



## Feedback - Next Library 2013

*Comparable replies from all sheets are grouped in summary answers. The amount of repetitions of the reply is marked in parenthesis (X).*

### Questions:

#### What are the three best things about Next Library 2013?

- **Overall**

- (58) The sharing of knowledge – getting new ideas and inspiration
- (63) Networking – socializing and meeting new people
- (64) International appeal / diversity – participants from many different libraries and countries
- (26) The “Next-mentality” and the atmosphere (fresh, young, open and fun atmosphere)
  - “Good energy among the crew and the participants”
  - “Shared innovative spirit”
  - “It wasn’t boring!”
  - “NL are great at initiating social interaction”
- (5) Accessible and usable knowledge
  - “The presentations are at the participants’ level – there are usable examples, and it is not overly abstract”
  - “Next solves actual problems and communicates them in a friendly and easy way”
  - “Hands-on experience”
- (10) Next participants want to learn!
  - “High level of involvement”
- (2) Rolf Hapel
- Jens Thorhauge
- (4) Nice surroundings – Aarhus
- (19) The Dinner Party (Varna)
- (3) “I went to Next Library and...”

- **The Conference Format**

- (10) Interesting themes
- (21) The organisation
  - “Everything happened on time”
  - “Good facilities – expertly handled logistics and catering”
  - “Enough space/time for personal exchange in between the conference sessions / keynotes”
- (11) The Next Library Crew
  - “Perfect and professional”
  - “Friendly and competent crew”
  - “Humour”
- (6) A diverse program

- (2) Celebrating mistakes!
- (3) To be able to walk to and from a session at will
- (21) Good mix between Keynotes and Sessions / workshops
  - “The idea of having sessions was great (no boring long lectures)!”
  - “A very different approach”
  - “A very memorable and different conference”
- (3) Good food
- (7) Good study trips
- **Interactive Sessions**
  - (33) Good interactive sessions
  - (10) The topics were relevant
  - (8) Diverse topics for the sessions
  - Innovative Approaches to Technology Training
  - (4) Civic Engagement & Participatory Technologies
  - (3) Civic Engagement – Youth in Libraries
  - (7) Gamification
  - Can Libraries Save Communities and Vice Versa?
- **Keynote Speakers**
  - (27) Great speakers!
    - “Keynotes were relevant!”
    - “Good, professional speeches”
  - (3) Gerfried Stocker
  - (2) Mark Jones
  - (7) Pat Losinki

## Can you mention 3 things that could have been different?

- **Overall**
  - (6) The conference may be too big (too many people)
  - “Don’t let it get too big!”
  - (4) Too much emphasis on commercial parties
    - “IDEO”
    - “Do the sponsors decide who delivers a Keynote Speech?”
  - (8) Poster Sessions could have been better located in relation to the rooms
    - “Perhaps placing the poster sessions somewhere near the coffee?”
    - “There should be more time for viewing poster sessions”
    - “Speed-session about posters, or man all posters at all times”
  - (4) More posters
  - “Lacking English skills are a problem. Consider this when selecting and preparing the presenters. You could consider giving them a framework for their presentations”
- **Organization**
  - (4) Shorter time between breaks
  - (2) More energizers

- (4) Hold sessions outside, when the weather is that good!
- (3) More time for networking and socializing
- (4) Information for participants
  - "Better information to participants"
  - "Information in advance could have been clearer"
- Monday's program was a bit packed
- "More professionalism in the Aarhus Crew"
- "The program should be finished in detail 2-3 days before the conference starts"
- "Start a bit later Tuesday after the party"
- **Study Tours**
  - Bigger groups – they were quickly sold out
  - More study trips
- **Interaktive sessioner**
  - (6) The organization of some interactive sessions lacked structure
    - "Interactive Sessions should be more interactive"
  - (2) Overuse of post-its and "post-it-mentality"
  - (17) Better descriptions of interactive sessions
    - "Descriptions were unclear, and it was confusing that the three themes had to be used"
    - "Descriptions were not accurate in relation to actual content"
  - (6) More/bigger selection of sessions
  - (6) Smaller groups/bigger rooms for the sessions
    - "40-50 people in a room makes it difficult to be interactive"
  - (4) Group discussions sometimes overtook the actual session content
  - (3) More time for sessions
    - "A little stressing. Lack of time from the beginning of the session meant that we didn't quite understand the concept"
- **The Conference Format**
  - (39) The conference is too short.
    - "Make it two whole days"
    - "Increase the number of days – make it three"
    - "2-3 days of conference would be better – now it is too short and over-crowded"
  - (4) Too much of an American / Central European / Scandinavian perspective
  - More activities before and after the conference
- **Varna**
  - (6) Give people a fixed seat – when they choose by themselves, they will sit by people they know
    - "Mix up people from different countries and seat them at various tables"
  - (2) The acoustics at Varna make it difficult to network – you can only talk to the person next to you
- **AWÁ**
  - (7) "Music/theatre group was not good"

