of participants valued the benefit of identifying bilateral partnerships
- 43% of participants valued the benefit of identifying parliamentary libraries that need assistance to develop
- 52% of participants saw it as a benefit to promote their service amongst the international community of parliamentary libraries

Q12 Does your organisation receive more benefit from the community of parliamentary libraries/research services or from the international community of libraries generally.

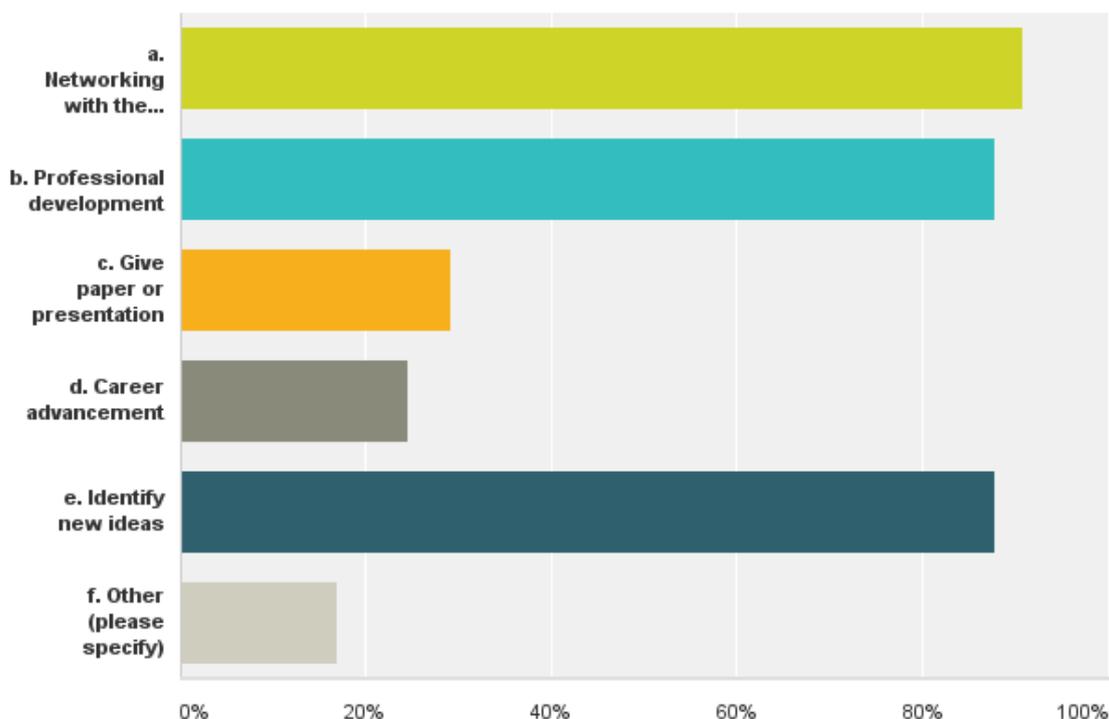
Answered: 60 Skipped: 5



The clearest answer in the survey came from nearly 88.5% of the respondents who said they got more benefit from the focused discussion with those who work in other parliamentary libraries and research services.

Q13 How do you benefit as an individual from attending an IFLA conference? (Check all options that apply)

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0



There was more congruence about the personal benefits were from attending the IFLA conference and just under 90% identified three features:

- Networking with the international community (91%)
- Professional development (88%)
- Identify new ideas (88%)

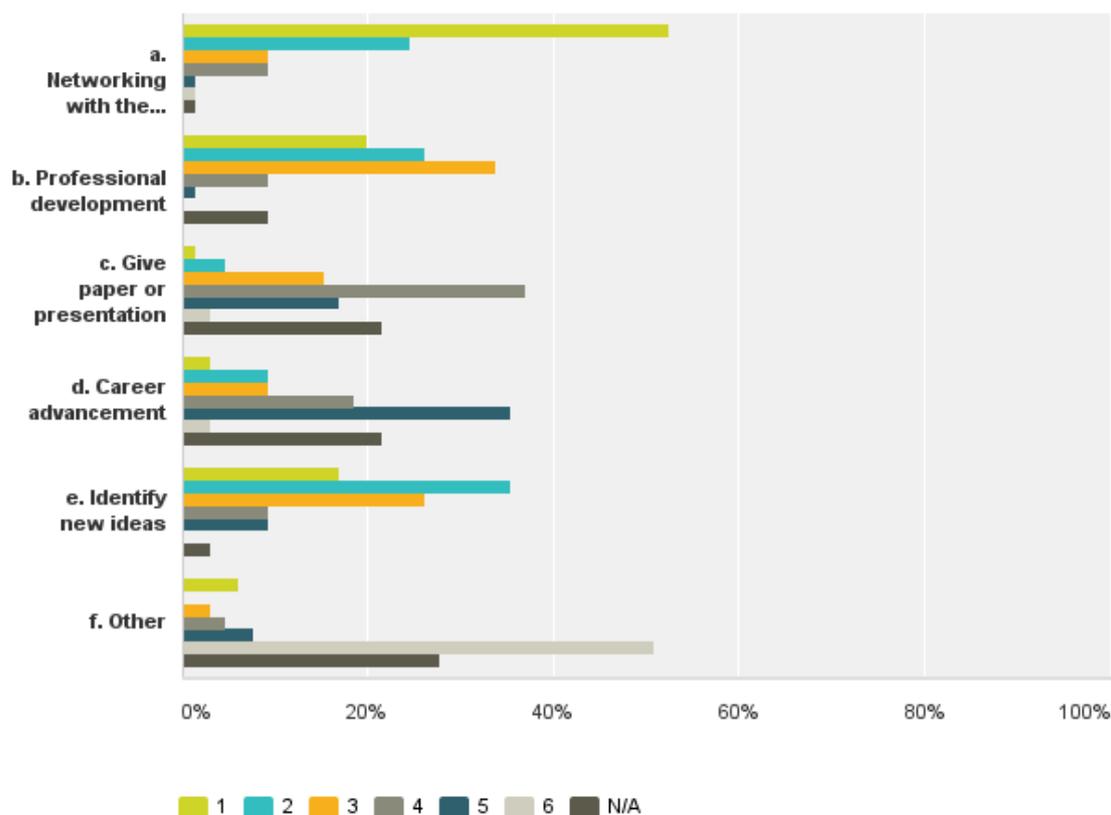
Motivation and acquiring deeper knowledge were also mentioned by participants.

