



HISTORY

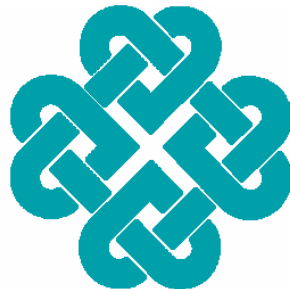
in the Heartland

EXPLORE HISTORY

Summary Evaluation Report for April 5, 2008 Seminar: “Cities in the Heartland”

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1. Perceived Success of Seminar Covering Seminar Topics (n=33)

Participants were asked how successful the April seminar, “Cities in the Heartland”, which included a presentation by Dr. Stephen Conn, a professor at OSU Department of History, was in covering the following three topic areas:

- The development of American cities during the 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Factors contributing to the development and growth of suburbs.
- The impact of immigration on the development of American cities.

The percentages of responses for each response category are provided in bullet format below each objective:

How successful was the seminar in covering the development of American cities during the 19th and 20th centuries?

- 55% (18) said mostly successful
- 42% (14) said somewhat successful
- 3% (1) said not very successful

How successful was the seminar in helping to understand factors contributing to the development and growth of suburbs?

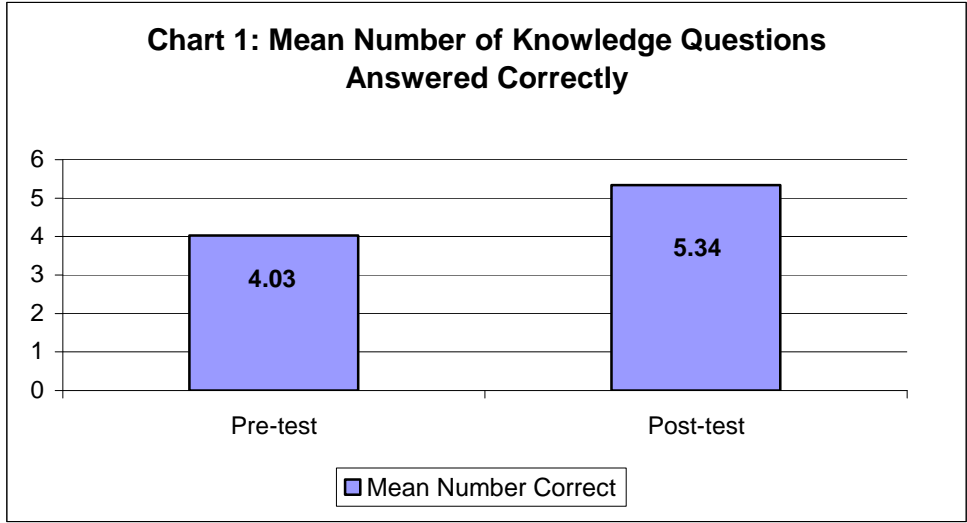
- 51% (17) said mostly successful
- 46% (15) said somewhat successful
- 3% (1) said not very successful

How successful was the seminar in covering the impact of the immigration on the development of American cities?

- 42% (14) said mostly successful
- 29% (16) said somewhat successful
- 9% (3) said not very successful

2. Change in Content Knowledge (n=32)

Participants were asked 8 questions at pre- and post-test that measured their knowledge about *Cities in the Heartland* material covered in the seminar. The questions were developed for the seminar content area by the Project Director, Dr. Stuart Hobbs, and the seminar presenter, Dr. Stephen Conn. These questions were designed to measure short-term changes in participants' content knowledge due to the seminar presentation and readings.

