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Queer Heritage and Collections Symposium

FEEDBACK REPORT

This report illustrates the feedback from participants in the Queer Heritage and Collections Network Symposium (19-20 October 2022).

The Symposium was delivered as a hybrid event at the School of Museum Studies (University of Leicester) and online via Microsoft Teams, with 16 speakers (joining in person and online), 31 in-person attendees and 134 online attendees.

Feedback on the Symposium was collected through an online anonymous survey. Speakers and attendees were invited to share their comments in the Microsoft Teams chat and on social media through the hashtag #QHCN2022. Recordings of the sessions were also uploaded on the QHCN YouTube channel.

Respondents to the anonymous survey unanimously agreed that the network is something they would like to see continue in the future (100%, 24 respondents).

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This is such a valuable network and gives us access to expert advice and experience hard to find elsewhere.

— anonymous survey respondent

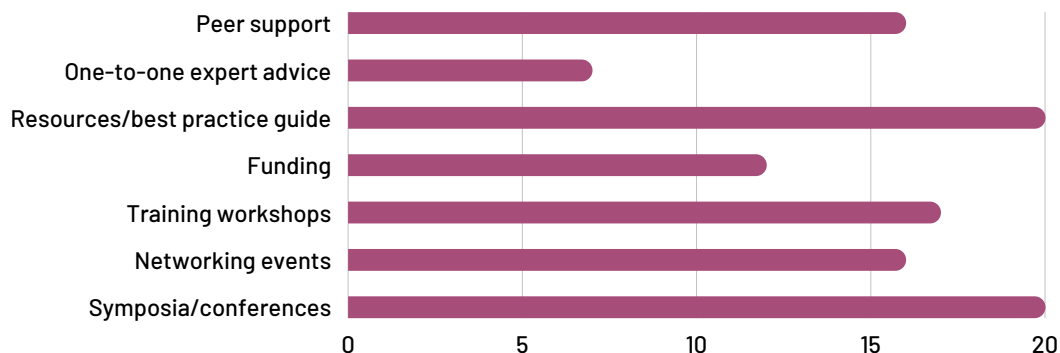


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Support from the Network

When asked about what type of support they would most likely need from the network, the majority of respondents agreed that they would find resources and guides, as well as conferences like this symposium, most useful (83.3%).

Around 65-70% of respondents also reported interest in peer support, training workshops and networking events.



Potential Benefits

In terms of the potential benefits of the Network, the survey highlights an interest in knowledge sharing, specifically sharing best practice around LGBTQ+ interpretation, engagement and programming in cultural institutions.

One respondent said, 'the support and guidance offered by the Network and its members are invaluable to helping us continue developing our LGBTQ+ programme.'

To another respondent the Network was particularly beneficial in legitimising this kind of work:

'As a Queer person, being able to point to the Network as a sign that an organisation I am in should be taking these ideas and issues seriously is so valuable. It is a way to show that it is bigger than just the one person bringing it up at the team meeting - it is a nationwide and international community and issue. It also is a way to show the value of work that is and can be done in organisations, find courage from seeing those already doing the work, and find practical examples and resources to follow where time and funding are scarce in smaller organisations.'

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The feedback also illustrates the potential benefit of events like the Symposium in showcasing and promoting existing projects and practice. For people who attended the event, the Network can be key in connecting professionals and organisations to share their work:

'As a smaller regional gallery without big budgets it would be great to get the support of the network in promoting our work [...] and also to connect us with similar organisations to share our work.'

Future Activities

The overwhelming response about the future activities of the Network was to continue offering online events and resources. A significant number of respondents mentioned that their attendance was made possible by the hybrid delivery and would like this to continue in the future. Lack of funding is mentioned as one of the reasons for this, but, to some, online participation also ensures a diversity of attendees.

'It is impossible to raise funds to attend in person events so online resources are vital.'

'Retaining hybrid and online meetings as access is also essential to me personally and professionally.'

Despite one of the sessions being in-person only, this was not perceived as a negative by survey respondents, who were still able to access resources and toolkits used during the in-person session.

