

Lifelong Access

L I B R A R I E S

Redefining public library services to older adults

Leadership
Institute 2006
Final Report

August

2007

The 2006 Lifelong Access Libraries Leadership Institute was held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

UNC
Evaluation of
the Lifelong
Access
Libraries
Leadership
Institutes



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**Lifelong Access Libraries Institute
Preliminary Evaluation Report
August 14, 2007**

In August 2007, the Americans for Libraries Council (ALC)/ Libraries for the Future conducted the second of three annual Lifelong Access Libraries (LAL) Institutes at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The first Institute was held in August 2006, also in Chapel Hill. The 5-day training Institutes focused on the LAL initiative, an innovative approach to transforming public library programs and services for the growing number of active, engaged older adults.

This report summarizes the preliminary evaluation findings from 2007 Institute and makes some comparisons to the 2006 results. A full evaluation report on the 2006 Institute was provided to ALC in November 2006. Two types of data are being collected for the Institute evaluations: 1) evaluation of the Institute programs, including evaluations of each session and an overall Institute evaluation and 2) a baseline survey designed to measure the level of implementation of LAL-related activities in the participants' libraries at the end of the 5 day training and again 6 to 8 months later.

This interim report includes a summary of 2007 overall Institute evaluation with a comparison to the 2006 results (Table 1). The evaluations of the individual sessions at the Institute will be included in a full report on the Institute that will be submitted at a later date. Comparative results for the implementation of specific activities at baseline and follow up is also included (Table 2).

Overall Institute Evaluation

As shown in Table 1 below, overall satisfaction with both 2006 and 2007 Institutes was high with almost all responding fellows rating the Institute as excellent or good. Programming quality was highly rated by both groups, but it should be noted that the 2007 Fellows were slightly less likely to rate the number of presentations highly. Number of opportunities for hands on learning and networking were rated highly by the majority of participants in both years; however some participants rated these aspects less highly. Meeting facilities, accommodations, meals and Chapel Hill as a meeting place were all rated highly by all or almost all participants as was the helpfulness of staff during the Institute. The communication prior to the Institute and the application process were both rated highly by more participants in 2007. Overall, these results suggest that both Institutes were seen as highly successful by the respondents. In 2008, we recommend that attention be paid to the number and type of presentations so as to avoid overwhelming the participants. More detail on this recommendation will be given in the full report.

Table 1. Overall Institute Evaluation

	2006 Institute (N=16)		2007 Institute (N=14)	
	Excellent Or Good	Average, Fair or Poor	Excellent Or Good	Average, Fair or Poor
Overall satisfaction	15 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	14 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Programming quality	16 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	14 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Number of presentations	12 (80.0%)	3 (20.0%)	9 (69.2%)	4 (30.7%)
Number of opportunities for hands on learning	8 (57.1%)	6 (42.9%)	9 (64.3%)	5 (35.7%)
Number of networking opportunities	14 (87.5%)	2 (12.5%)	11 (78.6%)	3 (21.4%)
Printed information provided	15 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	12 (84.6%)	1 (7.7%)
Meeting facilities	16 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	12 (85.7%)	2 (14.3%)
Accommodations	16 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	13 (92.9%)	1 (7.1%)
Meals	16 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	14 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Chapel Hill as a meeting place	15 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	14 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Application process	10 (76.9%)	3 (23.0%)	13 (92.9%)	1 (7.1%)
Communication prior to Institute	8 (50.0%)	8 (50.0%)	11 (78.6%)	3 (21.4%)
Helpfulness of staff during Institute	16 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	14 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)

Comparison of Lifelong Access Library Activities at Baseline and Follow Up

Under Table 2 below, a table for each of the library activities is provided, showing the number of 2006 Fellows who reported being at various implementation stages at baseline (immediately after the Institute) and at follow up. It should be noted we are still gathering follow up data from the 2006 Fellows so these data are incomplete.

Overall the findings show that there was an increase in the level of implementation of most of the activities, in particular those that are most directly related to LAL programming and services. As might have been expected given the way that Fellows were selected, a number of the libraries had already achieved some level of implementation of the LAL-related activities prior to

attending the Institute. It appears that obtaining dedicated space and staff for LAL activities continue to be major barriers for many of the libraries. On the other hand, more libraries reported expanded collections; health and wellness programming; job, career and life transition information; and marketing and outreach to boomers. Our current evaluation plan does not allow for longer term follow up of the Fellows. Implementation of a multifaceted innovation such as the Lifelong Access Libraries approach is likely to take considerable additional time to fully develop and implement their LAL programs. The site visits that are being conducted to the LAL centers of excellence will likely shed more light on the factors involved in fully developing and sustaining the initiative.

In the full evaluation report we will include baseline and follow up data based on a variety of other measures related to facilitators and barriers to LAL implementation. One example is included in Table 3 below. Fellows were asked to respond to a number of statements about LAL as an innovation. The responses show that the Fellows are very positive about the long-term future of LAL. Although there are significant barriers and challenges ahead given the limited resources of public libraries, most fellows are very optimistic what the future holds.

