ILA/ACRL Member Survey Results November 2012

Question 1

What are the best things about being a librarian?

Helping others; teaching about information; learning; problem solving (35)

Doing something that matters (9)

I work with educated, engaging, great people. (11)

Providing faculty with ways to raise their expectations and then helping students meet those raised standards.

Collection development (3)

Being able to stay curious and excited (4)

Doing something different every day (7)

Organizing information (1)

Working with new technologies. (2)

Question 2

Which professional issues are of concern for you?

	Very concerned - I think about it often	A little concerned - I think about it on occasion	Rarely crosses my mind	Rating Average	Response Count
Balancing home and work	35.4% (28)	48.1% (38)	16.4% (13)	2.18	79
Tenure / Advancement / career mobility	24.% (19)	53.1% (42)	22.7% (18)	2.01	79
Our own understanding of the library's value/purpose in the 21st century	62.8% (49)	37.1% (29)	0.0% (0)	2.62	78
Digital resources management	58.2% (46)	37.9% (30)	2.5% (2)	2.53	79
The future of paper	21.5% (17)	59.4% (47)	18.9% (15)	2.02	79
Changing technologies	67.9% (53)	29.4% (23)	2.5% (2)	2.65	78
Budget	51.8% (41)	44.3% (35)	3.7% (3)	2.48	79
Copyright	34.6% (27)	56.4% (44)	8.9% (7)	2.25	78
Getting others (administration, students, faculty, etc.) to understand the role/value of libraries	72.1% (57)	27.8% (22)	0.0% (0)	2.72	79

Other: (14)

How to make information literacy (by any of its many names) a focus for teaching & learning

I checked "rarely crosses my mind" for some things that I do think about but which I don't stress about--I actually think a lot about copyright, for example, but I also expect it to change in the next twenty years.

getting support for professional development

Advocacy and Marketing

Training

Literacy across all leves.

What will an academic library be 10 years from now? And 10 years from then, etc.?

Future of librarianship as a profession

supervising staff and getting them on board for the mission

My answer to the tenure/advancement question is affected by my age, 10 years ago the answer would have been very concerned

Service

Issues in library management; when to consider moving up (often by moving to a new library) etc.

ossification of faculty due to tenure

Staffing levels

Question 3
Why are you a member of ILA/ACRL?

	Response Percent	Response Count	Respondants 79	Responses 152
It is a way for me to fulfill requirements for tenure / promotion	16.45%	13		8.55%
I want a way to connect with other professionals	**88.60%**	**70**		**46.05%**
I want to support the organization's efforts	58.22%	46		30.26%
I want to make a difference by serving on committees	21.51%	17		11.18%
Not really sure	0.00%	0		0.00%
Other (please specify)	7.59%	6		3.94%

It was highly recommended by colleagues at my institution

I want to be part of encouraging closer collaboration between Iowa academic libraries.

Question 4
Please rate your overall experience with ILA/ACRL

	Poor	OK - Average	Pretty good	Excellent	Average Rating	Count Response
	1.2% (1)	27.2% (21)	**40.2% (31)**	31.1% (24)	3	77

Question 5

ILA/ACRL uses a variety of communication tools with its members. Please rank your preference for finding news about our chapter, with 6 being your most preferred way and 1 being your least preferred way of receiving news about the chapter.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Rating Average	Response Count
listserv	22.0% (18)	5.0% (4)	11.3% (9)	7.5% (6)	7.5% (6)	**45.5% (36)**	4.08	79
website	5.0% (4)	21.5% (17)	15.1% (12)	**31.6% (25)**	15.1% (12)	11.3% (9)	3.64	79
Facebook	5.0% (4)	15.1% (12)	**39.2% (31)**	25.3% (20)	12.6% (10)	2.5% (2)	3.32	79

Twitter	20.2% (16)	**40.5%** **(32)**	3.7% (3)	8.8% (7)	13.9% (11)	12.6% (10)	2.93	79
LinkedIn	**37.9%** **(30)**	8.8% (7)	16.4% (13)	7.5% (6)	13.9% (11)	15.1% (12)	2.96	79
Newsletter	8.8% (7)	8.8% (7)	13.9% (11)	18.9% (15)	**36.7%** **(29)**	12.6% (10)	4.03	79

Question 6

Which do you think is the most important element in the ILA/ACRL's mission to serve its members?

	Response Percent	Response Count	Respondants 78
Professional Networking	35.89%	28	
Education / Professional Development	**55.12%**	**43**	
Advocacy	5.12%	4	
Information Literacy	2.56%	2	
Other (please specify)		1	

I can't pick one as I think all 4 are super important and the organization should be a composite of all.

Question 7

What is the greatest benefit you receive as a member of this ILA/ACRL?

Collaboration / Networking

Interchange with colleagues.

