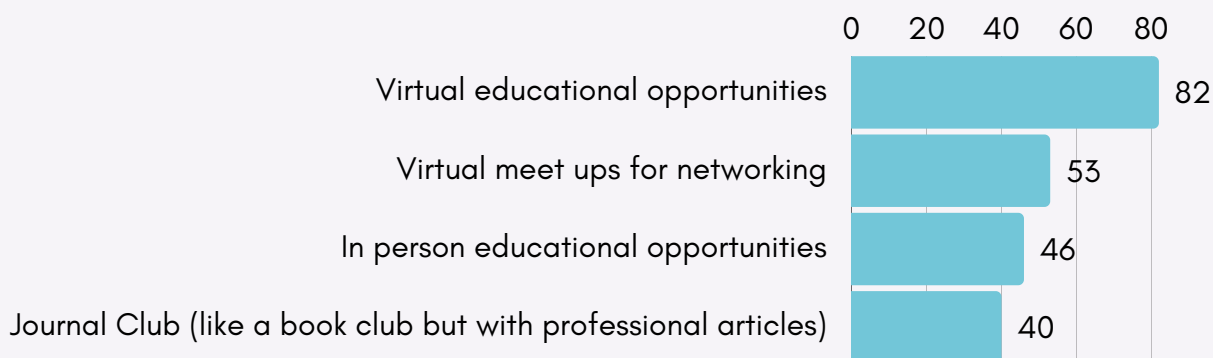# VLA-CRL SURVEY RESULTS

In May 2024, VLA President Nan Carmack and VLACRL Chair Jenny Stout created a survey titled "VLA ACRL Member Survey" and shared it across the VLA and VLACRL member listservs. VLACRL is the Virginia Chapter of the Association of College & Research Libraries, therefore, this survey was of particular interest to librarians who work in college and university libraries in Virginia. The purpose of this survey was to solicit member input for VLARCL programming to ensure that the forum meets the needs of its members.

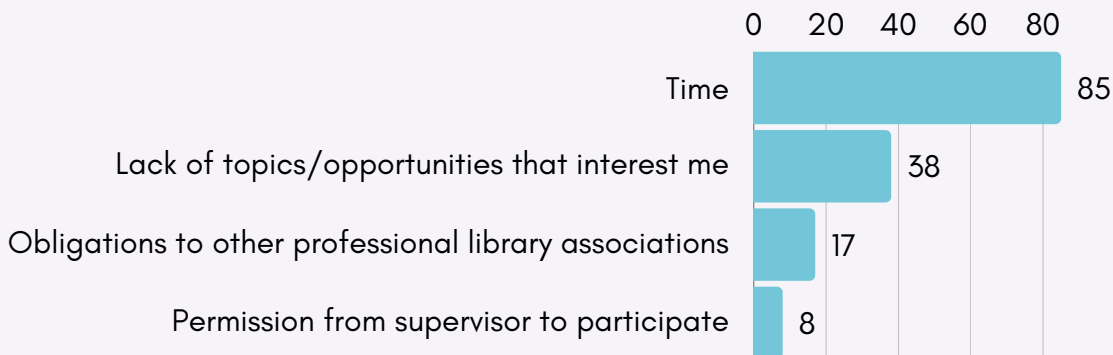**The survey garnered 168 responses. Here is a summary of the results.**

Does your institution require professional service for review/promotion?

Pie chart:
- No: 42%
- Yes: 58%
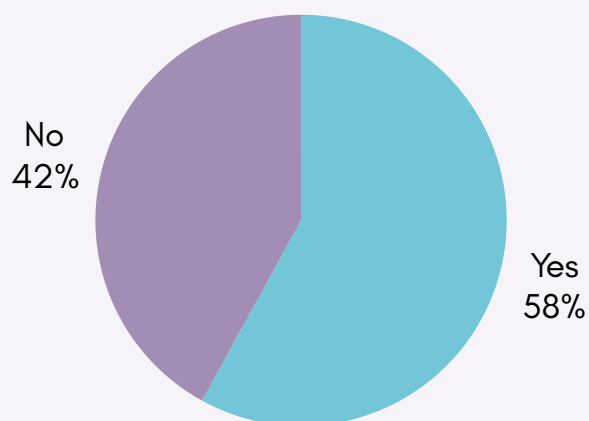
What educational opportunities would you like to see VLA ACRL offer this year? Check all that apply.

