BCLA ALS November 2015 Questionnaire Results

Context

In November 2015, a questionnaire was circulated to BCLA members asking for feedback on the BCLA Academic Librarians Section's mandate, name, and acronym. This questionnaire also asked members if they would be interested in serving on a working group to discuss those topics. The questionnaire consisted of three closed questions and an option to provide comments.

The questionnaire received a total of 85 responses. This document does not intend to interpret or analyze the questionnaire results, merely represent them. The results from this questionnaire were shared with ALS members at the December 2015 meeting, where a discussion was held on these issues.

1. Should the Section broaden its scope and mandate to include non-librarian staff in academic libraries (e.g., technicians, assistants, archivists)?

Answered: 82
Skipped: 3

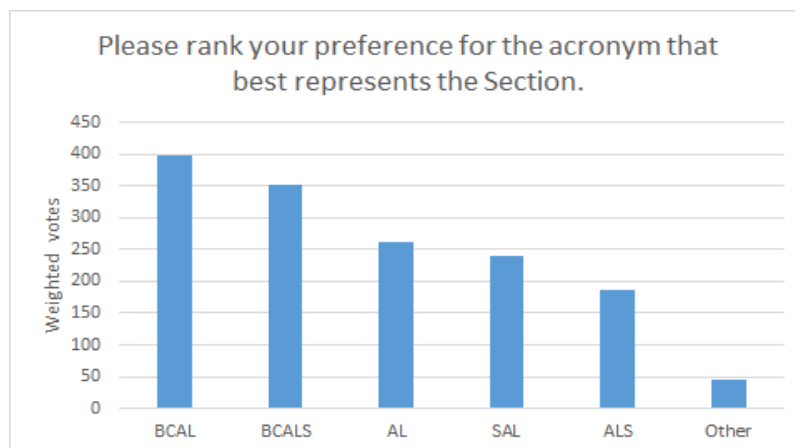| Votes	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
Number	31	22	13	11	5	82
Percent	37.80%	26.83%	15.85%	13.41%	6.10%	99.99%
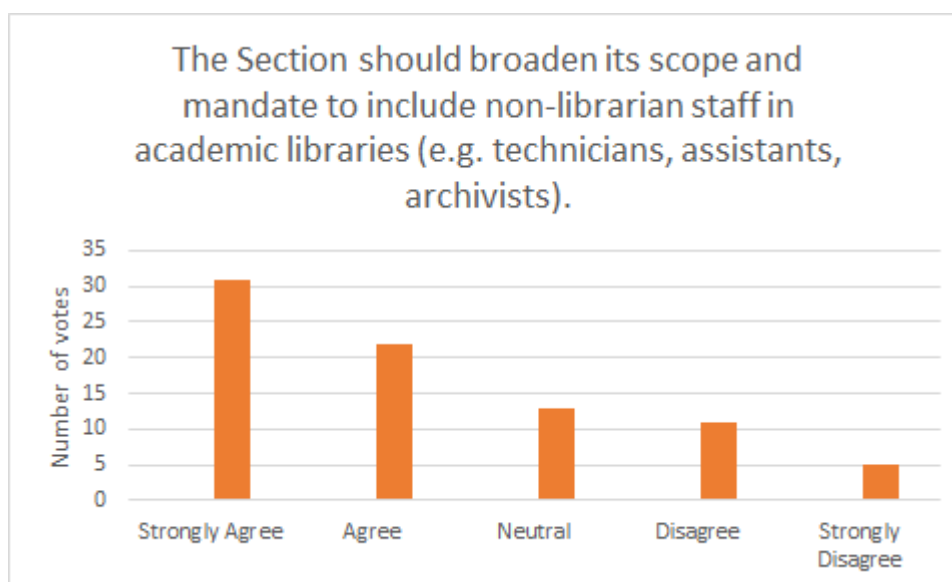
2. Please rank your preference for the following acronyms from 1 to 6, where "1" is your first choice and "6" is your last choice.

Answered: 82
Skipped: 3

These results are displayed as weighted votes, where a rank of "1" was assigned a weight of 6.

	Votes	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total weighted votes
BCAL	#	35	26	10	5	2	0	**399**
	weight	210	130	40	15	4	0	
BCALS	#	22	27	13	10	1	2	**353**
	weight	132	135	52	30	2	2	
AL	#	12	12	12	18	14	1	**263**
	weight	72	60	48	54	28	1	
SAL	#	5	9	20	19	13	3	**241**
	weight	30	45	80	57	26	3	
ALS	#	5	2	13	9	26	15	**186**
	weight	30	10	52	27	52	15	
Other	#	2	0	1	2	2	20	**46**
	weight	12	0	4	6	4	20	

