

NOTSL (Northern Ohio Technical Services Librarians)
Virtual Meeting Interest Survey Results: Public Summary

Initial results: September 2020

Board-approved summary: October 2020

About NOTSL: Northern Ohio Technical Services Librarians (NOTSL) exists to provide opportunities for Technical Services Librarians to exchange information, ideas and experiences in Technical Services. NOTSL sponsors programs in response to the concerns of our local Technical Services community, publishes our own newsletter NOTSL News semi-annually, and sponsors continuing education scholarships for Technical Services personnel.
<https://notsl.org/>

Survey distribution dates: August 29, 2020 (multiple listservs); reminder September 2 (listservs/social media) website; closed September 9, 2020.

Distribution lists/Social media: ALAO, ALAO-SSIG, AUTOCAT, Clarion Library school/technician program, CLE Librarians (Facebook), CLEVNET TS, Indiana Library Federation, Kent State SLIS, MOUG-L, NEO-RLS, NOTSL-NEWS, OCLC, OHIOLINK, OHIONET, OLAC, OPLIN, ORALL, OVGTSL, PaLA, PCC, RADCAT, SERIALIST, SLA Pittsburgh chapter, Troublesome Catalogers and Magical Metadata Fairies (Facebook), TSLIBRARIANS, WNYLRC

Survey call for participation text: Please help NOTSL determine how we can best serve technical services staff as a professional association in the near term by taking this survey. NOTSL exists to provide continuing education events, and to offer scholarships, and we don't want to stop doing our good work. Because there has always been interest in NOTSL meetings from outside the northern Ohio area, and because we are considering moving our meetings to an online model, we are seeking comments widely. Thank you for helping us determine our next steps by giving us your thoughts and opinions.

Total survey responses: 192

Q1. What do you like about NOTSL? (Check all that apply) (with write-in "other") (181 responses)

Answers	Responses	Percentage
The quality of the programming	154	85.1%
The cost is reasonable	130	71.8%
The meetings are scheduled for only one day, which is easier to attend	129	71.3%
The opportunity for professional networking	103	56.9%
The convenience of local events	77	42.5%
I get to see my friends	37	20.4%
The food	26	14.4%

Summary: Ten free-text responses were provided, and built on the available answers. Respondents variously commented on the small number of other professional conferences covering Technical Services and Cataloging as in depth and cost-effectively as NOTSL. Three respondents stated that they have not attended NOTSL before.

Q2. How would you like to see NOTSL improve or expand our services? (free text)

59 comments in an open box

Most responses fell into three categories:

- You're doing great: BRAVO! –5

- Format -- 34
- Suggestions for Topic – 19

Summary: There was some difference regarding where the responses came from. About half were from Northern Ohio (30). There didn't seem to be much difference regarding content between our core respondents (Northern Ohio) and those from other parts of the state or country.

- 30 responses from Northern Ohio
- 10 responses from Ohio, But Outside Northern Ohio
- 7 responses from WNY/West PA/SE Mich/E Indiana
- 2 responses from Midwest US
- 10 responses from US

Format (biggest group of responses): All responses who commented on online formats preferred online for now and encouraged NOTSL to consider offering online in combination with in-person into the future, perhaps at a discounted rate. This was as true for Northern Ohio responses as it was for more distant ones.

Novel suggestions: Including a job board on the NOTSL site and/or seeking job listings; Make more use of the NOTSL web site as a clearinghouse for links to TS best practices, including updates on best practices; Content or virtual meetings/online social events in addition to in-person meetings; Create partnerships with other regional professional library organizations

Topics: Most responses that dealt with topics suggested ideas for program content. There was not a lot of difference between just Northern Ohio and the rest of the country. The focus appears to generally be on getting new information relevant to their jobs and practical process advice.

Suggested Topics (1 suggestion unless noted): Practical skills/based (2); Trending topics like Linked Data; Labeling, preservation and other hands-on; Electronic resources workflows; Training for common processes (like OpenRefine); Training; Vendor training (Sirsi).

Q3. When do you think you would be willing or able to attend professional meetings in person again? (please select one) (185 responses, NOTSL area responses*: 102)

Answers	Responses	Percentage
I can't predict how safe I will feel about attending meetings because it depends on how safe it is at the time of the meeting	57	55.9%
I won't be willing and able to attend meetings in person until after there is an effective vaccine	29	28.4%
I would be willing and able to attend meetings in person, but only if people wore masks and practiced social distancing	15	14.7%
I would be willing and able to attend meetings in person now	1	1.0%
Total	102	100.00%

* "NOTSL area" combines location categories "Northern Ohio" and "WNY (Western N/Western PA/SE Michigan/E Indiana (driving distance to usual NOTSL location))"; i.e., primary past/potential participants for in-person meetings, attendance at which confers membership.

