

PALS 2009 Continuous Learning Survey Overview

This past spring, the PALS consultants created a continuous learning survey to seek member input on current learning opportunities, training needs (individual and by category) and best time frames to conduct events. The total number of responses recorded is **213**. The following is an overview of the responses.

1. Please indicate the responsibilities on which you spend most of your working hours: (213 responses)
 - Administration – **32.9%**
 - Other – **20.2%** (many “one person library comments”; “mish mash of duties)
2. Type of library: (213 responses)
 - Public – **66%**
 - School – **22.1%**
 - Academic – **8.9%**
 - Special – **2.8%**
3. Library name (all responded)
4. Name (125 responses)
5. When attending System sponsored events, the preference of your administration and/or staff is to have an offering that includes: (210 responses)
 - Half day – **72.6%**
 - Full day – **29.9%**
 - Lunch – **18.4%**
 - Networking opportunities – **38.3%**
6. I would more likely be able to attend if events were scheduled on: (198 responses)
 - Friday morning – **81.6%**
 - Saturday morning – **80.0%**
 - Thursday morning – **79.7%**
7. What months are better for you to attend PALS events? (202 responses)
 - October – **65.8%**
 - September – **57.4%**
 - March – **56.9%**
8. What format do you prefer for training during workshops and/or information during symposiums? (205 responses)
 - A mixture of individual speakers on topics and panels of speakers – **63.4%**
 - Individual speakers – **46.8%**

9. PALS is interested in developing a list of members to conduct or assist with training events. (19 responses)
- I have an area of expertise – **36.8%**
 - I would be willing to be considered as a trainer – **89.5%**
10. Which of the following training methods would you prefer? (197 responses)
- Small group training of 2-9 participants – **66.5%**
 - Group training 10+ participants – **52.8%**
 - Group training via OPAL or WIMBA – **48.2%**
11. My primary goal for training is to: (208 responses)
- Improve my job skills/performance – **48.6%**
 - Increase my knowledge base – **42.8%**
 - Coach and mentor other staff – **6.7%**
12. Please indicate what continuous learning events you would be interested in attending: (209 responses)
- Customer service (intermediate/advanced) – **79.2%**
 - Reference (intermediate/advanced) – **78.4%**
 - Management/administration (intermediate/advanced) – **72.7%**
13. I am most interested in the following MANAGEMENT sessions: (180 responses)
- Grant writing essentials – **49.4%**
 - Empowering staff – **43.9%**
 - TIE: Long Range Planning, Staff Evaluations – **40%**
14. I am most interested in the following PROGRAMMING sessions: (176 responses)
- Programs on a budget – **48.9%**
 - Teen programs – **44.9%**
 - Book clubs – **42.6%**
15. I am most interested in the following TECHNOLOGY sessions: (194 responses)
- Keeping up with technology (blogs, RSS, IM, MP3, E-books) – **78.4%**
 - Webpage building/maintaining – **45.4%**
 - Technology planning – **34.0%**
16. I am most interested in the following SECURITY/DISASTER sessions: (123 responses)
- Identity theft – **48.0%**
 - Emergency manuals – **34.1%**
 - Bad weather and/or fire drills – **31.7%**

17. I am most interested in the following TECHNICAL SERVICES sessions: (137 responses)
- Cataloging basics – **36.5%**
 - Book repair – **35.8%** (note: book repair was offered in all 8 neighborhoods in FY 09, not well attended in most)
 - CD/DVD repair – **32.8%**
18. I am most interested in the following ADMINISTRATION sessions: (151 responses)
- Marketing – **48.3%**
 - Leadership/Management – **46.4%**
 - Planning – **45.0%**
19. I am most interested in the following REFERENCE sessions: (172 responses)
- Training patrons to use databases – **52.3%**
 - Collection development – **50.0%**
 - TIE: Information Literacy, Digital Literacy for patrons – **37.2%**
20. I would like PALS to do a Continuous Learning program on the following topic: (38 responses)
- Spanish
 - Web 2.0

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