

The International Librarians Network

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INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIANS NETWORK



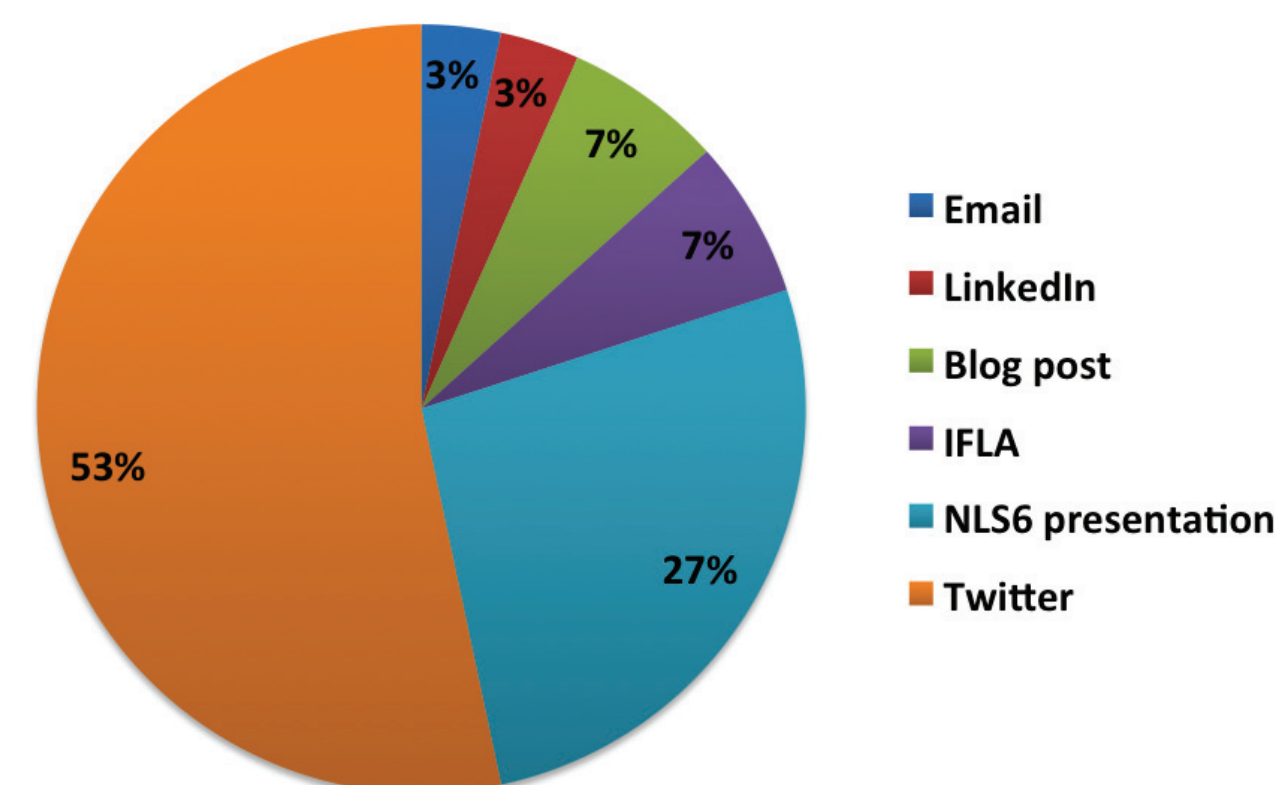
What is the International Librarians Network?

The International Librarians Network (ILN) peer-mentoring program is a facilitated program aimed at helping librarians develop international networks. It was created based on the belief that innovation and inspiration can cross borders, and that by building professional networks beyond national borders, ordinary librarians can learn from one another to become better skilled and more engaged professionals.

Participants in the program apply online and are matched into partnerships with a colleague from outside their country. Partnerships are for a 6-month term and during this period the partnerships are supported by regular contact and monthly discussion points led by the program coordinators. At the end of each term the participants can choose to continue their communications independent of the program and have the option of signing up for another partnership in the next round. It is envisioned that over time participants would develop a network of independent professional relationships.