Please rank your preference for the acronym that best represents the Section.
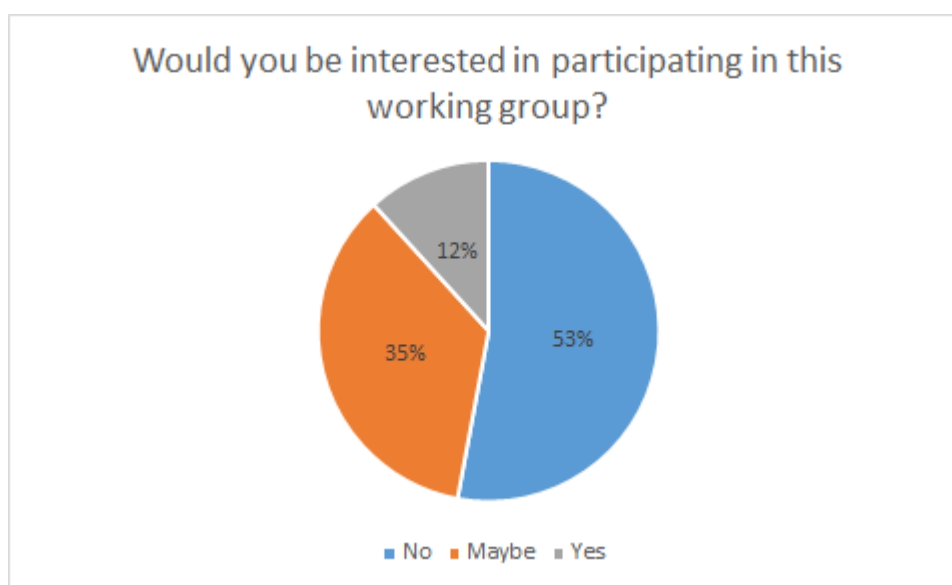
3. At the 2015 AGM, members expressed interest in forming a working group to revisit the Section's scope and mandate. Would you be interested in participating in this working group?

Answered: 85
Skipped: 0

Votes	No	Maybe	Yes	Total
Number	45	30	10	85
Percent	52.94%	35.29	11.76%	99.99%

Comments

The following comments have been lightly edited (i.e., names, workplaces, and projects have been removed) in an effort to preserve the confidentiality of respondents.

"I am in favour of changing the title of the section to libraries. In my institution, for example, our technicians are quite interested in professional development but the technicians' section is rather inactive. They do not currently feel comfortable attending the December meeting or AGM because it specifies "librarians". I also do not think that we need to replicate the "BC" in the section name, as it is already a subsidiary of BCLA."

"I am a retired academic librarian [...] and so decided to complete the survey! Thanks for all you do."

"[...] "Good Ideas Come from Everywhere", which is why I strong agree with including archivists, technicians and assistants in the Section [...]"

"I have no problem with academic library technicians forming their own group but this section should be the domain of professional librarians, for information sharing and networking. More difficult to talk about deprofessionalization issues with technicians in the room."

"Thanks for asking. I don't have any preferences for the section name."

"BCALS = BC Academic Librarians and Staff (to be inclusive of LibTechs) ALS = Academic Librarians and Staff"

"We need to decide if this group is primarily a group focusing on the profession or on the institution generally. Personally I would like it to be focused on the profession. However, I don't want non-librarians to feel like they are not welcome to come to ALS events. If we remain as a professional association we need to do something explicit to make non-librarians feel welcome at ALS events. ALS could, for example, partner with LTAS to put on sessions, and send out notices about ALS events to LTAS members. I also think we should align with what the Public librarians interest group is doing."

"I think it should be Libraries not Librarians. For the section to be inclusive, the language used needs to be looked at."

"Alternative Acronym: BCLA-A (BC Library Association - Academic Division)"

"Strongly feel it should be "Academic Libraries" section, and include non-librarian staff, especially since I have an MLIS but am not employed as a librarian, but as management staff in an academic library."

"Regards to question number #1, am curious if the Public Librarians Interest Group are undergoing the same discussion, or if LTAS is considering the creation of an Academic Technicians group...."

"I favor keeping this group for professionals (i.e. archivists and librarians). Library assistants and technicians have LTAS."

"It is important to be as inclusive as possible so if there is objection to the name as previously selected changing to "Libraries" suffices. I had preferred "Librarians" because I feel it helps to elevate our profession and the people behind it; however inclusion is critical and shared value of membership and so we should strive for the name that best expresses our diversity [...]"

"Regarding question 1. Yes it should be expanded to include other information professionals with a Masters degree, but I disagree with expanding to include paraprofessionals."

"Personally, I would prefer to see a functional focus return to our name and our grop... when we were "public services" focused, we at least had a theme that could pull us together, and that needn't have been dependent on the type of degree someone had. Plus having a focus on those who work in public service differentiated us from managers, cataloguers, Systems/Digitization staff etc., all of whom have their own interests. I think we've watered the section down to the point that it's too broad to feel like a relevant home. This broadly-defined "academic library" home gets even broader by expanding it further to include techs. My feeling is that if "librarian" is part of the job title or job description, that should be good enough to be in the Section (regardless of what the degree is), but I don't believe all techs would automatically fit... unless, of course, we were to make the tent even bigger and even less useful as a group."

"I'm opposed to the exclusive use of Librarians in the name options in question 2. I think Libraries is more welcoming and inclusive."

"If this section is going to include a broader range of library staff, librarians should not be the descriptor in the name. Might have to determine the scope of the group before choosing a name. While I like the idea of including more staff, perhaps the mandate would become to unwieldy for a small section to manage."