

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Seattle  
January 19-24, 2007

**Topic:** Professional Development Survey Results

**Background:** In early fall of 2006 YALSA released an online survey in order to learn more about the professional development needs of members and library workers. 243 persons responded to the survey, 65% of which are YALSA members. Some key findings are provided below.

**Action Required:** Discussion

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When asked what the preferred format for participating in continuing education opportunities was, respondents said:

Option	Response percent
Online courses (4-6 weeks)	63%
Webinars (60-120 minutes)	30%
Podcasts (5-15 minutes)	17%
<b>Regional or local face-to-face institutes (one day)</b>	<b>81%</b>
National conferences w/ multiple programs	51%
Other	4%

*(respondents were invited to check all that applied)*

When asked what type of continuing education opportunities interested them, respondents said:

Option	Response percent
<b>Individual CE units</b>	<b>67%</b>
College credits	30%
Post MLS certificate in a specialization	48%
PhD	18%
Other	10%

*(respondents were invited to check all that applied)*

The five most popular topics for courses were:

1. young adult literature
2. youth participation
3. programming
4. collection development
5. technology

(literacy was a close 6<sup>th</sup>)

(adolescent development & community relations were tied for 7<sup>th</sup>)

**Items to consider:**

- Since 48% of respondents reported that they were interested in a certification program, should YALSA pursue the development of one with ALA's APA?
- Since the majority of respondents (81%) indicated that they preferred a face-to-face institute over other methods of CE, should YALSA pursue the development of additional licensed institutes?

The complete survey results can be viewed at:

[www.surveymonkey.com/Report.asp?U=235788135154](http://www.surveymonkey.com/Report.asp?U=235788135154)