Opportunity	Value
Virtual educational opportunities	82
Virtual meet ups for networking	53
In person educational opportunities	46
Journal Club (like a book club but with professional articles)	40

What barriers to participation do you experience? Check all that apply*

Barrier	Value
Time	85
Lack of topics/opportunities that interest me	38
Obligations to other professional library associations	17
Permission from supervisor to participate	8

*Cost/funding/budget was also mentioned several times in the "other" field

Candice Benjes-Small took the comments collected from two of the questions (What topics would you like to see represented at future VLACRL programs? And Is there anything else you would like to say?) and sorted them into themes using ChatGPT.

Here are the main themes for future programming:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Libraries

- Uses of AI in library processes, instruction, and information literacy.
- Pros and cons of AI usage.
- AI's impact on knowledge workers' careers.
- Copyright law for AI.
- Practical applications and tech tips for AI in the library classroom.

Professional Development and Career Advancement

- Promotion and faculty status.
- Supervisory and management skills.
- Mentorship for new managers.
- Professional development for non-degree library staff.
- Balancing scholarship and library work.
- How to handle institution-wide changes and shakeups.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA)

- Growing diversity among library workers.
- DEI work at the individual practice level.
- Supporting minoritized workers.
- Increasing visibility of DEI initiatives.

Library Instruction and Outreach

- Information literacy instruction.
- Instructional strategies for one-shots.
- Outreach and marketing to communities and administrators.
- Public programming for adults.
- Instruction and engagement techniques.

Intellectual Freedom and Advocacy

- Intellectual freedom issues.
- Advocacy for libraries within larger institutions.
- Strategies for promoting user engagement and reducing costs.

Technology and Digital Services

- Technology in libraries, including managing IT for small libraries.
- Digital libraries, digital asset management systems (DAMS), and project management.
- Systems administration, electronic resource management, and metadata management.

Collaboration and Networking

- Collaboration with other departments and disciplines.
- Cross-department collaborations.
- Networking opportunities and communities of practice.

Practical and Doable Solutions

- Practical, actionable advice and solutions for small vs. large universities.
- Managing library services with limited resources and staff.
- Practical examples and case studies.

Library Operations and Management

- Collection projects, acquisitions, and weeding.
- Managing e-resources, authentication methods, and consortium collaborations.
- Strategic planning and navigating the changing landscape of technical services.

Specialized Topics and Niche Interests

- Handling institution-wide change/ shakeups.
- Supporting faculty and students during institutional reorganization.
- Space design and planning.
- Issues relevant to special collections and archives.
- Publishing and scholarly communication.

The responses to the survey question "Is there anything else you would like to say?" reveal several key themes. Here's a summary:

Appreciation and Gratitude	• Many respondents expressed thanks and appreciation for the efforts and hard work of VLACRL leadership and members. • Positive feedback about involvement and the quality of sessions and programs.
Suggestions for Improvement	• Desire for fewer emails or an option to opt in/out of specific email types. • Requests for more in-person programs or hybrid (in-person and virtual) options. • Concern about scheduling conflicts during sessions. • Suggestions to balance programming between small and large libraries.
Program Content and Focus	• Calls for less emphasis on Artificial Intelligence in future programs. • Interest in a more academic library-focused conference, separate from the VLA conference, which is seen as public library-focused. • Desire to see DEI embedded in all programs rather than as a standalone topic. • Interest in more practical and career-building sessions.
Inclusivity and Engagement	• Interest in opportunities to serve or become more involved with VLACRL. • Positive remarks about the inclusivity and activity level of VLA. • Suggestions to merge VLACRL with VIVA due to overlapping interests and energy.

Virtual vs. In-Person Programming	• Mixed feedback on virtual versus in-person programming. • Some find virtual programs helpful and cost-effective, while others miss the in-person interactions and site visits.
Communication and Clarity	• Requests for clearer survey questions and communication regarding program content and terminology.
Miscellaneous Comments	• Mention of personal scheduling conflicts preventing participation in some events. • Observations about the broader role and expectations of VLA and related organizations in supporting library professionals.

Overall, the feedback reflects a balance of appreciation for current efforts and constructive suggestions for enhancing future programs and communications.

Thanks to all who participated in this survey! VLACRL Leadership is in the process of discussing possible future events that align with the results.

Do you have questions or ideas? Email Jenny Stout at jastout@vcu.edu