The vision for ILN is that it will be run by volunteers all around the world. Currently, it is run by a group of Program Coordinators in Sydney, Australia and a growing network of Country Coordinators based around the world to provide local support for participants. In the first 6 months of 2013, the first round of the program was run as a pilot phase with 92 participants from 20 countries. The aims of the pilot were to test the model for both its effectiveness and sustainability before launching a full round in September 2013. The outcomes of the pilot form the subject of this poster.

How did you first hear about the ILN?



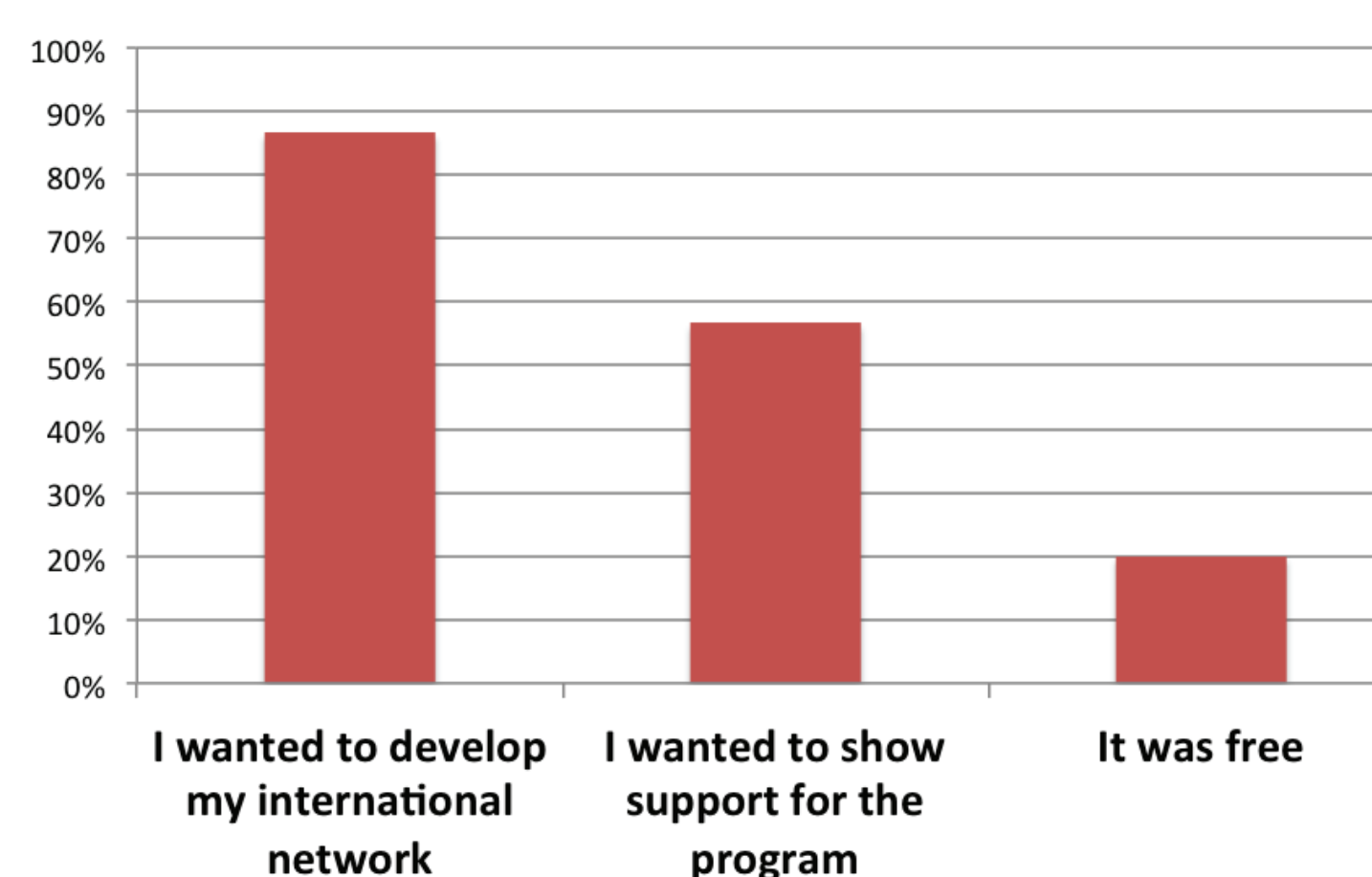
Phase One: Launching ILN

ILN was launched in February 2013. Initial promotion was almost exclusively via Twitter and the response was extraordinary.

