

2014 ACJS Survey for Institutional Improvement

Results

Survey Recipients: 173
Survey Respondents: 31

18% response rate

Survey compiled

August 2014

Results compiled

April 2015

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Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

Association d'études juives canadiennes

Executive Summary: 2014 ACJS Survey for Institutional Improvement Results

Between August and October 2014, a survey for the purpose of collecting data for the institutional improvement of the ACJS was conducted, designed by Allie Cuperfain and myself (Barry Stiefel), with input from several members of the Executive Board. It is hoped that this report and data will be used as a starting point for improving the ACJS, according to the collective vision of its members. The following is a summary of the findings, which should be reviewed prior to the next Annual General Meeting, where it will be discussed in detail.

The survey was conducted online and was advertised primarily through the Listserv, as well as through word of mouth and other informal means of communication. Approximately 173 email addresses received the survey, which was announced multiple times, with 31 people responding. Due to some members – or past members – having multiple email addresses, and not using email addresses that have remained on the Listserv, it is likely that 173 different individuals did not receive the survey. Nonetheless, it might be assumed that there are approximately 31 people who can be considered “involved” members of the ACJS, since they responded.

Of the 31 people who responded to the survey there was a significant demographic correlation. The average member is male, between the ages of 41 and 70 years of age, with a doctorate degree, and resides either within the province of Ontario or Quebec, where they work as either a college or university professor, or as a teacher of Jewish education (thus having an affiliation with an educational institution). Most of the respondents have been members for between 3 and 25 years, with the majority between 6 and 15 years.

On average, respondents appear to be pleased with ACJS initiatives and services, including the annual conference, journal, newsletter, bulletin, website, and Listserv, though some minor improvements could be made (see qualitative comments). The exception is the Twitter feed, as the vast majority of respondents do not use this resource. With regard to the annual ACJS conference, most respondents either attend every year, miss an occasional year, or do not attend at all, which showed that irregular or occasional attendance is rare. Of those who attend the annual conference, most would like to see the ACJS continue to

have it as an annual event associated with Congress, regardless of Congress' location.

According to the respondents, professional scholarship is an important priority. This is not surprising, considering that the majority of respondents were academics. Programming (events, etc.) is also valued, but was not ranked as highly as professional scholarship. The majority of respondents would like to see Canadian Jewish studies promoted, alongside an increase in ACJS membership, and a more developed marketing strategy.

Most respondents did not have any interest in fundraising for the ACJS, nor expertise or background to do so. In general, respondents were enthusiastic about promotional activities related to Canadian Jewish studies, and the ACJS's image and membership; however, these possibilities will require further financial resources. In terms of willingness to volunteer for the ACJS, respondents were divided, with a fairly equal three-way breakdown between "yes", "no", and "no response". With a minority of respondents unwilling to volunteer their time for the ACJS, this compounds the challenge of accomplishing goals related to the promotion of Canadian Jewish Studies and ACJS membership since the prospect of significant fundraising is unlikely. While respondents were divided between definitively being willing or not willing to donate regularly to the ACJS, a significant minority responded with "maybe". The ACJS board should further explore how those "maybes" might be converted into a "yes".

A majority of respondents believe that the size of the Board of Directors, which is currently ten positions, is an appropriate size. By and large, there was indifference to consciously balancing the board's demographics with respect to geography, gender, language (Anglo/Francophone), or profession.

In 2017, Canada will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation. Most respondents felt that the ACJS should do something to honour and recognize this event. Suggestions included a special conference or conference theme for that year, a special publication, a book, a special reception at Congress for that year, and/or an online or traveling exhibit. This should be discussed further as soon as possible so that preparations can begin.

Many of the respondents would like to see the ACJS partner with other organizations on initiatives of common interest. Recommendations included university programs in Canadian studies and Canadian Jewish studies, historical and genealogical societies, public libraries, the Association for Jewish Studies, the Canadian Historical Association, synagogues, and Jewish schools. Again, this is something that should be discussed further.

A majority of respondents would like to see the ACJS reach out to Jewish parochial schools and synagogue Sunday schools to engage them in Canadian Jewish

studies curriculum and pedagogy. Again, this is something that should be discussed further with the members regarding approach and opportunities.

Additional discussion points for the next Annual General Meeting are:

- Do we need to diversify the appeal and image of Canadian Jewish studies and the ACJS? If so, how will this be achieved? If there are insufficient financial resources or too few members willing to volunteer to accomplish these ends, how will that be resolved?
- How can we improve membership retention? Currently, the most significant loss is during/after the first and second years.
- Committee Chairs should review the data sections specific to their purview, especially the journal, newsletter, and membership.

In addition to reviewing the quantitative results of the survey, members are encouraged to read the qualitative responses, as they are illuminating and informative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry L. Stiefel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barry L. Stiefel
ACJS President

2015 ACJS Survey Questions

Getting to Know You

1. What is your age? (check one)
2. What is your highest level of education (completed or in progress)?
3. What is your gender?
4. Where do you live? (check one)
5. What is your occupation?
6. What is your professional affiliation?
7. How/why did you first become interested in the ACJS?
8. How long have you been a member of the ACJS?
9. Are you still interested in the ACJS for the same reasons? If they are not the same, what are your current reasons for being involved?