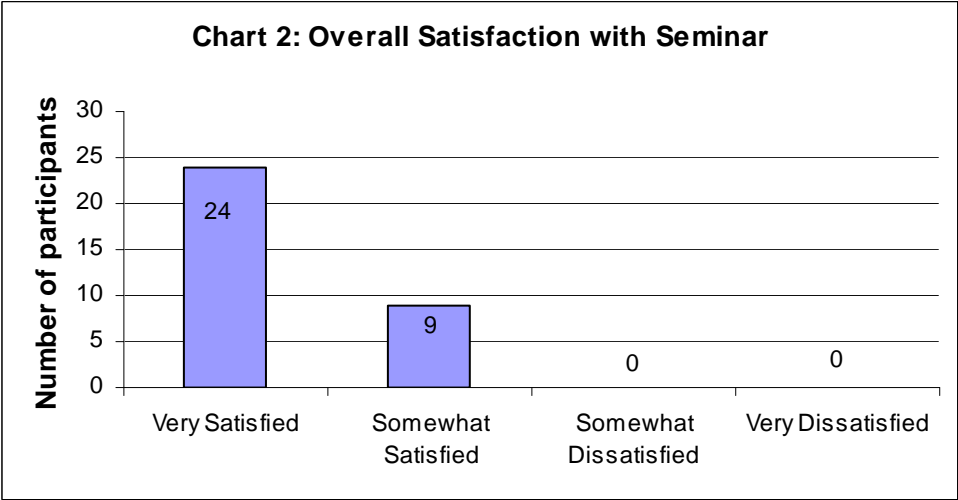


At pre-test, participants in the April 5 Explore History Seminar answered an average of 4.03 of the 8 knowledge questions correctly. At post-test, this average increased to 5.34 of the knowledge questions answered correctly.

There was an increase in the number of questions answered correctly at post-test; a paired-sample t-test showed that this increase in content knowledge was statistically significant ($t = -3.999$, sig = .000 (two-tailed), $df = 31$).

3. Participant Satisfaction Ratings (n=33)

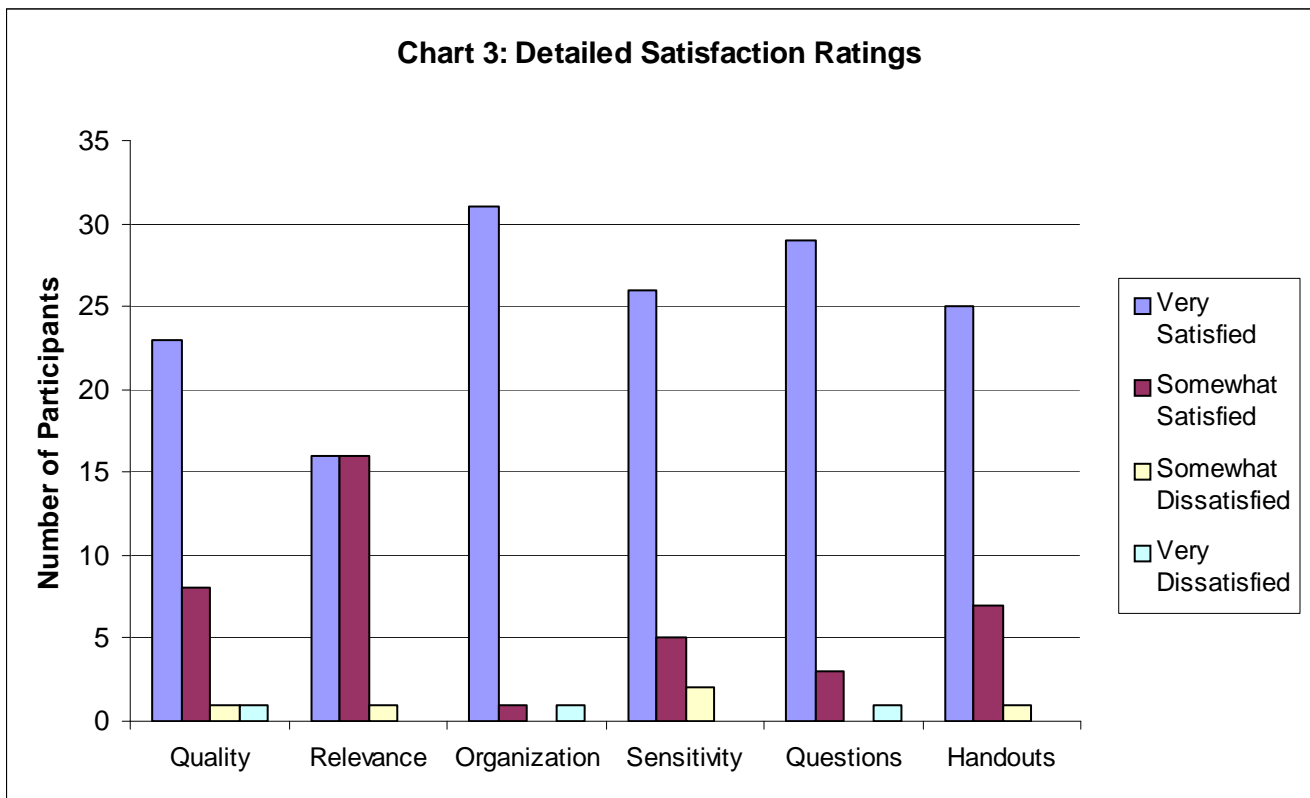
Participants were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with the seminar. Of the 33 participants who responded on this item, 24 (or 73%) indicated that they were “very satisfied” with the seminar, while 9 (27%) indicated that they were “somewhat satisfied.” Chart 2 (below) presents these data in graphical format.



