Iowa Academic Librarian Survey: An ACRL Chapter Perspective

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Iowa Academic Librarian Survey: An ACRL Chapter Perspective

Abstract
Who are we? Why do we do what we do? What should we be doing? These are questions many organizations ask themselves at some point in their existence. The Iowa Chapter of ACRL recently completed a study of its members and developed a strategic planning documents based on the National ACRL Survey and Strategic Plan. A survey of forty-five multiple choice questions and five short answer questions was sent to 409 academic librarians and other academic library staff and 230 surveys were returned for a response rate of 56%. The characteristics of academic librarians in Iowa are similar to the national profile. In Iowa the academic librarian is female (73%), 31-50 years old (55%), has a MLS degree (60%), and works in a research institution library (40%). Nationally, the academic librarian is female (62.5%), 31-50 years old (56%), has a MLS degree (88%), and works in a research institution library (51%). In addition, the survey inquired into the types and level of participation in professional organizations, opinions about some issues of current interest to the Iowa Chapter, and comments about the value of participation in professional organizations. The results of this survey provided a profile of a typical academic librarian in Iowa and formed the basis for the Iowa ACRL’s strategic plan.

Disciplines
Library and Information Science
Who are we? Why do we do what we do? What should we be doing? These are questions many organizations ask themselves at some point in their existence. The Iowa Chapter of ACRL recently completed a study of its members and developed a strategic planning documents based on the National ACRL Survey and Strategic Plan. A survey of forty-five multiple choice questions and five short answer questions was sent to 409 academic librarians and other academic library staff and 230 surveys were returned for a response rate of 56%. The characteristics of academic librarians in Iowa are similar to the national profile. In Iowa the academic librarian is female (73%), 31-50 years old (55%), has a MLS degree (60%), and works in a research institution library (40%). Nationally, the academic librarian is female (62.5%), 31-50 years old (56%), has a MLS degree (88%), and works in a research institution library (51%). In addition, the survey inquired into the types and level of participation in professional organizations, opinions about some issues of current interest to the Iowa Chapter, and comments about the value of participation in professional organizations. The results of this survey provided a profile of a typical academic librarian in Iowa and formed the basis for the Iowa ACRL’S strategic plan.
OBJECTIVES

** Demographic Characteristics of the Academic Librarians in Iowa.

** Professional and Service Activities of the Academic Librarians in Iowa.

** Attendance at National and State Conferences by Academic Librarians in Iowa.

** Opinions on Current Issues Facing the Iowa Chapter of ACRL.

** Comparison of the Results of the Iowa ACRL Survey to the National ACRL Survey.

** Comments about the Value of Participation in Iowa ACRL Chapter.

METHODOLOGY

** Survey of Forty-Five (45) Multiple Choice Questions and Five (5) Short Answer Questions Was Sent to 409 Academic Librarians.

** Response Rate of 56% Was Achieved with 230 Surveys Returned.

** Responses Were Coded onto Optical Scoring Sheets and Analyzed by the Iowa State University Educational Testing Service.
RESULTS OF THE ILA/ACRL CHAPTER STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY, 1989

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surveys sent</th>
<th>409</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surveys returned</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return rate</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The first column in each answer is number of responses and the second is the percentage.

1. I am
   (a) female 169 73%
   (b) male 59 26%
   blanks 2 1%

2. I am
   (a) 20-30 17 7%
   (b) 31-40 77 33%
   (c) 41-50 74 32%
   (d) 50-60 44 19%
   (e) 61+ 16 7%
   blanks 2 1%

3. My highest academic degree earned is
   (a) 2 year degree 4 2%
   (b) 4 year college degree 16 7%
   (c) MLS 135 59%
   (d) another masters degree 11 5%
   (e) MLS plus another masters degree 36 16%
   (f) Ph.D. 14 6%
   (g) other 13 6%
   blanks 1 0%

4. I work at
   (a) community college 35 15%
   (b) four year college 49 21%
   (c) Bachelors and Masters granting institution 22 10%
   (d) research/doctoral granting institution 92 40%
   (e) other 29 13%
   blanks 2 1%