ACJS Services

1. What is your level of satisfaction with the following ACJS initiatives? 1 is not satisfied and 5 is highly satisfied.
Annual Meeting/Conference, Journal, Newsletter, Twitter Feed, Website, listserv, Membership Renewal Process
2. For areas where you marked your satisfaction as being 1-2, what could be done to improve your experience?
3. What is the ACJS doing well?
4. Do you believe that the ACJS should be offering more services/programs/initiatives than it is currently? If so, what can the ACJS do to be better?

ACJS Conference

1. How frequently do you attend the ACJS conference?
2. Should the ACJS continue to meet once a year, or at a different interval (such as once every two years)?
3. Should the ACJS continue to meet at Congress, or plan its conferences independently?
4. If Congress is being held in a location where there is no organized Jewish community, would you be in favour of the ACJS hosting our conference separately in a city that does have a Jewish community, or postponing the conference until the following year? Why or why not?

Membership

1. Do you have any suggestions for how the ACJS might recruit additional members?
2. How can we better retain our current members and re-attract past members?
3. a. What should the ACJS' priorities be? Please rate from 1-6, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.
Professional Scholarship, Programming, Membership, Promoting Canadian Jewish Studies, Promoting Canadian Jewish Heritage, Other.
b. If you ranked "Other" as 1-3, what should the ACJS' priorities be?

Electronic Communication/Media

1. a. Do you visit the ACJS website?
b. If "Yes", does the website provide sufficient and up to date information on the ACJS/Canadian Jewish studies?
2. a. Do you visit/follow the ACJS on Twitter?
b. If "Yes", does the Twitter feed provide sufficient and up to date information on the ACJS/Canadian Jewish studies?
3. a. Do you use email as a means of communication for activities related to the ACJS?
b. If "Yes" is the listserv well managed?
4. Should the ACJS have a communications/marketing strategy?

Journal

1. Is the annual publication of the Canadian Jewish Studies frequent enough?
2. Do you have a preference for special issues or regular issues?
3. Do you have a suggestion for journal topics/themes?

Newsletter

1. **a.** Is the biannual publication of the Bulletin newsletter sufficient?
b. If “No”, would you prefer to receive the Bulletin once a year, or more than once a year?
2. What format of the newsletter do you prefer reading?
Hard copy – sent by mail, Digital copy – sent by email, Digital copy – downloaded from website
3. **a.** Would you have any interest in placing a paid advertisement in the newsletter?
b. If “Yes”, how much would you be willing to pay per advertisement? Advertisements would both announce your service/product and raise money for the ACJS

Financial

1. Do you have any interest in helping raise funds for the ACJS?
2. Do you have any expertise or resources that could assist in raising funds? If yes, please explain.
3. Would you be willing to donate regularly to the ACJS as a preferred charity? Not only would your donations be greatly appreciated, but they would also be tax deductible in Canada.

Executive and Board of Directors

1. Presently there are nine permanent positions on the Executive Committee, though some positions have co-chairs. Do you feel that any of these positions are unnecessary? Check all that apply.
Journal Editor, Bulletin Editor, Communities and Archives Chair, Membership Chair, Programs and Conference Chair, Book Review Editor, Academic Committee Chair, Finance Chair, Nominations Chair.
2. Do you feel that there is a new position that should be permanently added? If so, why?
3. Presently there are ten positions on the Board of Directors. Do you feel that this is an appropriate size?
If “No”, what would be a better number?
4. **a.** Should those who sit on the Board of Directors be balanced with respect to demographics, such as geography, gender, age, Anglophone/Francophone, profession, etc.?
Yes, the Board of Directors should be balanced with respect to demographics
No, demographics do not matter as long as all Board members are qualified
b. If you answered “Yes” to Question #4a, what demographic aspects are the most important on a scale of 1-5? 1 being least important and 5 being most important.
Geography, Gender, Anglophone/Francophone, Profession, Other

Additional Programming and Outreach

1. **a.** The year 2017 will mark the 150th anniversary of Canada. Should the ACJS do anything special to observe this occasion?
b. If “Yes”, what types of events and/or initiatives would you be interested in?
2. **a.** Should the ACJS partner with other organizations in a more active way?
b. If “Yes”, which organizations and why?
3. Should the ACJS reach out to Jewish parochial schools and synagogue Sunday schools across Canada to engage them in Canadian Jewish Studies curriculum and pedagogy?

ACJS Mandate

1. We are looking to establish the ACJS as a more active organization in the next five years. How would you like to see this accomplished?

2.
 - a. Would you be willing to volunteer for the ACJS?
 - b. If “Yes”, in what ways?
3.
 - a. According to the bylaws, the purpose of the ACJS is to “... be a national organization established to enable and facilitate the pursuit of the study of the Canadian Jewish experience in all its aspects”. After considering your answers to this survey, do you think the ACJS needs to reconsider its purpose/mission?
 - b. If “Yes”, what would you like to see in the new mission? Do you think the mandate should be focused on something different?
4. Please provide any additional comments, suggestions, input or information.

