

Festival Survey Evaluation Summary Report October 20, 2011

Participants

On August 31st, 2011 1110 conference participants were sent a link to an on-line survey regarding their opinions about FICCDAT®. By September 27, 2011, 200 responses were received for an 18% response rate. The percentage of respondents who attended each conference corresponded to the participation of the delegates in each of the six conferences offered.

Over half of the respondents (53.3%) had heard about the conference from one of their colleagues. One-quarter learned about it through an e-mail or the official website and 17% from their professional association (mainly RESNA). Over one-third of those who attended FICCDAT had an academic affiliation (39%) and 19% were from the non-profit sector. No other sector was represented by more than 8% of the respondents. One-third had been to the previous conference in 2007.

"I found the aging with a disability sessions quite relevant and more consumer focus than the seniors one. Refreshing and a new perspective of how we should be approaching aging."

There were three main reasons that influenced their decision to attend the conference. Approximately half of the respondents (48%) said it was either the networking or the learning opportunities or the conference themes. In fact, 58% attended a conference they were not registered for and 92% of these individuals found it beneficial.

Organization

Approximately half the respondents (57%) rated the arrangements regarding the physical setting as good and 24% as excellent. The rating of the other aspects are as follows: accessibility (45% good and 35% excellent), the registration procedures (54% good and 29% excellent), the meals/refreshment breaks (47% good and 22% excellent), the meeting/session set-up (49% good and 17% excellent) and the accommodations (47% good and 33% excellent).

"It was impossible to read the program - it was really confusing, needed a conference at a glance section. the program prevented me from being able to attend other themes because I could not get a sense of what was going on and when and where. positively - interesting to see people making links between disability groups and caregivers for older adults. also, Donna Thompson gave an excellent, thought provoking and inspiring presentation which really set the stage. Unfortunately a lot of people I know missed it because of the program and the location of details about it.

The posters and plenary sessions were rated positively. Fifty-nine percent thought the posters were good and 22% found them excellent. Fifty-one percent reported that the plenary sessions were good and 24% said they were excellent. The large number of respondents (84 or 44%) who had no opinion about the keynote address suggests that many of these individuals did not attend the opening keynote by Donna Thomson. Of the remainder, almost all (92%) said it was good or excellent.

There were concerns expressed about the complexity of the printed program. Many individuals reported that it was hard to read and did not give a clear picture of what was going on at any one time. Forty-four percent rated the printed program either poor (26%) or fair (18%). Forty-seven percent rated the kit bags (backpacks) as good.

Other than the exhibits, the supplemental activities seemed poorly attended. Half of the respondents rated the exhibits as good, 22% as excellent and 23% as fair. On the other hand, more than half of the respondents did not participate in the festival banquet, the facility tours or movie night. Over one-third did not go to the opening

reception. While 41% of those who went to the opening reception rated it as good and 22% as excellent, a large percentage of those who participated in the other activities were unsure of their opinion (festival banquet-42%, facility tours-32% and movie night-68%).

Impact

The main expectations that were met for participants at the conferences were learning what other people in their field were doing followed by sharing information with others and getting an increased understanding of the issues. Identifying or forming collaborative opportunities was a goal that was less well-met.

Answer Options	Entirely met	Mostly met	Met Sometimes	Not at all Met	Don't Know / Not Sure
Increased understanding of issues	20%	53%	20%	4%	3%
Learned what other people in my field are doing	22%	56%	16%	4%	2%
Shared Information with others	27%	46%	23%	3%	1%
Formed/identified collaborative opportunities	17%	33%	31%	10%	8%

Very few respondents said there wasn't something they learned at FICCDAT® that they could apply to their work or living situation.

How much I'll be able to use

Very little	8%
Some	41%
A Fair Amount	31%
A Lot	18%

Overall, half the respondents (49%) rated FICCDAT® as good and 22% as excellent. Twenty-four percent stated it was fair and 5% gave it a poor rating.

"As a first time attendee it was overwhelming. I wanted to do and see it all. I met some fantastic people. I am excited for the information that came from the sessions. I have terrific contacts that will assist my career as I proceed."

Positively - the combined amount of knowledge under one roof. The Caring sessions were filled with problems, frustration, and negativism, but the reality of hearing about the situation was something I learned.) There was an excellent plenary session of several presenters who gave statistics and a few solutions...The universal design people were very welcoming and conveyed humor in problem solving...The fact that I still remember the problems with registration and program is telling. These should be invisible parts of a conference - not remembered."

Many of the comments indicated that the concept of combining a number of conferences with a diversity of opinions and professions was good in theory but was only partially achieved. The problems with scheduling and the confusing program guide prevented the conference organization from taking full advantage of this objective.

Suggestions for the Future

A lot of the suggestions pointed to improving the printed program including a conference-at-a-glance section indicating all the talks (from all the conferences) for each time slot of each day, indentifying themes across conferences and better indexing.

Improvement to the scheduling was also a theme that occurred throughout the comments. Either schedule sessions so that participants would be able to attend different conference sessions with the

same theme or have integrated sessions in one conference i.e. that span a topic from research to end-user.

