



ASERL Deans Planning Survey

Summary of Results

Summer 2018

n = 23 of 38 (61%) ASERL Deans participated -- including five in interim roles

- 1) **Overall satisfaction w/ ASERL value = 4.7.**
(5 = very satisfied)
- 2) **Satisfaction w/ business processes = 4.8.**
(5 = very satisfied)
- 3) **Most valued current activities**
 - a. Deans' Meetings – by a wide margin
 - b. Resource Sharing
 - c. Webinars
 - d. Journal Retention & Group Purchasing (*tie*)
 - e. Gov-Doc Retention
 - f. Statistics & Face-to-Face workshops (*tie*)
 - g. Networking / Social Opps
 - h. COIs
 - i. Volunteer/Service Opps
 - j. Digital Collections
- 4) **Desired Future Activities**
 - a. Digital Scholarship Interest Group
 - b. Diversity & Inclusion Programming
 - c. Student Success Interest Group
 - d. Improved ILL Systems/Policies
 - e. Liaison Librarian Interest Group
 - f. (*wide margin*)
 - g. Sharing technology tools
- 5) **What could ASERL stop doing?**
 - a. Networking / Social opps
 - b. Face-to-face workshops
 - c. Annual Stats
 - d. Digital Collections/COIs (*tie*)
 - e. Gov Doc retention
 - f. Group purchasing
 - g. Volunteer opps
 - h. Resource Sharing / Print Journal retention (*tie*)
- 6) **Describe ASERL Today (Summer 2018)**
 - a. Active
 - b. Active, pertinent and useful organization
 - c. Collaborative
 - d. collaborative
 - e. Collaborative
 - f. Collaborative
 - g. Collaborative leaders
 - h. Collegial
 - i. Collegial
 - j. Collegial but unfocused.
 - k. Engaged and supportive
 - l. Essential and supportive!
 - m. I love it, depend on it!
 - n. Impactful.
 - o. Nurturing community of practice
 - p. Responsive
 - q. Uncertain
 - r. Useful network of regional colleagues
 - s. Valuable
 - t. Vibrant collegiality, practical benefits
 - u. Vibrant, relevant
 - v. Work in progress

DO NOT STOP: Deans' meetings & Webinars

7) How would you describe the organization you want ASERL to be in three years?

- a. A focused learning environment that continues its success in offering a sandbox for evolving ideas into practical, workable solutions.
- b. An organization that provides relevant programs and important opportunities for regional (and broader) collaboration that benefit its members individually and collectively.
- c. Clear, compelling mission with strong collegiality.
- d. Collaborative with high engagement on issues important to members
- e. Community of practice laser-focused on member needs
- f. Connective tissue.
- g. Continuing to evolve based on member input (like this survey!).
- h. Demonstrate value as compared to all of the other consortia that we belong
- i. Desire for ASERL in 3 years?
- j. -Facilitator of information sharing -Regional platform for advancing common imperatives (print management, digital scholarship and stewardship, teaching and learning initiatives like affordable learning, diversity and inclusion, etc.)
- k. Focus on helping us to overcome our greatest challenges. Conduct a retreat at one of the Dean's meetings to identify the short list of what we really need to resolve in the next 5 years.
- l. Forward thinking
- m. Forward thinking, innovative, adaptable
- n. I would like to see ASERL continue to try and negotiate some publisher/database packages.
- o. Inclusive
- p. Innovative partnerships providing obvious value to member universities
- q. more focused
- r. Nimble
- s. Nimble and similar sized -- part of our value is that we are not a large organization
- t. Prominent.
- u. Same as now - a solid portfolio of services with an eye towards new trends
- v. To continue on the path of aiding libraries in the pursuit of effective services to support student success.

8) What do you see as ASERL's biggest challenge?

- a. An erosion in engagement by ASERL library deans and directors...who have become busier and busier over time
- b. Being very geographically disperse and operating in a crowded sphere of consortia.
- c. competition
- d. competition with other collaborative library organizations
- e. Convincing the profession to change as much as readily as our current society demands
- f. Distinguishing its unique niche in a complex and changing environment
- g. Do we have the staffing capacity to take on new initiatives?
- h. Expanding and sustaining programs requires increased member financial support and more active participation by faculty and staff from its members institutions.
- i. expectations/burdens on staff

- j. Finding its role among the many groups to which its members belong, particularly the ARLs. Also, getting buy-in for dues increases to support "basic" services to all members
- k. Finding value in the mid-range where larger-scale collaborations and local consortia push at the mid-range.
- l. Focus -- being a smaller organization we cannot offer an ever increasing range of services and programs
- m. Funding and staffing
- n. Managing membership expansion.
- o. Many other professional organizations competing for member dollars and time
- p. Meeting the needs of all member libraries regardless of size and budget.
- q. Mission creep. I think we are sometimes trying to do too much and replicate things other consortia might already be doing. A continual growth model is unsustainable.
- r. Most members belong to other consortia; the diversity of the organizations
- s. Overlap with missions of state systems, other membership organizations
- t. Prioritizing which areas of focus to pursue.
- u. Resources

9) Other Feedback?

- a. I am grateful that the University of Memphis still qualifies to belong and contribute to ASERL as we are able.
- b. Thanks for seeking this input
- c. The diversity of ASERL is also a strength. It's a good group; I look forward to the meetings...
- d. The webinars and learning opportunities for our staff are immensely helpful. The sharing of best practice and planning has become an indispensable asset. ASERL has evolved in very satisfying and beneficial ways, and I look forward to its future evolution.
- e. Visiting other libraries is a valuable part of spring member meetings.