

Text Answers Submitted

ACRL Distance Learning Section

Membership Survey, 2005

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

Response Selected	Number responding	% of respondents
Yes	54	20%
No	213	80%
<i>Total</i>	<i>267</i>	<i>100%</i>

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%
<i>Total</i>	<i>193</i>	<i>100%</i>

Answers submitted for "Other" and additional comments on Question 10

Attention is focused elsewhere.
Have been working on my PhD in Medieval History.
I would love to volunteer, but I cannot guarantee that I can come to 2 annual meetings.
Not only is funding not available support for these type of activities is not forthcoming at my institution.
I have no idea of the amount of work involved, and since I have had no requests for any of my distance learning services from students I don't really have any information to share.
A mix of funding and lack of time.
All of the above
All of the above.
Already serving on community and junior college committees
Am usually on 3 ALA committees already
Because of the breadth of responsibilities for my position, I'm already over-committed in other ALA and state association committees.
Been too busy on government documents and circulation-related committees.
Both 1 and 2 options above & lack of time
Busy on other committees for ACRL and other ALA units.
busy with other commitments to date - not an expert in DL services
changes in my primary job duties

College has not made travel money available
Committed to other sections and divisions.
Competing participation in other ALA units.
Conflict with other commitments
Didn't know what is involved; if I get on a committee, how much time/travel/expense is expected? I have family commitments to consider, my children are young & I limit my time away from them.
Didn't seem appropriate for any committees. Committees don't have any impact on responsibilities in my position.
Distance learning activities are a smaller portion of my job responsibilities than other job responsibilities such as reference, collection development, and library instruction. My committee memberships reflects these other job responsibilities.
Distance learning support is not my major responsibility. I'm just trying to keep up with the issues involved with it.
DL is a big undefined grey area here at my institution and I don't feel that I've done enough in the field to make a useful contribution to the group's operation and governance. Mostly I'm trying to learn what DL services SHOULD be and how I can start planning and focusing on developing them for my patrons before I worry about helping the profession in this particular area.
DL is only a small part of my job, I've been active in other groups and haven't had the time to become involved with DLS.
Don't attend ALA conferences and I think it would be hard to function on the committee.
Funding for travel unavailable, time commitment
Funding for travel unreliable, lack of time in my life to do all that is important
Have not been able to commit the time because of other duties at ALA conference
Have not been asked.
Have not been in a position to do so.
haven't been involved long enough to know what's out there to get involved in
Haven't gotten that involved.
Haven't had an opportunity to as of this time.
Haven't yet had the opportunity to volunteer.
Heavily involved in RUSA
I already volunteer for two other ALA-sponsored groups.
I am active in other committees and distant learning is not the primary focus of my position but I have an interest in the topic.
I am already deeply involved in another ALA section, which traditionally meets at the same time as DLS.
I am also part of the faculty of the Health Sciences division and do not have the time.
I am heavily involved in another division (in fact, I am the incoming president of an ALA division) so simply don't have the time to be active in ACRL DLS.
I am just starting to get active.
I am new to academic librarianship and am nearly overwhelmed with my regular work duties, so I am not in the position to volunteer at this time. Perhaps in the future.
I am new to distance ed
I am new to this section, since winter 200
I am on other ALA committees

I can't predict when I can follow through on volunteer commitments
I discontinued active ALA membership over 10 years ago because as a single mother I couldn't afford the time commitment, but I still rely of DLS & other ALA organizations for news, scholarly articles, and professional development.
I don't make it to a lot of meetings and I am not sure how to get involved.
I have been heavily involved in another section which precludes working in other sections at the moment.
I have been heavily involved in local and statewide library activities until this point in my career.
I have been very involved in WSS, holding office, etc. so I didn't have enough time to do both.
I have only been a member of ACRL since January 2005.
I have only been in this position, and a member of ALA/ACRL/DLS for a short time. I have also accepted a new position starting in the near future that will have much less to do with distance ed. services, although it will remain an interest of mine.
I haven't been a member for very long
I haven't got a chance --I'm not a real distance learning librarian, and I don't know if I'm eligible
I just haven't considered it.
I just joined and getting release time from work is difficult.
I just joined last August. I will be on a committee starting after ALA Annual
I just joined.
I participate in a DLS group - but it is in Canada. I enjoy this participation more as I am able to work with other librarians in Western Canada to jointly build services (such as Reciprocal Borrowing, Information Literacy Initiatives, etc.) that benefits all of our students. I would also enjoy the advocacy side of work that is done in ALA - but I would need to be in Ottawa or have the money to travel.
I was not a member of this section...I will be serving on a committee this upcoming year (05-06)
I would like to serve on a committee in the future. I felt I needed to be a librarian for one year before I would feel comfortable jumping onto a national committee. I have 20 years experience in the business world and have lead/participated in many projects in that arena. I plan to apply for a committee next year.
I'm disorganized.
I'm geographically located in Europe.
I'm in the UK
Involved in other ALA committee work.
Involvement in other groups does not leave time for active involvement in DLS
Issues considered are not interesting
I've been on other ALA committees and they 'chose' me first before DLS replied.
Job demands
Just beginning in the profession. Would like to serve in the future.
Just joined this year.
Just joined, so I have no idea what opportunities are available.
Lack of time
Lack of time, due to personal life commitments right now as caretaker for aging parent.

My interest in DLS comes from my being a student in a Master of Distance Education program. Since I have no on the job experience in DLS, I feel that my input would not be valuable.
My involvement at the state level has taken up my time. Perhaps in another year.
Never heard of it.
New member- opportunity hasn't come up yet.
New member. Already fully engaged in other ALA activities but looking to broaden activities once current obligations conclude.
New to librarianship
new to section
New to section. Do not know options. Plus, I am overloaded at work.
New to the process.
New to this position.
Newish to the job and a new baby.
No real reason.
No time to spare.
no time
Not enough time to do so.
On committees in another section and not enough time to do everything.
Other areas, on which I serve on committees, that affect my job more.
Other commitments in ALA and ACRL
Other commitments
Other responsibilities
Our institution is just beginning distance learning and distance learning is a tiny part of my responsibilities.
Overcommitted
Previously (and even currently) other professional service commitments have been more in line with / related job duties
Primary commitment to ALCTS CMDS.
Responsibilities of commitment if not supervisor approved
Right now I do not have the time
Someone else does this in my library
There's not enough time in the day without this added responsibility.
This is not a priority
This isn't my primary field.
This year was the first ACRL that I have attended. I have been a library administrator for some time, but only involved in distance learning since 2002. I will probably come to future ACRL conferences.
Time committed to other ALA committees
Too many other commitments don't attend ALA regularly
Too many other committee responsibilities, but I should have more time in the future as my other committee terms will be ending in June.
Too many responsibilities just don't make it possible to do so.
Too new as a member
Too new to the profession.
Two reasons - I'm so stretched that I barely have time to see my family - and second - because my old boss didn't value networking. It appears my new boss will be more concerned about staffing here so some of us will feel better about our professional position.
Unable to get away as in-library responsibilities take up 100 percent of my time.

Unable to take on another assignment
Understaffed and overwhelmed with duties
We have a total staff of three librarians so it is difficult to travel.
Work in a Canadian library