2001 Summary of OBS Survey Results

I truly want to thank those of you that completed the survey. Ellen McGrath wrote on her 2000 Summary of OBS Survey Results "hopefully, the 2000/2001 OBS survey will be on the web". I want to extend my appreciation to Anne Myers and Maria Okonska for making the survey available on the web this year. I mailed out 320 surveys and had 53 (16 %) returned of which 28 were via the web. Thanks to Susan Chinoransky for designing a beautiful afghan as the prize.

1. Member Profile

Area of responsibility: 21 Administrator/Head of Technical Services; 21 Catalog Librarians; 3 Library Directors; 3 Computer Services; 1 Webmaster, 1 Acquisitions; 1 Adjunct Faculty

Bibliographic Utility: 35 OCLC; 11 RLIN Database/Online Catalog: Academic Libraries: 29 Innovative Interfaces; 4 SIRSI; 4 Endeavor/Voyager; 3 NOTIS; 2 Dynix; 1 DRA; 1 Horizon; 1 Ex Libris. Firm Libraries: 1 Sima Ocat; 1 Best Seller; 2 EOSi and 1 in-house.

Type of Libraries: 41 Academic; 5 Firm; 1 County; 1 Government Military

Years in Law Libraries: 2 (1-3yrs); 6 (4-6yrs); 6 (7-9yrs); 7 (10-13yrs); 9 (14-17yrs) 4 (18-19yrs): 19 (20+years)

Are you a new OBS member? 12=Yes; Do you subscribe to OBS listserv? 6=No; Did you attend AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia? 18=No

2. OBS Program Profile

The following programs were sponsored by OBS in Philadelphia. One half of those who responded to the survey attended the programs and ranked them as "Good."

- Core Competencies for Support Staff
- What I Like, Who Has It and Can I Have It? An Update on Library Integrated Systems
- Instant Gratification! The Z39.50 Gateway to Searching, Cataloging and ILL
- The Text Encoding Initiative and Electronic Legal Texts
- The Alphabet Soup Cooperative Cataloging

New Program Ideas for AALL convention in Orlando in 2002

There are some great suggestions for future programs:

- Leadership gap – training your successor!
- Cross-training public services librarians for technical services projects
- Interface between the online catalog and the resources available on the web
• Mickey Mouse systems or Killer whale Applications – Library systems for small libraries – Update to 1999 program
• Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's got the best documentation of all? Comparison of local systems documentation
• An update on metadata, what people are doing for local projects, use of MARC record for metadata

Note: OBS is co-sponsoring programs on CORC (Metadata) and Technical services knowledge for Public services librarians in Minneapolis.

3. OBS SIS Activities and Products

*Technical Services Law Librarian* (quarterly newsletter), AALL Official Representative to MARBI Committee and Joint Research Committee were considered among the top 3 OBS SIS Activities and Products. The least approved was the OBS brochure.


**What do you like about the OBS Website?**

There were similar responses to this question so I will list them in a concise manner:

- Well organized
- Detailed
- Easy to navigate
- Clean design
- Useful information
- User friendly

Other comments were:

- It's improving all the time! I like the new look
- Like the website of the month
- Good way to distribute information
- It gives up to date information
- Links to vendor and the newsletter “The survey online, it looks fantastic
- Handy source
- It's helpful to see past OBS sponsored programs
- Good links to TS-SIS, TSLL and library automation sites

**What would you change about the Web site?**

- Add the Mission statement/scope and purpose of SIS to the website —[Mission statement under development. Purpose now under "About the Section" link at Website.]
- Add an introductory section about who we are and what we do – maybe including how the SIS has changed overtime — See [www.aallnet.org/sis/tssis/tsll/25-03/obshist.htm](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/tssis/tsll/25-03/obshist.htm)
- Update on Strategic Planning — [See OBS Chair's column](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/tssis/tsll/25-03/obshist.htm)
- I would like to see summaries about what the programs actually covered and how they were received rather than what they were supposed to cover — [Reports in TSLL begin again this year.]
- Use it for more educational purposes. Perhaps link to guide or have the membership create guides on basic systems task, the Web, PC maintenance and repair, Internet 101 —it will be a great online resource!
- Add local systems directory
- Could use some graphs and more color than blue
• Perhaps a link to other AALL SIS web sites (besides TS-SIS) would be helpful
• List of members could include information about systems/expertise
• Pull membership roster into site (as does TS-SIS) rather than linking to AALLNET

5. Technical Services Law Librarian

This publication is fantastic. Those that responded considered as "excellent" the following columns accordingly: "Classification", "Subject Headings", "Description and Entry", "Marc Remarks", and "Miss Manager." A member was glad to see management issues there. Another member thinks that there should be more one-shot guest columns.

Are there specific topics or new areas of interest you would like to see addressed in future issues?

• To catalog or not to catalog web sites and Internet resources
• OCLC (CORC)
• How to deal with reproductions
• Vendor news
• Management issues in TS
• Web page design
• Local systems issues (probably not worthy of a regular column, though)
• Catalogs shared and other parts of a university non-law job descriptions

6. How Can OBS Serve You Better? What do you need from OBS now?

• More info about the web
• A clear focus and definition of the SIS
• Information that lets me keep with changes in the cataloging world
• Not to merge with TS
• I'd to like to keep receiving TSLL in hard copy.
• Continue great programming at annual meeting to keep me abreast of current issues/trends
• Some analysis of the changing vendor environment
• By taking a stronger lead in systems education, and development of both TS and PS librarians and staff
• Keep up the good work
• More on information/knowledge management, more on practical matter such as the 2000 Local systems meeting on being a beta test site.
• Continuing education concerning information in electronic formats (how to handle these)

What is OBS doing currently that is NOT useful to you?

• Duplicating messages from other list-serves
• I am glad that you aren't asking about a TS merger this year!
• Brochure is not useful

Other comments about OBS?

• I'm new to OBS SIS and I'm happy with the level of support available from colleagues
• Comments in the Strategic Planning showed people didn't know what OBS is.
• Great members! More need to become active to share the fun.
• Seem to get many messages that are duplicates of those in TS list. Merge the lists?
• This is a great way to do the survey
• Do more publicity to attract public services folks
• Valuable conduit for current professional awareness
• The two SIS's (OBS & TS) are really good for what tech services people need.
• OBS is still perceived as technical services librarians.

Conclusion

I want to thank each of you that completed the survey. It was good to see that 19 of the people that completed the survey have 20 plus years of library experience. As you can see there were quite a few suggestions for improving OBS. Therefore OBS will review the suggestions and will determine what can be implemented. I am indebted to those that volunteered to run for office and serve on committees. This survey demonstrates that we are growing professionally and yet there is room for growth.

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Updated: June 18, 2001.
URL: http://www.aallnet.org/sis/tssis/tssl/26-0304/obssurv.htm