

Background

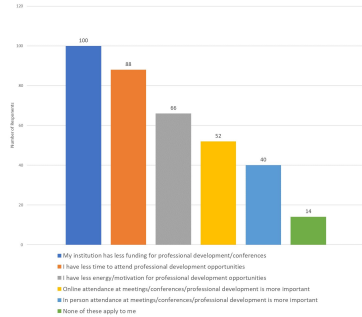
The NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ Membership Assessment Task Force was created in the summer of 2023 in response to a decline in committee membership and meeting attendance. The Task Force was charged with undertaking an assessment of academic librarians in New Jersey to gauge attitudes towards NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ as well as professional library organizations in general.

Survey Overview

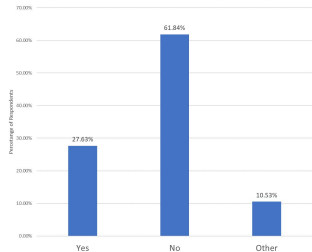
In the fall of 2023, the Membership Assessment Task Force created and disseminated a survey to NJ academic librarians. A concerted effort was made to contact every academic librarian in NJ by taking contact information from college library websites as well as posting to academic library listservs in the state.

The brief survey asked questions regarding length of career spent as an academic librarian, membership status in NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ as well as other professional library organizations, priorities in areas of professional development, and why respondents are members, are no longer members, or have never become a member of NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ. 156 respondents completed the survey.

Over the last 3-5 years, have you experienced any of the following?



Does your institution pay for your library membership(s)?



Building Community through Professional Development

Preliminary Results of the NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ Membership Assessment Survey

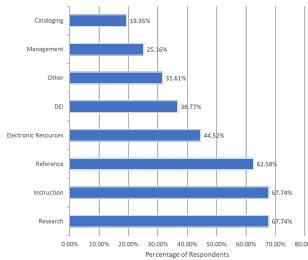
Preliminary Survey Results

Overall, respondents reported having less time, motivation, and funding for participating in professional library organizations and professional development opportunities. The main areas of interest for professional development were research, instruction, and reference, but there was significant interest in electronic resources and DEI as well.

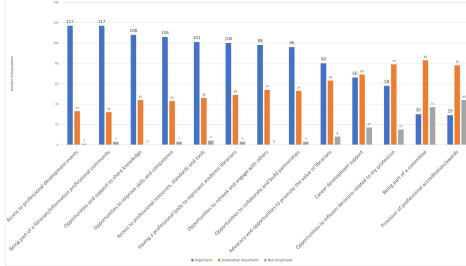
Members of NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ reported valuing professional development and networking opportunities provided by NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ.

People who have never been or are no longer members of NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ reported that the cost of membership prevented them from being members, that they were more involved in other professional organizations, and that they are too busy to be members. There was a great deal of confusion among non-members regarding the distinct identity of NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ, leading many to not understand the purpose of the organization, how it is different from NJLA, and how one can become a member. The cost of membership in either NJLA or ACRL was generally deemed too expensive and not worthwhile unless their institution was paying for it. In spite of people reporting having less time and motivation for professional development, there is a great deal of interest in additional free professional development opportunities as well as a directory of academic librarians in order to facilitate networking.

What are your professional development areas of interest?



In terms of your membership in a library association, how important are the following?



Next Steps

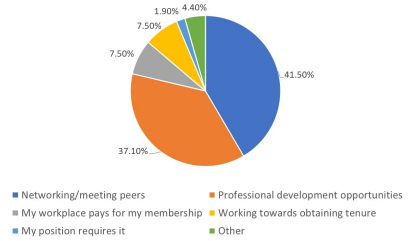
The Membership Assessment Task Force will be gathering additional data through interviews and focus groups in spring 2024. The complete results of these efforts as well as the Task Force's recommendations for strengthening NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ's membership will be disseminated in 2024.

If you are interested in participating in an interview or focus group and have not yet volunteered, please sign up on the sheet included with this poster or contact Nicole Potdevin at potdevin@fdi.edu.

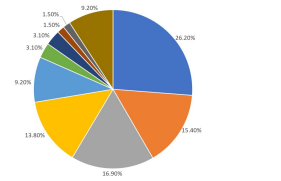
NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ Membership Assessment Task Force

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What are your reasons for being a member of NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ?

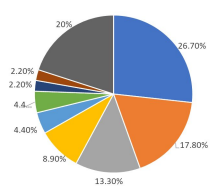


What are the reasons that you have ended your membership with NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ?



- Cost of membership is too high
- I am too busy
- NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ does not provide anything of interest to me
- I became more involved in other professional library organizations
- Post-pandemic burnout
- No longer interested in professional organizations
- I received tenure
- I now work at a non-academic library
- Other

Why have you never become member of NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ?



- I am involved in other professional library organizations
- Cost of membership is too high
- I am too busy
- I am not interested in professional organizations
- I work in a non-academic library
- I just became a librarian and haven't yet joined any professional organizations
- Post-pandemic burnout
- NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ does not provide anything of interest to me
- Other