Meeting other librarians & talking thru issues and trends and problems.

Some connection with academic libraries (of which I am no longer actively a part, but I still want to stay on top of trends)

Professional networking.

professioal networking, which is of increasingly less import as I near retirement

networking and professional development

Seeing meetings at ILA that are of interest to me.

Contacts with librarians with the same interests and similar institutions.

Meeting others, and hearing how they have met challenges.

Meeting members from across the state, learning what they're working on and identifying opportunities for collaboration.

hearing more broadly about what happens in academic libraries. All other conferences are focused are my specific area, so this is my change to hear more about instructions and student engagement

membership and information about libraries and librarians.

The ability to network with others

Learning what other libraries are doing.

Networking with other Academic Librarians.

opportunities to share and learn from others

Insight from my peers.

networking

Networking with others.

Contact with members at conferences.

Education and professional development

learning from my colleagues

Professional networking

Connection to a network of professionals in my geographic area

A chance to meet and connect with other college and university librarians in the state.

Learning from other professional through networking and communication.

Professional networking opportunities

Networking & sharing resources

learning what colleagues are working on

the opportunities to meet and work with others in Iowa

Networking. Having a group of people to share ideas with.

Connecting with other librarians - getting smart by talking to smart people!

Networking

Ability to meet with colleagues, knowledge gains at conferences, awareness of state issues through publications

Hearing about what's going on at other libraries in Iowa, the region and around the country.

Interaction with colleagues

Learning from other academic librarians

It helps me to keep up with the ever changing field of librarianship, by listening to and interacting with others who have some of the same professional challenges that I do. Networking to know about new positions is also key. I found my current job by serving on an ILA ACRL committee.

Professional networking opportunities.

The relationships it builds and the ideas that are exchanged between members.

Opportunity to network with librarians around the state.

Connection to colleagues across the state

Connection to colleagues working in settings similar to my own, all bring a variety of different kinds of experience and expertise but united by a common goal of providing excellent service to our respective communities.

getting to know other librarians in Iowa

Getting to interact with other librarians around the state

Networking

Connecting with my outstanding colleagues. That has been an education in itself, and is of great help when I have any questions or concerns.

the greatest benefit that I receive as a member of ILA/ACRL is the opportunity to network with and learn from other professionals in the library field. Whether we are academic librarians or public or school librarians, we share many of the same goals and frustrations.

Chance to meet with my colleagues across the state ... share ideas ... swap war stories ... and renew my enthusiasm.

Conferences / Professional Development

Attending the spring conference to learn what innovative things other libraries are doing.

Spring Conference & Community college Librarians Roundtable

Attending the spring conference---I've attended a few of those.

Education and professional development

The programs offered at ILA fall conference offer me an opportunity to expand my library knowledge and network with other academic librarians.

conferences

The opportunity to have small-group, candid conversations about how other, similarly situated libraries are handling their challenges. (Even in presentations at the ILA/ACRL spring conference, I think people are more open about their libraries' challenges in front of 15-20 people they more or less know than they would be giving a similar presentation for 150 strangers at the ACRL National Conference.)

Educational opportunities that keep me up to date on topics that focus on Academic Libraries. Networking with other Academic Librarians.

Not sure, frankly...I guess conferences.

Programming at conferences and meetings.

Other

Actually I have a comment about question 5. I ONLY prefer a website of information. I might use a newsletter. But I am not on any social networking sites and I really dislike listservs; online discussion boards make so much more sense than listservs, yet everyone keeps using them. But I am in the minority.

Opportunities to advance professionally.

Community support

Awareness of web articles by national organization

Question 8

What do we need to improve on?

Communication

Communication. I never know what's going on or where to look! Really wish your website were more clear and up to date.

Keeping connected the other 364 days a year (not just on the one conference day) through better use of technology and social media

Communication at times other than conference time and materials on the website could/should be more robust.

Communicating other value offered by the organization.

Use of social media networks to facilitate on-going learning communities

I don't like the format of the newsletter. Too much clicking around to see the articles.

Communication

Finding a way to advocate for everyone in the membership. We need to strengthen our communication so people can find value in each others' work.

I get a nagging sense that we are as a whole adopting and promoting technology for technology's sake in our communications. I cannot possibly connect with all the venues provided for ILA-ACRL communication and keep wondering if I am missing things appearing in one form that might not appear in another. Could we rather focus on purposeful and thoughtful communication offered through a single source as needed?

Outreach Beyond the Chapter

Getting new people to think that joining is a professional obligation and that it's even worth their own money if the institution won't pay.

Mentoring of new professionals, but also at the undergraduate level to encourage librarianship as a career option.

Mobilizing the connections we make into meaningful change outside of the organization. For example, can we educate others about what we do? Can we affect legislation? Can our voices be heard in audiences that are not entirely academic librarians?