During the focus group discussion participants made the point that networks consist of individuals rather than organisations, and are built and maintained best by personal contact. Once a network has been developed it can be used for business benefit. Another factor to come out of the focus group discussion is that it is the face to face involvement with the global community that has the greatest positive impact on motivating attendees. The connection between those who work in parliaments around the world and the opportunities to acquire deeper knowledge about supporting democracy and the work of Parliaments generally, as well as the work of parliamentary libraries/research services are inspirational to many attendees.

Question 14 asked the participants to rank their answers to the question above.

Q14 Please rank the benefits you receive as an individual (1=most important)

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0

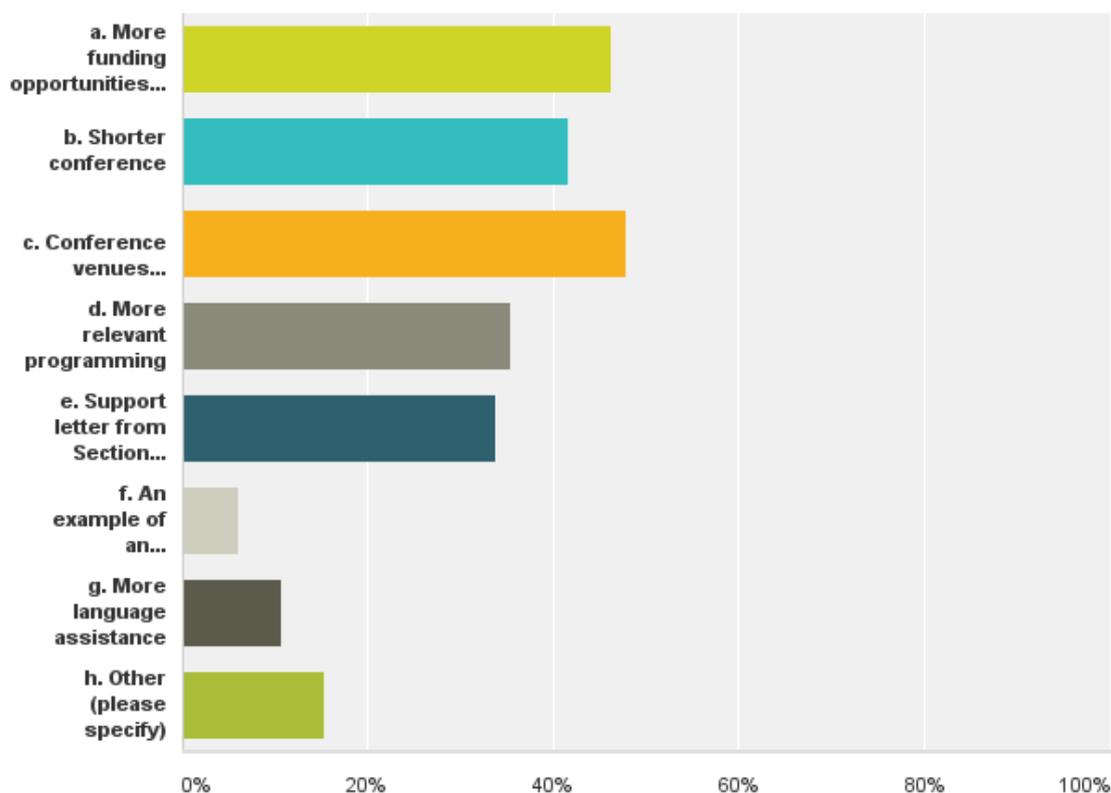


Question 15 asked: What would make it easier for you to gain approval to attend?

