

2020 LD4 Conference Survey

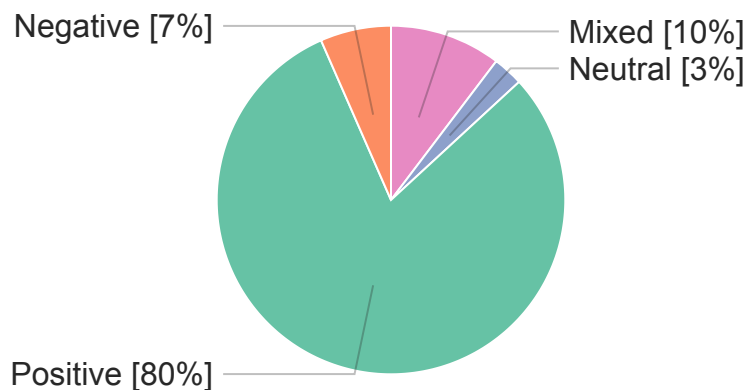
Attendee comments on overall experience

- "I really believe this is going to pave the way to change how conferences are held."
 - "It got me excited again about the possibilities of Linked Data. It got me into Wikidata, creating items, getting jazzed about the whole thing over again. I've got ideas for projects now."
 - "This was my favorite conference this year, and it made working from home during COVID more bearable."
 - "This online conference was a service to the library community, probably especially for those who aspire to learn and work more with linked data."
 - "Seeing so many folks talking about linked data, it really felt like a community was developing."
 - "It's great to be exposed to so many different projects, and by that I mean not only different work, but being done by people with a diversity of backgrounds."
-

Conference Structure

Sentiment: Did the conference structure—many tracks, spread out over a month's time—meet your needs?

213 Responses



Conference structure Likes

| Theme | Choice Count |
|---|--------------|
| Recordings make it possible to view missed sessions | 40 |
| Easy to coordinate with work or other commitments | 38 |
| Can attend more sessions than in a shorter conference where there are concurrent sessions | 18 |
| Spreading over a month allows for digesting information after sessions | 17 |
| Tracks make it possible to focus on events of interest | 17 |
| Less fatiguing / overwhelming than shorter more intense schedule | 15 |
| Flexibility | 13 |
| Allows participation by those who would not attend in-person event | 7 |
| Fits in well with remote work | 7 |
| Variety | 6 |
| Fewer hours per day than usual format | 5 |
| Daylong tracks | 3 |
| Pull quote | 3 |
| Short sessions | 3 |
| Can pick and choose sessions; not "all or nothing" | 2 |
| Combination of asynchronous and synchronous | 2 |
| Spreading over a month creates opportunities to promote event to colleagues | 2 |
| Breaks between days prevent fatigue | 1 |
| Different than usual | 1 |
| Format of Programmatic Access session worked well | 1 |
| Sched: Reminders | 1 |
| Sessions for a variety of expertise levels | 1 |
| Slack channels for each track | 1 |
| Slack connects attendees with presenters and each other | 1 |

Conference structure Dislikes

| Theme | Choice Count |
|---|--------------|
| Difficult to coordinate with work and other commitments | 11 |
| Difficult to stay engaged over long period of time | 9 |
| Too long | 4 |
| Overwhelming amount of content | 3 |
| Schedule not published far enough in advance to block out time | 3 |
| Lacks personal interaction of in-person conference | 2 |
| Some days had too many sessions | 2 |
| Being automatically added to Slack channels | 1 |
| Content too advanced | 1 |
| Employer doesn't allow Zoom, wasn't live streamed elsewhere | 1 |
| Hard to determine which sessions were relevant | 1 |
| No consistent conference experience like opening and closing plenary sessions | 1 |
| Times not convenient | 1 |
| Too spread out | 1 |
| Tracks not distinct from one another | 1 |

Conference structure likes: Comments

- "Having this conference virtually spread out over the course of the month was perfect. This amount of time allowed me to digest new knowledge in a way that I never could at an in-person 1-3 day conference. I actually feel that the way this conference was organized was beneficial and that this facilitated one of the best learning experiences I have ever gained from a conference."
- "I found that having the events spread out increased my interest because it wasn't such an all-at-once brain dump."
- "The ability to go back and watch sessions that I had to miss due to conflicts as well as forwarding relevant sessions to co-workers is invaluable."
- "I would not have gotten support from my institution to attend despite my early interest in LD and LD activities. I also liked having it spread over a month because it afforded the opportunity to keep up with daily work. A real win!"
- "I was able to attend all the sessions I was interested in without having to take hard decisions between different concurrent sessions."
- "The defined tracks helped me sort and prioritize sessions of most interest and relevance to me."
- " I loved having different tracks with their own Slack channels and focused presentations - - loved seeing the different strands that are woven into the linked data tapestry."
- "I'm glad that the conference could include many more participants and with wider geographic coverage than the 2-3 days onsite format could have offered."
- "I missed the face-to-face meetings but the virtual format exceeded my expectations and allowed more to participate."

