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Adventures in Librarianship — Survey Results

by **Ned Kraft** (Ralph J. Bunche Library, U.S. Department of State) <kraftno@state.gov>

The *ATG* Editorial Board would like to thank all those who took the time to fill out our Acquisitions Trends Survey. As promised, we're sharing the results with all our readers in the hope that we may learn from each other's examples.

How filthy is the carpeting in your department?

- A. Coffee stains from 1963 – 24%
- B. Follow the trail from cubicle to cubicle – 16%
- C. Grass is sprouting – 31%
- D. Is it carpeting? – 29%

Can you still afford to purchase books? If so, how?

- A. Limited to four books per year, paid for by the Sofa Change Fund – 11%
- B. Just the annual Whitaker's Almanac, stolen from local public library – 23%
- C. Healthy book budget supported by daily Study Carrel Roulette – 5%
- D. Healthy book budget funded by permanent bake sale – 61%

How many Acquisitions Librarians does it take to un-jam the printer?

- A. 2 – if one of them isn't an Acquisitions Librarian – 38%
- B. 3 – if they're threatened with a committee meeting – 14%
- C. 4 – if one of them has the tech support phone number – 8%
- D. 1 – if he hasn't quite finished his MLS – 40%

Are you on speaking terms with the Library Director?

- A. During Friday happy hour, yes – 66%
- B. Does the Director have any funds for me? – 7%
- C. We just email – 12%
- D. We use a very cooperative intermediary – 15%

What level of counseling is available to your staff?

- A. Post Traumatic Stress counseling available after the end of the fiscal year – 5%
- B. Pharmaceuticals freely dispensed – 27%
- C. Rolfing encouraged, but not covered – 44%
- D. The Government has put a transmitter in my brain – 24%

What is your standard practice for breaking up office fist fights?

- A. We keep a hose attached to the sink faucet – 11%
- B. Aforementioned pharmaceuticals – 4%
- C. We let them run their course – 18%
- D. Winners get rest of afternoon off – 66%

How do you see your procedures changing over the next five years?

- A. Concrete barriers between staff members – 20%
- B. Lack of funding should bring about the long-awaited paperless library – 55%
- C. Less action, more talk – 14%
- D. Contracting out acquisitions work to Blackwater – 11%



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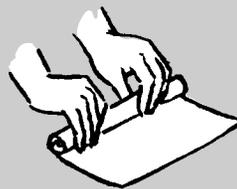
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