A Way Forward: LITA Sustainability Solutions

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Emerging Leaders 2020

Introduction

In January 2020, we were charged with identifying how the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) division could live out the American Library Association (ALA)'s resolution on sustainability.

Methods

In March and April 2020, we researched a number of trade organizations across the United States and conducted a peer-reviewed survey of LITA members. Results gauged members' financial commitment to environmental sustainability and interest in virtual events.

Analysis

We then analyzed 69 responses to our questions, identified organizational best practices, and formed larger conclusions to guide the financial and environmental sustainability of the division. Recommendations were then categorized into short-term, mid-term, and long-term directions.

For a more **sustainable** division, we recommend changes in the following areas: **membership**, **education**, **events**, and **environmental issues**.

Short term

- Add a **sustainability fund option** for Forum registration
- Increase member **onboarding**
- Create **student board position(s)**
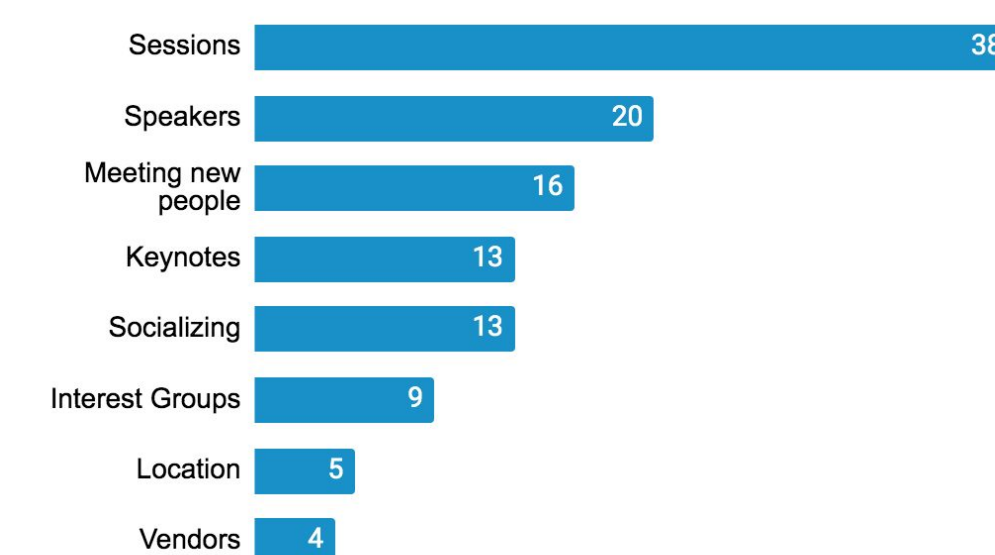- Promote **affordable and virtual** education

Mid term

- Pilot a **certificate program**
- Hold a biennial **in-person Forum**
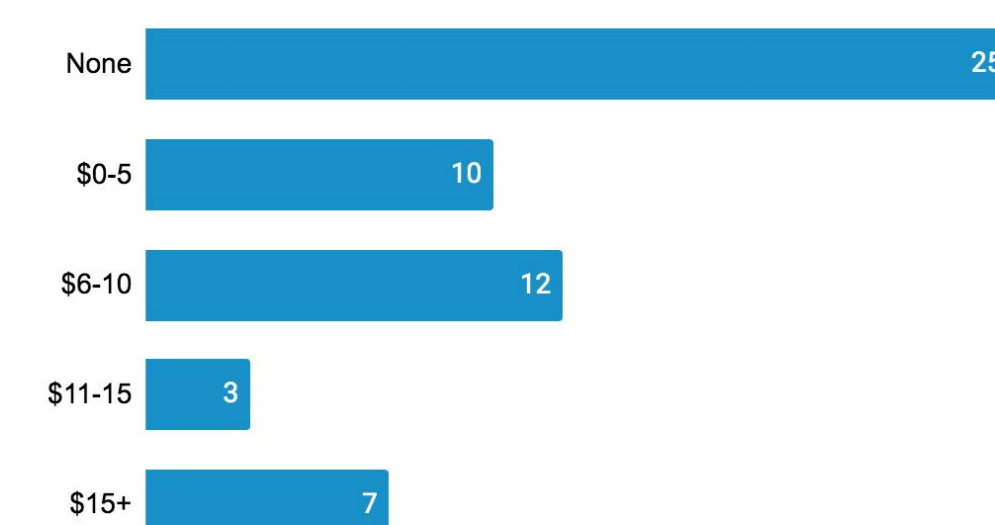- Hold a biennial **virtual unconference**