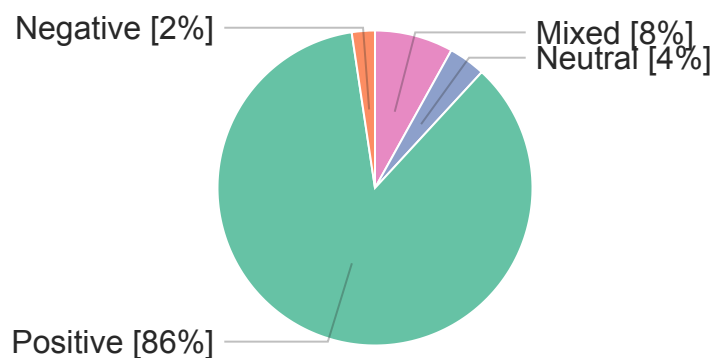
Conference structure dislikes: Comments

- "it was too far stretched out. Almost everyday. Meaning for one month one may not be able to do any other thing except participating in the conference."
- " It felt like rather than a week of trying to juggle a conference and my normal workload, it was weeks and weeks of that. I felt I had to constantly choose work over conference attendance."
- "I found it difficult to remain excited about and engaged in the conference over such a long period of time."
- "I found it difficult to maintain focus with everything so scattered."

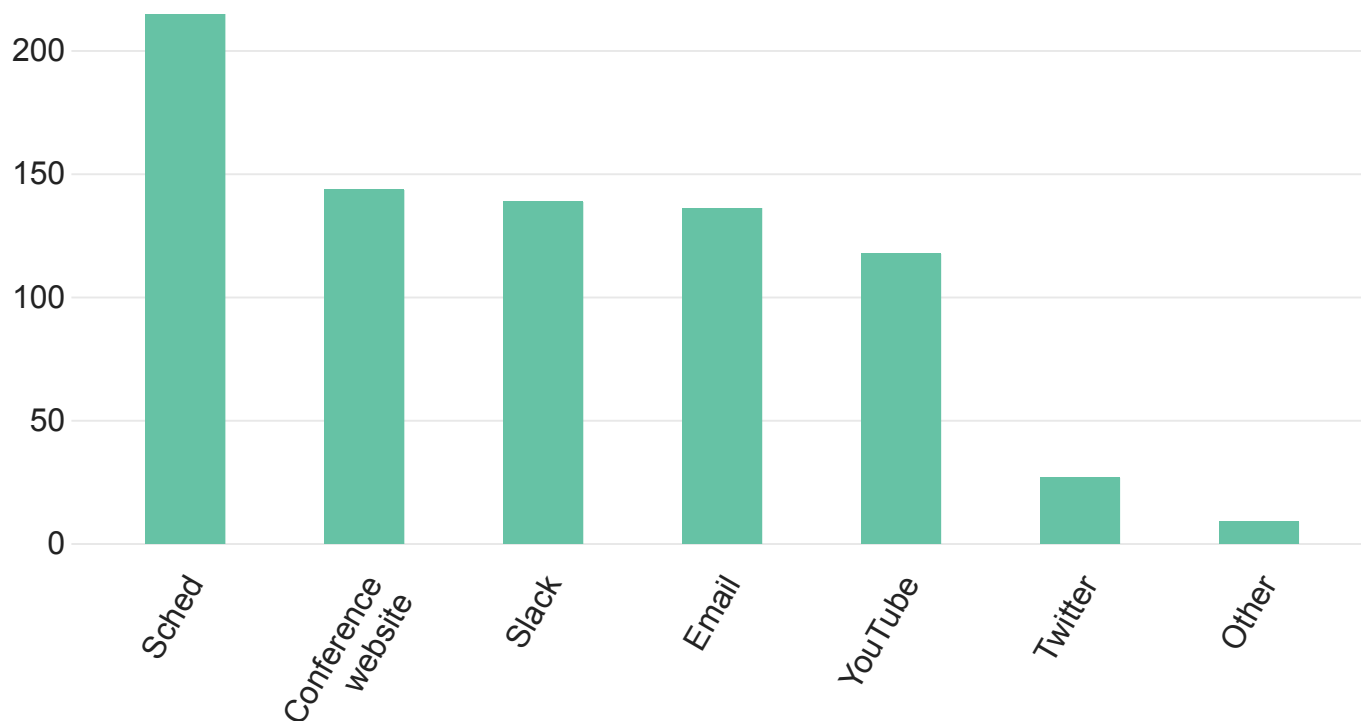
Communication Channels and Presentation Formats

Sentiment: Did the communication channels you used meet your needs?

