2000

ATG Annual Report Survey Results

Melanie Gullberg
mkgullbe@edisto.cofc.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3061

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.
The Third ATG Annual Report Survey gathered answers by ATG readers and participants of the Charleston Conference on a variety of issues: budgets, organization, staffing, and concerns for the future. Respondents were composed of 67% academic librarians and 29% identified themselves as technical services librarians. The rest of the respondents were divided between government and collection development librarians. Most librarians reported that they’ve been on the job for about 18 years. Some of the results are summarized below. The complete results can be accessed on the ATG Webpage, beginning in May, at http://www.against-the-grain.com.

Budgets Money is being spent, and most of it is on journals (50%) with only about 32% of budgets being spent on the good ole book. Get out the calculators, and that makes 82% spent on print. The rest of the money goes to online resources (6%), gateways (5%), CD-ROMs (2%) and other (5%). Most librarians experienced an increase in their budgets (87%) and a few experienced a decrease or inflation freeze (13%). Book budgets went up by an average of 10%. Journal budgets went up by an average of 8%. Electronic resources budgets went up by an average of 16%. However, despite changing formats, only 28% of librarians have bought e-books.

Personnel & Staffing Almost all librarians are helping to keep their staff up-to-date. Eighty-five percent do this in-house with existing staff, while 70% fund travel to conferences and workshops. Librarians also are having continuing education in-house (42%), credit courses funded (26%), and satellite transmissions (31%). To deal with increased demands, most librarians reported absorbing the work into current workflow (96%). Librarians are also teaching end-users to do research on their own (36%). A few librarians are providing only essential services (9%); three librarians reported sending users to another library, and one reported panicking as the best coping method.

All librarians reported using subscription agencies. Forty-three percent of these reported switching agencies within the past five years. Librarians are still outsourcing; with outsourcing approval plans topping the list (50%). Outsourcing cataloging is also popular (31%). Only a couple are outsourcing acquisitions (2%).

Some of the libraries are downsizing (28%). Usually professional staff has been decreased or there has been a hiring freeze for available positions (67%). Paraprofessional staff have been cut as well (33%). Dowsizing also was accounted for by teams implementation (13%) and other types of downsizing. Only one librarian reported a positive effect of downsizing; other librarians reported low staff morale and uneasiness caused by downsizing. Eleven percent of libraries identified themselves as merged with their computer centers.

Concerns & Issues Most librarians reported having a library Web page (94%). All reported having workstations. Fifty-seven percent of librarians reported using commercial document delivery to meet ILLs; librarians rated their document delivery operations as very effective (95%). Also, the majority of librarians (55%) reported using ILL statistics for purchasing decisions.

Librarians are keeping up with field publications. Besides ATG, a lot (about 45%) read Choice, C&RL, Library Journal, and LCATS.

continued on page 35
Memory Lane - ATG Millennium Issue

We are planning a Millennium Issue of ATG with the Dec.2000/January 2001 issue (v.12/#6). Have you read about or do you remember the days of manual or electric typewriters, electric erasers, or filing cards in the card catalog? How about carbon paper?

How about the days when librarians “shushed” everybody and we didn’t even have Wilson indexes? Or when all we had were punch cards and no PCs.

Or maybe you remember what books were on the bestseller list when you went to library school?

Do you remember someone or something that you want to share with us? Make the Millennium Issue a real treat for all of us by writing down some of your memories or favorite moments! We would even love photographs.

Send memories to: Katina Strauch, MSC 98, The Citadel, 209 Richardson Dr., Charleston, SC 29409, <strauchk@earthlink.net> phone or fax: 843-723-3536 www.against-the-grain.com

We now have 3 submissions Where’s Yours?!?

ATG Annual Report Survey
from page 33

Some librarians are receiving only paperbacks on approval plans (30%) and firm orders (29%). Many are canceling paper subscriptions in favor of electronic subscriptions (63%), but the issue of archiving proved tricky. Some librarians canceling print subscriptions are keeping their paper copies for now (20%), while some are leaving it up to other libraries to archive information (10%), and some are keeping electronic information in whatever format they can use it in (14%). Several librarians cited archiving projects such as OhioLINK as their way of handling archiving (4%). One librarian summed up a prevalent attitude by stating, “We are ignoring this issue!”

The Future

When asked what issues topped their list of concerns, librarians told us that they are worried about the loss of library importance to the World Wide Web, archiving electronic sources, copyright laws, keeping up with technology (including training), vendor mergers, and, of course, money, money, money—for staffing, for electronic formats or for multiple formats, and for technology updates.

As promised, two winners have been randomly chosen from those completing this year’s survey. And the winners are: James Baldwin (University Library at IUPUI) <jhbaldwin@library.iupui.edu> and Carol Catherm (Guilford College) <carol@pals.guilford.edu>. They will both get a free subscription to ATG and a free Charleston Conference 2000 registration. Hooray! And thanks to all of you who filled out the Survey this year but didn’t win. Next year is another year. And to those of you who did not fill out the Survey, shame on you!

Be sure to fill out the survey next year! Thanks.

The New Elsevier
Making your journals more valuable

A Commitment to Electronic Archiving

Permanent archiving of electronic information and assured access to those archives are essential in scholarly communication. Elsevier Science is committed to maintaining an active electronic archive of its journals and to providing access to that archive to all subscribers. Elsevier Science is also working with library leaders to identify other archiving strategies that will assure libraries of the permanence of the electronic files, including the identification of independent, distributed repositories acceptable to the library community. We know electronic archiving is important and we have made it a priority. Our job is to make your work easier.

For more information, contact new-elsevier@elsevier.com

Against the Grain April 2000

<http://www.against-the-grain.com> 35