The Reason for the Survey

- Since the recent international economic downturn, many art libraries have lost funding, leading to cut backs in hours, staff, and services. In some cases, libraries have closed.

- In this financial climate is it a good idea for libraries to serve as many user groups or sections of the community as possible? If so, is programming an effective way to do this?

- This survey looks at factors relating to the provision or non-provision of programming, and answers the question:

- Do Libraries Provide Programming, and what are the factors that lead to the decision to provide programming or not.
What Library Challenges Influence the Decision to Provide Programming?

- Are there enough staff or volunteers to offer programming?
- Is there sufficient time to provide programming?
- Is funding an issue?
- How strong is organizational support for programming?
- Is programming within the scope of library responsibilities?
- Is there an audience for programs?
The survey was distributed via the ARLIS/NA and the ARLIS/SE listservs.

Listserv members were asked to forward it to other art librarians who might not be members of ARLIS/NA.
How many people responded to the survey?

- There were seventy-seven initial respondents to the survey.
- Of those 34 respondents completed the survey.
Of the survey respondents, 59 provide programming and 18 do not.

How many respondents do and do not provide programming
Where is the Art Library's Community Located?

• The majority (91.4%) of survey respondents are located in the USA, the rest (8.6%) are located in Canada.

• The majority (88.6%) are located in a city, although 5.7% of respondents live between 1 and 25 miles from the nearest big city and 5.8% of respondents live between 25 and 75 miles from the nearest big city.
Organizational Factors in the Provision of Programming
The largest groups of respondents, art museums, colleges and other museums, provided the most programming.
Organizations that interact with their community are more likely to have libraries that offer programming.

Some of the ways in which organizations interact with their communities are:

- Focus groups and advisory committees
- Speaking at off-site events
- E-mail, blogs, Twitter and Facebook
- Web pages

The type of interaction had no appreciable effect on whether or not the library provides programming.
What Library Factors Influence Programming?
Libraries without a mission statement are less likely to provide programming. The words "faculty" and "research" are the most prevalent ones used in the mission statements of organizations whose libraries do provide programming.

The frequency of words occurring in the mission statements of libraries that provide programming
Most libraries who responded had 2-5 full-time staff members.

Libraries that had between 6 and 10 full-time staff were more likely to provide programming, however of the 4 libraries that had no full-time staff 75% provided programming
Most libraries who responded had 1-5 part-time staff members.

Libraries that had more than 10 part-time staff were more likely to provide programming.
Does having a library science degree affect a librarians decision to provide programs?

- All respondents had library science degrees. Library degrees were not a factor in whether or not a librarian offered programs.

- Respondents who had other qualifications were slightly more likely to offer programming.
Interns / field experience were the largest group of extra help identified (31/42).

The type of volunteer and the number of hours did not affect the provision of programming.
Libraries that Don’t Provide Programming
64% of librarians who don't offer programs say they would like to offer programs including:

- Films
- Lectures
- Art education
- Exhibition tie-ins
- Book arts
- Cultural events
- On-line reference
Libraries that do offer programming
• 69% of libraries offer between 1 and 10 programs per year

• Most libraries offer programs to members of the public

• Most programs are attended equally by men and women between the ages of 22 and 75
Most library programming is not regularly scheduled

When is programming provided?
The types of programming most frequently offered include Library orientation/instruction and in-depth research training.

What types of programs are offered?
Programming is offered most to the organization’s staff and to members of the public.

Who is programming offered to?
The advantages of programming include:

- Increased awareness of services and collections
- Increased use of services and collections
- Additional educational opportunities for library users
- Stronger community relationships and partnerships
• Respondents most frequently used the following words to describe the advantages of programming:

• Audience, Collections, Essential, Good, PR, Institution, Library, Exposure, Outreach, Patrons, Programming, Recognition, Relationships, Services, Staff, Students, Support, Library
Other advantages include:

- Promotion of the organization
- The library staff benefit from using time creatively and having more contact with the community
- Stronger departmental relationships
- More input into collection management from the community
Respondents most frequently used the following words to describe the disadvantages of providing programming:

- Attendance, Consuming, Expense, Extra, Faculty, People, Involved, Staff, Time-consuming

The disadvantages of programming include:

- Lack of Time
- Lack of staff
- Cost
- Poor work/attendance ratio
- Negative impact on other departments
- Negative impact on other departments
- Lack of energy
Other disadvantages include:

- Raises the expectations of the user group to an unrealistic level
- Documentation is too onerous
- Lack of space
- If programming isn’t required (course work) no one will attend
- There may be a negative reaction to the programming
- Difficult to know the communities interests
Conclusion

- There seemed to be few factors that directly affected the provision of library programming. Geographical factors, organizational factors, and library factors all had some relevance, but were not as important as expected.
- The decision to offer programming appears to be dependent on the perceived advantages and disadvantages of so doing.
- This is the first "pass-through" of the results, the final analysis will be made available later.
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