Feedback from participants

The participants were asked to evaluate the event by completing a small sheet containing three evaluation questions at the closing session on June 14, 2017.

Total number of evaluations forms: 85
Each evaluation form presents statements from two participants, interviewing each other:
Comparable replies from all sheets are grouped in summary answers. The amount of repetitions of the reply is marked in parenthesis (X).

The evaluation questions:
1. What are the three best things about Next Library 2017?
2. Which ideas and contacts will you bring with you from Next Library Festival 2017 to your work in the future?
3. Do you have suggestions for new ideas or alterations for future Next Library events?

What are the three best things about Next Library 2017?
Overall:
*   **(44) Meeting people/colleagues from all over the world**
*   Mix of people – no limits on type of library or country
*   The international atmosphere
*   Meeting people from other libraries
*   Meeting library professionals from all over the world
*   Diversity of countries
*   The huge number of interesting, engaging and creative people
*   International group of people
*   The international community
*   Participation of all members
*   Share different ideas
*   Opportunities to come for scholarships winners
*   Finding common ground amongst diverse organizations
*   Very organized
*   Sharing ideas, getting inspired

THE CONFERENCE FORMAT AND PLACE:

*   **(20) Networking and the opportunity to share ideas**
*   Ample network opportunities
*   All the inspiring ideas
*   Loved the connections from all over the world
*   Getting connected with possible partners
*   Sharing ideas and getting inspiration with other colleagues
*   Many ideas from many countries
*   New innovative ideas

- Mix of workshops & ignite session was perfect
- Festival concept: open and flexible

- **(100) The content of the sessions**
- Range of workshop that were very different form each other
- Sessions were uniformly informative and not boring
- International, participative and repeat sessions
- The interactive sessions interactive over-all
- The organization and diversity of experiences that are offered
- Very thoughtful planning – great keynotes
- (2) Peter MacLeod keynote
- Keynotes were fabulous, esp. first day
- Diversity of presentations
- Wide tangeing program + choices
- Safe environment to 'make mistakes'
- No contests – no big dogs"
- The individuality of the different workshops
- Ignite talk sessions
- Shared mindset about the libraries in the future
- Focused on creativity
- Being in a library while it is used
- Joy of Reading award
- The session Listen to Create

- **(16) the atmosphere**
- Good company
- Collaborative atmosphere
- The freedom from the boundaries of everyday reality
- The spirit (especially Sunday night)

- **The venue (21)**
- (2) Dokk1 is amazing
- Dokk1 – everything you hear about it – see it in practice
- Location – both Dokk1 Friendly and Aarhus – the food
- Fabulous location/venue that showcases the Next Library to the 37 countries attending
- Hospitality and facilities
- Inspiring location
- The wonderful venue
- Venue and conference – foster creativity with openness & space
- Food + sustenance

STAFF AND EVENTS

- **(14) The staff**
- The generosity by the hosts and participants
- Nice and helpful Dokk1 staff and Next Library crew
- Takes care of every need so easy, no thoughts or concerns of need allowed me to focus on the conference
- The spirit of generosity, humour and kindness
- Next Library crew – who are actually people

- Our room manager Michael
- overview
- Very organized

- **(22) Social events**
- The excursions to different libraries
- (2) Location and food
- The careful balance between work and fun
- Social aspect – meet a lot of people
- Site visits to Silkeborg Library
- Evening dinner
- So much social/unstructured time
- Site visits

2. **Which ideas and contacts will you bring with you from Next Library Festival 2017 to your work in the future?**

- **(25) Rethink the role of the library**
- Rethinking space
- Design thinking methods
- Libraries to promote democracy and advocacy
- Opening keynote – libraries are vital for democracies
- 'You can't fail at a library'
- Creative workshops: role of libraries as place of community culture
- Libraries can showcase unique culture of the local community
- Deliberate inquiry
- Asking customers what they want and getting them to contribute
- Measure the future
- Board of interests
- The new identity the library and how it can be accomplished
- Chaos – letting go control and seek innovative ideas from others
- Ignite content – explore and apply those ideas
- The role that libraries play for people who have fallen through the gaps
- Support of democracy through P2P for many others
- Create a retreat space e.g. TEDX or Lego robots/makerspace
- The space creation as a tool to draw users the library
- The idea of a culinary library (Philadelphia)
- Deliberative contemplative space
- Change is possible
- Dokk1 as a community space
- The future of public libraries is bright, definitely
- Vision (MacLeod, third place, democracy)
- Play and stay at the library for everyone