211 Responses



Which conference communication channels did you use?



Communication channel Likes

In alphabetical order for grouping related Themes

| Theme | Choice Count |
|---|--------------|
| Asynchronous conversations | 1 |
| Channels easy to access | 1 |
| Conference website | 1 |
| Good amount of communication | 1 |
| Google doc for session Q&A | 2 |
| Introduced me to Slack | 1 |
| Mix of live and asynchronous | 1 |
| Multiple opportunities to be heard | 1 |
| Recordings make it possible to view missed sessions | 4 |
| Sched | 2 |
| Sched: color-coding of tracks | 1 |
| Sched: Reminders | 5 |
| Sched: sync with Outlook | 1 |
| Slack | 5 |
| Slack for missed sessions | 2 |
| Slack to continue conversations after sessions | 2 |
| Slack: Real-time communication | 1 |
| Slack: Reminders | 1 |
| Slack: Track-based channels | 2 |
| Support from organizers | 1 |
| Twitter | 1 |
| Zoom chat and Q&A | 2 |

Communication channel Dislikes

In alphabetical order for grouping related Themes

| Theme | Choice Count |
|--|--------------|
| Having to go to separate space from presentation for interaction | 1 |
| Info overload | 1 |
| Limited capacity workshop: unclear whether got in off wait list | 1 |
| Not a Slack user, want Slack alternative | 1 |
| Sched: confusing | 1 |
| Sched: doesn't handle timezones well | 7 |
| Sched: hard to integrate with personal calendar | 2 |
| Sched: having to sign up for new service | 1 |
| Sched: having to sign up for service | 1 |
| Sched: images don't show up in Microsoft Outlook emails | 1 |
| Slack | 2 |
| Slack: already in too many other Slack channels | 1 |
| Slack: confusing initially | 1 |
| Slack: didn't know how to access | 1 |
| Slack: having to sign up for new service | 1 |
| Slack: information overload | 1 |
| Slack: overwhelming | 1 |
| Slack: unanswered questions | 1 |
| Sound issues | 1 |
| Too many channels | 4 |
| Too much information | 1 |
| Zoom chats not preserved | 2 |

Communication channel Likes: Comments

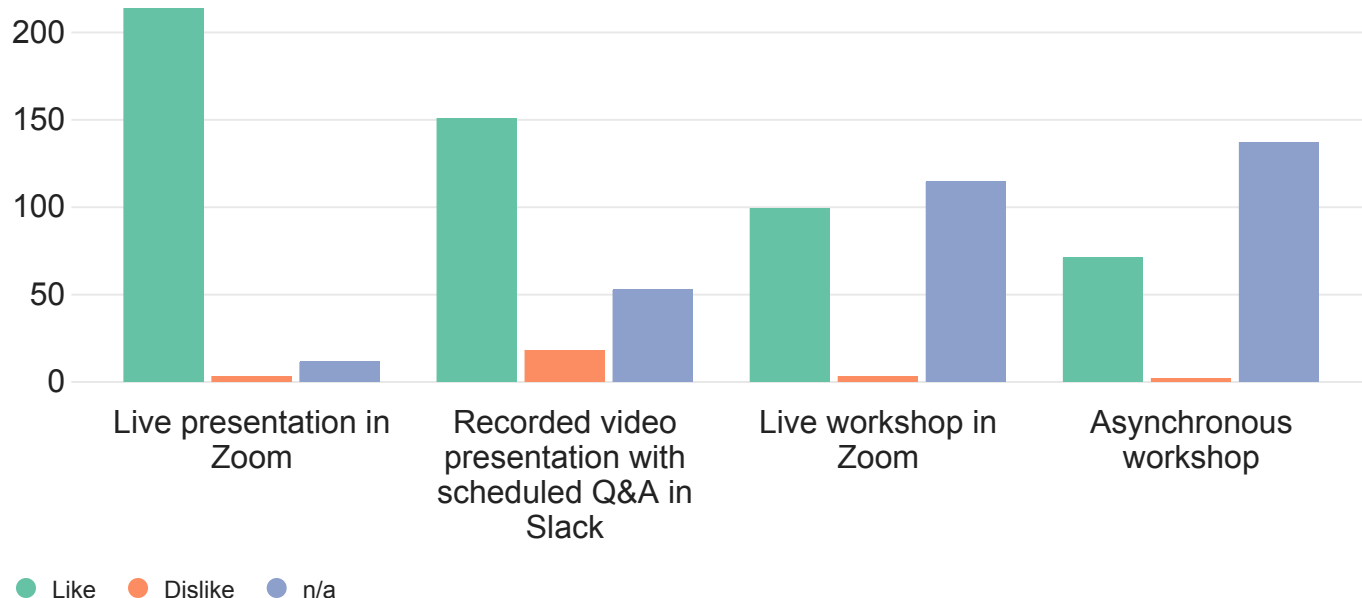
- "I liked how conversations and questions would move online to Slack. It kind of felt like the hallway conversations at an in-person conference."
- "I wasn't bombarded with emails but it was clear when things were happening."
- "Interacting with everyone in real time was a big plus, and it happened organically across the different channels, including the Zoom chat and Q&A functions."
- "I liked having the different channels in Slack available for each track. And the color coding in Sched made it really easy to not only identify what talks would be of interest to me, but also where in Slack I could continue or participate in conversation related to the presentation."

