COVID-19 and The Future of Scholarly Meetings

Laura Brown, Danielle Cooper, Dylan Ruediger
Ithaka S+R
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Agenda

Challenges Facing Conference Organizers

Lessons from COVID

Project Synopsis

Discussion
Challenges

The basic model for conferences reflect technologies, priorities, and communities from the post-war years.
Pre-Pandemic Concerns About In-Person Conferences

- Carbon costs
- Accessibility and equity
- Politicization of meeting locations

- Declining attendance
- Stale presentation formats
COVID-19 forced societies to experiment with virtual and hybrid formats at an unprecedented rate.
Open Questions

Virtual and hybrid meetings have been uneven, but better than many expected. Nevertheless, societies face serious challenges sustaining them.

Unresolved Issues:

- Developing viable financial and staffing models for new meeting modalities and content.
- Ensuring quality of intellectual and social engagement.
- Balancing needs of member communities.

The Future of Scholarly Meetings

Cohort-directed learning community exploring financial, logistical, and scholarly implications of changes to meeting formats through workshops and meetings.

Data-driven decision making informed by research into industry trends and technological options by Ithaka S+R.

Iterative, design-informed experimentation and prototypes built by JSTOR Labs.
Participating Societies
Discussion
Discussion Suggestions

What has your experience with COVID-era conferences been like? What aspects have been successful or have failed?

How has your thinking changed around when it is necessary for you and or your staff to attend conferences in person?

What is especially useful about this project from your perspective? What elements are missing?
Thank you