The 33 seminar participants also were asked to provide detailed satisfaction ratings for the following aspects of the seminar:

- a. Quality of information
- b. Relevance of information to participants' work
- c. Organization of seminar
- d. Sensitivity of presenters to participants
- e. Opportunity for questions
- f. Handouts and seminar materials

Chart 3 (below) presents participants' ratings for each of these aspects of the seminar (n=33).



- **Quality of information:** 70% of participants reported that they were “very satisfied” with the quality of the information presented in the seminar, and 24% of participants reported that they were “somewhat satisfied” with the quality of information presented in the seminar. One participant reported being “somewhat dissatisfied” with the quality of information presented to their work, and one participant reported that they were “very dissatisfied” with the quality of information presented in the seminar.
- **Relevance of information to participants' work:** 49% of participants reported that they were “very satisfied” with the relevance of the information to their work, and 48% reported that they were “somewhat satisfied” with the relevance of the information to their work. One participant reported being “somewhat dissatisfied” with the relevance of the seminar information to their work.
- **Organization of the seminar:** 94% of participants reported that they were “very satisfied” with the organization of the seminar, and one participant reported that they

were “somewhat satisfied” with the organization of the seminar. One participant reported being “very dissatisfied” with the organization of the seminar.

- **Sensitivity of instructor to participants:** 79% of participants reported that they were “very satisfied” with the sensitivity of the instructor to them and their needs, and 15% reported being “somewhat satisfied” in this area. 6% reported being “somewhat dissatisfied” with the sensitivity of the instructor to their needs.
- **Opportunity to ask questions:** 88% of participants reported that they were “very satisfied” with the opportunity they had to ask questions, and 9% of participants reported that they were “somewhat satisfied” in this area. One participant reported being “very dissatisfied” in this area.
- **Seminar materials:** 76% of participants reported that they were “very satisfied” with the materials they received and 21% of participants reported that they were “somewhat satisfied” with the seminar materials. One participant reported being “somewhat dissatisfied” in this area.

4a. What were the *most helpful* features of the seminar?

The seminar participants were asked in an open-ended question on the post-test instrument to rate the most helpful features of the April 5 Seminar. Table 1 (below) summarizes participants’ comments for this question. The actual comments of participants are listed under each of the categories below. It should be noted that many of the comments by participants included more than one key idea. Some comments were repeated more than once; those comments are listed once in the Table below with the number of occurrences in parentheses following the comment.

Table 1: Most Helpful Features of “Cities in the Heartland” Seminar

| |
|---|
| <i>Speaker (13)</i> |
| • Speakers method of questioning plus sharing was very effective |
| • Enjoyed presentation style |
| • Great communication with the audience |
| <i>Tour (12)</i> |
| • Tour of Malabar Farm (6) |
| • Loved the tour and info from the tour guide |
| • Nuhop and Malabar farm would be a neat vacation or trip if school had money |
| • Tour really illustrated the importance of agriculture and how it has changed |
| <i>Discussion (11)</i> |
| • Discussion of what cities are and aren’t (2) |
| • Discussion of Teafield’s book |
| • Time spent with project groups |
| • Discussion on the people rather than just economics as it relates to a city’s rise and fall |
| • Working with our summer groups |
| • Linking book to discussion |

Table 1 continued: Most Helpful Features of “Cities in the Heartland” Seminar

| |
|--|
| <i>Content/Information (6)</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning about Louis Bromfield and his contributions particularly to farms of the Depression era |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Info given at both places |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at the definition of what a city has become today |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very happy with the new book as it will be useful in my class (2) |
| <i>Primary Source (5)</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary source activities were great and useful (3) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artifact activities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picture book resource |
| <i>Other (2)</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most successful seminar yet |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By far, my favorite seminar. Kept my interest |

4b. What were the *least* helpful features of the seminar?

Seminar participants next were asked in an open-ended question on the post-test instrument to rate the least helpful features of the April 5 Seminar. Table 2 (below) summarizes participants’ comments for this question.