- “Bad entertainment”
    - “Let go of the entertainment and focus on professional elements with entertainment value”
    - “Use something younger and digital”
  - (6) Choose something Danish instead of African
  - (4) The music was too loud and intense in relation to the crowd
    - “The idea that young performers were to provide energy and entertainment was good – but it was just too tribal. It does not represent Danish culture, and the guests did not come here to listen to pseudorythms and drums”
    - “It makes little sense that we, at an innovative and futuristically oriented conference, have to listen to bongos. Use young, digitale Aarhus-musicians or ‘Spleen United’ and a presentation about how they involve their fans in the production of music videos and about their cooperation with Nokia? Ask Voxhall the next time around”
    - “African dance/singing not that good. Danish songs/culture would be better. Cultural bits should show the country you are in.”
- **Food and drinks**
  - (2) Bad vegetarian dishes
  - (8) The Lunch Box was not good/sufficient during the conference
    - “Too little food and poor quality”
  - (4) There was cake, but there were no plates
  - Bad coffee
  - “Stand up and eat – the food did not function well at the Get2Gether”
- **Keynote Speakers**
  - (4) Keynote Speakers’ presentations should be available online or on paper
  - (3) Make sure that Keynotes are relevant
    - “The lecture from IDEO was only relevant to libraries in the last 5 minutes”
    - “Keynote from IDEO should have focused more on libraries”
  - (3) Keynote Speakers should speak longer
  - (2) More Speakers
  - (4) Debate / Reflection after a Keynote
- **Rooms**
  - (5) Too many people, not enough air!
  - Restrooms were difficult to find
  - Better signs for conference rooms
- **Tech**
  - (3) ‘Filuren’ – The projector screen was too small and did not correspond to the size of the room
  - (2) The projector screens were unclear/small in several other rooms
  - (5) Sound – the presenters could not control microphone feedback. Technicians/the crew should control this.

- WiFi was slow and did not always work
- **Nextlibrary.net**
  - The website should also have a “conference for beginners” focus
  - (2) “The website lacked information”
  - (2) Google Maps did not work on tablets
  - (2) You should be able to message people without adding them as friends
  - (3) Tools for arranging meetings with other participants
  - (4) use for website for unconference and pre-conference webinars
    - “Connect us more via the website in advance”
  - Record the sessions and show highlights online

## **Do you have suggestions for 3 new things for the future library conferences?**

- **Concept**
  - (2) Expand on the term “library” and think outside the box
  - (2) Danish library professionals should also be presenting and sharing their own knowledge
  - “Make the conference interesting for Danish participants and library directors – they excel by their absence”
  - (9) Participants from other professions than library-related could give alternative input?
  - “Offer private accommodation of guests, if they wish for it”
  - Attach hosts to those guest that arrive alone
    - “Take care of people who is participating alone from one country”
  - Create a networking forum for participants after the conference
- **The Conference Format**
  - More alternatives and options – the opportunity of selecting between being active and listening
  - Include the unconference day and the Get2Gether in the official conference programme
  - More posters
  - More sessioner
  - Create tracks for following specific workshops all the way through the conference
- **Sessions**
  - (5) Sessions’ results should be documented
  - (2) Fewer sessions / options
  - (7) Consider repetition sessions so everyone has a change to join
  - (3) Consider teasers for sessions at the Get2Gether



- **Keynote Speakers**

- (10) Keynotes (and sessions) from other professions – for example sociology, theatre, psychology or digitalization professionals – with focus on libraries
- (7) Keynotes from unprivileged countries with different demographics (gender, age, race, etc.)