

What Do Members Want From IAMSLIC?

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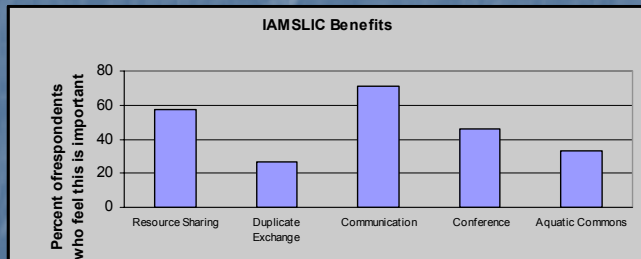
The Survey:

An individual email was sent to each current IAMSLIC member. Those who did not respond to the first email were contacted again. A total of 115 (40%) of the IAMSLIC members responded to the five question survey.

Membership Benefits:

Some respondents chose the MOST important benefit of the five options listed, but the vast majority could not limit the choice to a single benefit. The percentages listed below can be compared among the five benefits listed to determine their relative importance to members, but should not be construed to mean the overall importance of a benefit. Clearly, communication was the reason IAMSLIC was established and continues to be important to many members.

•Resource Sharing	57%
•Duplicate Exchange	27%
•Communication	71%
•Conference	46%
•Aquatic Commons	33%



IAMSLIC Conferences:

51% of respondents can attend conferences regularly
62% of non-attendees cited cost as their reason for not attending
13% of non-attendees cited institutional policy or other conflicts

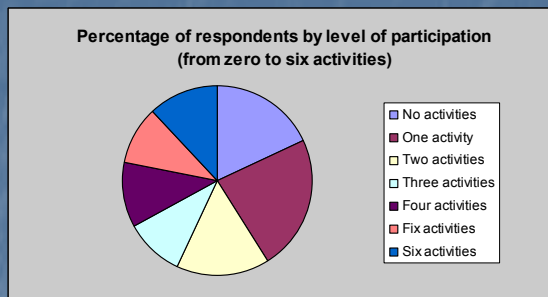
While 51% of respondents can attend conferences regularly, cost is a major barrier to many. Even though it was not asked as part of the question, twelve respondents (20% of members who can attend conferences) mentioned that they pay for some or all of their travel expenses. If we had specifically asked this question we would undoubtedly have learned that even a higher percentage of conference attendees must personally pay some or all of their travel expenses, so conferences must be as economical as possible.

Participation in the organization:

70 percent of respondents listed IAMSLIC as their major professional organization. Members were asked to indicate which of six IAMSLIC activities they participate in:

- Member of a regional group (56%)
- Resource sharing user (51%)
- Union List or Z39.50 Distributed Library supplier (31%)
- Duplicate exchange participant (28%)
- Discussion list member (42%)
- Conference attendee (40%)

23 percent of respondents were involved in only one of the six IAMSLIC activities listed, and another 18 percent did not report participating in any of the activities, indicating that many members may be involved in IAMSLIC for a single very specific benefit. In contrast, the 12 percent of respondents who reported being involved in all six IAMSLIC activities would indicate that for some members ALL aspects of IAMSLIC activities are important to their jobs. Finally, the range of participation as reflected in the pie chart below indicates the variety of organizations involved in IAMSLIC.



IAMSLIC Membership Dues:

80 percent of respondents would be willing for dues (developed nations) to increase to support additional activities. Of those who responded positively, suggested increases were:

•More	21%
•\$45-50	50%
•\$75	26%
•Other	3%



Other Services Members Would Like:

- Additional tutorials on the IAMSLIC website
- Information on Open Access
- List of experts for training or consulting (Arial, EndNote, etc.)
- Tapes IAMSLIC Conference sessions
- Knowledge transfer (internships/professional visits)
- Digital repository (Aquatic Commons)
- Address language barriers within IAMSLIC
- Do something about the high cost of journal subscriptions
- Consortial purchase of e-journals
- Hands-on training at conferences
- Small-group discussions at conferences
- Strengthen services we already have
- Live-chat reference
- Self-help group for e-publication matters
- Virtual posters at conference (non-attendee presentations)
- Consortial purchase of ASFA
- Grant writing tutorial

Conclusions:

Members are happy with current services and resources, but have also identified some possible new services as well.

Long time member Cathy Norton sums it up by saying:
"I think IAMSLIC is the BEST organization for anyone who is serving the marine science and fisheries communities in the area of libraries and information retrieval -- Actually I go further and say this should be a requirement for any librarian who works in this area -- ALL of the participants in the organization are helpful and more than generous with their time to other colleagues and institutions when help is needed. I think we should reach out into the IT community in our discipline and bring them into the IAMSLIC fold. I think our dues are a "paltry sum" and should be increased to \$50.00 at the very least! So, as my brother used to say... run that up the flagpole!"

WHAT DO MEMBERS WANT FROM IAMSLIC?

[Poster]

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Abstract:

Members were asked, via email, to answer five questions to help the IAMSLIC Executive Board with their long-term planning. 115 members (40% of the membership) responded. Benefits considered to be important to members (by percentage) are communication (71%), resource sharing (57%), conferences (46%), and Aquatic Commons digital repository (33%), and duplicate exchange (27%). Just over half (51%) of respondents are able to attend IAMSLIC conferences and cost was the major deterrent to attendance. IAMSLIC is the major professional organization for 70% of the respondents and the major activities participated in by members are (by percentage), regional group (56%), resource sharing user (51%), discussion list member (42%), conference attendee (40%), Union List and Distributed Library supplier (31%), and duplicate exchange participant (28%). 80% of respondents were willing to have IAMSLIC membership dues increased and over 50% of those who responded positively felt that dues could easily be increased to \$50 per year for those in developed nations. Additional training opportunities were identified by members and suggestions were forwarded to the IAMSLIC Executive Board.