

Department of Justice/Attorney General Libraries SIG Survey, November 2011 Executive Summary

The survey was constructed using *FluidSurveys*. It was sent to current members of the Department of Justice/Attorney General SIG (DOJ/AG SIG), as well as the CALL-L listserv, in order to reach all current and potential members of the SIG. The survey was open from November 8 through November 30, 2011. In total, 27 surveys were completed.

Type of Libraries:

Sixteen of the survey's respondents indicated that they work at either a judicial or a Department of Justice/Attorney General library. No Crown libraries were identified. The remaining library types indicated were varied, and included the following:

- Municipal Government
- Government
- Department of National Defence
- A combination of DOJ, Courthouse, and/or Judicial responsibilities
- Courthouse
- Prison
- Law Firm
- Legislative
- Corporate

Members' Section on SIG Working Site:

There was significant support for listing SIG members' names, library/organization, and location on the SIG's working site on the CALL website; only 3 responses were not in favour of this. However, the redesign of the CALL website (which was released after the survey) includes a robust membership list that allows for filtering to display all members of the DOJ/AG SIG. Repeating this information on our SIG webpage may no longer be necessary.

Respondents made the following suggestions for additions to the DOJ/AG SIG working site: pathfinders (on wiki); training materials (on wiki); list of digitized resources; and links to websites of judicial libraries.

Expanding the SIG Mandate to Include Legislative Librarians:

There was significant support for this initiative (85%), with no negative responses. Of those few that indicated they were "not sure," the main question/comment was that we might wish to broaden the SIG's mandate even further to include all government libraries. There was also a suggestion for a name change to "Government Libraries" SIG.

"Law Libraries in Canada":

There was very strong support (93%) for updating this narrative document and distributing it to the CALL membership.

How Might the SIG Support Librarians:

There were many suggestions in this area. One suggestion repeated several times was this:

- Provide increased networking and communication opportunities outside of the annual CALL Conference, since many librarians are unable to attend yearly.

Other suggestions included the following:

- The SIG should advocate for CALL to take a stand on the evisceration of government libraries (e.g. Health Canada, LAC);

- Send regular newsletters by email of recent activities;
- Provide events/activities/information related to developing and maintaining digital libraries;
- Provide events/activities/information on new trends and materials for law libraries;
- Provide information on classes that would be useful for our work, whether computer or law related;
- Provide opportunities for sharing experiences of fellow members;
- Reach out to prison libraries, with the goal of having service to inmates equal that of service in our communities;
- Provide support to those having input to collection development policies and making collection decisions;
- Arrange sessions at CALL conferences that would be appropriate for our needs;
- Provide opportunities to discuss common issues at CALL conferences;
- Provide webinars and professional development opportunities.