- More funding opportunities you could apply for
- Shorter conference
- Conference venues closer to you
- More relevant programming
- Support letter from Section Chair
- An example of an application to attend for you to copy
- More language assistance
- Other (please specify)

Q15 What would make it easier for you to gain approval to attend?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0



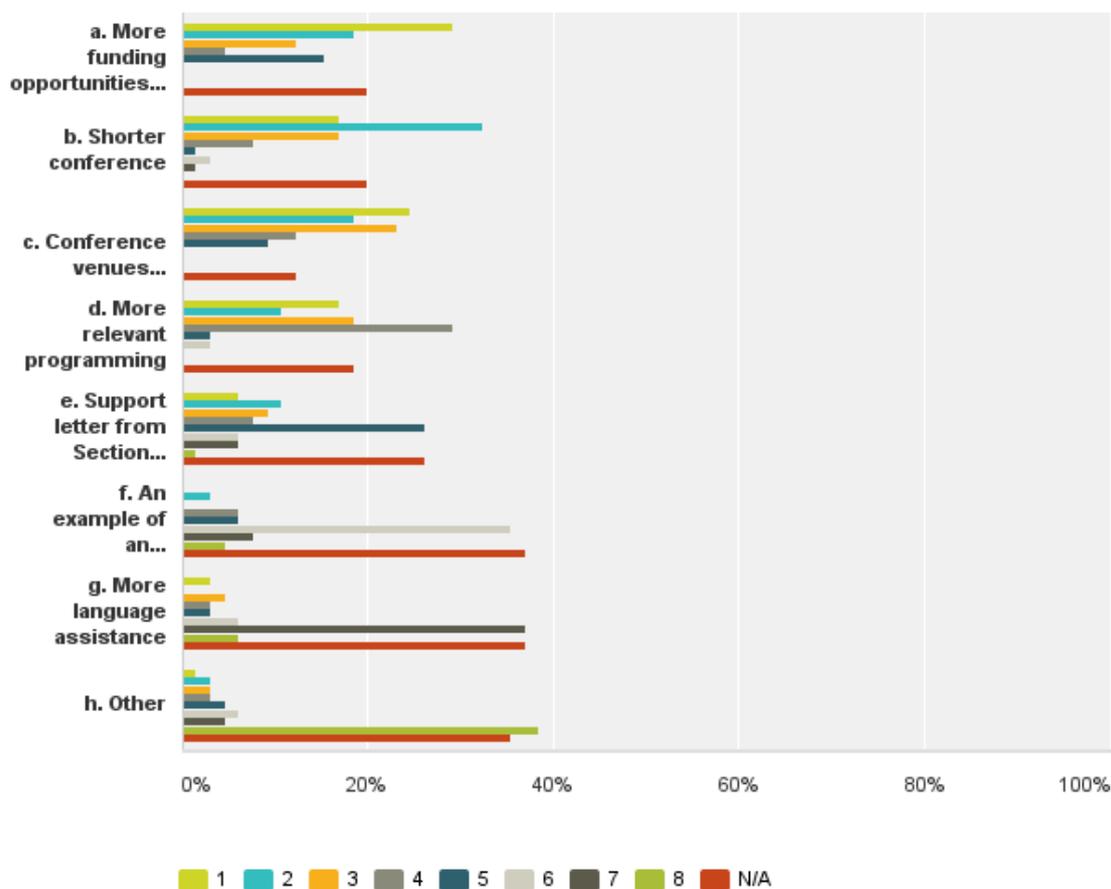
There were several important threads in the answers to what would make it easier to attend. All of them tended towards reducing the cost of attendance, where the venue of the conference was closer to the participant, or making the conference shorter or providing more opportunities for funding. More relevant programming was important to some, as was a support letter from the Section Chair. Language assistance was not mentioned frequently, although the survey was in English so perhaps those who can't read English were already excluded.

For those wishing to explore further the depth and range of ideas put forward by participants are included as verbatim comments in Appendix 3.

Question 16 asked participants to rank their choices to the question above

Q16 Please rank the options for making it easier for you to attend (1= the most important)

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0



Q17. Please comment about what kind of changes would make it easier for you to attend the IFLA conference

Answers to Question 17 were many and varied, although most focused on some aspect of reducing the cost of attendance. The major themes are:

- Reduce the cost by shortening the combined length of preconference and conference. Some respondents particularly addressed the two days of business meetings that make for very slow days for conference participants waiting for the main IFLA conference sessions to begin.
- Many participants can only attend when the venue of the conference is reasonably close. This is a significant barrier to attendance, particularly from the developing world, since the IFLA conference is held approximately half of the time in Europe, where living costs and airfares are high.
- Developing countries asked for more assistance to be focused on them, whether by way of more funding opportunities, sponsorship or reduced registration fees

- Many developed countries also wrote about the cost of travel as a barrier to attendance and perceptions about frivolous travel² as a barrier to getting approval to attend.
- The relevance of the theme of the conference and the sessions to parliamentary topics is important to a number of respondents. Legislative research services and ICT topics were the most mentioned as of interest.
- Some participants mentioned language as a barrier.
- Respondents suggested using technology alternatives to allow remote attendance for the years when they are unable to attend. Suggestions included webinars and podcasts of presentations
- A few respondents suggested reducing the frequency of the conference to every second year

Q18. Please describe specific actions or initiatives you have implemented as a result of attending an IFLA conference or pre-conference?

Some participants gave specific examples of ideas they gleaned from attending IFLA Conferences and put into practice on their return. Others wrote of contributions to global publications and projects, or building a network of colleagues to send requests for benchmarking requests or legal information or other specific information required by their legislature from another country.

Hearing about technology trends and the use of social media was mentioned by several participants who value the opportunity to stay up-to-date.

A selection of quotes from participants is included below. Appendix 3 is the verbatim text of all the comments from Questions 17 & 18.

I cannot describe specific actions or initiatives. More important is the discussion and exchange of ideas and information with colleagues who face the same problems and challenges. It helps a lot to exchange information and to know that there are more similarities than differences in our specific profession. In the case of client liason programmes, the establishing of good cooperation with the research department and the digitization of Parliamentary Papers I have benefited directly from expertise and experiences from colleagues of other parliaments.