Outreach to non-members, especially new to Iowa at small institutions.

Greater visibility and being more active in ILA. I don't think that ILA/ACRL has enough clout with library organizations.

Outreach Within the Chapter

Mentoring of new professionals, but also at the undergraduate level to encourage librarianship as a career option.

Are we reaching everyone who wants to be reached? Some are not involved, but it may be by choice.

Pursue other academic librarians in the state to become members.

Involvement by members? Really not sure as I think the organization works well overall. Just wonder whether there is a tendency for an inner circle of members to play the leadership roles without reaching out to others.

more outlets (opportunities) for the newest members of the group and those newly joining the field as professionals

Reaching academic librarians who do not participate in ILA/ACRL

Expand mentoring for new librarians

Membership. The more the merrier (or conversely no members, no ILA/ACRL).

Mission

Clarifying the purpose of the organization and moving towards that purpose

Networking / Collaboration

more chances to network

ILA/ACRL seems to do a good job of encouraging its members to learn from each other, but there seems to be less enthusiasm for helping each other or for collaborating on projects that would benefit multiple Iowa academic libraries.

I think the group is doing a great job on collaborating with other organizations. I wish we could impress upon the members how important our advocating on behalf of libraries is. Sometimes, we academics feel isolated from the concerns of the public and school libraries, but we have a strong voice, too!

Purchasing Opportunities

Group purchasing opportunities.

Conferences / Professional Development

more compelling programs at ILA Fall conference. I can rarely justify the trip during the height of library instruction season, but would like to feel more welcome there as an academic librarian.

Offer more sessions during ILA that are focused on Academic topics.

Very often there's not much at the conference if you don't have instruction as a primary focus. I've submitted technical services-oriented proposals in the past but didn't get selected.

The annual conference is great, but we need more opportunities for professional development throughout the year in more flexible formats such as webinars. You don't necessarily need to provide them, just make your members aware of the opportunities that already exist.

Review of conference presentations. Some are very good, while others amount to one person quietly reading an essay. Also, some situations are so specific not to be relevant to other libraries.

Add virtual components to conferences

Professional development, encouraging participation in conferences (local & national)

conference scheduling

More opportunities for education and training.

Not sure--possibly getting info lit aspects instilled among pre-college students and getting public libraries to realize the important role they can play in promoting information literacy

Friendliness to universities/colleges that are "different." I feel like an outcast when I go to Iowa ACRL, and have stopped as a result.

nothing comes to mind

Nothing that I know of.

content

don't know

not sure...

You need to listen to what your patrons have to say and put credence into librarians' comments about library operations. Librarians need to be more forceful advocating for new buildings and larger facilities in spite of the "costs" as perceived by city fathers and mothers.

Question 9

In the future, which activities are you most likely to participate in, if offered?

	Response Percent	Response Count	Respondants 77	Responses 239
Spring Conference	**77.92%**	**60**		25.10%
Leadership Conference/Training	20.77%	16		6.69%
Webinars	62.33%	48		20.08%
Online sharing/discussing of library-related articles or news	46.75%	36		15.06%
Learning about cool, new technology	54.54%	42		17.57%
Serving on chapter committees or in an officer position	36.66%	29		12.13%
Just too busy to participate	5.19%	4		1.67%
Other (please specify)	5.19%	4		1.67%

I am more interested in being involved in my specific liaison area associations.

My attendance at conferences depends on the relivance of the program/speakers to my situation.

Retired - not really sure about my role.

It is very difficult to get away when short staffed and carry heavy load of responsibilities.....

Question 10

What is it that you really want as a result of your membership in ILA/ACRL and are you getting it?

Getting to know my peers in the state, getting out of my own little world and seeing what else is going on.

I want professional growth and relationships. I'm not getting it at this time but suspect I can get more if I engage more.

networking and, yes, I'm really getting it.

To be involved professionally and to keep informed on best practices for academic libraries. YES.

I want an opportunity to collaborate with leaders in the profession. I am getting it.

I want to connect with colleagues around the state and I am doing that through IACRL.

To know (for companionship); to share (for learning); and to grow (eventually to a higher position) in a library in Iowa. I think the first two are happening, and the third takes a long time.

I'd like to feel welcome at the conferences. Have people act glad that I'm there and interested in my participation in committees.

networking and professional development

Continue professional networking and mentor younger librarians as needed.

I simply want a way to stay abreast of trends/concerns/issues pertaining to academic libraries--and also learn how public libraries can "fit" into any solutions that might arise.

Connections with others who might be dealing with the same challenges.

connection to others who may already have an answer for my problems/concerns or a brilliant idea I can steal

Being a part of an engaged, dedicated group of professionals. Yes.