Contact Information (Optional)

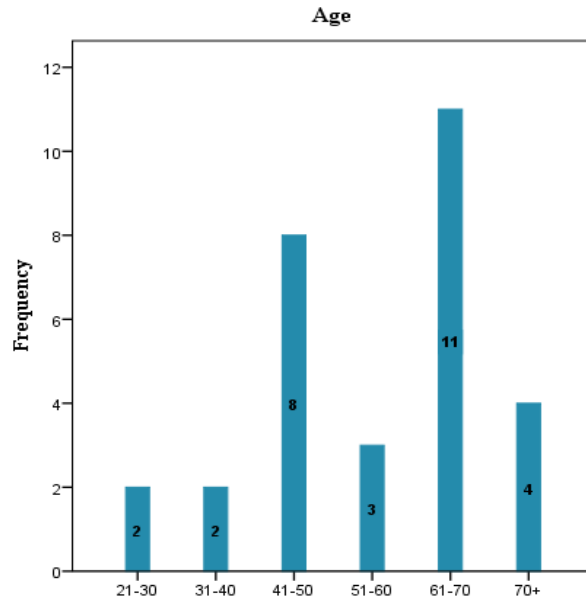
First Name, Last Name, Title, Telephone No. , Email Address, Mailing Address

SURVEY RESPONSES

Getting to Know You

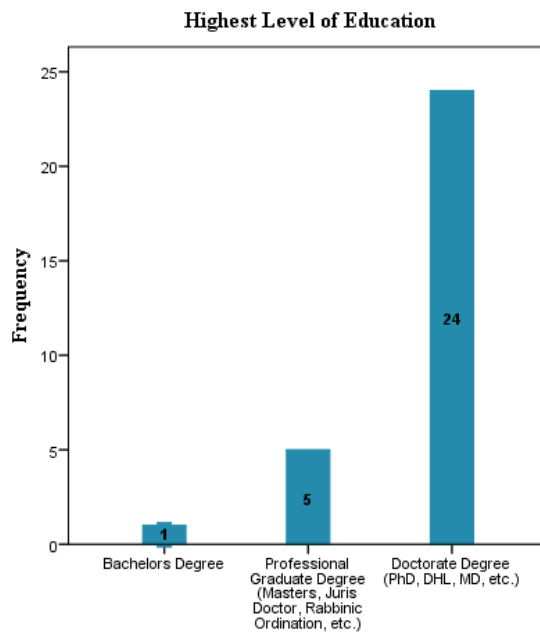
What is your age?

37% of respondents are 61-70, 27% of respondents are 41-50, 13% of respondents are 70+, 10% of respondents are 51-60, 7% of respondents are 21-30, and 7% of respondents are 31-40.



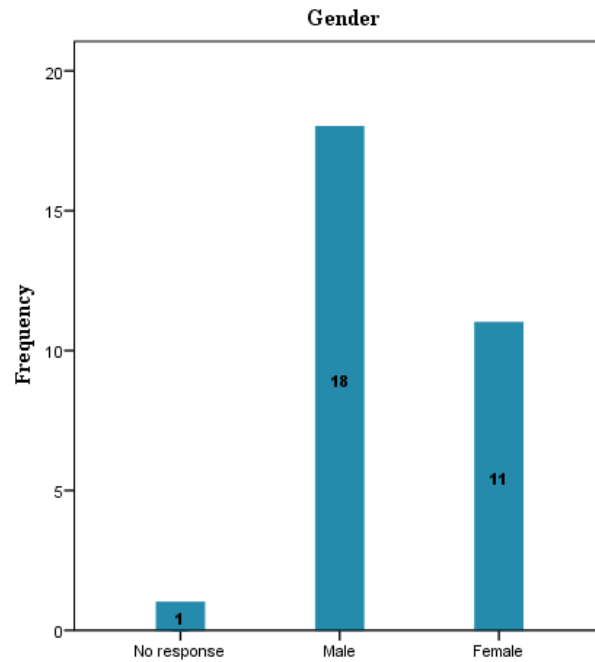
What is your highest level of education (completed or in progress)?

80% of respondents are PhD's, 17% of respondents have professional graduate degrees, and 3% have bachelor's degrees.



