

July 28th, 2017

LANCR Survey Results Report

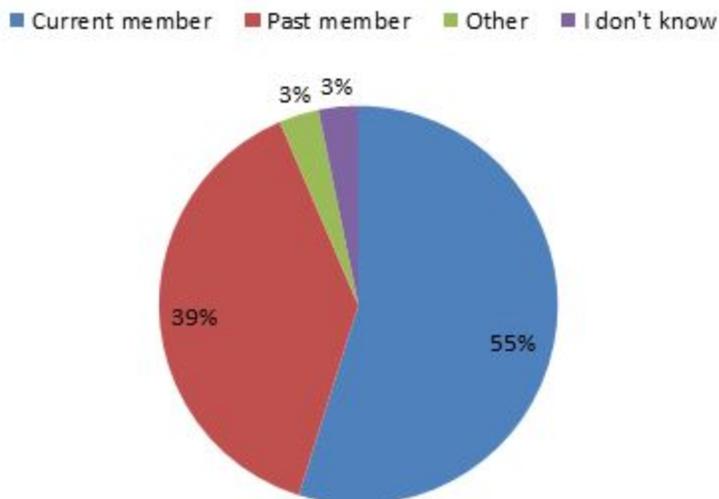
Background/Rationale

Over the past several years, the LANCR executive has become aware of both declining membership and declining attendance at many of our events. These observations were discussed in our annual reports. Despite efforts to promote a diverse range of events that fit within our mandate, LANCR continued to see this decline in membership and attendance in the 2016-17 year, with our observations concluding that this was particularly the case among non-executive members. Attendance was low at many events and two of our events were cancelled due to low registration. Additionally, when we consider who is in attendance at these events, the number of executive members far outweighed the number of regular members. Because of this steady decline during the last 6 years, the executive thought it would be useful to survey the membership to determine what would be the best direction for the association moving forward. Questions from the survey can be consulted in Appendix A.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name of Event</i>	<i>Attendees</i>	<i>New Memberships</i>	<i>Membership Renewals</i>
9/22/2016	Peer to Beer fall kick-off event	17	7	0
11/21/2016	Trivia	6	0	0
12/1/2016	Library of Parliament Tour	19	2	0
3/1/2017	Jean-Leon Allie Library and Archives at Saint-Paul University - Cancelled due to low registration	N/A	N/A	N/A
3/9/2017	Social Media Spotlight on your professional life	8	0	0
3/22/2017	Lowy Collection Tour	2	0	0
4/5/2017	Library of Justice Tour	4	0	0
4/16/2017	Panel: Behind the interview desk - Cancelled due to low registration	N/A	N/A	N/A

Demographics

Current status



Survey Findings

- The survey was distributed by email to one hundred and two (102) individuals. We received a total of thirty one (31) responses to the questionnaire.
- In the last year, 45.2% of respondents did not attend any events, while 45.2% attended 1-2 events. Only 9.7% of respondents attended between 3-5 events.
- Some of the barriers that were identified in the survey are:
 - The scheduling of events (66.7%)
 - Topics are not of interest (33.3%)
 - Location of events (20%)
 - Other barriers include: cost, event cancellation and/or the respondent was not available to attend
- The main types of events that are of interest to the respondents are professional development opportunities, library tours, panels, social networking and holiday socials.

- The survey also showed that 50% of the respondents felt that LANCR's programming is aligned with the mission statement of the association. However, 40 % did not know if the purpose of LANCR was reflected in the events while 10% of the respondents felt that the events are not aligned with the mission statement. The mission statement can be found in by-law no. 2 in the constitution (Constitution: <http://bit.ly/2x6gexm>).
- 71% of the respondents believe that LANCR still has a role to play in the community, while 19.4 % do not know and 9.7% think that it is no longer relevant.
- The survey showed that 54.8% of respondents agree that LANCR should continue on as a professional association while 22.6% disagree and another 22.6% do not know.
- On the topic of dissolution, 54.8% of respondents did not agree with the idea of dissolution while 22.6% agreed and 22.6% did not know their position on this question.
- 74.2% of respondents agreed that in the event of dissolution LANCR should continue as a general interest group while 19.4% did not know their position on this issue.