Communication channel Dislikes: Comments

- "I liked Sched a lot, especially the daily emails, but it was frustrating that the time zone could not be universally synced to my user profile."
- "I used Slack but I didn't find it was very helpful. Interacting within the same 'information space' as the presentation would have been more useful, pleasant, easy, etc."
- "I was a little put off by the need to set up accounts on two services that were new to me-- Sched and Slack--and I never felt completely comfortable with them. It seemed a little over-engineered."

Presentation formats

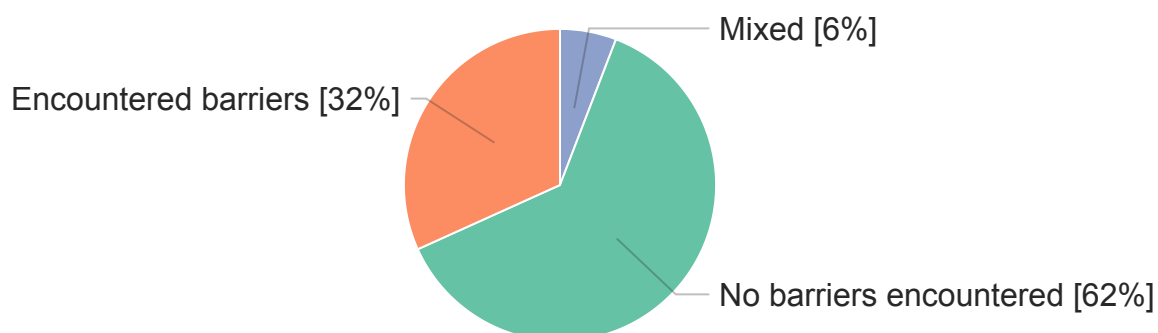
231 Responses



Barriers and Welcoming

Percentage of attendees who encountered barriers to participation

274 Responses



Barriers encountered

| Theme | Choice Count |
|--|--------------|
| Conflict with work and other commitments | 45 |
| Sched: doesn't handle timezones well | 12 |
| Inconvenient times | 9 |
| Attendee connectivity issues | 7 |
| Schedule too spread out | 5 |
| Beginner, not enough knowledge to participate fully | 4 |
| Limited-capacity sessions filled up too quickly | 3 |
| Slack | 3 |
| Content: too technical | 2 |
| Sched | 2 |
| Sched: difficult to add to personal calendar | 2 |
| Schedule not published far enough in advance to block out time | 2 |
| Scheduling: unspecified | 2 |
| Accessibility: no closed captioning | 1 |
| Communication: missed information such as existence of Slack channel | 1 |
| Communication: unclear that a recording needed to be watched in advance of session | 1 |
| Concurrent sessions | 1 |
| Difficulty with registration and orientation | 1 |
| Discomfort with communicating informally in recorded/persistent online environment | 1 |
| Discomfort with turning on camera when working from home | 1 |
| Not familiar with conference app | 1 |
| One talk not recorded | 1 |
| Personal interaction different from physical conference | 1 |
| Presenter connectivity issues | 1 |
| Recordings: session names on YouTube didn't match Sched | 1 |
| Sched: Hard to determine which sessions were relevant | 1 |

| Theme | Choice Count |
|---|---------------------|
| Sched: having to learn it | 1 |
| Sched: having to log in | 1 |
| Slack: having to learn it | 1 |
| Zoom: Chat doesn't persist | 1 |
| Zoom: could not get into session after start time | 1 |
| Zoom: links not published far enough in advance | 1 |
| Timezone: unspecified issue | 2 |