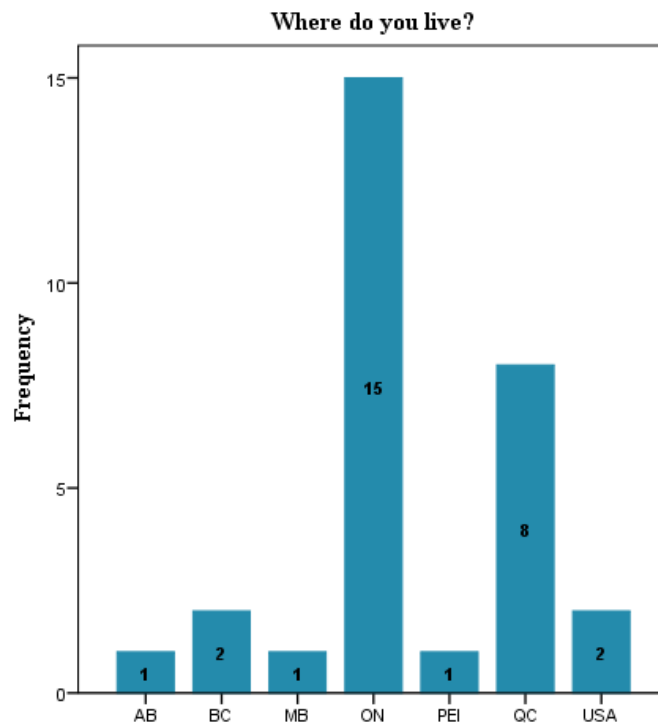
What is your gender?

60% of respondents are men, 37% of respondents are women, and 3% did not respond.



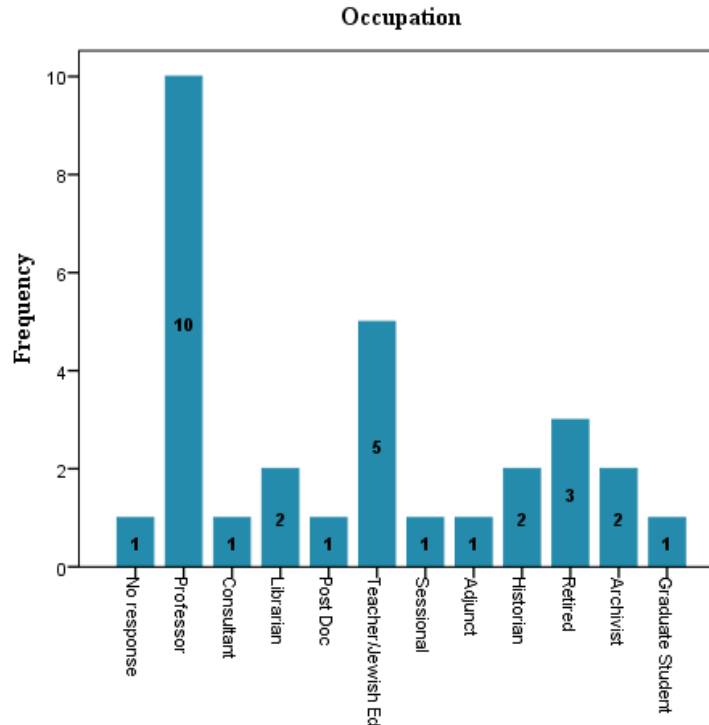
Where do you live (check one)?

50% of respondents live in Ontario, 27% of respondents live in Quebec, 7% of respondents live in the USA, 7% of respondents live in BC, 3% of respondents live in Alberta, 3% of respondents live in Manitoba and 3% of respondents live in PEI.



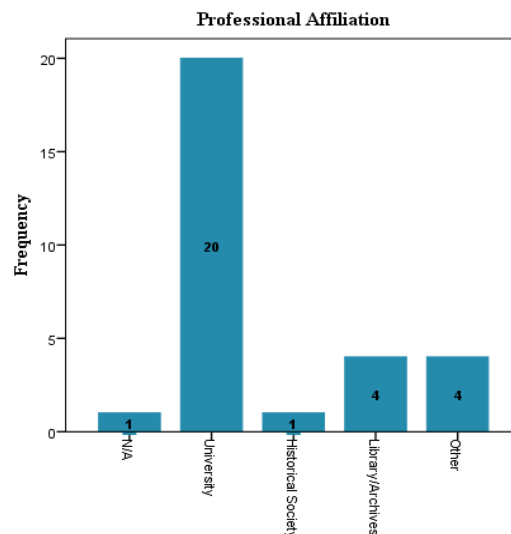
What is your occupation?

33% of respondents are professors, 17% of respondents are teachers or work in Jewish education, 10% of respondents are retired, 7% of respondents are librarians, 7% of respondents are archivists, 7% of respondents are historians, 3% of respondents are consultants, 3% of respondents are post docs, 3% of respondents are sessionals, 3% of respondents are adjuncts, 3% of respondents are graduate students, and 3% did not respond.



What is your professional affiliation?

67% of respondents are professionally affiliated with universities, 13% of respondents are professionally affiliated with libraries and archives, 13% of respondents are professionally affiliated with "other", 3% of respondents are professionally affiliated with historical societies, and 3% of respondents are not professionally affiliated.



How/why did you first become interested in the ACJS?

AND

Are you still interested in the ACJS for the same reasons?

"In university" – "Yes"

"I've always had an interest in Jewish history" – "Yes"

"Invited to join by the late Abe Arnold" – "Academic interest in the field."

"My graduate work and research is in Canadian Jewish studies"

"I've been a member for quite some time. I was drawn to the organization based on scholarly interests and connection to the Canadian Jewish community."

