

Continuing Education “Wants” and Needs

Participants who completed the “Archival Census and Education Needs Survey in the U.S.” (A*CENSUS), an Institute of Museum and Library Services-funded survey conducted by SAA and others in Spring 2004, indicated their “most desired” continuing education topics in this order:

1. Digitization
2. Electronic Records – Preservation and Storage
3. Preservation
4. Digital/Media Asset Management
5. Copyright
6. Conservation
7. Visual Materials (Architectural Records)
8. Electronic Records – Description and Access
9. Electronic Records – Appraisal and Accessioning
10. Grants
11. Web site Creation/Management
12. Encoded Archival Description (EAD)
13. Exhibits
14. Cataloging
15. Records Management
16. Metadata
17. Acquisition and Appraisal
18. Arrangement
19. Moving Images (Film, Video)
20. Description

According to a summary of the continuing education portion of the survey, Special Research Consultant Nancy Zimmelman concluded: Respondents indicated that continuing education is a key route for primary and ongoing education/training, and that there is a high level of participation. Even though there is employer support for continuing education or training, cost remains the greatest barrier. Therefore, the profession’s highest priorities should be provision of low-cost, accessible continuing education and a variety of continuing education topics with an emphasis on new technology.

In Fall 2005, the Continuing Education Committee of the Association for College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Science and Technology Section (STS) conducted a survey in collaboration with the Special Libraries Association – SciTech Division and the American Society for Engineering Education - Engineering Libraries Division.

Respondents were asked to identify three important issues and topics in science and technology librarianship. Following the list of pre-selected topics they were given one more chance to list a topic of interest. Topics of greatest interest fell into the following broad categories:

1. New Technologies
2. Professional Development and Keeping Current
3. Institutional Repositories / Digital Archives
4. Information Literacy / Instruction
5. Scholarly Publishing - High Cost of Serials - Alternative Publishing Models
6. Marketing and Outreach