Table 2: Least Helpful Features of “Cities in the Heartland” Seminar

| |
|---|
| <i>Other (5)</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have seminar earlier in the year while we are teaching Industrial Revolution. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tractor ride |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No handouts |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Info about the decline of the Midwest. I really don’t address this at my grade level. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenter was enthusiastic and knowledgeable, but the lecture lacked any new info |
| <i>Book (3)</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The book was somewhat dry and pretty negative about the fate of the Midwest |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book was not very reader friendly and didn’t keep interest |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If speaker didn’t care for then book we read, why wasn’t another book chosen? |

5. How could this seminar be improved?

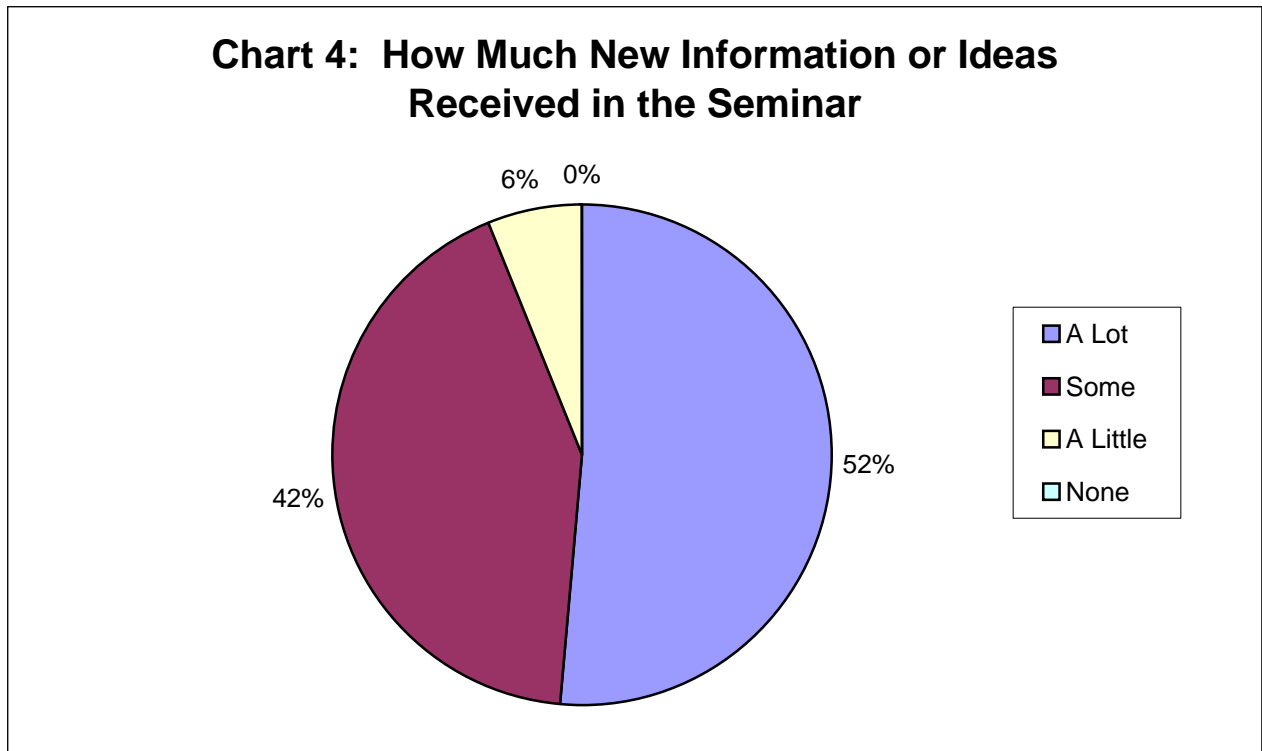
Seminar participants were asked in an open-ended question on the post-test instrument to identify ways that the seminar could be improved. Table 3 (below) summarizes participants’ comments for this question. It is important to note that one teacher specifically noted that he or she had no complaints and enjoyed “all of the activities”.