Long term

- Create **certificate pathways**
- Develop state and local **partnerships**
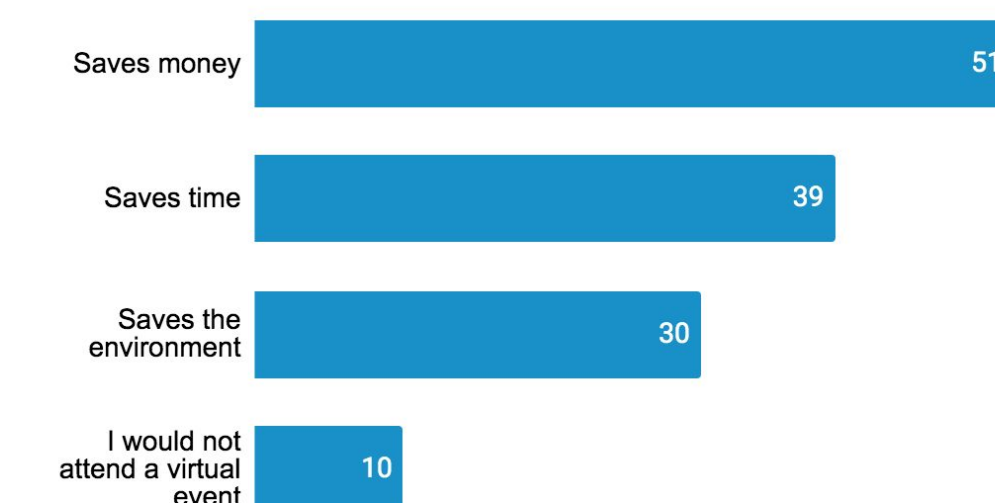- Create **varied membership** options
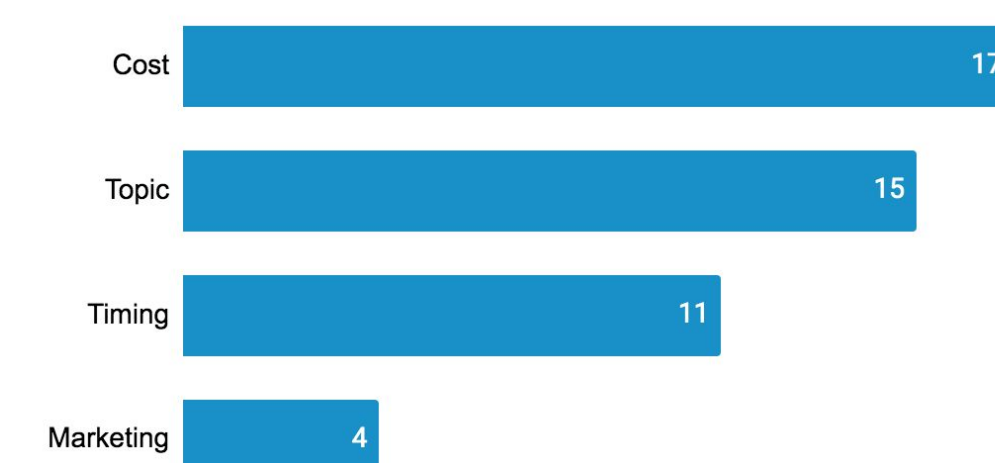

Why Members Enjoy Forum

Sessions	38
Speakers	20
Meeting new people	16
Keynotes	13
Socializing	13
Interest Groups	9
Location	5
Vendors	4

Donation for Carbon Offsetting

None	25
$0-5	10
$6-10	12
$11-15	3
$15+	7

Value of Virtual Conferences

Saves money	51
Saves time	39
Saves the environment	30
I would not attend a virtual event	10

Prohibitive Factors for LITA Course Enrollment

Cost	17
Topic	15
Timing	11
Marketing	4

For the full report visit: