kohacon

KohaCon19 ran in Dublin from the 20th to the 24th May 2019

This report is an overview of the event, which we hope the community will find interesting.

Attendance

207 Signed Up

> 15 Cancelled before the event
>
> 112 Attended on Monday
>
> 116 Attended on Tuesday
>
> 99 Attended on Wednesday
>
> 77 Attended on Thursday

4 scheduled speakers were unable to attend.

Budget

9 Koha community members generously sponsored the conference to the tune of €11,500

Community Leaders:	BibLibre / ByWater / EBSCO
Community Builders:	LMSCloud
Community Participants:	Admin Kuhn / Catalyst / IZI Software Solutions / Libriotech
Community Friends:	1 personal donation

We were able to reclaim VAT on a number of purchases, increasing the effective budget by €550

Having DBS provide the conference venue without charge was a huge cost saving.

Interleaf Technology, DBS and PTFS Europe gave their services to the organization of the conference without charge.

Our Costs were:

PayPal	€218
Speakers	€2,564
Printing	€2,891
Catering	€2,676
LiveStream Costs	€277
Culture Day	€1,038

Donations - Costs + VAT Reclaim = €11,500 - €9,664 + €550 = €2,386

We have a surplus of €2,386

We propose to use this money to sponsor an enhancement in Koha or to use as seed funding for KohaCon20

This will be discussed at the next Koha General IRC (July 10 2019).

Archive

The conference live-stream was recorded and the sessions are [available here](#)

The slides used in presentations are [available here](#)
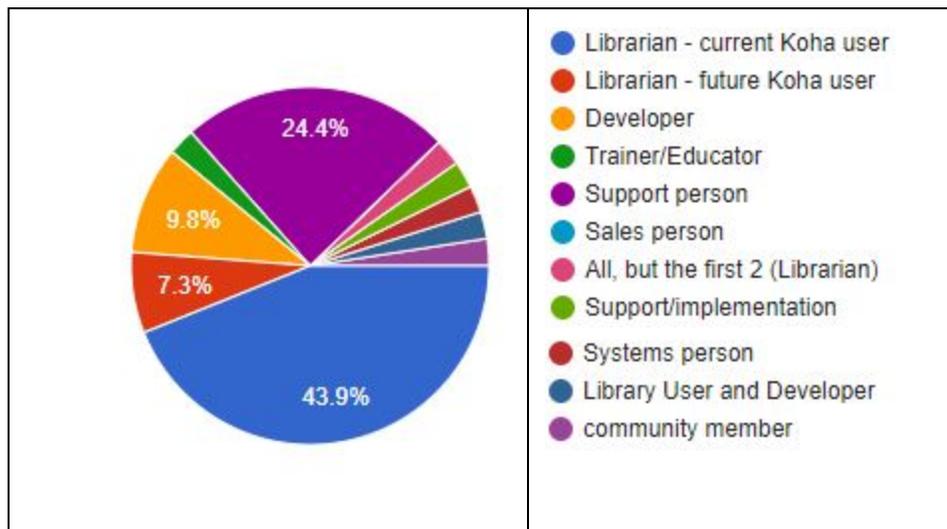
Questionnaire

We conducted a post-conference questionnaire which was sent out to all who registered to attend.

The majority of questions requested responses on a scale of 1-5 with 5=best, 1=worst and 3=no strong opinion.
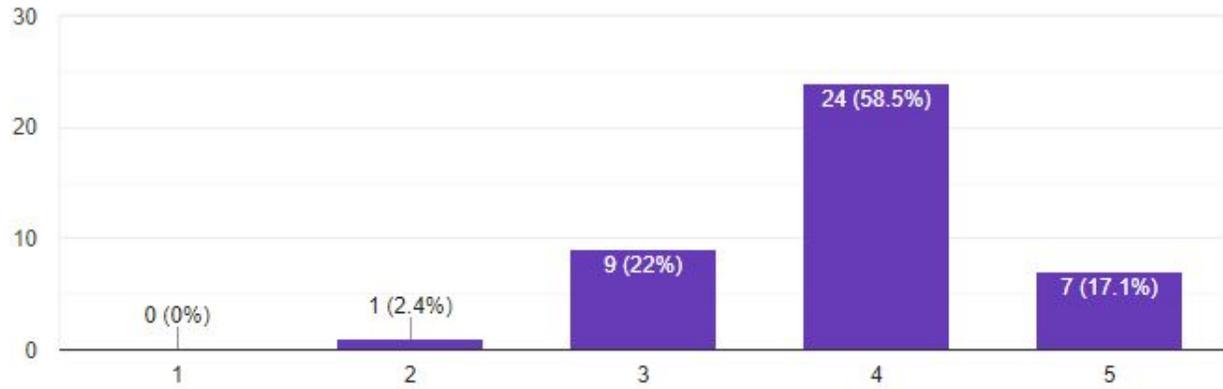
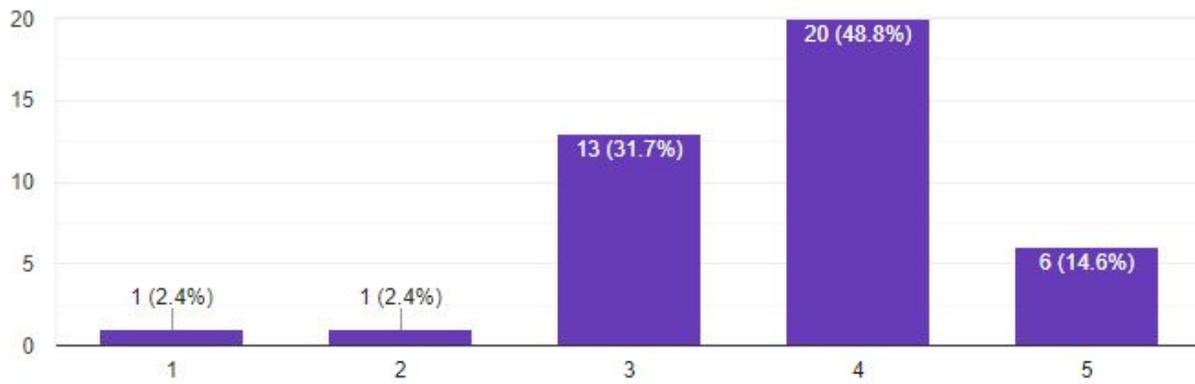41 responses were received.
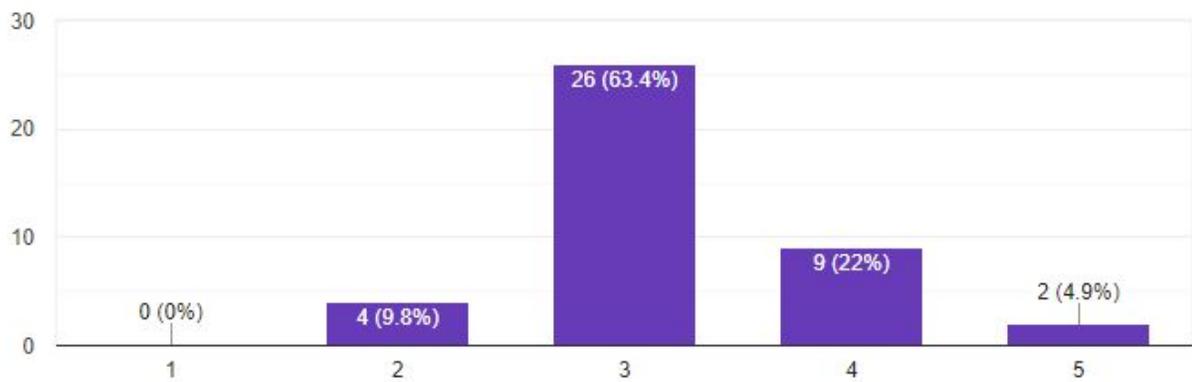
Some key statistics are:

Roles of Attendees

Overall Rating of KohaCon19

Change to format of talks (grouped into sessions with one Q&A per session)

Change to format of Hackfest to Workshop style

Top three reasons for attending:

Meeting a range of people from the Community (82.9%)

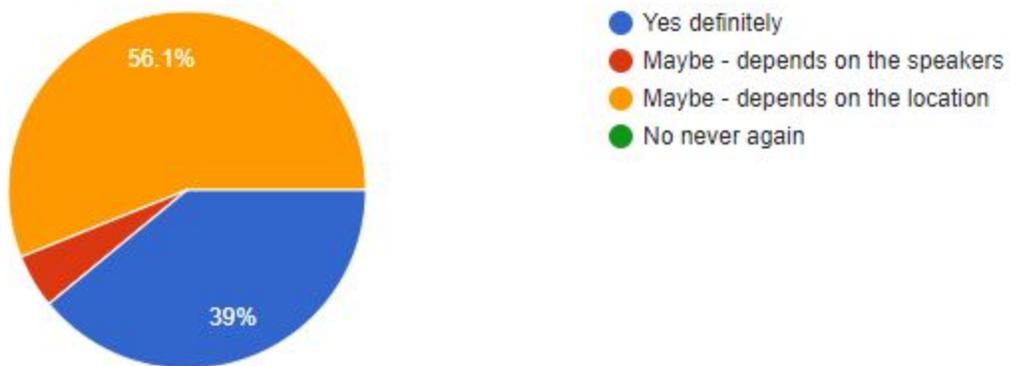Learning about Future Developments (65.9%)

The Range of Talks (46.3%)

Top three talks:

Designing and Marketing Bugs (56.1%)

Metabase (53.7%)

System Preferences (53.7%)

Top three workshops:

Testing and Bug Sign-off (38.2%)

Elastic Search (38.2%)

InterLibrary Loans = Koha Plugins (35.3%)

Will you attend KohaCon in the future

- Yes definitely
- Maybe - depends on the speakers
- Maybe - depends on the location
- No never again

Reflections

We were very happy to organize KohaCon in Dublin and it seems that the majority of attendees enjoyed the event and their time in Dublin.

The outstanding statistic from the questionnaire is that nearly everyone (83% of respondents) said that their main reason for attending KohaCon was to meet other members of the community. This underlines how important it is for the community to meet in person as well as all the regular virtual sessions.

It was great to welcome so many members of the Koha Community to Dublin and the atmosphere in the conference room was electric and engaged all the time.

The evening social events were great fun as well and helped to foster the sense of community that is so important for Koha to succeed.

Conference Structure

The adjustments to the conference schedule structure were generally positively received.

There were some reservations about the workshop focus in the second half of KohaCon19. The fact that a significant number of librarians stayed for these sessions was a good outcome, but in retrospect we should have had more concurrent "hackfest" type sessions for the developers.

We will share the detailed results of the questionnaire with our New Zealand colleagues for any insights it may give to help with preparations for KohaCon20.

Conference Speakers

There was a good response to our initiative of bringing in external speakers (Marshall Breeding, Philipp Krenn on Elastic Search, unfortunately the speaker on PERL cancelled at the last minute because of illness). However, it is, as always, the commitment of the Koha Community members to volunteer to speak on their experiences and initiatives that makes the event so successful.

Rating of Talks and Workshops

The fact that the most popular talks and workshops were around Bugs/Enhancements, System Preferences and current developments such as Metabase and Elastic Search shows how invested the community is in engaging with the development of Koha.

Conference Venue

The venue location in Dublin City Centre was generally considered to be excellent.

Some comments were made about the limitations of the overall physical environment which we agree with. We will share these comments with the organisers of KohaCon20 so they can avoid the same mistakes.

Conference Budget / Costs

While KohaCon is a free to attend event, as the budget costs above show, it is not free to deliver.

Eventbrite was a useful tool to manage the bookings and to communicate with attendees.

We asked attendees to confirm their attendance so that we could accurately budget. As the figures above show, there was a considerable difference between the number registered and the number that attended. As we had to book catering and Culture Day services in advance, this meant that we incurred greater costs than necessary in these areas. The budget had capacity to absorb these costs, but it is unfortunate that money that could have been used more productively was wasted.

Being able to reclaim VAT on purchases increased the effective budget by 4.8%

Using PayPal for Donations reduced the effective budget by 2%

The over-provisioning of catering reduced the budget by 4%

The over-provisioning of Culture Day events reduced the budget by 3%

We would encourage delegates to future KohaCon events to manage their registrations, and particularly to cancel if they are not attending, so that scarce resources are better used. A registration fee, however nominal, would focus minds, but that would be against the open ethos of KohaCon. We will leave it to future KohaCon organisers to come up with ideas on this.

Overall it was a great pleasure to host KohaCon in Dublin and we are grateful to those who voted for our bid.

With that, KohaCon19 hands the baton over to Catalyst for KohaCon20.