In the first two weeks alone, 28 participants signed up from 9 countries and the website was viewed over 1800 times from 27 countries.

Using only freely available tools, ILN was able to tap into existing professional learning networks online through web-based word-of-mouth.

What convinced you to sign up for the ILN ?



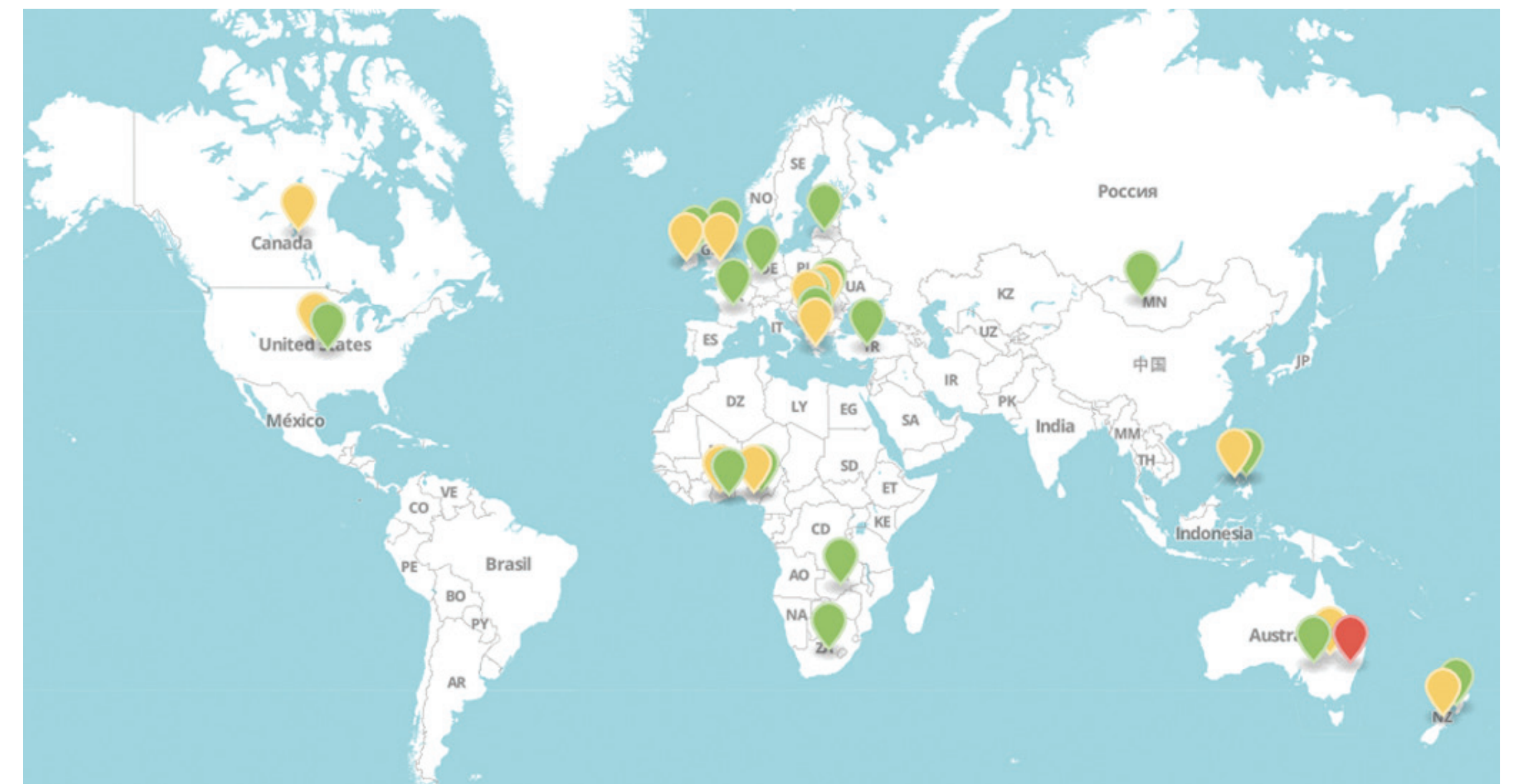
ALIA NGAC @aliangac
Ooh! I just found @InterLibNet international library mentoring - the monthly discussions look great! bit.ly/1btvliO -S. #interlibnet
View summary

Phase Two: Creating the ILN partnerships

By the end of February, 92 participants had signed up to the pilot program using the form on the ILN website. The Program Coordinators were overwhelmed by the positivity of the participants, many of whom added comments to their forms about how excited they were about the program.

