

Making the Most of Conference

Conference offers the opportunity to meet new people, educate yourself, and have fun in the process. As with anything, the more you put into it, the more you get out of it. Here are some tips to make the most of your conference experience.

Conference Center Logistics

- Keep traffic in mind if you're commuting to the hotel. Route 495 can get busy on weekday mornings.
- Orient yourself to the venue—use the map in the program and pay attention to signage. If you get lost, stop by the registration desk.
- Get to sessions early for prime seating. If you're late, feel free to come in and stand in the back.
- Listen to daily announcements, which will notify you of any special events or changes.

Planning Your Conference

- Set goals for what you want to get out of the conference. Look for programs that apply to your library or job. Each NELA section has planned multiple events of interest to their groups.
- Use the Boopsie App to keep track of the sessions and events you would like to attend.
- Follow the Conference on Twitter (#NELA2014) and through our blog (<http://nelib.org/nela2014/>).
- Find time to attend a session that gives you the opportunity to step outside of your box.

During Sessions

- Please be courteous of the presenters and people around you. Set your phone to vibrate and don't check emails, text, or browse the internet.
- Take notes to refer to later.
- Ask questions and share your comments. It's likely that others have the same questions and will learn from you as well.
- Please complete session and conference evaluations. Your feedback helps us to plan future conferences.

Networking

- Networking is a great benefit of attending a conference. You want to get acquainted with people who will inspire you, make introductions for you and possibly be future referrals or references for you.
- Bring business cards!
- Be sure that your name badge is visible.
- Sit next to someone new and know what you want to say to introduce yourself.
- Visit the Job Center for additional suggestions for successful networking.

Between Sessions

- Visit the Exhibit Hall and speak with the vendors. They make our conference possible.
- Attend social events such as receptions, mixers, meals, NELA games, and NELA After Dark. Don't be afraid to be yourself and have fun.
- Engage other librarians; they're a wealth of information. Many of the attendees have years of experience and have been conference presenters.

Learning About NELA

- Attend a Meet the Sections session.
- Visit the NELA table in the exhibit hall.
- Get involved; NELA always welcomes new people.

After the Conference

- Bring your newfound energy and knowledge back to your library. Share and discuss with your coworkers and implement the new ideas you learned.
- Send follow-up emails or simple notes to people who were especially interesting to you.
- Visit <http://nelib.org/nela2014/> for any materials you may have missed.

Have a great conference and feel free to ask questions of anyone on the NELA Board or Conference Committee.