Over the years, I have attended presentations at IFLA on Social media, Library systems, and the management of websites. Arising from the above we pushed for training on social media which is now in use. We also pushed for the use of the integrated library systems and we have now installed Dspace and koha. I presented a paper in Canada where use of sms to make notices was emphasized and now parliament is using it too. We have since not managed to convince management on allowing the library staff to manage their own website

Presenting papers on preparations of both houses of Polish Parliament to dealing with European Union affairs and documentation at preconference in Prague in 2003 resulted with the invitation by Priscilla Baines, House of Common Librarian, to the British Parliament for a week study visit. This visit, very well prepared by Priscilla nad her staff, gave me and my colleague from house of deputies fantastic background and possibility to familiarize with best practice in parliament's dealing with EU matters.

² The timing of the conference in August which is a holiday month in the northern hemisphere and venues which are perceived as holiday destinations, such as Puerto Rico, create perception difficulties for some participants in getting approval to attend.

We propose many suggestions to apply it in our organisation, e.g: 1- Arranging school visits to the parliament. 2-Arranging periodical meetings between the MP's and the public. 3-Enhancing the library security and protection system against accidents and catastrophies.

- 1. Development of client relations function - inspired by examples from Sweden (from Sweden IFLA)*
- 2. Development of information literacy work - inspired by examples from Finland (from Finland IFLA)*
- 3. Focus on digitisation (from Italy IFLA)*
- 4. Priority for open data - inspired by presentation from Brazil (Italy IFLA; Finland IFLA)*
- 5. Use of social media - inspired by presentation from Chile (Finland IFLA)*
- 6. Development of relationship with IT department (Italy IFLA)*
- 7. New ideas on reference services function - inspired by examples from academic libraries in USA(from Sweden IFLA)*
- 8. Priority given to layout of the physical library space to make it more welcoming to Members (from Sweden IFLA)*
- 9. Research service response to disasters - inspired by examples from USA and Japan (Finland IFLA)*
- 10. Development of working practices between Research Service and Committee Office - drawing on Canada experience (Canada IFLA)*
- 11. Enhancement of outreach function to develop relations with local communities - inspired by examples from South Africa and Namibia (from South Africa IFLA)*
- 12. Development of teacher training function within the parliamentary education service (from Canada IFLA)*
- 13. New relationships with other Parliaments based on meeting counterparts face to face at IFLA eg Iraq (after Italy IFLA) and Nigeria (after Finland IFLA)*

It is not specific actions or initiatives, but rather a mind set and the awareness of trends and development that I bring back. The conversations and presentations exposes us to different possibilities. Being aware of them allows us to tailor these possibilities to our specific circumstances. For example, the recent IT developments when it comes to social media or electronic tablets and smartphones gave rise to many interesting initiatives across the world. Integrating that in our own thinking about the future and having an awareness of the successes and failures of colleagues is helpful.

General induction when new to my role; changes to current awareness service; good connections to learn from for web project; baselining services, review of enquiry response delivery times; review of team structure; review of records management toolkit

Attendance at IFLA conferences

1. What is your name (please capitalise your family name)

2. What is your job title?

3. What is the name of the parliament where you work?

4. Which country do you work in?

5. Does your Parliament have:

- a. Combined library and research service
- b. Separate library and research services
- c. Library Service only
- d. Research service only
- e. Other (please specify)

6. How often have you attended an IFLA conference

- a. 1-2 times
- b. 3-4 times
- c. 5-9 times
- d. 10 or more times
- e. Never

7. Do you usually attend:

- a. Library and Research Services for Parliaments Pre-conference
- b. Main IFLA conference
- c. Both the Parliamentary libraries section preconference and the main IFLA conference
- d. Other (please specify)

8. Who usually pays for you to attend the IFLA conference?

- a. Yourself
- b. Your employer
- c. Partly funded by yourself, and partly funded by your employer
- d. A donor organisation
- e. Other (please specify)

9. How does your organisation benefit from your attendance at an IFLA conference (check all options that apply)

- a. Assess your service against international best practice for parliamentary libraries
- b. Assess your service against international best practice for libraries generally
- c. Learn from other parliamentary libraries/research services
- d. Learn from other libraries generally
- e. Gather new ideas to develop your service
- f. Identify future trends that will affect your service
- g. Other (please specify)

10. Please rank the benefits your organisation receives (1= most important)

N/A a. Assess your service against international best practice for parliamentary libraries

N/A b. Assess your service against international best practice for libraries generally

N/A c. Learn from other parliamentary libraries/research services

N/A d. Learn from other libraries generally

N/A e. Gather new ideas to develop your service

N/A f. Identify future trends that will affect your service

N/A g. Other

11. How does your organisation benefit from being part of the international community? (Check all options that apply)

- a. Identify bilateral partnerships to assist your service to develop
- b. Identify parliamentary libraries that need your assistance to develop
- c. Promote your service amongst the international community of parliamentary libraries
- d. Other (please specify)

12. Does your organisation receive more benefit from the community of parliamentary libraries/research services or from the international community of libraries generally.

- a. Community of parliamentary libraries and research services
- b. Libraries generally

Please add a comment indicating the percentage of value you receive.

