

The Toronto Health Libraries Association (THLA) Opinion Survey 2008 Results

This survey was conducted by the THLA executive in the fall of 2008 to solicit members' opinions and preferences about continuing education events, networking events and communication methods. The questionnaire was sent, with one followup reminder, to all 2008-2009 members and members not yet renewed from the previous year 2007-2008, via a link to Survey Monkey. By the deadline, 37 members and former members responded by completing at least part of the survey, though not respondents completed every question. The survey responses for each question are shown below, in order of popularity and/or alphabetically as appropriate.

The THLA executive appreciates all the comments/suggestions and will carefully consider these results while planning continuing education events and networking events for the next year and beyond.

Section A CE events

1. Which topics would you like to learn more about through the THLA CE events?

Topics, listed in order from most popular to least popular	percent	count
Health information resources	51.4%	19
Literature searching for systematic reviews and meta-analysis	48.6%	18
Knowledge transfer and management	45.9%	17
Copyright and licensing	43.2%	16
Evidence-based practice and medicine	43.2%	16
Personal and professional development issues	43.2%	16
Web 2.0 and social networking	43.2%	16
Consumer health/patient education resources	37.8%	14
Website design and management	35.1%	13
Health assessment and rating scales resources	32.4%	12
Statistical resources	32.4%	12
Taxonomies and metadata	32.4%	12
Grey literature	29.7%	11

Open source software and tools (e.g. Content Management System, Open Office etc.)	27.0%	10
Reference and instruction	27.0%	10
Pharmaceutical and drug resources	24.3%	9
Collection development and management	21.6%	8
Complementary and alternative medicine resources	21.6%	8
Database training (e.g. Medline, PubMed etc.)	21.6%	8
Research and writing	21.6%	8
Allied health resources e.g. chiropractic, rehabilitation, speech therapy	18.9%	7
Developing and using methodological filters	16.2%	6
Nursing resources	13.5%	5
Project management	13.5%	5
Electronic records management system	13.5%	5
Other How to engage our communities; Methods beyond surveys to gather information about our communities; Discussions about library of the future (Is library a place?); Opportunities to talk about how to improve collaboration and idea sharing.	2.7%	1

2. Which of the following formats of continuing education do you prefer?

Formats, in order from most preferred to least preferred	percent	count
Face-to-face course/workshop with live instructor	89.2%	33
Audio/Web seminars	51.4%	19
Web-based online courses	48.6%	18
Roundtable group discussion with other THLA members	35.1%	13
Library tours	29.7%	11
Self-directed instructional packages	29.7%	11
Other: Ontario Telehealth Network-hospitals have OTN facilities	5.4%	2

3. Which of the following times are best for you to attend CE events?

Times, in order from most preferred to least preferred	percent	count
Weekday evenings	55.6%	20
Weekday mornings	36.1%	13
Weekday afternoons	30.6%	11
Weekday lunchtimes	19.4%	7
Weekends	11.1%	4
No preference	16.7%	6

Section B General Comments

1. **Listserv:** Would you use a listserv for discussions and announcements if THLA makes one available?

Response	percent	count
Yes	51.5%	17
No	3.0%	1
Maybe	36.4%	12
Other comments: CanMedLib seems a good vehicle already (2) No. I get too many emails now	9.1%	3

2. **Event sponsors:** Would you agree to the idea of having commercial sponsors support THLA events?

Response	percent	count
Yes	81.3%	26
No	3.1%	1
Maybe	12.5%	4
Other:	3.1%	1

Something to think about but would need a policy		
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3. **Web sponsors:** Would you agree to the idea of having commercial sponsors support the THLA website (e.g. via ads)?

Response	percent	count
Yes	43.8%	14
No	28.1%	9
Maybe	18.8%	6
Other: Depends what the ads are. Best to be library related. Probably if it necessary for financial reasons; Only if we have a say as to the content of their ads	9.4%	3

*The Toronto Health Libraries Association executive
extends a sincere thank you to all the respondents of this survey!
Report prepared by Sue Reynolds, Secretary, THLA*