Positive themes and suggestions from Barriers question

| Theme or suggestion | Choice Count |
|--|---------------------|
| Positive: Recordings make it possible to view missed sessions | 15 |
| Timezone: unspecified issue | 2 |
| Positive: Allows participation by those who would not attend in-person event | 1 |
| Positive: large number of sessions | 1 |
| Positive: Spreading over a month allows for digesting information after sessions | 1 |
| Positive: Workshop format | 1 |
| Suggestion: Crowdcast.io | 1 |

Barriers: Comments

- "Paradoxically, the fact that it was spread out precluded getting time off from the University as I would have done for a regular conference. I was continuously balancing LD4 with regular meetings in my schedule."
- "The main one was scheduling. I wasn't always able to attend the session I had hoped to because an emerging workplace commitment would crop up for me to address. In other words, there are more "interferences" than an in-person conference."
- "The simple problem of just getting the time zone wrong! The Linked Data workshop was also maxed out far before I saw the schedule."
- "Sched is good for in-person conferences, but it was a rough translation to the online format. I kept forgetting to reset the timezones to my own local area and made a few calendar mistakes as a result."
- "Unstable Internet which affected my participation. The cost of buying data bundles was high so I couldn't participate in all the tracks I wanted to. Timing of the tracks was also a challenge depending on the time zones."
- "Unclear if attendance is targeted outside of North American timezones. Grateful nonetheless to join in remotely for the first time for a live session."
- "Being able to keep up with other competing interests online. So much is going on virtually now."
- "I am still new to Linked Data. Many of the technical terms used by presenters were not comprehensible to me. Moreover, many of the speakers speak very fast."
- "The only barrier was how much awesome stuff there was. I wanted to attend everything and often had work conflicts. But that's where the YouTube videos came in handy. I really loved being able to catch up that way."

What did you like most about the Conference?

What did you like most about the Conference? Top answers

| Theme | Choice Count |
|--|--------------|
| Content: Variety | 41 |
| Format: Virtual | 22 |
| Recordings make it possible to view missed sessions | 21 |
| Format: Free | 18 |
| Content | 17 |
| Content: Wikidata, Wikibase... | 13 |
| Format: Spread-out schedule | 10 |
| Allows participation by those who would not attend in-person event | 10 |
| Format: Tracks | 9 |
| Learning opportunity | 9 |
| Community | 8 |
| Presenters: Diverse | 7 |
| Content: Relevant | 6 |
| Content: For a variety of expertise levels | 6 |
| Presenters: Variety | 5 |
| Presenters | 5 |
| Format: Organized | 5 |

What did you like most about the Conference? All themes

All answers alphabetical order for grouping related themes

| Theme | Choice Count |
|--|--------------|
| Allows participation by those who would not attend in-person event | 10 |
| Community | 8 |
| Content | 17 |
| Content: appropriate for beginners | 2 |
| Content: Awareness of what others are doing | 2 |
| Content: Beginners track | 2 |
| Content: BIBFRAME | 1 |
| Content: Case studies | 1 |
| Content: Coverage | 1 |
| Content: Current | 1 |
| Content: Discovery track | 1 |
| Content: Diverse | 2 |
| Content: Focused | 1 |
| Content: For a variety of expertise levels | 6 |
| Content: In-depth | 1 |
| Content: Informative | 2 |
| Content: Inspiring | 2 |
| Content: Interesting | 2 |
| Content: Learning about work in progress | 1 |
| Content: New topics | 4 |
| Content: Practical | 1 |
| Content: Profiles track discussion session | 1 |
| Content: Quality | 2 |
| Content: Quantity | 1 |
| Content: Relevant | 6 |
| Content: Reports on hands-on projects | 1 |
| Content: Special Collections track | 2 |