5. My area of work is
   (a) Administration 56 24%
   (b) Archives and Special Collections 9 4%
   (c) Collection Development 13 6%
   (d) Library Education 7 3%
   (e) Public Services 54 23%
   (f) Systems and Automation 4 2%
   (g) Technical Services 45 20%
   (h) other 35 15%
   blanks 7 3%

6. Librarians have faculty status at my institution.
   (a) yes 134 58%
   (b) no 76 33%
   (c) unsure 7 3%
   blanks 13 6%
17. I have been a member of ALA for
   (a) 1-4 years 35 15%
   (b) 5-10 years 58 25%
   (c) more than 15 years 43 19%
   (d) I am not a member 79 34%
   blanks 15 7%

18. I have been a member of ALA/ACRL for
   (a) 1-4 years 40 17%
   (b) 5-10 years 41 18%
   (c) more than 15 years 14 6%
   (d) I am not a member 112 49%
   blanks 23 10%

19. I have been a member of ILA for
   (a) 1-4 years 79 34%
   (b) 5-10 years 61 27%
   (c) more than 15 years 34 15%
   (d) I am not a member 51 22%
   blanks 5 2%

20. I have been a member of ILA/ACRL
   (a) 1-4 years 93 40%
   (b) 5-10 years 45 20%
   (c) more than 15 years 18 8%
   (d) I am not a member 61 27%
   blanks 13 6%

I have served on:

21. ALA committees.
   (a) yes 26 11%
   (b) no 181 79%
   blanks 23 10%

22. ALA/ACRL committees.
   (a) yes 21 9%
   (b) no 189 82%
   blanks 20 9%

23. ILA committees.
   (a) yes 51 22%
   (b) no 161 70%
   blanks 18 8%

24. ILA/ACRL committees.
   (a) yes 58 25%
   (b) no 153 67%
   blanks 19 8%

25. other ALA divisional committees.
   (a) yes 31 13%
   (b) no 174 76%
   blanks 25 11%

26. other ILA divisional committees.
   (a) yes 36 16%
   (b) no 173 75%
   blanks 21 9%
39. My satisfaction with the ILA/ACRL Spring Conference programs during the past five years can be best described as
(a) very satisfied 28 12%
(b) satisfied 76 33%
(c) neutral 56 24%
(d) dissatisfied 3 1%
(e) very dissatisfied 2 1%
blanks 64 28%

40. My satisfaction with the ILA Fall Conference programs during the past five years can be best described as
(a) very satisfied 28 12%
(b) satisfied 77 33%
(c) neutral 61 27%
(d) dissatisfied 10 4%
(e) very dissatisfied 1 0%
blanks 54 23%

41. ILA/ACRL has increased its membership to 240 in 1988/89. There has been some discussion on whether ILA/ACRL needs to have sections relating to type of library; i.e., Community Colleges, Private Academic Colleges, and Research Libraries. Do you agree that such sections are needed for ILA/ACRL?
(a) yes 92 40%
(b) no 94 41%
blanks 44 19%

42. Currently ILA/ACRL has one scholarship fund which provides financial support for either ILA Fall Conference or ILA/ACRL Spring Conference for librarians. Would you support an additional fund which would provide financial support to attend a national meeting?
(a) yes 109 47%
(b) no 91 40%
blanks 30 13%

43. Are you aware that ILA/ACRL charges no dues to belong?
(a) yes 169 73%
(b) no 56 24%
blanks 5 2%

44. Would you still belong to ILA/ACRL if dues were charged?
(a) yes 151 66%
(b) no 39 17%
blanks 38 17%

45. If yes, how much would you be willing to pay?
(a) $2.00 31 13%
(b) $3.00 24 10%
(c) $4.00 11 5%
(d) $5.00 87 38%
(e) other 7 3%
blanks 70 30%
Ages of Academic Librarians

Sex of Academic Librarians
Highest Degree Earned
by Academic Librarians

Eligibility for Promotion and Tenure
Identical to Teaching Faculty
Attended a ACRL National Conference

Money Support for Professional Travel
Professional Memberships
of Iowa Academic Librarians