The general comments demonstrated that respondents appreciate the social events offered by LANCR however scheduling proves to be an issue. Other comments indicated that LANCR is no longer a sustainable group and that it should be transformed into a general interest group. Finally, a number of respondents indicated that a large number of professional associations already exist and that they were participating in these alternate organisations.

Concluding Remarks

Though over 50% of the respondents disagree with the dissolution of LANCR, the level of attendance and interest in the association reflected in the survey and in our observations suggests that LANCR is no longer viable as a membership-based professional association. The scheduling of the events was given as the main reason for lack of participation; then again the executive has purposefully scheduled events at different times to increase participation. Additionally, as LANCR relies on volunteers to provide their services for events, limitations in scheduling are inevitable. Conclusively identifying dates, times, and locations which are best for events is very challenging given the breadth of potential attendees. With few exceptions, the majority of attendees at these events have been current executive members. Additionally, the executive met

seven times in the 2016-2017 year to plan the eight (8) events, of which two (2) were cancelled and another two (2) were attended by four (4) or fewer participants. This does not reflect a productive use of our volunteers' time.

It is also interesting to note that 39 % of the respondents identified as past members; from our observations, past members do not resume their participation in LANCR activities once their membership has expired. The high percentage of respondents who do not know if LANCR's activities align with its mission statement suggests that members are not adequately familiar with LANCR's "raison d'être" and/or they have not attended many events and/or they have not participated in the Annual General Meetings. Finally, the executive has been actively undertaking new endeavours to draw in more participation and provide added value for the membership fee such as providing free events, eliminating the cost of tours for current members, and offering a travel bursary. We have strived to better align ourselves with our mission and provide a wider variety of events to suit the needs of all. Despite our collective efforts, we have been unsuccessful in our attempts at raising engagement and/or event attendance. Notwithstanding these efforts, the survey responses are inconsistent with LANCR's current situation and do not reflect the low participation rates that have been a growing issue for many years.

Given the historical significance of this group within the National Capital Region, it is understandable that talks of the dissolution would elicit negative feelings. However, it is important to recognize the change in landscape and consider the practical implications involved in trying to sustain a group within a community that continues to demonstrate limited engagement. Though we may feel nostalgic about LANCR, it is time to critically evaluate the group's future.

At this time, there has been no response to LANCR's call to fill four (4) vacant executive positions which are essential to carry out LANCR's mandate and support a full slate of events. Although there were survey responses that indicated respondents did not support the dissolution of LANCR, the declining participation numbers and the dearth of volunteers is evidence of a lack of interest in this organisation.

As a result of the findings of this survey, LANCR will be calling a special General Meeting to be convened in the fall. The purpose of this special General Meeting will be to vote on a motion to dissolve LANCR. Though there is some interest in having an association for information professionals in the National Capital Region, there does not appear to be sufficient interest in volunteering to complete work needed to sustain a professional association and a full slate of events. A scheduling survey along with

appropriate documentation will be distributed in due course. As it currently stands, we need to come together on a realistic plan to address LANCR's future via an appropriate resolution at the special General Meeting.

Appendix A

Membership Survey - Future of LANCR

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey regarding the future of LANCR-ABRCN. LANCR-ABRCN has been facing many challenges over the last six years: membership retention and event attendance. Despite efforts, these challenges persist. In response, we are looking to gain feedback from both the membership and LIS community in the National Capital Region to decide the future of the association. We invite you to complete this short questionnaire by June 14th, 2017. The questionnaire should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

We thank you for participating in this survey.

1. Please select which best reflects your current status within LANCR?

- Current member
- Past member
- Other (i.e. occasional tour participant, etc.)
- I don't know

2. In the last year, how many events did you attend?

- 1-2
- 3-5
- 5+
- I did not attend any events

3. What are some barriers that make it difficult to participate and engage with LANCR (please select all those that apply):

- Scheduling of events
- Location of events
- Cost
- Topics are not of interest
- Other (please specify):

4. What type of events best reflect your interests (select all those that apply):

- Library Tours
- Social networking events (i.e. trivia nights, interlibrary lunches, etc.)
- Professional development opportunities (i.e. special topic presentations, french language discussion group, etc.)
- Holiday Social
- Panels
- Other (please specify):

5. As stated in the constitution, LANCR's purpose is:

- To discuss and share library and information issues of general interest; and
- To promote networking and professional development among librarians, library technicians and all others interested in library and information management.