13. How do you benefit as an individual from attending an IFLA conference? (Check all options that apply)

- a. Networking with the international community

- b. Professional development
- c. Give paper or presentation
- d. Career advancement
- e. Identify new ideas
- f. Other (please specify)

14. Please rank the benefits you receive as an individual (1=most important)

- N/A a. Networking with the international community
- N/A b. Professional development
- N/A c. Give paper or presentation
- N/A d. Career advancement
- N/A e. Identify new ideas
- N/A f. Other

15. What would make it easier for you to gain approval to attend?

- a. More funding opportunities you could apply for
- b. Shorter conference
- c. Conference venues closer to you
- d. More relevant programming
- e. Support letter from Section Chair
- f. An example of an application to attend for you to copy
- g. More language assistance
- h. Other (please specify)

16. Please rank the options for making it easier for you to attend (1= the most important)

- N/A a. More funding opportunities you could apply for
- N/A b. Shorter conference
- N/A c. Conference venues closer to you
- N/A d. More relevant programming
- N/A e. Support letter from Section Chair
- N/A f. An example of an application to attend for you to copy
- N/A g. More language assistance
- N/A h. Other

17. Please comment about what kind of changes would make it easier for you to attend the IFLA conference

18. Please describe specific actions or initiatives you have implemented as a result of attending an IFLA conference or pre-conference?

Done

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Appendix 2:

CONFERENCE EVALUATION PROJECT³

Introduction

IFLA conferences provide a unique opportunity. In many Sections, such as the Parliamentary Section, we are often to only body within our country doing the job that we do – the conference is the only opportunity we have to meet our counterparts from around the world. The conference is the only opportunity we have to learn from the work that goes on in other parts of the library community through personal contact and the only place where we can mobilise to take forward the IFLA key initiatives.

We need to make the case for attendance to those who do not come and to maximise the benefits to those that do. We do not currently have a way to understand the benefits of and drivers for attendance. This project aims to fill that gap.

Goals and objectives

The project will establish an evaluation methodology for attendance at the IFLA conference (and pre-conference).

It will conduct a survey of members of the Parliamentary Section who have and have not attended IFLA conferences in recent years. For those who have attended, it will establish the benefits of attendance and the elements of the programme that have been most and least useful. For those who have not attended it will assess the reasons for non-attendance and drivers that would increase attendance.

Alignment with IFLA's Key Initiatives

The project align with all the Key Initiatives since it is through attendance at the conference that most members of IFLA are exposed to those initiatives and have an opportunity to contribute to them. Through attendance, members can be inspired to play their own special part in making the Key Initiatives real once they return home.

Methodology

Month 1 – literature review of evaluation methodologies

Month 2 – recommendation to sponsor for methodology

Month 3 – agreement to methodology, design and sign off of survey

Month 4 - survey issued

Month 5 - survey responses analysed

Month 6 – report and toolkit prepared

In parallel with these activities, focus groups will be carried out at events where groups of actual and potential participants are gathered eg meetings of regional groups.

Participants

³ <http://www.ifla.org/news/evaluating-the-benefits-of-attending-ifla-conferences>. Published February 2013.

The project will aim to engage members of the Parliamentary Section in all regions of the world through the survey and through focus groups held at regional events taking place during the lifetime of the project.

Anticipated Beneficiaries and Stakeholders

The main stakeholders are:

5. Members of the Parliamentary Section
6. Parliamentary administrations (who need to approve budgets for travel to IFLA conferences)
7. Other IFLA Sections
8. IFLA conference organisers

Expected Outcomes and Results

Higher attendance at IFLA conferences

How Results Will Be Disseminated and Project Deliverables

A report will be produced for use by the Section in designing programmes for future IFLA conferences that will maximise the benefits and increase the numbers of participants.

It will also deliver a toolkit for use by other IFLA Sections wishing to conduct evaluations.

Both of these will be issued via the IFLA website and discussed at future IFLA conferences.

Appendix 3:

Verbatim answers to Questions 17 and 18

Q17. Please comment about what kind of changes would make it easier for you to attend the IFLA conference

Ifla business separate from content conferences, which summed up together make the overall conference too long.

9/4/2013 1:13 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

We heavily depend on fund to be able to attend.

8/23/2013 10:17 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

If the IFLA conference would be focused on specific topics that are more related to the type of work that my department does (such as legislation, legal comparative research etc); it would have a bigger benefit for my organization, making it easier for me (and others) to attend.

8/23/2013 10:05 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Run the Pre conference within the week of the main conference to reduce on the total days that we spend abroad. Support initiatives to hosting Ifla in Developing Countries with a view to promoting Library Image therein and reducing on travel costs for participants from poor economies. Give visible support to APLESA and related Associations with a view to extending tangible benefits to Developing Economies. E.g. Support their Digitization initiatives, book donation initiatives, trainings, etc.

8/13/2013 10:19 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

The relevance of the program theme is very important

8/11/2013 9:40 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Invitation letters could be given by the our Section Head and funding for African parliamentary staff be extended

8/9/2013 6:15 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Reasons why we don't have a regular and/or large contingent to attend IFLA conference is partially to do with the current economic climate and other priorities for Library funding. Irregular attendance from our library is due to some potential benefits being realised through means other than international conferences, such as regional and highly relevant networks (eg: APLA), formal and social media. Plus any learning or new initiative as a result of attending conference is sometimes intangible or not immediate making ROI in today's environment difficult to justify.

8/9/2013 9:18 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Programming that is relevant to CRS which would make it easier to justify attendance.