- **(8) Establishing contacts**
- Encourage a staff member to attend Next Library
- The new connections with others doing the same work and the possibility to exchange ideas.
- Global library exchange
- Unconceivable new colleagues from many countries, also contact for colleagues
- The development with Smart Library

- The great idea is shared with all the world
- Contact with MIT Media Lab

- **(4) Community relations**
- Seek community feedback around democracy
- Community engagement events in in libraries
- Citizen participation encouragement as one of the key roles in public libraries

- **(14) Other ideas**
- How to construct learning experience at a scale that is different from traditional conference experience
- Smart building on a budget
- You can't fail at library
- Focus on invitation to failure
- Engagement to make mistakes
- Encourage staff not fear failure to learn
- Export the ignite format to local/national events
- Literacy + STEM + play
- How, How, How (Princess Laurentien)
- Design Thinking
- Methodology & asking questions
- Being open to ideas & mistakes
- Innovation research projects
- Countless ideas > creativity, icebreakers, party, leadership, staff development, speakers, presentations,

- **Organization (3)**
- Organization / planning very important
- The importance always of people (staff & community
- Process is just as important or more important than the project

3. **Do you have suggestions for new ideas or alterations for future Next Library events?**

The Conference Format (19):
- (3) Information about the program more quickly
- Hard to get in contact with conference bureau before the conference when we had questions about payment and others
- Publicise app + info to attendees more
- Time and place for topic oriented discussions. Structured/unstructured
- Sharing lectures and sessions online
- (2) Sound system! Hard to hear
- Vetting of interactive sessions content (quite a few are not useful)
- (3) More spaces to lie down and relax in peace
- Get2gether surprise booth were difficult to find
- More contacts send email to us
- The day after dinner need to begin later
- More water available
- Earlier ending on final day

The Concept (41):

- Some of the creativities exercises went on to long
- It is hard to facilitate two interactive sessions in one day.
- The focus on interaction in the sessions may have led to a lot of activity which meant all active time, not as much types of learning
- The possibility to evaluate sessions
- A sort of activity that's half an ignite talk and half a keynote talk
- A sort of activity that's a halfway format between a workshop and a discussion session
- Do not miss the chance to build an online community.
- Seek a way maintain the conversation on your site beyond emailing.
- Make a survey about people's interests and make a buddy list before the conference and make "scavenger" hunt for bodies.
- (2) Ignite talks were good it would be great for them to be a main event.
- Ignite talks can be duplicated too (like interactive sessions)
- More hosting methods to be used to co-create together
- Workshops overlapping with ignite talks – missing ignite talks
- Don't get bigger
- Next Library model in other settings like Africa
- (2) More unconference style sessions (maybe leave the entire last day open for programming by participants)
- The ignite talks should have their own sessions so one is not forced to choose between the ignite talks and the sessions
- Emerging skills in librarianship – what skills do library students need to be taught to carry forward community engagement?
- Try doing collaborative note taking using google docs
- Give speakers who can't come physically the opportunity to attend virtually through e.g. Skype
- Role of designers in designing process that take place in the library
- (3) Skip almost all creativity exercises
- Without the 'Mammoth' – too much of that
- Ask libraries to show and do their activities like they developed for their public – sneak views of real sources inorder to show the best practice to all
- Rethink the quantity of icebreakers
- Extend the time of the keynote speakers
- Try to amplify the Latin American participants
- More creative things less theoretical
- Crafts art in collaboration
- What new things can the library take instead of the older ones that does not 'go more'?
- (2) Repeat sessions three times a day
- One of the Next Library conferences should be in Ghana 2022
- How do we connect with the 'others' that we need to, but somehow never do?
- Varied times for the sessions
- Sessions on fundraising
- Group ignite talks into loose themes
- Create teams to keep in touch until the next conference

Other things (7)

- Better lunches
- Please recycle the lunch bags
- I like that you call for suggestions from the library community

- Just continue the way you do, good luck
- Not yet, very content and satisfied
- Long pauses to talk to new contacts
- A library from every continent