"Recruited by A. Arnold. Those of us who work in Jewish Canadian Studies need a professional organization that helps sustain our presence as an academic and cultural discipline and field." – "Yes"

"Graduate student in Jewish Studies"

"Looking for a connection with Judaism and wanted an intellectual one" – "Yes"

"I was thinking it was one of my professors during my doctorate degree that encouraged me to get involved. At first it was an opportunity to participate in conferences as a student, and travel across Canada. Travel subsidies for students was a big factor." – "Currently I am interested in ACJS because it is a welcoming place for people to get involved in Canadian Jewish studies. I am mostly interested in developing the journal and public profile of the organization through social media."

"Word of mouth" – "Never had a high level of interest. Interest level hasn't changed"

"I'm a practitioner" – "Yes"

"My research focuses on sociology and Jewish Studies" – "Yes"

"I study Canadian Jewish history and have enjoyed attending some of the ACJS conferences" – "Yes"

"I was looking for organizations to become involved with when I began my academic career for purposes of scholarship and service" – "Yes"

"Don't remember" – "I guess"

"Someone recommended the journal to me." – "Now it's mostly the colleagues. There are so few people interested in Jewish Canadian studies. It's great to have people I can call on with questions or just who show interest in my work."

"PhD in Jewish Studies, focus on Canada, especially Quebec and Montreal" – "My interests have branched out but I still want to stay in touch with developments in Canadian Jewish Studies."

"I have previously been a member and am still on the mailing list." – "I am still very interested in the ACJS; however, I have not been a member for at least a decade. I teach literature courses with Jewish content."

"Through my involvement with the Canadian Jewish Historical Society I became interested in the broader format of the ACJS" – "I care more now for continuing to be involved in an academic forum for research into the history, sociology, and anthropology of Canadian Jewry. I also am interested in

supporting efforts of Canadian scholars and grad students in Jewish Studies in general.”

“Was interested in American Jewish history first, then moved to Canada” – “Professional development, promotion of scholarship in CJS, making CJS relevant to Canadian Jews, making CJS relevant to scholars of modern Jewry.”

“I researched Canadian Jewry in college”

“Thought it would be a suitable venue for presenting a paper, interested in the general area of Canadian Jewish Studies” – “Same”

“Through research for my Doctorate” – “Yes”

“Became a member when I moved to Montreal to do my PhD at Concordia. Got involved through Ira Robinson.” – “I am still interested in Canadian Jewish studies – but when one is no longer “attached” to an academic milieu, it is that much harder to stay informed of current research. The Bulletin is helpful for this and the listserv on occasion, but more could be done with the website in this regard – maybe a researcher’s corner or something.”

“I work for a Jewish archive.” – “Yes”

“A member connected me with it.”

“As I neared retirement, I began to reorient my focus from European history to local history.” – “Yes”

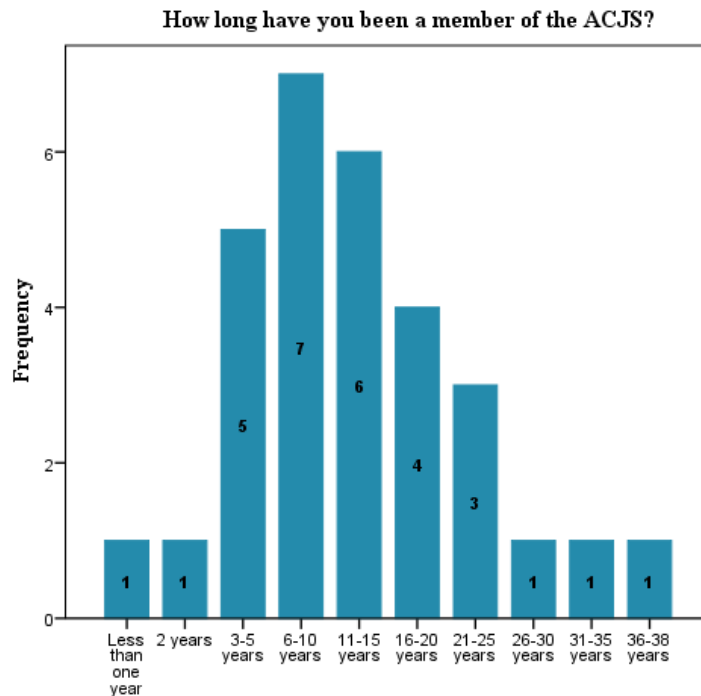
“Comes with the job” – “I like to monitor what scholars are doing in the field so that I can better assist them in their research.”

“My interest in Canadian Jewish history led me to the ACJS. It was after attending my first conference that I realized the importance of the association and how it acted as a forum to present research of value in this field.” – “Yes – same reasons!”

“I was introduced to the ACJS by two professors who I did a Holocaust commemoration and memorialization field school with when I was in undergrad. They were organizing a panel on the field school for the ACJS conference and asked me to come and speak about my experiences. I was so excited to discover that there was an academic association for Jewish Studies on/in Canada!” – “I am still very excited that there is an academic association on/in Jewish Studies in Canada! I love hearing about everyone’s research and learning things about different Jewish communities across the country.”