8/9/2013 7:54 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Really just the first two are significant but it's hard to see how to achieve change in these areas! Three days is good for pre-conference. In the days before the recent training days the workshop day was very worthwhile (eg Korea 2006). The main conference is very diverse so things of interest are spread throughout the week. Cheaper day rates and ability to share a registration would be good for those in and near the host country.

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Cost is a significant barrier coupled with location (a conference a great distance away, particularly somewhere that looks like a 'jolly' would not look good publicly).

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A shorter conference would be more appealing. In the past I have tended not to attend the main conference because with the preconference, it is a very long conference, much longer than most that other staff of the Assembly are authorized to attend.

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It is a long event, sometimes in an "exotic" location, and it is in August. Those create some difficulties but the reasons for non-attendance have been internal. Some years it has been possible, other years not.

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We share attendance at IFLA conferences among office heads and team leaders. In the past, one of my office heads attended both the pre-conference and the conference wherever possible. I am more likely to get the opportunity to go when the conference is held in Europe because travel is much cheaper so more of us can attend. If the conference is in another continent, then it is more likely that an office head (or no-one will attend). We all had the chance to participate in the pre-conference and conference when IFLA was in Scotland. The pre-conference is usually more relevant to us as a parliamentary research and library service and we always learn something,

7/29/2013 9:43 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

IFLA conferences take place every year. My suggestion: every two years is enough.

7/29/2013 8:39 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

biennial conferences, for us the money is not worst problem but lack of human resources

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Shorter conferences more close to home make it easier for more people from my institution to attend. The practice of IFLA to rotate conferences around the globe is an important way to ensure that every few years the conference is easy to attend whichever country you come from.

7/24/2013 7:35 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

As above. It seems that finance is crucial for many parliaments, even those richer, not to mention countries having economic troubles. Shorter conferences and closer venues would be the answer, as well as extra funding.

7/23/2013 8:28 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Cheaper registration in IFLA; more language assistance, since many colleagues don't speak English

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- Invitation letter is important as well as financial assistance for the costs of participation. In our context, the invitation letter is an official document, because I represent the Institution who is a member of the FLA. The budgets of the southern countries, their institutions as our National Assembly are limited. This will encourage our authorities for their continued efforts. It is a trusted brand and between the FLA and our National Assembly. - Effective implementation of Cooperation / partnership interlibrary closer and thorough; - Libraries volunteers to accompany our library in modernization drive and expansion according to the will of the new President of our National Assembly. His vision is to make our library a reference. He is very interested in the information services and is willing to provide support. So I ask the cooperation and assistance in all forms of our Section to help us meet this challenge. This will comfort us, justify and encourage our President to authorize and support our participation in IFLA congresses and meetings in our section. I expect Pre conference in Singapore concrete proposals to address this challenge.

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We hope to see wider range of Arabic translation in the future.

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More funding opportunities

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Attend by facebook.

7/17/2013 1:53 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

All is okay for me now.

7/17/2013 1:00 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

In my opinion it would be probably better to organise the IFLA conference not every year but let say once a two years and make it a bit shorter

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Funds from donors

7/15/2013 6:55 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I would like to change a new technologies about best practice for parliamentary libraries.

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1.The Ideas; 2.International Community Networking;

7/15/2013 4:41 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE DIFFERENT LANGUAGES USE DURING OUR MEETING. I WOULD LIKE OUR SECTION TO FOCUS ON HOW OUR SERVICES CAN SUPPORT LEGISLATURE IN THE BEST WAY I WOULD LIKE OUR SECTION TO WORK CLOSELY WITH ASG (ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS IN PARLIAMENTARY UNION GET MORE SPONSORS TO DEVELOP PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES

7/15/2013 4:19 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I really have no idea as to the changes. But I think what is making it difficult for us to attend IFLA Conferences is the high cost of registration fee. The conference maybe held closer to home, we may get budget fare and budget hotel but to pay another cost for registration, I think these make attending IFLA Conferences prohibitive especially if our organizations do not fund us.

7/15/2013 3:58 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

The month of August is not a great time, as it coincides with school holidays and thus my own holiday plans.

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The Section Chair should send a feed back report to my Parliament, which describes my involvement and participation in the conference. There should be some financial support for developing countries to attend this conference.

7/15/2013 1:07 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Ifla should be mobilising sponsors to fund Librarians to attend the Conference.

7/15/2013 1:02 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Living in Australia distance and cost of travel has been a major barrier in the past. More focussed program content specific to Parliamentary libraries would be a bonus and the pre-conference should be longer to justify attendance . The general IFLA conference has a few papers of interest but many are generic to general purpose libraries.

7/15/2013 6:05 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I am in the unusual situation of being able to afford this professional development on my own and see it as an investment in my skills. But the position of USAID generally is to look skeptically at the idea of funding project personnel for conferences out of project funds, and the implementing organizations sometimes have professional development funds and sometimes don't - when they do, I am usually eligible for some assistance for IFLA participation if I am actively participating (giving a paper, leading a workshop, chairing a panel, etc.).

7/14/2013 9:18 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Il faut avoir tt le temps un budget pour assister a l ifla et nous aide à créer une nouvelle idée por améliorer et developper tout les secteurs et les différentes services de notre bibliothèque

7/14/2013 5:40 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Someone else paying my costs. As an independent consultant, I can't afford to attend if I'm paying for myself.

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help the poor country

7/13/2013 11:05 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

The change of the mentality of the management towards the professional development of our Librarians.