Table 3: Participant Suggestions to Improve Future Explore History Seminars

| |
|--|
| <i>Other (4)</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a different text |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have seminar earlier in the year while we are teaching Ind. Rev. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet at a common location and take bus. Driving here was worrisome. If possible, offer mileage reimbursement next year |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needed more background knowledge for written assignment |
| <i>Time (3)</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more suggestions/time to implement ideas into the classroom |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kind of far away. Maybe make it at 10:00 instead of 9:00 |

6. How much new information or ideas did you receive in the workshop?

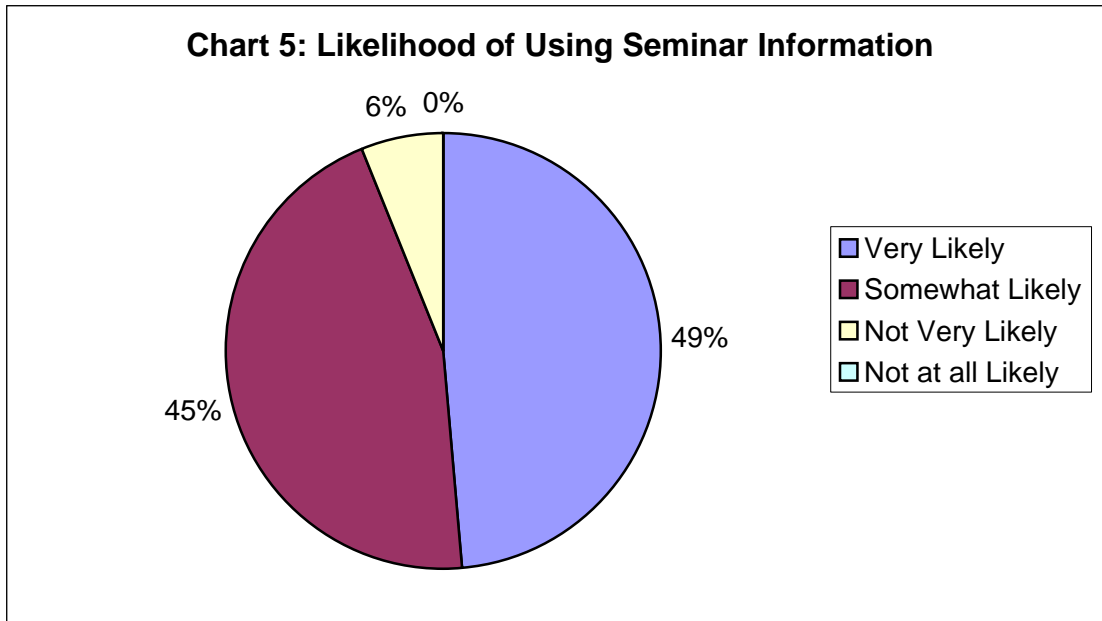
The 33 seminar participants were asked on the post-test instrument to rate the amount of new information or ideas that they received in the seminar. Chart 4 (below) presents this information in graphical format.



- 52% of participants (17 of 33 who responded) concluded that “a lot of new information/ideas” were received in the seminar, while 42% (14 of 33) said “some new information/ideas” were received. 6% of participants (2 of 33) said “a little new information/ideas” were received. No respondents said that “no new information/ideas” were received.

7. How likely are you to use the information or ideas that you received in the workshop?

Seminar participants also were asked on the post-test instrument to rate the likelihood that they would use the information or ideas that they received in the seminar. Chart 5 (below) presents this information in graphical format.



- 49% of participants (16 of 33) who answered the question) concluded that they would be “very likely” to use the information that they received in the seminar.
- 45% of participants (15 of 33) concluded that they would be “somewhat likely” to use the information that they received in the seminar.
- 6% of participants (2 of 33) concluded that they would be “not very likely” to use the information that they received in the seminar.

8. Additional comments and suggestions

Finally, participants were asked to list any additional comments or suggestions they had related to the “Cities in the Heartland” seminar. 14 of the 33 participants provided general comments and those comments follow below.

| <i>Other (6)</i> |
|--|
| • Loved it! Best one so far! |
| • Very informative |
| • Enjoyed the houses activity. Great ideas to show change in our own communities in which we teach |
| • Wonderful day. Well worth our day and time! |
| • Great lunch |
| • Please have Ohio Academic standards available for teachers to reference |

8. Additional comments and suggestions (continued)

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|--|
| <i>Tour (6)</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Camp Nuhop does a great job on food |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Combination of Camp Nuhop and Malabar was just perfect. Wonderful opportunity. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Really enjoyed Malabar Farm. Had never been there and knew very little of Louis Bromfield |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Malabar Farm was very interesting |
| <i>Speaker (2)</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Conn was an excellent speaker. He made a somewhat dull topic very interesting |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thought he did a good job holding our attention, but some of the material was the same as the book |