OBJECTIVE

To assess a subject intensive conference for career development benefits among librarians with less than 5 years of professional experience.

METHODS

• Two early-career librarians, who attended the Science Boot Camp for Librarians Southeast 2016, used their assessment of conference content, professional opportunities, and the impact it had on their careers to develop a survey.

• Four months after the conference, a survey was emailed to conference attendees asking them to analyze their experience at the conference.

• Survey was distributed by the conference coordinator.

RESULTS

• 37 respondents out a total of 107 conference attendees
• 19 respondents considered themselves to be entry to early career librarians and 18 respondents were mid to late career librarians.
• 65% of the total respondents indicated that the 2016 Science Boot Camp for Librarians was their first time attending a science related conference or boot camp.
• About 84% of early career librarians attended two to four work-related conferences a year while 89% of mid-late career librarians attended one to three conferences a year.
• Out of the conferences attended by early career librarians, 79% said the subject of the conference directly contributed to their focused subject matter as a librarian, whereas, 78% of mid-late career librarians said the same thing.
• Two early-career librarians, who attended the Science Boot Camp for Librarians Southeast 2016, used their assessment of conference content, professional opportunities, and the impact it had on their careers to develop a survey.
• Four months after the conference, a survey was emailed to conference attendees asking them to analyze their experience at the conference.

CONCLUSIONS

• While early career librarians found many of the aspects of the conference beneficial, mid-late career librarians took greater note of the subject-specific areas.
• A larger survey population from other science boot camps would give a better view of national trends.