7/13/2013 8:46 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

The combination of pre-conference and main conference is simply too long. It is a shame since the highest benefits tend to flow from the pre-conference. When the logistics permit (e.g., both conferences held in same city), the section should try to integrate the "section" conference with the main conference.

7/13/2013 3:08 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

See question number 15: other

7/13/2013 2:34 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

El financiamiento de mi participación en su totalidad. No hay Posibilidad de que mi institución financie mi participación.

Q18. Please describe specific actions or initiatives you have implemented as a result of attending an IFLA conference or pre-conference?

organization and best practices for parliamentary libraries.

9/4/2013 1:13 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Knowing about the free download database that I can trial for our library.

8/23/2013 10:17 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I intend to make a report to the relevant departments in the Israeli parliament about some of the issues raised in the pre-conference. One main suggestion might be the establishment of a library and (maybe) research committee or another mechanism that would fit our specific structure of separated services. Such a committee, under changes required because of our special structure (i.e. the need for an objective research service and the fear of a more subjective influence by MP's on it's work), could encourage the MP's to use the library services more often and match the needs with the different services provided today by different departments.

8/23/2013 10:05 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I have risen through ranks to President of Uganda Library and Information Association (2008-2012); information Coordinator, Iflapar, etc. I have consistently shared knowledge and skills in local fora i.e. APLESA, Library Schools, etc. I have initiated Library Digitization Project using Dspace. I have established a Parliamentary Archive and planning to put up a Parliamentary Museum. I am consulting both in Uganda and neighboring parliaments. I have published professional papers locally and internationally. Google my name and you bear witness! Etc, etc.

8/13/2013 10:19 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Over the years, I have attended presentation at IFLA on Social media, Library systems, and the management of websites. Arising from the above we pushed for training on social media which is now in use. We also pushed for the use of the integrated library systems and we have now installed Dspace and koha. I presented a paper in Canada where use of sms to make notices was emphasized and now parliament is using it too. We have since not managed to convince management on allowing the library staff to manage their own website

8/9/2013 6:15 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

- cooperation between the parliamentary research service and the university - ideas for the quality management process

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(Some of these examples do not only emanate from attending IFLA but were in conjunction with other connections) * Model of an omnibus research publication from the library to clients following a general election. ("Current issues for the incoming parliament"). * Contextual information for bills as they progress through the House (More than digests). * Current awareness service provision

8/9/2013 9:18 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Used experience of other parliamentary libraries (learned from networking) as examples when writing up a proposal to improve our orientation and outreach programs; shared examples of innovation learned from an IFLA session during a meeting with the Library of Congress' Innovation Committee.

8/9/2013 7:54 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Nothing springs to mind for me personally - apart from useful Int Doc contacts made in 1988. Library wide- Maybe publishing "Current issues for new Parliament", knowledge cafes? APLAP was established as a result of the 1988 pre-conference in Sydney

8/9/2013 6:31 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

general induction when new to my role; changes to current awareness service; good connections to learn from for web project; baselining services, review of enquiry response delivery times; review of team structure; review of records management toolkit

8/5/2013 7:00 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

integrated some librarians into the research service created a new position for a statistics and data librarian to focus on developing statistical literacy and increased use of data visualization including displaying data using maps

8/3/2013 3:33 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

It is more like education than training - your thinking develops, you get insights, arguments, evidence, bad examples as well as good. It isn't so much that you get products to slavishly reproduce as your practice is better informed, stimulated - not necessarily in a direct way. And the network has been very useful in informing/supporting initiatives between the conferences.

7/31/2013 3:02 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

From my point of view no specific actions or initiatives. However have contacted colleagues in other services that I know are involved in similar activities. Also, some of the talks that I've heard and networking that I've done has really informed my thinking about how we can take things forward here.

7/29/2013 9:43 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

There were some good best practise exsample to think about but nothing to implement in our library.

7/29/2013 8:39 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I cannot describe specific actions or initiatives. More important is the discussion and exchange of ideas and information with colleagues who face the same problems and challenges. It helps a lot to exchange information and to know that there are more similarities than differences in our specific profession. In the case of client liason programmes, the establishing of good cooperation with the research department and the digitization of Parliamentary Papers I have benefited directly from expertise and experiences from colleagues of other parliaments.

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publishing background material concerning legislative initiatives, use of twitter and other social media

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- understanding about scope of research services and Parliamentary Archives - learn from other about how to work in research services area and Parliamentary Archives - design a new library services for users - get ideas for library exhibition - etc

7/26/2013 3:57 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

1. Development of client relations function - inspired by examples from Sweden (from Sweden IFLA) 2. Development of information literacy work - inspired by examples from Finland (from Finland IFLA) 3. Focus on digitisation (from Italy IFLA) 4. Priority for open data - inspired by presentation from Brazil (Italy IFLA; Finland IFLA) 5. Use of social media - inspired by presentation from Chile (Finland IFLA) 5. Development of relationship with IT department (Italy IFLA) 6. New ideas on reference services function - inspired by examples from academic libraries in USA(from Sweden IFLA) 7. Priority given to layout of the physical library space to make it more welcoming to Members (from Sweden IFLA) 8. Research service response to disasters - inspired by examples from USA and Japan (Finland IFLA) 9. Development of working practices between Research Service and Committee Office - drawing on Canada experience (Canada IFLA) 10. Enhancement of outreach function to develop relations with local communities - inspired by examples from South Africa and Namibia (from South Africa IFLA) 11. Development of teacher training function within the parliamentary education service (from Canada IFLA) 12. New relationships with other Parliaments based on meeting counterparts face to face at IFLA eg Iraq (after Italy IFLA) and Nigeria (after Finland IFLA)

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Presenting papers on preparations of both houses of Polish Parliament to dealing with European Union affairs and documentation at preconference in Prague in 2003 resulted with the invitation by Priscilla Baines, House of Common Librarian, to the British Parliament for a week study visit. This visit, very well prepared by Priscilla nad her staff, gave me and my colleague from house of deputies fantastic background and possibility to familiarize with best practice in parliament's dealing with EU matters.