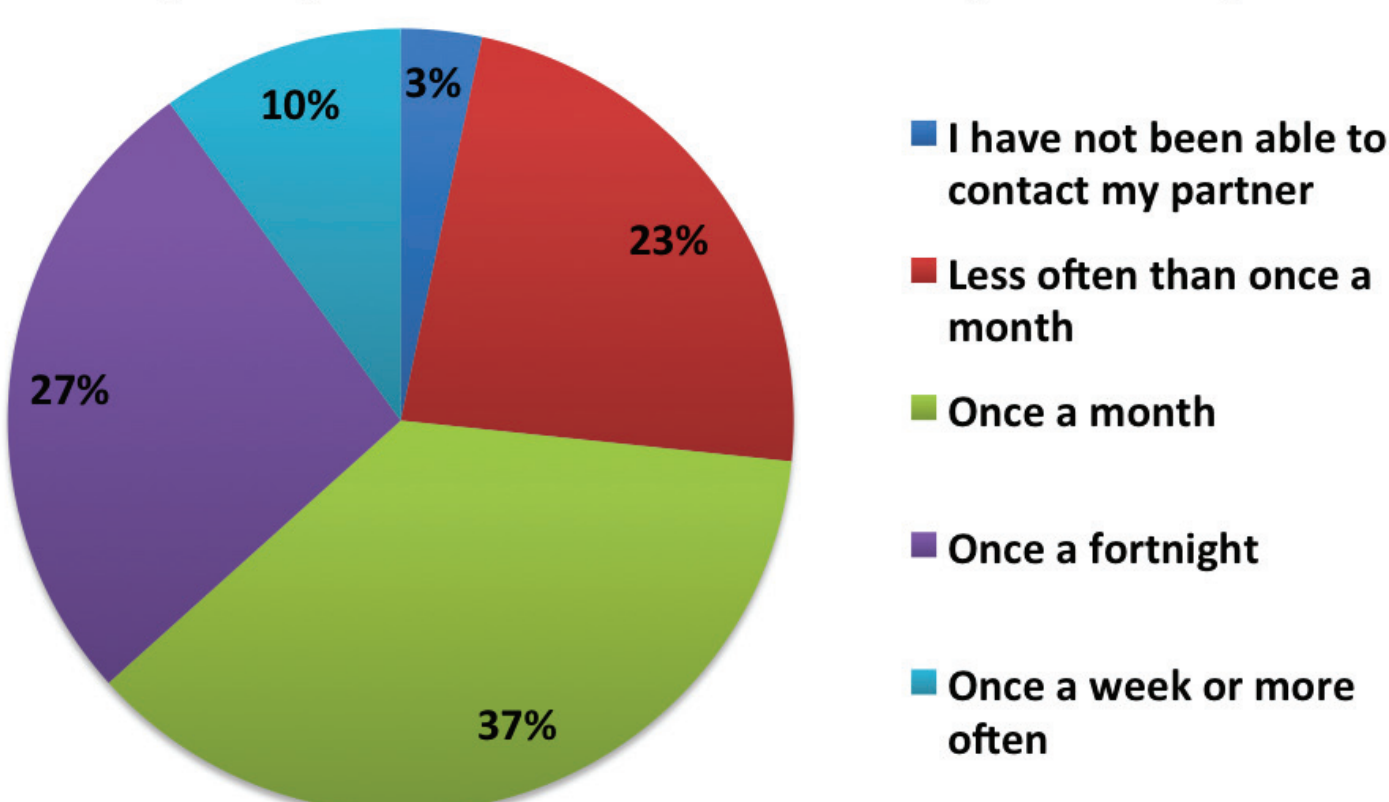
The Program Coordinators created each partnership by hand-matching the participants, trying to accommodate the requests of each individual. With 92 participants this activity was tricky but not onerous however as the program grows alternatives to this process may need to be found.

