Feedback Report

Participants were asked to fill in a feedback form and to make comments about their experiences of the workshop. In total seventy-three people from twenty-two countries attended the seminar. Forty-one filled in their responses.

Feedback about the Seminar

This section of the form asked participants to grade certain aspects of the Seminar. They used a scale ranging one to five, where one = Poor and five = Excellent.

1. How effective were the speakers?

![Graph showing effectiveness of speakers]

The graph above illustrates the effectiveness of the speakers, with the highest percentage of participants rating them as excellent.
2. How would you rate the structure of the seminar?

![Structure Rating Chart]

3. How useful was the background documentation?

![Background Documentation Rating Chart]

4. How would you rate the organisation of the event?

![Organisation of Seminar Rating Chart]
5. How well did you feel that the seminar addressed the main topic?

6. Was the cost acceptable?

7. Did this seminar meet your expectations?
8. What will you be able to take from this seminar back to your own organisations?

Many participants confirmed that the seminar goal was met, in that it conveyed a deeper understanding of issues surrounding metadata and interoperability. Further responses included:

- incentives for own organisation to invest in metadata;
- points for implementation in own organisation (procedures as well as systems);
- other perspectives, and new ideas;
- insight in current initiatives and activities.

9. What else would you liked to have seen covered at this seminar?

Responses included:

- information on persistent identifiers;
- a more detailed discussion of actual elements;
- engagement of vendors;
- more practical examples and case studies;
- presentation of tools (e.g. to automatically extract metadata)

10. What did you like best about this seminar?

Participants appreciated the various perspectives on the issues. Several also mentioned the balance between theoretical fundamentals and practical experiences; thereby, they contradicted other participants, who felt that the seminar was not sufficiently practically orientated.

Communication with others is at the core of the seminar. During the seminar the practical sessions play an important role, and the social activities are equally appreciated. Participants liked the exchange of experiences with others from a mix of backgrounds and coming from a range of countries.

11. What did you like least?

Answers focussed around three issues:

1. the seminar focus was not entirely met;
2. the required background knowledge was too high for some people, who found it hard to understand some of the presentations;
3. some participants found it hard to understand some of the speakers who spoke rather quickly. In this context the schedule was considered too tight, and some participants suggested adding another seminar day.
About the Participants

This section was designed to gain insight into the participants themselves, focusing on their profession, affiliations, and reasons for attending the seminar.

12. What type of organisation do you work for?

![Bar chart showing the percentage of participants who work in different types of organisations.]

- Public Sector: 50%
- Commercial: 20%
- Academic: 15%
- Consultancy: 10%
- Other: 5%

13. What do you work as?

![Bar chart showing the number of participants who hold different positions.]

- Information Professional: 10
- Librarian: 5
- Archivist: 15
- Programme Manager: 10
- Consultant: 2
- IT specialist: 5
- Other: 5

Interestingly enough, a number of participants gave a position that is explicitly focused on digital objects, such as archivist for electronic records or digital preservation officer.
14. How did you hear about this seminar?

15. What motivated you to attend?

Additionally, several participants mentioned that they are in the course of an implementation project and that they expected useful input from the seminar.

The Future

16. Are you likely to attend other ERPANET events in the future?

Notably, the undecided mostly indicate that this depends on the topic and commitments.
17. Are there any topics that you would like to see ERPANET provide training on?

Suggestions for future seminar topics included:

- selection and appraisal of electronic material for preservation;
- preservation of records in business;
- preservation of multimedia objects;
- practical tools;
- training on XML and creating Schemas.

x. Additional Comments

Some participants gave additional comments. Concerning practical sessions one participant suggested to mix the people from one practical session to the next; another one found selecting the person in the breakout group who reports back to the whole audience an awkward procedure.