

Report to the Kentucky Library Association Board
President
September 19, 2012
Louisville, Kentucky

I was appointed Chair of the Library Support Staff Round Table on August 1, 2012 and have begun the process of contacting the round table membership to encourage greater participation and to determine how best we can serve the members of the round table while meeting the objectives set forth for the round table in the bylaws.

To that end, I have sent a blanket email to the members of the round table in early August, requesting responses by August 31. I received 3 replies, including one member who also offered to serve as an officer at such time as we elect new officers for the round table.

In order to encourage additional responses, I have sent a second email on September 12 with a link to an online survey so that round table members have the option of an anonymous response. In this message I also encouraged colleagues to pass this information along to non-members of the round table in order receive more responses from library support staff. In the initial couple of days since the link has been sent out, we've already received 18 responses, which is an encouraging increase from the first email. I'll include a more detailed summary of data received to date once we have sufficient responses to determine trends, but even early results may be of interest:

- Initial respondents were all academic and public library staff (11 academic and 7 public)
- about 70% KLA members (13 of 18)
- about 70% of the KLA members (9 of 13) were members of the LSSRT.
- Thirteen respondents responded to a request to rank the most important objectives of round table
 - 12 of the 13 felt that “promoting the importance of library support staff as valued library professionals” was the most important (8) or second most important (4) objective
 - 9 of the 13 respondents felt “to encourage growth among members through opportunities for continuing education and participation in professional activities” was the most important (4) or second (5) most important objective
 - No one ranked the objective of working with other groups to promote library services as one of the top two goals.
- Eight of fourteen respondents expressed interest in certification for library support staff.
- Respondents who were not interested in certification expressed “not required for job” and “would not affect pay” as the primary reasons they weren't interested.
- The most frequent methods of communication in which interest was expressed were a listserv for the round table and a blog with comments enabled.

Again, these are very preliminary trends in the results.

I look forward to being able to provide a more detailed report for the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Callen, Chair

Library Support Staff Round Table
Kentucky Library Association