Each participant was emailed the contact details of their partner and the program officially commenced. Initial conversations were supported with discussion topics centered around getting to know one another and participants were encouraged to connect using other online tools.



Red = Program Coordinators Yellow = Country Coordinators Green = Pilot Participants

Frequency of communication within partnerships



Abigail Willemse @ajwillemse91
Woohoo - got assigned my peer mentor today for @InterLibNet! Looking forward to starting the relationship this week #nervous #excited
Expand

Karen du Toit @karendutoit
Shout out to @tapsister that my 2nd email is on the way for @InterLibNet mentoring program! Sorry to have taken more than week #InterLibNet
Expand

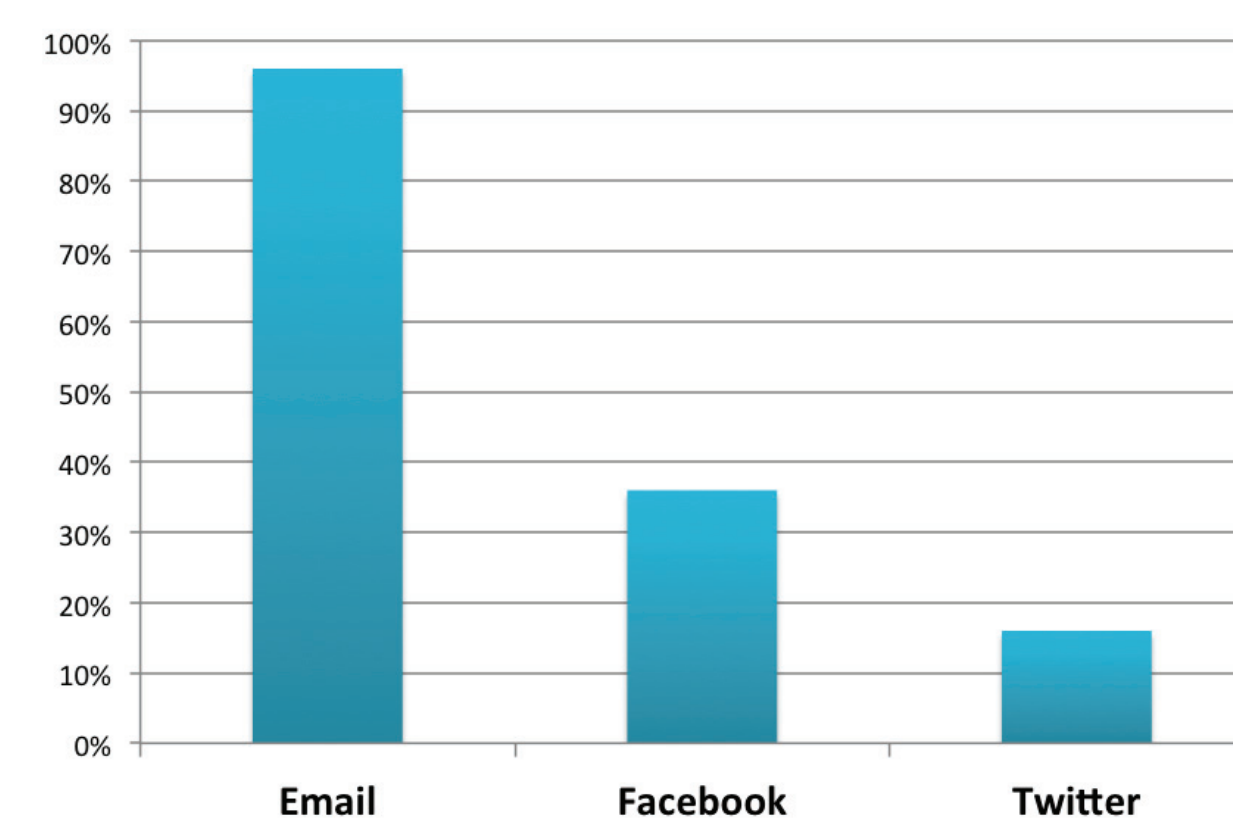
Phase Three: Continuing the conversation

As the program moved out of its infancy, the pilot entered its most challenging phase: sustaining the partnerships. After the initial excitement died down, the challenges of distance communication set in for some participants and four of the forty-six partnerships were dissolved when communication between partners ceased. One further partnership had to be terminated by the Program Coordinators after a report of inappropriate communication.

