ACRL Distance Learning Section
Membership Survey, 2005

Summary of Results

Revised as of April, 2006

Compiled by the DLS Statistics Committee

1. What are your major responsibilities? (check all that apply)

Responses Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
Reference / Instruction	161	60%
Distance Library Services	131	49%
Interlibrary Loan	33	12%
Collection Development	83	31%
Library Automation / Systems	31	11%
Web Design	45	17%
Library Administration	104	39%
Technical Services	25	9%
Other	49	18%
Total	*270*	

2. Are distance learning library services treated as a separate unit at your institution?

Response Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
Yes	61	23%
No	209	77%
Total	*270*	*100%*

3. How are distance learning library services funded and administered at your institution? (check all that apply)

Response Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
Entirely administered and funded by the library	175	65%
Partially funded by a distance learning unit	36	13%
Completely funded by a distance learning unit	14	5%
Not applicable	24	9%
Other	20	7%
Total	*269*	*100%*

4. What percentage of your average work week is dedicated to library services for distance learners?

Response Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
100%	14	5%
76-99%	16	6%
51-75%	25	9%
26-50%	36	13%
1-25%	150	56%
0%	26	10%
Total	*267*	*100%*

5. What are the major challenges you face in your job?

All answers were manually typed as text by the respondents. The following chart is a summary of those responses, grouped into categories.

Response Category	Number responding	% of respondents
Outreach/Marketing to Students	54	23%
Time & Time Management	44	19%
Budget/Funding	42	18%
Outreach/Marketing to Faculty	40	17%
Instruction and Information Literacy	32	14%
Cooperation with Non-Library Offices (IT, Distance Learning, Administration)	27	11%
Staffing	24	10%
Information Technology Support (including authentication issues, database problems)	23	10%
Managing Technological Change (keeping up with new products, maintaining sites)	21	9%
Lack of Recognition and Support for Distance Learning	18	8%
Other	99	42%
Total # responding to this question	*237*	

6. In how many years do you plan you plan to "officially" retire from the library and/or information science profession?

Response Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
0-5	36	13%
5-10	66	25%
11+	166	62%
Total	*269*	*100%*

7. What is the major benefit to you of DLS membership?

Response Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
Networking	78	30%
Professional Development	143	54%
Promotion or Advancement on the Job	10	4%
Other	32	12%
Total	*263*	*100%*

8. What would you like DLS to offer that would enhance your membership in this section?

All answers were manually typed as text by the respondents. The following chart is a summary of those responses, grouped into categories.

Response Category	Number responding	% of respondents
More information on Current Practices/Best Practices/Advice/Tips	42	25%
More of the same	36	21%
Don't know	21	12%
More online workshops, online training, online meetings	14	8%
Networking	12	7%
Professional development opportunities	9	5%
Reviews of research, technology	8	5%
Research	5	3%
More regional/local programs	5	3%
More on Instruction/Information Literacy issues	5	3%
Other	120	71%
Total # responding to this question	*170*	

9. Have you ever served on an ECLSS or DLS committee?

Response Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
Yes	54	20%
No	213	80%
Total	*267*	*100%*

10. If not, why not?

Response Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
Funding for travel unreliable	55	29%
Confusion over the volunteer process	24	12%
Length of commitment	9	5%
Other	105	54%
Total	*193*	100%

11. Have you ever served as chair of an ECLSS or DLS committee or as an officer of the section?

Response Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
Yes	24	9%
No	243	91%
Total	*267*	*100%*

12. If not, why not?

Response Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
Amount of work involved	42	21%
Never been asked	67	33%
Other	93	46%
Total	*202*	*100%*

13. How do you keep up with the news and activities of the DLS section? (Check all that apply)

Responses Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
DLS newsletter	216	81%
Off-Camp listserv	108	40%
By attending DLS meetings at Midwinter and Annual	62	23%
I don't know what the section is doing	35	13%
Other	15	6%
Total	*267*	

14. Which of the last 4 ALA Midwinter and Annual Conferences have you been able to attend? (check all that apply)

Responses Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
Boston, January 2005	78	29%
Orlando, June 2004	93	35%
San Diego, January 2004	67	25%
Toronto, June 2003	62	23%
None in the last two years	74	28%
Total # of respondents to this question	*265*	

15. Did you attend a DLS Discussion Group or Program?

Response Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
Yes	71	29%
No	169	69%
Other	4	2%
Total	*244*	*100%*

16. What other distance learning related conferences or continuing education events have you attended recently?

All answers were manually typed as text by the respondents. The following chart is a summary of those responses, grouped into categories.