How long have you been a member of the ACJS?

23% of respondents have been ACJS members for 6-10 years, 20% of respondents have been ACJS members for 11-15 years, 17% of respondents have been ACJS members for 3-5 years, 13% of respondents have been ACJS members for 16-20 years, 10% of respondents have been ACJS members for 21-25 years, 3% of respondents have been ACJS members for less than one year, 3% of respondents have been ACJS members for 2 years, 3% of respondents have been ACJS members for 26-30 years, 3% of respondents have been ACJS members for 31-35 years, and 3% of respondents have been ACJS members for 36-38 years.

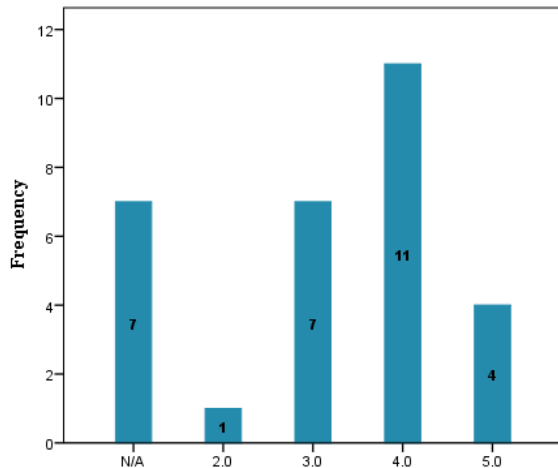


ACJS Services

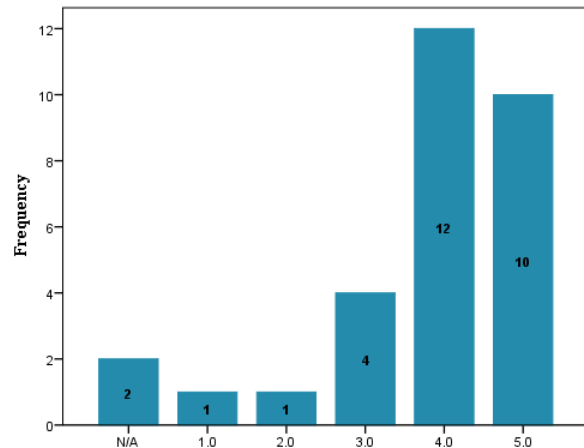
What is your level of satisfaction with the following ACJS initiatives? 1 is not satisfied and 5 is highly satisfied.

Annual Meeting/Conference, Journal, Newsletter, Twitter Feed, Website, Listserv, Membership Renewal Process

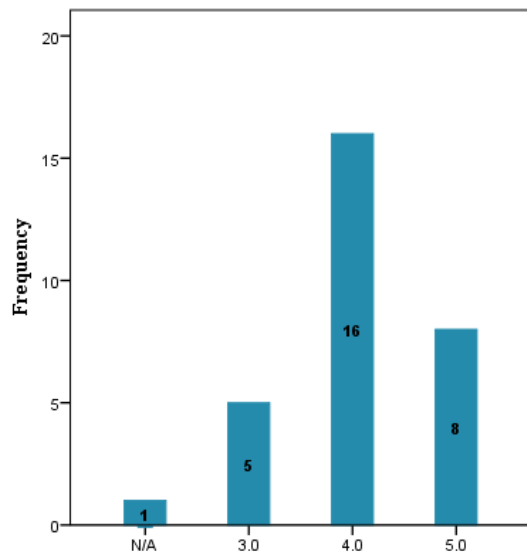
On a scale from 1-5, how satisfied are you with the ACJS annual meeting and conference?
(1=Not satisfied, 5=Very satisfied)



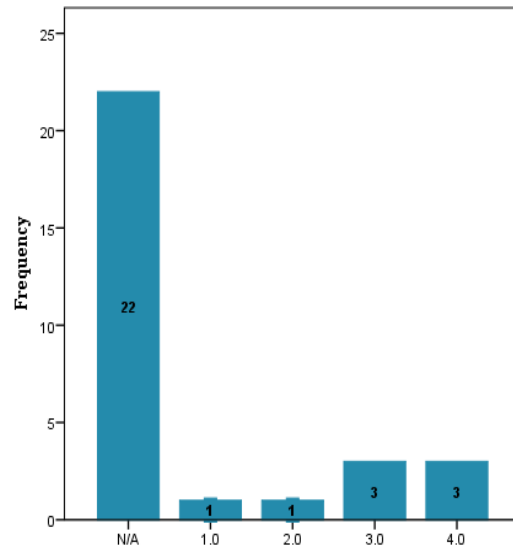
On a scale from 1-5, how satisfied are you with the ACJS journal, Canadian Jewish Studies?
(1=Not satisfied, 5=Very satisfied)