Q4. We are thinking of holding virtual events in the near future. What types of events would be of interest to you? (please check all that apply) (with write-in "other") (192 responses)

Answers	Responses	Percentage
Webinars by individual presenters using slides and chat	182	94.8%
Virtual panel presentations using slides and chat	170	88.5%
Virtual small group discussions on specific topics	100	52.1%
Large virtual meetings with small breakout groups reporting out to the whole group	46	24.0%
Virtual happy hours where many people can be seen and heard at the same time	35	18.2%
I would not attend any virtual event	2	1.0%

Q5. If NOTSL meetings are held virtually, which meeting platform would you prefer? (please check all that apply) (190 responses)

Answer	Responses	Percentage
Zoom	167	87.9%
Webex	111	58.4%
GoToMeeting	77	40.5%
Microsoft Teams	64	33.7%
Skype	23	12.1%

Other (12 responses): Adaptable to our needs, willing to learn, or don't know enough to pick one (8). Other platforms suggested including Google Meet (3), Crowdcast (1), and Discord (1).

Q6. Many libraries and library staff are faced with tough economic times during this pandemic. Some institutions have discontinued money for travel and professional development. NOTSL's only income comes from meeting attendance. To help NOTSL gauge institutional support for professional development during this pandemic, please check all that apply: (186 responses)*

- I anticipate receiving full institutional funding
- I anticipate receiving partial institutional funding
- I anticipate being self-funded (registration not covered)
- I anticipate receiving full release time from my institution
- I anticipate I will not be compensated for my time or I will be required to charge leave time

Anticipated funding, responses with location indicated:

	NOTSL area	Other Ohio/MW	Remaining US	Total
Self-funded	42	30	24	96
Full funding	26	8	1	35
Partial funding	17	9	5	31

Anticipated release time, responses with location indicated:

	NOTSL area	Other Ohio/MW	Remaining US	Total
Release time	47	19	14	80
PTO/unpaid	5	6	9	20

*Responses that checked multiple values are calculated as the lowest value (least amount of institutional funds/time).

Q7. NOTSL funding for scholarships is currently entirely dependent on revenue from meeting registrations. Because we cannot hold in-person meetings, we would need new ways to generate revenue. Please indicate which of these models you agree with. (please check all that apply) (178 responses with location indicated)

- I would be willing to pay what it normally costs for NOTSL meetings to attend a virtual event (Normal cost)
- I would be willing to pay for a virtual event so long as it costs less than NOTSL charges for in person meetings (Costs less)
- I would not be willing to pay for a virtual event (No fee)

	NOTSL area	% NOTSL area (97)	Other Ohio/MW	% Other Ohio/MW (49)	Other US	% Other US (32)	Total	% Total (178)
Costs less	64	65.98%	31	63.27%	25	78.13%	120	67.42%
Normal cost	30	30.93%	14	28.57%	5	15.63%	49	27.53%
No fee	12	12.37%	7	14.29%	8	25.00%	27	15.17%

Q8. How do you prefer to get information from NOTSL? (please check all that apply) (189 responses)

Answers	Responses	Percentage
Email list/Listserv	189	100.0%
NOTSL website	42	22.2%
Facebook	9	4.8%
Twitter	3	0.5%
Slack (other)	1	0.5%

Q9. Please tell us where you are located. (select one) (191 responses)

Answers	Responses	Percentage
Northern Ohio	82	42.9%
Ohio, but outside Northern Ohio	34	17.8%
WNY/Western PA/SE Michigan/E Indiana (driving distance)	21	11.0%
Midwest United States	16	8.4%
United States	38	19.9%
Outside the United States	0	0

Q10. Principal library type (please check all that apply) (192 responses)

Answer	Responses	Percentage
Academic	115	59.9%
Public	59	30.7%
Special (museum, historical society, prison, school/media center, etc.)	21	10.9%
MLS/MLIS student	1	0.5%

Other: 8 (4 retired, 2 vendor, 1 system, 1 contract, 1 unemployed)

Q11. Principle areas of interest (please check all that apply) (192 responses; 128 respondents indicated more than one area of interest)

- Cataloging/Metadata
- Collection Development/Acquisitions
- Preservation/Physical Processing
- Digital Services
- Systems/IT
- Other Technical Services (please specify in other)
- Outside Technical Services (please specify in other)
- Other: __

Answer	Responses	Percentage
Cataloging/Metadata	169	88.0%
Collection Development/Acquisitions	80	41.7%
Digital Services	60	31.3%
Preservation/Physical Processing	51	26.6%
Systems/IT	45	23.4%

“Other” with multiple responses: Electronic resources/KnowledgeBase management (6); Management (3), Research/reference/instruction (2)

“Other” with single responses: Analytics, Archives, Collection assessment, Digital preservation, Gifts, ILL, Library paraprofessional, Linked data, Music, Resource discovery, Troubleshooting, TS and the patron experience

Q12. Any additional comments? (free text) (29 responses (approx. 15% of 192 respondents))

Most comments fell into 3 categories: Comments (9); Compliments (15); Ideas (5)

Summary: Most comments were either compliments or expansions on survey questions. Travelling seemed a major impediment to attending meetings for the foreseeable future. Many respondents were unsure if they’d be able to attend a meeting at all. People seem to prefer in person in better times.

Breakdown by location:

Midwest United States: 2

Northern Ohio: 11

Ohio, but outside Northern Ohio: 7

United States: 3

WNY/Western PA/SE Michigan/E Indiana (driving distance to usual NOTSL location): 6