Response Category	Number responding	% of respondents
None	120	49%
OCLS	44	18%
ACRL	23	9%
State, Regional or Local	31	13%
ACRL online course	11	4%
Distance Learning (Madison or Vancouver)	7	3%
EDUCAUSE	7	3%
Online course (not ACRL)	7	3%
Virtual Reference Desk	5	2%
Blended Librarian	3	1%
Blackboard Conference/Training	2	1%
Computers in Libraries	2	1%
Internet Librarian	2	1%
MERLOT	2	1%
Other conferences/sessions mentioned by only one respondent	23	9
Total # of respondents to this question	*246*	

17. Which of the future ALA Midwinter and Annual Conferences do you plan to attend? (check all that apply)

Responses Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
Chicago, June 2005	120	46%
San Antonio, January 2006	109	42%
New Orleans, June 2006	125	48%
Seattle, January 2007	97	37%
None anticipated in the next two years	83	32%
Total	*265*	

18. Check all other ALA Divisions you belong to:

Responses Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
Not Applicable	45	23%
RUSA	60	30%
LAMA	50	25%
LITA	50	25%
ALCTS	21	11%
ASCLA	6	3%
AASL	5	2.5%
PLA	5	2.5%
ALSC	3	1.5%
YALSA	3	1.5%
ALTA	2	1%
Other:	27	17%
Total	*200*	

19. What associations other than ALA do you belong to?

All answers were manually typed as text by the respondents. The following chart is a summary of those responses, grouped into categories.

Response Category	Number responding	% of respondents
State, local or regional library association	146	61%
No other memberships	52	22%
Subject-specific library association	16	7%
CLA	6	3%
SLA	6	3%
Religious library association	5	2%
ALISE	4	2%
NASIG	4	2%
ACM	3	1%
AECT	3	1%
BCALA	3	1%
Beta Phi Mu	3	1%
NCLA	3	1%
ASIS	2	1%
IFLA	2	1%
Other associations mentioned by only one person	39	16%
Total # of respondents to this question	*241*	

20. What are your major research interests?

Responses Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
Instruction / information literacy	155	61%
Web-based library services	144	56%
Reference services	105	41%
Automation issues	41	16%
Assessment	89	35%
Administration	83	32%
Collaboration with faculty	107	42%
Other	41	16%
Total # of respondents to this question	*256*	

21. What programming topics would you like to see covered during DLS discussion groups or programs?

All answers were manually typed as text by the respondents. The following chart is a summary of those responses, grouped into categories.

Response Category	Number responding	% of respondents
Instruction / Information Literacy	39	26%
Technology, Web Issues, Automation	36	24%
Collaboration with Faculty	29	19%
Best Practices, Getting Started	23	15%
Outreach & Marketing	19	13%
Assessment	16	11%
Online instruction, tutorials	14	9%
Administration & Funding	10	7%
Partnering (w/ Administration, DL Office, Other Libraries)	9	6%
Document Delivery	7	5%
Course Management Systems	6	4%
Reference / Virtual Reference	6	4%
Other	47	32%
Don't Know or N/A	18	12%
Total # responding to the question	*142*	

22. What are your most pressing distance library services continuing education needs?

All answers were manually typed as text by the respondents. The following chart is a summary of those responses, grouped into categories.

Response Category	Number responding	% of respondents
Technology and Web-Related Issues	47	28%
Funding, Staffing, and Administration	27	16%
Marketing and Outreach	21	12%
Online Instruction, Tutorials, Course Management Systems	18	11%
Collaboration with Faculty	16	9%
Instruction and Student Skills/Needs	16	9%
Getting Started/Best Practices	13	8%
Assessment	12	7%
Relationships with Other Campus Units	7	4%
Time Management	6	4%
Copyright	4	2%
Other	37	22%
Don't Know	13	8%
Total # responding to the question	*170*	