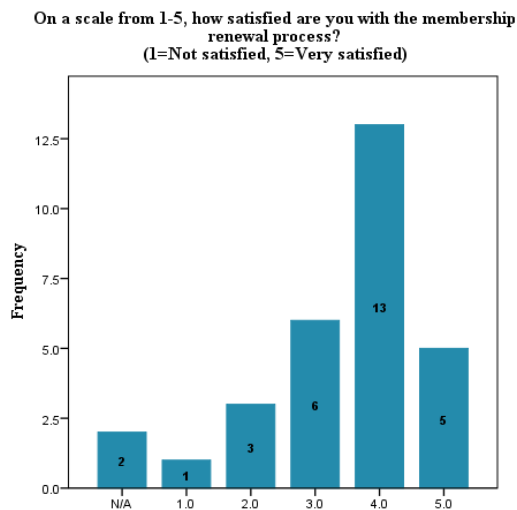
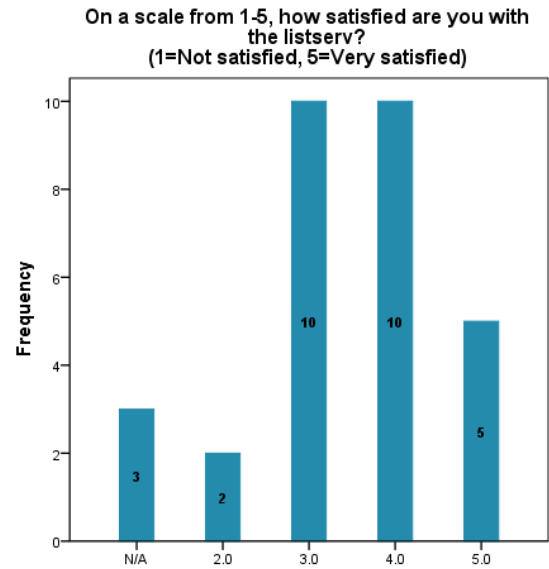
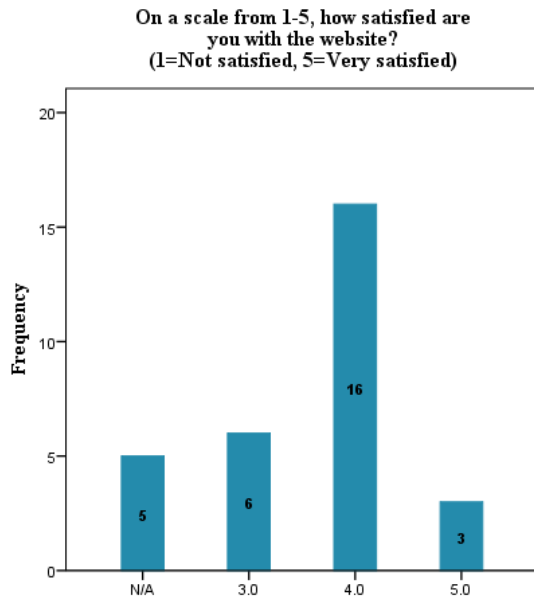


On a scale from 1-5, how satisfied are you with the ACJS newsletter?
(1=Not satisfied, 5=Very satisfied)



On a scale from 1-5, how satisfied are you with the Twitter feed?
(1=Not satisfied, 5=Very satisfied)





For areas where you marked your satisfaction as being 1-2, what could be done to improve your experience?

“Journal - not consistent, Twitter - Do not find necessary, Membership – disorganized”

“I am not very active on Twitter.”

“The journal is too conservatively edited and is also not comprehensive enough covering all the various areas of Jewish Canadian Studies. A more inclusive and comprehensive journal is required so that all publications in the field are noted, reviewed and/or highlighted.”

“Use Canada Post.”

“Conference would have to be better attended with better quality papers. I'd also like more and better quality work submitted to the journal.”

“Wish it were easier to renew from US. Paypal system did not work last time I tried to use it.”

"Annual meeting - over three years we have gone from a very well attended meeting with a diverse group of people, to a more modest meeting in Victoria, to a rather poorly attended meeting this year. Sure hopes this improves, if our members (and executive) don't find it worthwhile to attend, it does not say much for where we are going. Also, there could be more continuous attendance so that there is more of an ongoing and developing discussion forum. (I marked this as a 3 because it ranged from 2-4 (or perhaps 1-5) over the years). This is not an adverse comment on the organization of the meetings, just the attendance."

"More connection with local historical societies. Notification of publications (books, articles, lectures) via the newsletter. Greater participation/involvement of the Jewish Studies Programmes. Reaching out to undergraduates taking courses in Can Jew Studs. Increasing the attendance at the Annual Meeting, especially students. Building a fund to help students attend the Annual Meeting even if they are not giving a paper."

"Most of what comes over the listserv is Toronto or Montreal related - award events that are not around the corner for most of us on the listserve. I'm not sure if this is a good use of the listserve or if there should another listserv just announcing "events". It's original premise was to inform membership of happenings between Bulletin printings. It is rarely informative today in the same way - information is provided but as I noted - it is of limited use to many of us. "

"Membership renewal process is unclear to me. When I was flagged as being in need of a renewal I asked that a form be sent to my mailing address and it never appeared."