Do you feel that LANCR's programming has been keeping in line with this statement?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

6. Does LANCR-ABRCN still have a role in the community?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

7. Should LANCR continue as a professional association?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

8. Should LANCR be dissolved?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

9. If LANCR were to cease its activities as a professional association, should it be transformed to a general interest group that meets informally and organises events throughout the year?

- Yes
- No

- Do not know
- Other (please specify):

10. Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at lancriinfo@gmail.com.

L'avenir de l'ABRCN – Sondage auprès des membres

Nous vous remercions de prendre le temps de compléter ce sondage concernant l'avenir de l'ABRCN. L'ABRCN fait face à de nombreux défis tels que la rétention d'adhésion et la participation des membres aux événements. Malgré les efforts exhaustifs de l'exécutif, ces défis demeurent réels et non-résous.

Conséquemment, nous suscitons les commentaires des membres de l'ABRCN et des professionnels dans le domaine des sciences de l'information de la région d'Ottawa et Gatineau, afin de faire recueillir l'information essentielle à la prise de décision sur l'avenir de l'association. Nous vous invitons donc de bien vouloir remplir ce bref questionnaire d'ici le 23 juin 2017. Le temps requis pour remplir le questionnaire est d'environ 10 minutes.

Nous vous remercions d'avoir participé à ce sondage.

1. Veuillez choisir l'option qui reflète le mieux votre statut actuel au sein de l'ABRCN ?
 - Membre actuel
 - Ancien membre
 - Autre (par exemple : participant occasionnel aux visites guidées, etc.)
 - Je ne sais pas
2. Au cours de la dernière année, à combien d'événements avez-vous participé ?
 - 1-2
 - 3-5
 - 5+
 - Aucun

3. Quelles sont les obstacles qui vous empêchent de participer aux activités de l'ABRCN (choisissez toutes les options qui s'appliquent) :
- La date des événements
 - L'emplacement des événements
 - Le prix
 - Les sujets sont d'aucun intérêt
 - Autre (veuillez préciser) :
4. Quel type d'événements reflète le mieux vos intérêts (choisissez toutes les options qui s'appliquent) :
- Visites de bibliothèques
 - Événements de réseautage (par exemple : soirées quiz, party entre bibliothèques, etc.)
 - Occasions de développement professionnel (par exemple : présentations portant sur des sujets spéciaux, groupe de conversation en français, etc.)
 - Fêtes de la communauté des bibliothèques
 - Panels
 - Autre (veuillez préciser) :
5. Tel qu'indiqué dans sa constitution, la raison d'être de l'ABRCN est :
- de discuter de questions d'intérêt général reliées aux bibliothèques et à l'information ET
 - de promouvoir le réseautage et le développement professionnel parmi les bibliothécaires, les technicien(ne)s en documentation et autres individus ayant un intérêt pour les bibliothèques et la gestion de l'information.
 - Croyez-vous que la programmation de l'ABRCN est fidèle à cette affirmation ?
 - Oui
 - Non
 - Je ne sais pas
6. Est-ce que LANCR-ABRCN a encore un rôle à jouer dans la communauté ?
- Oui
 - Non
 - Je ne sais pas
7. Est-ce que l'ABRCN devrait poursuivre ses activités comme association professionnelle?
- Oui
 - Non
 - Je ne sais pas
8. Est-ce que l'ABRCN devrait être dissoute ?

- Oui
- Non
- Je ne sais pas

9. Si l'ABRCN devait mettre fin à ses activités en tant qu'association professionnelle, devrait-elle être transformée en groupe d'intérêt général qui se rencontre de façon informelle et organise des événements au cours de l'année ?

- Oui
- Non
- Je ne sais pas
- Autre (veuillez préciser) :

10. Avez-vous d'autres commentaires, questions ou inquiétudes ?

Si vous avez des questions ou des inquiétudes, veuillez communiquer avec nous à lancinfo@gmail.com.