| Theme | Choice Count |
|---|---------------------|
| Content: Technical | 2 |
| Content: Timely | 1 |
| Content: Variety | 41 |
| Content: Wikidata, Wikibase... | 13 |
| Content: Workshops | 1 |
| Everything! | 2 |
| Facilitators | 1 |
| Facilitators: Cool and resourceful | 1 |
| Format | 3 |
| Format: Accessible to beginners | 1 |
| Format: Allows participation by those who would not attend in-person event | 1 |
| Format: Can attend more sessions than in a shorter conference where there are concurrent sessions | 1 |
| Format: Combo of live and asynchronous | 1 |
| Format: Convenient | 2 |
| Format: days off | 1 |
| Format: Easy to attend | 3 |
| Format: Evening schedule | 1 |
| Format: Flexible | 2 |
| Format: Free | 18 |
| Format: Hands-on practice paired with presentations | 1 |
| Format: Interactive | 2 |
| Format: Intro to Programmatic Access to LD | 1 |
| Format: Multiple ways to communicate | 1 |
| Format: Organized | 5 |
| Format: Pace | 2 |
| Format: Short sessions | 4 |
| Format: Slides available | 1 |

| Theme | Choice Count |
|--|---------------------|
| Format: Spread-out schedule | 10 |
| Format: Tracks | 9 |
| Format: Variety | 3 |
| Format: Virtual | 22 |
| General sense of invitation to get involved | 1 |
| Interaction among presenters and attendees | 1 |
| Learning opportunity | 9 |
| Organizers | 1 |
| Participants | 1 |
| Participants: Diverse | 2 |
| Participants: Expertise | 1 |
| Participants: International | 4 |
| Presenters | 5 |
| Presenters: Diverse | 7 |
| Presenters: Expertise | 2 |
| Presenters: International | 3 |
| Presenters: Quality | 3 |
| Presenters: Quantity | 1 |
| Presenters: Variety | 5 |
| Recordings make it possible to view missed sessions | 21 |
| Sched | 3 |
| Sched: Reminders | 1 |
| Suggestion: live captioning during sessions for accessibility | 1 |
| Suggestion: Longer live workshops with more detail on Wikidata | 1 |
| Suggestion: More content from Middle East and Asia | 1 |
| Suggestion: More discussion | 1 |
| Suggestion: More sessions for beginners | 1 |