The networking is important to me. I want to make sure we are offering our students all of the opportunities to learn how to critically think and succeed in the world today and tomorrow.

I would really like to be able to connect with a network of other like-minded professionals who are interested in advancing a culture of "new librarianship" (Lankes) within the academic sphere. I have not achieved that yet, but I am new to the org and to Iowa, so know these things take time and effort.

Interaction with intelligent professionals. Yes.

A way to grow & ways to share that growth with others.

connectivity and yest, I'm getting that

Ability to connect with other members. Awareness of activities is nicely promoted; each member must be proactive in cultivating activities.

Interacting with colleagues. Yes I'm getting it.

Quality time with wonderful folks at other libraries (with some thought provoking conference speakers thrown in) ... and yes the past ILA/ACRL Spring Conference and the past ILA Fall Conference were great. I'm getting it :-)

A networking community. Opportunities to bounce ideas off other people and to learn what everyone else is doing at their libraries.

Conferences / Professional Development / Learning

I see this as my avenue to learn and keep up to date on Academic Library issues. This is also where I find out how others deal with different issues, recommend different resources, and receive answers to day to day questions. Sometimes I don't feel I get this when I go to ILA but the ILA/ACRL has helped.

I want an opportunity to continue to learn and develop as a librarian and to share my knowledge and skills in a meaningful way. And yes, I think I am getting that, but I can always do more.

I want develop opportunities. The spring conference is the big one of course, but it would be great if there were more.

In the past I have attended the spring conference, and served on committees for promotion and tenure. As I am almost ready to retire, I just don't care anymore.

I want to feel like I am keeping up in the field, staying aware of new developments in how we can best do our work and collaborate when that is possible. Yes, I'm getting that.

Professional stimulation. And yes, I feel that this group really does provide that through its various programs...conference, newsletter, awards, etc.

I want a forum where I can discuss issues relative to my position and actually no I am not getting it. But I am not getting it at the National level much either

Learning about academic librarianship and how to best serve our patrons. We each are responsible for our own results, so at this time, I'd say yes - I'm getting back what I have time to participate in. Is it at the optimum level? No, but it's up to me to invest more time and effort into the opportunities ILA/ACRL provides.

I want to learn new ideas about how to be a better librarian for my patrons, advocate for libraries across the state, and yes I am getting that.

Conferences and learning about technology. I am getting some of it; I could use more.

Professional networking and educational conference sessions, and yes, I am getting it.

I want to learns ways to continually make the library a necessary aspect of higher education and find ways to make my instruction relevant to students and faculty.

professional development and information sharing -- yes!

a conference not on a holiday weekend!

Involvment / Service

ILA/ACRL needs to be more involved and recognized by ILA. Academic libraries need to be more visible. They have a low profile. I do attend the programming at ILA.

In addition to wanting to have more of an impact outside of the organization (i.e. within ILA, ALA, and other non-library environments), I would like the work I do within ILA/ACRL to be valued more than it is by my institution.

I really want to see all of the academic libraries in Iowa working together to provide high-quality services across the state--learning from each others' information literacy successes and failures, forging stronger and more efficient resource-sharing systems, collaborating on the development of software that meets our libraries' needs--and I want to be part of making that happen. I feel like I do get to learn from other libraries through ILA/ACRL, but I don't get the opportunities for collaboration that I wish I did through it.

Communication

One suggestion: I do not attend the ALA conferences because of time and budget limitations, so a recap of the conference that focuses on issues relavant to ILA/ACRL members, provided by a member who did attend, would be helpful.

When I think of ILA-ACRL, I think of a more localized conversation about academic librarianship, one that can be more specific than "big" ACRL because of the many similarities the Iowa schools have to each other (setting aside the Regents institutions from that). I feel like I can make connections electronically and at the spring conference, but the geographic distance combined with scheduling issues makes it difficult to participate more fully or intentionally in some cases. I'm not sure that would be solved with an electronic tool (Google hangout or Skype); and I would honestly rather see people face-to-face. I really enjoy being part of a state-wide group, thanks for your efforts in making it all that it can be!

Other

I'm not exactly sure but, yes, I'm getting it.

I am getting what I need from the organization

I have been active in ILA ACRL for many years and plan to continue to be

I want good snacks at the Spring Conference. Seriously, I'm happy with the networking and education that we do.

I don't need much from IA/ACRL. I like the organization to keep track of and advocate for state level policies, budget priorities, etc. I appreciate the conference, but don't find it vital to me.

The ILA?ACRL are just two organizations that attempt to fulfill the needs of their memberships. I am a member and so I get my benefits from being a member. At the same time I am too busy to be involved with such lofty organizations and I prefer to be directly involved with my local libraries, public and academic. I am glad to pay my dues but I don't expect more than that.

I want all of the things already discussed here and most of the time I get it thru the various publications, meetings, etc.