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The Senate Library is implementing the RFID for book loans and inventoring and has a digital library with 226.000 documents.

7/20/2013 3:49 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

from a presentation last year followed through on idea that partering with an IT group of a chamber we could make them look better while also providing useful applications from the library to parliamentarians-a win-win-win situation for all. received specialised info from an expert I met last year on conservation lighting standards

7/19/2013 10:34 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Marketing of our the library; Realization of documentaries such a brochures to raise awareness of the library and services that can be provided to users. Education authorities on the importance of the library. It should be noted that we have issued ideas waiting to be validated by the authorities.

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we propose many suggestions to apply it in our organisation, e.g: 1- Aranging school visits to the parliament. 2- Aranging periodical meetings between the MP's and the puplic. 3-Enhancing the library security and protection system against accidents and catasrophies. ;

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- Implementation of new ideas in our organisation - Learn from other parliamentary libraries - Identify bilateral partnerships to assist our service to develop

7/17/2013 2:19 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Do more networking and coopertion with the others libraries for the benefit of the library.

7/17/2013 1:00 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

- SDI service - Publishing of the Overview of Lawmaking of the Parliament - Projects of digitization - Close regional cooperation among the Parliamentary Libraries of the Central Europe

7/16/2013 4:51 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

nil

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The conferences organized by IFLA is a good opportunity for specialists parliamentary libraries, and to be with the "technology watch", which will allow us to systematically inform on the latest techniques and especially on their provision in our organizational needs and documentary research.

7/15/2013 4:51 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Organizing to translate Guidelines for Legislative Libraries into Chinese. And give reports many times to our librarians in China.

7/15/2013 4:41 PM

IN 2011 WE HOST AFRICA SECTION MEETING IN CAMEROON. WE GOT IFLA/ BSLA PROJECT FOR 2 YEARS 2010/2012 AND FINALLY WE HAVE PARTICIPATED TO APKN PROGRAMME WE ARE RUNNING A PROGRAMME OF DIGITIZING OUR ARCHIVES

7/15/2013 4:19 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I have tried asking funding from my office but there's simply no budget for such activity.

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- cooperation with IFLA in various activities (joint IPU-IFLA conference on parliamentary information...) - worked with Moira Fraser on parliamentary strengthening project in Myanmar :-) - worked with Andy Williamson on social media guidelines for parliaments (first met him at IFLA in Sweden in 2010)

7/15/2013 3:42 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Developing new flyers for the department, changing the power point presentation for new members of parliament, developing a code of ethics for the department, developing standards for the daily work, creating programmes for continuing education for the staff, motivating staff to attend German library conference

7/15/2013 3:35 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I contact some known librarians of other Parliaments as and when required, specially to share their experience and also send them requests if some Act or Law of that country is needed. I perform better by knowing the international standards for information distribution and retrieval. It has become a bit easy to understand the demands of Senators who are foreign university graduates, as their mode for asking an information is little different from others.

7/15/2013 1:07 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Through Networking, I have been able to organise training workshops.

7/15/2013 1:02 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I'll tell you that after attendance this year!

7/15/2013 6:05 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Learned about KOHA and introduced that to the Pakistani Parliamentary Libraries Have introduced objective professional Research services into parliaments where I have worked in Armenia, Pakistan and Ukraine Have introduced some of the ideas about new member induction Developed an inquiries tracking system for research inquiries Incorporated IFLA ideas into intranet design. Published article in Library Trends Worked on the IFLA Guidelines for Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services Translated the IFLA Guidelines for PARL Libraries and Research Services into Russian

7/14/2013 9:18 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Créer le réseau des bibliothèques des parlements arabes améliorer les services de bibliothèque et le service de centre de documentation et de recherche vis à vis des députés Renforcer et tisser un lien de travail avec d'autres parlements étrangers

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When at the Scottish Parliament I adopted that inspirational Moira Fraser's scheme of client liaison, which was highly valued when in operation. I learned of it because she gave a presentation about it at an IFLA conference.

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7/13/2013 11:05 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

N/A

7/13/2013 8:46 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

It is not specific actions or initiatives, but rather a mind set and the awareness of trends and development that I bring back. The conversations and presentations exposes us to different possibilities. Being aware of them allows us to tailor these possibilities to our specific circumstances. For example, the recent IT developments when it comes to social media or electronic tablets and smartphones gave rise to many interesting initiatives across the world. Integrating that in our own thinking about the future and having an awareness of the successes and failures of colleagues is helpful.

7/13/2013 3:08 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Sorry, I can not remember now, but I think I get ideas, improve or change something and implement.

7/13/2013 2:34 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Mejoras en los servicios de investigación especialmente con el caso de la asesoría parlamentaria de Chile.

7/13/2013 1:32 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Developing a network of colleagues has been very useful when ad hoc questions have arisen.

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