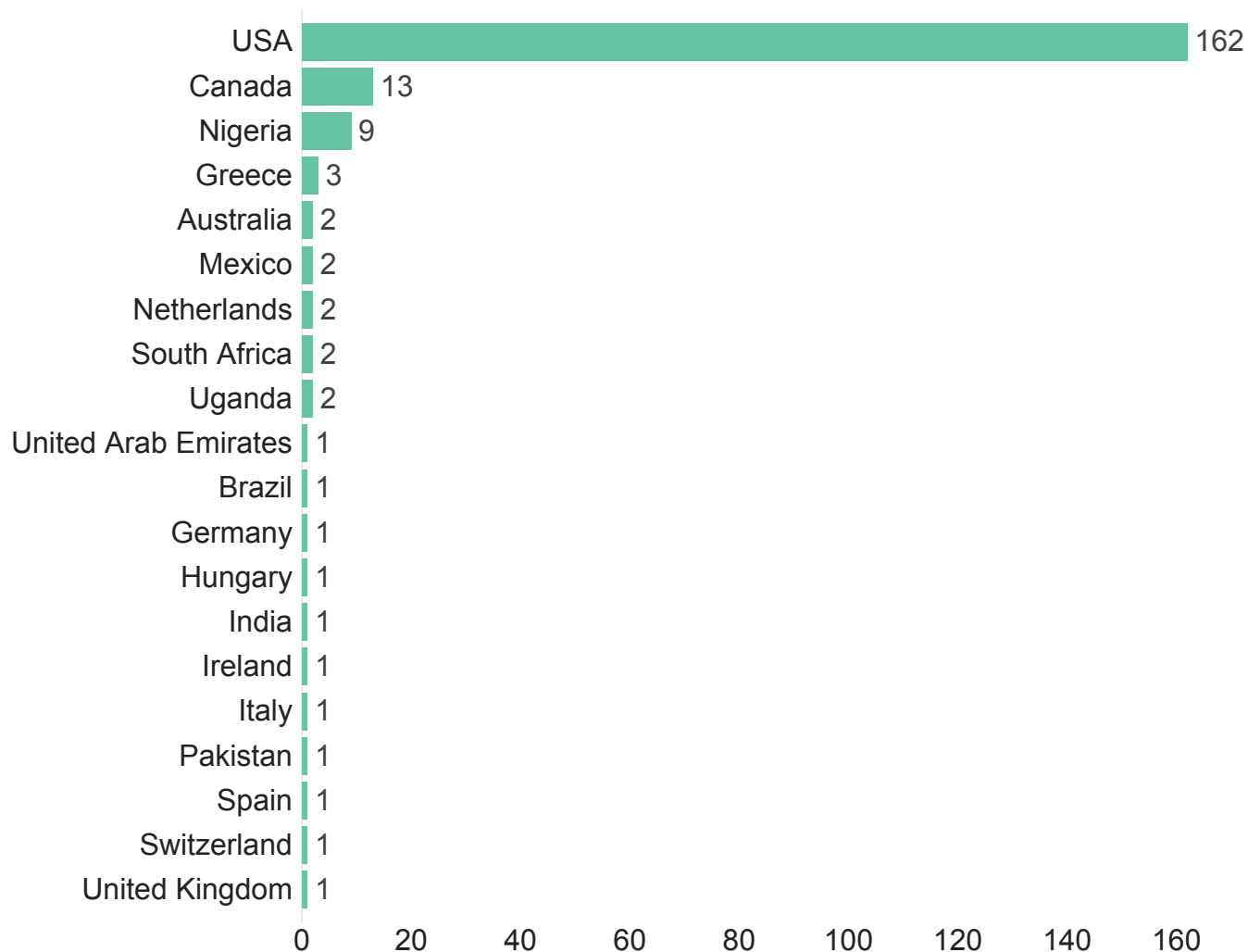
What did you like most? Comments

- "World's best presenters and attendees were at one place and it was a good opportunity to learn from their professional experiences."
- "That we were able to meet despite current circumstances and that possibly even more people were able to attend than might have been if we had it in person."
- "I liked most the variety of topics and the efficient organisation (e.g., the time-boxed sessions, the multiple Slack channels for continuous interaction, the availability of materials, the effectiveness of the communication)."
- "The wide range of technical information, teaching sessions, recaps of individual institutions' processes and experience."
- "I was introduced to many new topics, ones I have been meaning to learn more about. I also really like the international nature of the conference. I listened to several of the speakers from Africa and it was a reminder that while we all want the same things, we are in different places on our journey there."
- "Conference presenters came from an incredible variety of locales and libraries -- really a community."
- "I liked the diversity of the topics and that the presenters kept referring to each other's presentations. It really made the whole thing like a real community conference and something that anyone could get involved in."
- "The program. There was hardly any filler - lots of project reports on things I hadn't heard of before, lots of variety, and a sense that things are expanding and moving forward. Also, the moderators were very cool and resourceful, and most presenters were well prepared."
- Hearing from people who are actively working on problems and new ideas. I really appreciate works in progress or descriptions of maintenance challenges, much more than polished presentations about completed projects especially if they've been completed more than a year before the presentation with no new work. A view under the hood makes me feel like 'I can do this too!' and it gives me and other participants a chance to offer help, especially if the presenter says 'We're working on this and we're almost there, but we need help with this part!'"
- I participated in the workshop "An Introduction to Programmatic Access to Linked Data" and felt this was a great balance between live participation (office hours) and being able to participate in my own time as it was asynchronous. Recording all of the sessions was also great as I was able to watch sessions on my schedule when I could not attend them live. It also gave me the opportunity to review concepts in live sessions that I needed repeated. The thing that I found most beneficial was that this conference was virtual. I would have never been able to attend this conference in person and I am so grateful that it was virtual. I gained so much from attending this conference and could only do so because it was virtual. Thank you!

- "The variety. It's great to be exposed to so many different projects, and by that I mean not only different work, but being done by people with a diversity of backgrounds."

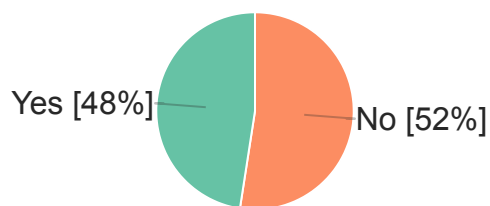
Respondent Country, Role, and Conference Funding

What country do you work in?