Membership in an ACRL Chapter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Iowa</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Chapter</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

professional memberships
of iowa academic librarians
Awareness of No Dues For ILA/ACRL

- Yes (73.5%)
- No (24.3%)
- Blanks* (2.2%)

Still Belong to ILA/ACRL If Dues Were Charged

- Yes (66.2%)
- No (17.1%)
- Blanks* (16.7%)

* Blanks indicate nonresponse
How Much Iowa Academic Librarians Are Willing to Pay to Belong to ILA/ACRL

$2.00 (13.5%)
$3.00 (10.4%)
$4.00 (4.8%)
$5.00 (37.8%)
Blanks* (30.4%)
Other (3.0%)

Satisfaction with ILA Fall Conferences over the Past 5 Years

Very Dissatisfied
Satisfied
Neutral
Dissatisfied
Very Dissatisfied
Blanks*

*Blanks indicate nonresponse
COMMENTS

Being an officer in ILA/ACRL has...

** Opportunities for leadership and growth, chance to contribute to the profession, meet people from across [the] state and expand professional contacts.

** Rewards, but a lot of work.

** Lack of feedback from membership.

Reasons for membership in Iowa Library Association...

** Professional interaction.

** Professional responsibility.

** Small size, can know people, involvement makes a difference.

Reasons for no membership in Iowa Library Association...

** Too much emphasis on public libraries; need more for academic librarians.

** Beyond fall conference, don’t see ILA doing all that much.
CREDITS


IOWA CHAPTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES
STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Iowa Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ILA/ACRL) is to foster the profession of academic and research librarianship and to enhance the ability of academic and research librarians and libraries in the state to serve effectively the library and information needs of current and potential library users.

THE PLAN
The plan consists of four goals, each of which has a varying number of subgoals and objectives and, in some instances, suggested strategies for implementation.

Implementation: The ad hoc committee recommends that specific strategies for implementing the goals, subgoals and objectives of this strategic plan be worked out by the committees, working groups (as appropriate), executive board and officers of the chapter. It commends and has provided for their use the results of the 1989 ILA/ACRL STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY--statistical data and detailed narrative responses.

Assignment of Responsibility: The ad hoc committee has suggested which component(s) of ILA/ACRL leadership might implement each goal.

GOAL I TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE TOTAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH LIBRARIANS.

Subgoal A Sponsor and encourage opportunities for academic and research librarians to update existing competencies, learn requisite new skills, and gain awareness of the state of the art.

Objective 1 Continue the practice of providing low cost ILA/ACRL professional development activities.

Strategy - Use ALA/ACRL and ILA programs, resources and special fundings; use ILA/ACRL resources.

Objective 2 Expand the number of opportunities for academic and research librarians to participate in professional development activities especially at the state or local level.

Strategy - Sponsor or co-sponsor workshops or CE courses in conjunction with state meetings at least once a year.

Objective 3 Coordinate ILA/ACRL continuing education programs with those of ILA and its divisions, the State Library and other library consortia.

Strategy - Interact with appropriate planning bodies of ILA and other library organizations; select topics of interest and advertise to the non-academic or research librarians.
these standards and guidelines can be used to enhance the capability of librarians and libraries to serve the needs of users.

Objective 2 Increase the dissemination of library professional organization standards and guidelines throughout the Iowa higher education community.

Objective 3 Increase librarians' understanding of the accreditation process and the role of the library in institutional accreditation.

Objective 4 Increase dissemination of Iowa academic and research libraries' rankings in quantitative assessments of libraries as defined by professional organizations.

Subgoal B Identify, explore and act on problems and issues facing academic and research libraries.

Objective 1 Use ILA/ACRL committees, programs and publications to identify and explore key issues and problems.

Subgoal C Encourage innovation in library operations and services.

Objective 1 Increase programming and publicity about innovative activities.

Strategy - Use poster sessions, table-talks, conference programming, and ILA publications to showcase these activities.

Responsibility: Program Committee, Communications Committee, Staff Development Working Group.

GOAL III TO PROMOTE AND SPEAK FOR THE INTERESTS OF ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH LIBRARIANSHIP.