Table 2. Comparison of Lifelong Access Library Activities at Baseline and Follow Up

Advisory Council

	Baseline (N=14)	Follow-up (N=13)
Not Interested	1	1
Considering	9	5
Pre-Planning	2	3
Planning	0	1
Resources Dedicated	0	1
Staff Dedicated	0	1
Implemented	2	1
Evaluated	N/A	0

Arts and Cultural Programming

	Baseline (N=14)	Follow-up (N=13)
Not Interested	1	0
Considering	3	1
Pre-Planning	3	1
Planning	1	4
Resources Dedicated	1	1
Staff Dedicated	0	0
Implemented	5	4
Evaluated	N/A	2

Civic Engagement

	Baseline (N=14)	Follow-up (N=12)
Not Interested	0	0
Considering	7	3
Pre-Planning	2	0
Planning	1	4
Resources Dedicated	0	0
Staff Dedicated	0	1
Implemented	4	4
Evaluated	N/A	0

Coalition Building

	Baseline (N=14)	Follow-up (N=14)
Not Interested	1	0
Considering	1	2
Pre-Planning	3	3
Planning	4	4
Resources Dedicated	0	0
Staff Dedicated	0	0
Implemented	5	3
Evaluated	N/A	2

Community Conversations and Forums

	Baseline (N=14)	Follow-up (N=13)
Not Interested	1	0
Considering	5	6
Pre-Planning	2	0
Planning	2	3
Resources Dedicated	0	0
Staff Dedicated	0	0
Implemented	4	3
Evaluated	N/A	1

Computer Resources and Training

	Baseline (N=14)	Follow-up (N=13)
Not Interested	1	0
Considering	2	3
Pre-Planning	1	1
Planning	0	1
Resources Dedicated	0	0
Staff Dedicated	0	1
Implemented	10	5
Evaluated	N/A	2

Dedicated Space

	Baseline (N=14)	Follow-up (N=13)
Not Interested	2	3
Considering	7	4
Pre-Planning	0	0
Planning	0	1
Resources Dedicated	0	0
Staff Dedicated	1	0
Implemented	4	4
Evaluated	N/A	1

Dedicated Staff

	Baseline (N=14)	Follow-up (N=13)
Not Interested	0	2
Considering	5	4
Pre-Planning	2	0
Planning	0	1
Resources Dedicated	0	0
Staff Dedicated	1	0
Implemented	6	5
Evaluated	N/A	1

Dedicated Website

	Baseline (N=14)	Follow-up (N=14)
Not Interested	1	0
Considering	4	3
Pre-Planning	1	2
Planning	2	5
Resources Dedicated	0	0
Staff Dedicated	0	0
Implemented	6	3
Evaluated	N/A	1

Expanded Collections

	Baseline (N=14)	Follow-up (N=13)
Not Interested	0	1
Considering	3	2
Pre-Planning	2	0
Planning	2	0
Resources Dedicated	0	2
Staff Dedicated	0	0
Implemented	7	7
Evaluated	N/A	1

Fee-Based and Other Revenue-Generating Activities

	Baseline (N=13)	Follow-up (N=12)
Not Interested	10	10
Considering	1	0
Pre-Planning	0	0
Planning	0	0
Resources Dedicated	0	0
Staff Dedicated	0	0
Implemented	2	2
Evaluated	N/A	0

Health and Wellness Programming

	Baseline (N=14)	Follow-up (N=13)
Not Interested	1	0
Considering	7	3
Pre-Planning	2	2
Planning	0	2
Resources Dedicated	0	0
Staff Dedicated	0	0
Implemented	4	4
Evaluated	N/A	2

Intergenerational Activities

	Baseline (N=14)	Follow-up (N=12)
Not Interested	1	0
Considering	6	4
Pre-Planning	2	3
Planning	1	1
Resources Dedicated	1	0
Staff Dedicated	1	1
Implemented	2	2
Evaluated	N/A	1

Job, Career, and Life Transition Information

	Baseline (N=14)	Follow-up (N=12)
Not Interested	2	1
Considering	7	4
Pre-Planning	2	1
Planning	2	2
Resources Dedicated	0	1
Staff Dedicated	0	0
Implemented	1	1
Evaluated	N/A	2

Lifelong Learning Programs and Services

	Baseline (N=14)	Follow-up (N=13)
Not Interested	1	0
Considering	5	3
Pre-Planning	0	0
Planning	1	2
Resources Dedicated	1	0
Staff Dedicated	0	0
Implemented	6	5
Evaluated	N/A	3

Marketing and Outreach to Boomers

	Baseline (N=14)	Follow-up (N=13)
Not Interested	1	0
Considering	7	5
Pre-Planning	2	1
Planning	0	1
Resources Dedicated	0	2
Staff Dedicated	0	0
Implemented	4	4
Evaluated	N/A	0

Oral History

	Baseline (N=14)	Follow-up (N=13)
Not Interested	1	2
Considering	6	5
Pre-Planning	0	1
Planning	2	1
Resources Dedicated	1	0
Staff Dedicated	1	0
Implemented	3	3
Evaluated	N/A	1

Table 3. Attitudes towards LAL as an Innovation

	Percentage who report strongly agreed or agreed with the item (N=14)	
	Baseline	Follow-up
Lifelong Access Libraries initiatives have the potential to transform and improve library services to older adults.	100.0	100.0
The Lifelong Access Libraries approach has advantages over the way that libraries have provided services to older adults in the past.	100.0	100.0
The Lifelong Access Libraries approach fits well with the values held by librarians.	100	100.0
The library profession will embrace Lifelong Access Libraries.	92.9	91.7
Lifelong Access Libraries as a concept is difficult to understand.	7.1	14.3
It will be tough to implement Lifelong Access Libraries initiatives.	21.4	30.8
Libraries will be able to find resources to support Lifelong Access Libraries initiatives.	100	84.6
Our library users will be not very interested in Lifelong Access Libraries services.	0.0	0.0
Other libraries will be interested in finding out about our Lifelong Access Libraries initiatives.	100.0	100.0
I feel comfortable that we can try out some of the Lifelong Access Libraries initiatives before we make a full commitment.	100.0	100.0
I like to share my experience with LAL initiatives with other librarians	N/A	100.0