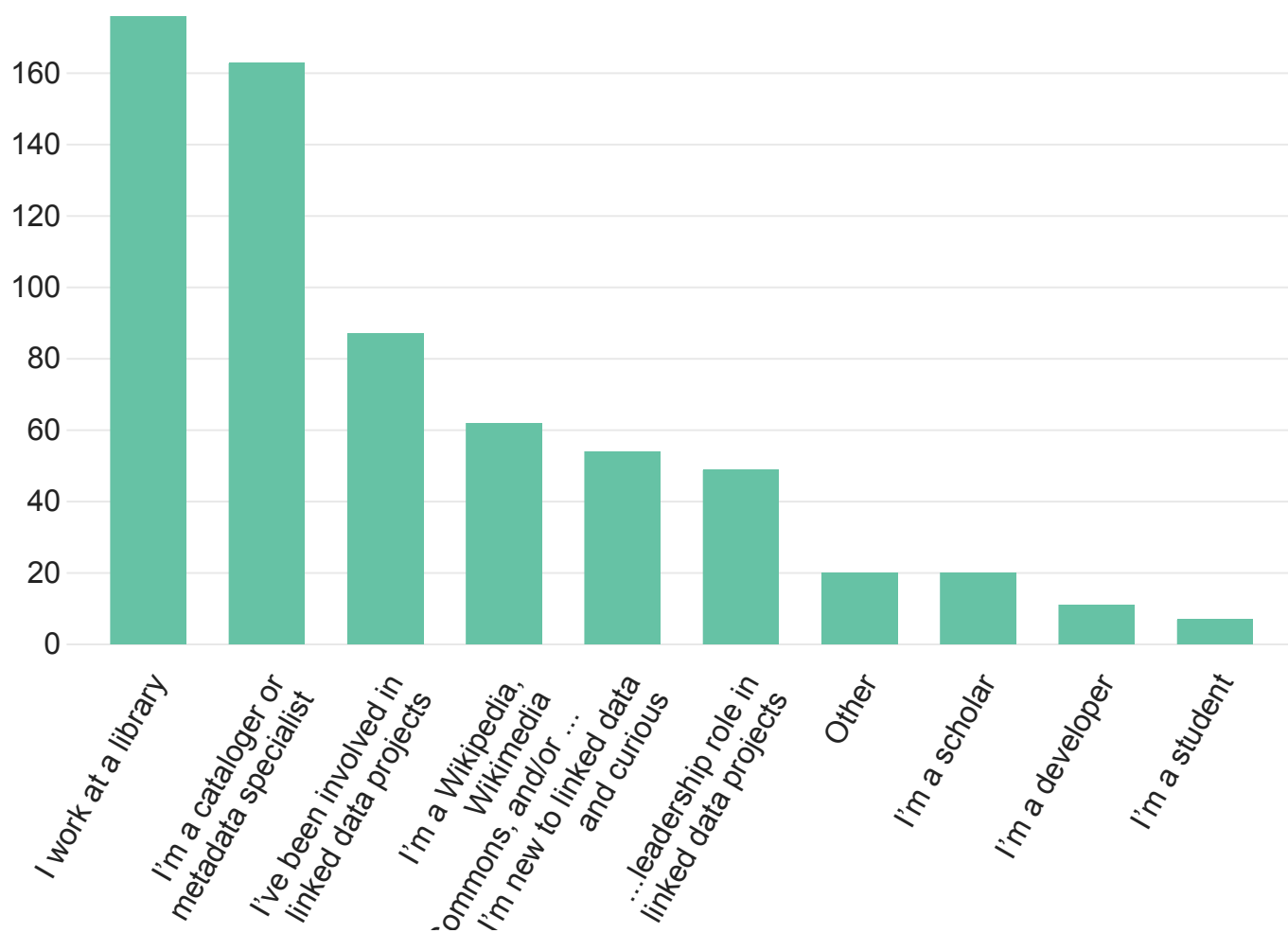


I have institutional funding that supports my attendance at conferences like LD4 2020.

225 Responses



How would you describe your role with respect to linked data? Check all that apply.



Role: "Other" entries

The ability for respondent to add text to Other was not turned on until after about the 100th response.

Individual response

Assistant Professor at library school

I am a metadata management librarian

I have published a LibGuide: <https://guides.library.ucla.edu/semantic-web>

I see that linked data is the future and am trying to figure out how it applies to my work

I study digital preservation.

I understand the theory but don't know what to do next, what skills I need (or how to get them), and what tools I need.

I work in a State Archive

I work in a museum

I work in standards development

I'm a consultant

I'm just starting to take a leadership role by applying for the PCC Wikidata Pilot

IT project manager

Im a student. I work at an archive (in public services and on audio projects). I also work for a professor who uses IIF in projects.

Linked data evangelist

archivist

manager

product manager for an ILS software vendor

sign up for PCC Wikidata Pilot; and wait for update.

taxonomist at a museum

work for a content provider