Subgoal A Enhance awareness of the role of academic and research librarians and libraries among nonlibrary professionals and organizations (higher education associations, scholarly and professional societies, etc.) and to develop effective working relationships with them.

Objective 1 Create opportunities for academic librarians to interact with other professionals in the Iowa academic community.

Strategy - Use scholarship money or other ILA/ACRL funds to help support attendance of librarians at other organization meetings or to invite officers or representatives of other organizations to attend or participate in ILA/ACRL programs. Investigate the possibility of joint or concurrent conferences. (Many ILA/ACRL members are also members of other state, regional and national professional or scholarly organizations.)

Objective 2 Develop alliances with other professional and academic organizations.

Strategy - Officers, executive board members, committee chairs
Objective 2  Develop a mentoring program for librarians who are new to the research process or publishing.

Subgoal B  Encourage research projects, report works in progress, and disseminate research results.

Subgoal C  Advance the professional knowledge of academic and research librarians through an effective use of Iowa library publications and programs.

Objective 1  Review ILA, state library and other Iowa library publication programs to determine if they support association goals and can facilitate the dissemination of information that meets academic and research librarians' needs.

Strategy  Consider publishing a chapter newsletter.

Objective 2  Encourage conference programming that includes presentations of research results by Iowa librarians.

Responsibility: Program Committee, Staff Development Working Group, Communications Committee.

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT DIRECTIONS

1. Maintain the Iowa Chapter of ACRL (ILA/ACRL) as the most significant Iowa association of and for academic and research librarians, libraries, and librarianship: The association that represents them, speaks for them, asserts their interests, and assists them in reaching their goals.

2. Seek new members through a variety of recruitment techniques, while extending efforts to retain present members, including regular assessments of member needs.

   Strategy - In addition to identifying librarians new to the state, target specific groups as was done with community college librarians and library school students. Iowa private college librarians, especially those from small libraries, might be a target group.

   Survey members and/or all academic and research librarians on a regular basis, e.g., every five years.

3. Support all elected and appointed officers and committee members in fulfilling their leadership roles through chapter budgeting and programs for orientation and planning.

   Strategy - Continue to provide opportunities with ample time and resources for planning sessions. Give careful consideration to funds required for committee work. Develop written documentation, e.g., a handbook, policy and procedures manual, position descriptions for officers, executive board, and committees.

4. Work collaboratively with other ILA units and academic and research library consortia in Iowa and the region for the good of librarianship as a whole.
Activities:

Conferences and Professional Development:
- Annual Spring Conference
- Programming at ILA annual conference
- Occasional preconferences and CE courses

Opportunities for Members:
- Elective Office: President, Vice President/President Elect, Secretary/Treasurer
- Executive Board: Two elected positions and committee chairs
- Committees: Communications Committee, Membership Committee, Nominating Committee, Program Committee, Scholarship Committee, and Ad Hoc Cooperation Coordinating Committee and Working Groups: Resource Sharing, Communications/Networking, Staff Development, Preservation, and Funding.

Publications:
- IOWA ACADEMIC & RESEARCH LIBRARIES DIRECTORY
- Articles in ILA CATALYST
- Membership recruitment brochures

Present Strategies:

Finances:
- Practices conservative budgeting with annual revenues provided by spring conference receipts and per capita (ACRL member) allotment from ACRL; no dues revenue. Funding for special projects has been received from ACRL. (ILA supports ILA/ACRL programming expenses at the Fall Conference.)

Membership:
- Active seeking of new members and retention of existing members have led to a significant increase in membership (100+) over the last five years, 1986-1990.

Publications:
- The major, on-going-publication is the IOWA ACADEMIC & RESEARCH LIBRARIES DIRECTORY.

AD HOC COMMITTEE - IOWA ACRL CHAPTER STRATEGIC PLAN

Linda Good - Iowa Central Community College, Ft. Dodge
Elizabeth Kaschins, Chair - Luther College
Kathy Parsons - Iowa State University
Lorna Peterson - Iowa State University
William Stoppel - Drake University

10 October 1990

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