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## ATG Annual Report Survey Results

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# ATG Annual Report Survey



by Melanie Gullberg <mkgullbe@edisto.cofc.edu>

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 (43%), 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%). Downsizing 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*.

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## Memory Lane - ATG Millennium Issue

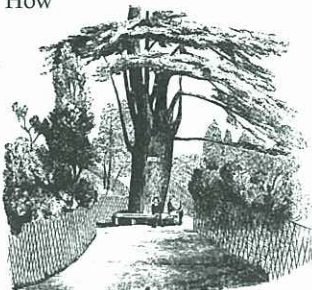
We are planning a **Millennium Issue** of *ATG* with the Dec.2000/January 2001 issue (v.12#6). Have you read about or do you remember the days of manual or electric typewriters, electric erasers, or filing cards in the card catalog? How about carbon paper?

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](http://www.against-the-grain.com) 




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

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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) <jbaldwin@library.iupui.edu> and **Carol Cathern** (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. 

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