



Planning for a Hybrid Conference

No decision has been made yet as to the style of the conference – although many factors are pointing to the attractiveness of a hybrid conference. This will be like holding two conferences at the same time. For financial reasons we need to make traveling to Anchorage and attending in person as attractive as possible. Hybrid is nice but in-person has perks!

Potential Hybrid Models:

Special Lectures - All are to be presented in person – and recorded to be uploaded to the platform after the fact. (Maybe as much as a week later due to logistics.) Only live Q &A. Sessions will need a competent moderator to field questions. Virtual attendees can email speakers with questions after the fact. All attendees will have access to the talks through the platform for a period of time as long as the platform exists. (ie. Pathable – 1 year)

Contributed Paper Sessions - When submitting an abstract a presenter must indicate if they will be attending in person or virtually. The sessions will be scheduled with the live presentations going first with live Q&A with live audience. Session will need a competent moderator to field questions. Presentations (slides) must be uploaded well in advance of the conference.

Second half of the session will be the virtual presentations viewed on the big screen in a movie theater type feel (maybe even popcorn!) Live moderator to field questions from the chat – as per usual. In person attendees can ask questions also through the app which keeps all included in the talks.

Live presentations to be uploaded for viewing later. Virtual attendees can then connect with the live presenters via email. All attendees will have access to the talks through the platform for a period of time as long as the platform exists. (Pathable – 1year)

Posters – All posters to be presented in person. The posters are an integral and important part of the conference. For example - student professional development, important draw to the hall for exhibitors, networking, Artisian Extravaganza connects with the local community. Poster presenters may choose to also upload their posters to the platform. In person poster session as usual – presenters available for questions. If uploaded – questions can directed to the presenter by email. Physical posters stay up throughout the conference. Virtual posters must be uploaded in advance of the conference. All attendees will have access to the talks through the platform for a period of time as long as the platform exists. (Pathable – 1year)



Workshops - Must be presented live. Presenters can decide if they want to include a virtual audience. All attendees will have access to the talks through the platform for a period of time as long as the platform exists. (Pathable - 1year)

Board Meetings, Section Meetings, etc. - can be in-person and virtual. Zoom meetings like in previous in person years.

Receptions, Mixers, Luncheons, Banquets - only in person (or up to the presenting society.)

Field Trips - only in person.

Thoughts

- Competent moderators in addition to student assistants in each room
- Finding someone to act as a roving reporter to connect the live and virtual audience
- Do special sessions like author chats, yoga sessions, botanical drawing sessions that both in person and virtual
- A large swing in virtual attendance with a low in-person attendance can result in significant financial risk. By having a virtual/on-site indication at abstract submittal deadline will hopefully help us manage the risk.