Happily though, two new partnerships were created from within the dissolved partnerships so the participants who were still keen did not miss out.

The monthly discussion topics proved vital to sustain the partnerships and based on feedback from participants the Program Coordinators are considering how this could be supported even more extensively in future rounds.

How do you communicate with your partner?



Fifi Ryan @Fifi_Ryan
So excited, got an email from my peer mentor :) drafting up my response, so much to say @InterLibNet
Expand

sharonu @sharonu
my use of google translate has increased since participating in the #interlibnet @InterLibNet
Expand

Phase Four: Evaluating the pilot

Participants were surveyed mid-way through the program and will be surveyed again at the completion of the program in August 2013. The graphs on this poster are based on the data from the mid-program survey and overall the responses were overwhelmingly positive.

The initial evaluation of the pilot suggests:

- There is demand for the program
- That the basic model is sustainable
- The discussion topics effectively stimulated communication
- A challenge remains to identify struggling partnerships early on
- Synchronous communication methods seem to strengthen partnerships.

Further evaluation will be completed after the next survey and released on the ILN Website.

INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIANS NETWORK

ABOUT ILN HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS JOIN ILN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONTACT US

A meeting place for librarians from around the world.

MONTHLY DISCUSSION: THE FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION

July 3, 2013 · by ilnetwork · in Discussions, Pilot Program · Edit

As volunteer-run organisation, ILN is full of people from different parts of the library industry. As well as being Program Coordinators for ILN, we all play a number of roles in libraries as do our Country Coordinators.

This month's discussion topic has been inspired by one of our coordinators, Alyson Dalby, who amongst her other [...]

MID-PROGRAM SURVEY RESULTS

June 30, 2013 · by ilnetwork · in Pilot Program · Edit

Thank you to all of the ILN participants who responded to our recent mid-program survey. We've done some early analysis of the responses and would like to share some of them here. Detailed analysis and some indication of what we think it means for the next rounds of the ILN program are part of our [...]

BLOGJUNE DRAWING TO A CLOSE

June 25, 2013 · by ilnetwork · in General · Edit

Here at the ILN, we've been a little bit slack about reading and commenting on the posts others are writing as part of Blog Every Day in June. However, as June draws to a close, we'd like to encourage you to get

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Annie Mauger @anniemauger

The winner of the CLIP Libraries Change Lives Award is Surrey Council domestic abuse project! Fantastic! #ILN13

What's next for the International Librarians Network?

A number of modifications have already been made to the program as a result of feedback throughout the pilot. A code of conduct was introduced; the number of program coordinators increased and a Facebook page was introduced to create more opportunities for synchronous communication. There remains a number of areas where the need for further development has been noted and the Program and Country Coordinators will work together to find solutions to these challenges. This includes embedding early warning systems for struggling partnerships and creating more synchronous communication opportunities, such as webinars, that can help participants build connections. These issues will be tackled as a part of the final pilot evaluation, however the outcome of the initial evaluation is that the program should continue.

The next round of partnerships will commence in September 2013 with applications closing at midnight on Thursday 29 August 2013. ILN is open to anyone working in the library and information industry around the world. The program remains free and the only requirements to participate are an internet connection, an hour each week and a desire to build professional connections and learn from colleagues. There are already 82 participants from 29 countries and with international promotion facilitated by the Program and Country Coordinators this number is expected to increase.

The program is also aiming to grow its global volunteer base and is seeking expressions of interest for more Country Coordinators. At present, ILN includes 13 Country Coordinators who are proving vital in increasing the global reach of the program bringing with them local knowledge, connections and language skills. By increasing the network of Country Coordinators around the world, ILN is seeking to be more inclusive and accessible and to become a truly international librarians network.

Find ILN online: www.ilnetwork.wordpress.com
@InterLibNet facebook.com/InterLibNet

The International Librarians Network would like to thank the volunteers and participants that make the network possible. The authors, Kate Byrne, Clare McKenzie and Alyson Dalby would also like to thank their employer, UNSW Library.