"The Listserv could have a more design-conscious template - perhaps one that coordinates with the website"

What is the ACJS doing well?

"Conferences"

"Keeping scholars in the field aware of the work of colleagues across Canada"

"Journal, Bulletin, Annual meeting"

"The leadership is extremely strong. My only concern would be the loss of buy in from the members especially when it comes to volunteering and attending the conferences. The challenge then is to engage current members and attract new ones."

"Keeping itself afloat and sustaining itself in a time of tzimzum of funding and competition of interests."

"Conference"

"Giving opportunities to young members."

"Most things"

"The listserve is a good outlet for finding out about new research in Canadian Jewish studies, calls for papers for Canadian Jewish studies, and professional development. The papers presented at the annual conference are always very interesting and provides a good outlet for networking with other scholars doing work on Canadian Jewish studies."

"Provides a good way for scholars of Canadian Jewish studies to speak to one another. The journal is good. The annual conferences are good"

"The people/members are very welcoming to new people"

"Dunno, nothing in particular that I can think, but it also isn't doing anything badly that I can think of."

"Considering the size of the organization, I would say it's doing things pretty well! The journal continues to be a highlight."

"Keeping us informed about its activities."

"Providing a forum for learning by and about Cdn Jewry. Providing grad students with a place to present their research. Organizing conferences at the Learned's that also reflect and impact local Jewry."

"Providing a forum for scholars, professionals and lay people to intersect"

"Nice to see fine scholars honored!"

"The journal is good and our editors are doing a good job."

"Everything else." ** Respondent identified the following areas in need of improvement: more connection with historical societies, notification of publications via Bulletin, Jewish Studies program involvement, reaching out to undergrads, attendance at Annual Meeting, funds for students to attend Annual Meeting (even if they aren't giving a paper)

"The conferences continue to be an excellent format for learning about what others are doing in the field. The Bulletin has been an excellent source of information, and the journal is also quite good - the essays reflect the changes taking place in the field, as much as the choice of essays reflect the interests and concerns of its editor(s)."

"The conference."

"Studying Jewish History in Canada."

"Providing forums to further and promote Canadian Jewish Studies."

"See above." ** Respondent is referring to their level of satisfaction ranking: Annual Meeting/Conference 5, Journal 5, Newsletter 4, Twitter Feed N/A, Website 4, Listserv 3, Membership Renewal Process 4

"The ACJS is doing very well with the journal and pretty well with the conference."

Do you believe that the ACJS should be offering more services/programs/initiatives than it is currently? If so, what can the ACJS do to be better?

"Promotion of Jewish Studies"

"Perhaps special programs or on-line initiatives but I understand why that may not be possible due to the limited funds and resources available right now."

"Yes, a more comprehensive journal would be welcome."

We should also maintain a list of member 'speakers' who can offer presentations to a wide variety of community and other venues. We don't do enough to project ourselves beyond narrow professional conferences and forums."

"In general, I think it should continue improving the ones we currently have. However, I think the organization needs to have a central vision for its relevance and longevity. A central problem is about membership - can we attract enough new membership, and active volunteers to sustain ourselves? This is tied to the decreasing job market for academics in general - and positions for Jewish studies scholar included."

"No."

"Outreach to people not in universities."

"Define 'Canadian Jewish Studies'. Is that Jewish studies by Canadians? In a Canadian context? only Canada-related subjects (the latter, to me, is not a helpful mandate)"

"Not necessarily more, but the conference needs some kind of re-boot. Run every second year instead of annually? More outreach and aggressively putting together panels? Not sure what, but it's a bit stale now and we need to re-think."

"Better connections with younger, alternative scholars; more open to diversity of perspective, not just historical"

"If possible, yes. There are very few, if any, being offered in BC."

"More active promoting of scholarship on Jewish subjects by Canadianists, creating opportunities for scholars to dialogue & produce work comparing Canada & other countries' Jewries, offering financial incentives / prizes / scholarships for grad students or post-docs and researchers, helping to bring together museum people, archivists, scholars and donors to build a Canadian Jewish Museum, increased website/fb/twitter activity to engage younger scholars and students, partnering with institutions to offer lectures/speaker's bureau and help support travel for scholars & lectures."

"Maybe we should be doing what we already do better, rather than taking on more."

*"As above" ** Respondent identified the following areas in need of improvement: more connection with historical societies, notification of publications via Bulletin, Jewish Studies program involvement, reaching out to undergrads, attendance at Annual Meeting, funds for students to attend Annual Meeting (even if they aren't giving a paper), referring to these rankings in their "Everything else" answer to what the ACJS is doing well*

"Yes - more could be done with the website - it does not need to be so static - it could have a sign in for discussion posts since the listserve does not see that as its role."

Also perhaps in those cities where there are Canadian Jewish Study courses the ACJS could encourage them to do outreach and awareness raising about Canadian Jewry beyond their student body."

"I can't think of what it would do."

"Reach out more to students and potential new members. Promote ACJS in Can J Studies and Can History / Sociology / etc. courses and departments."

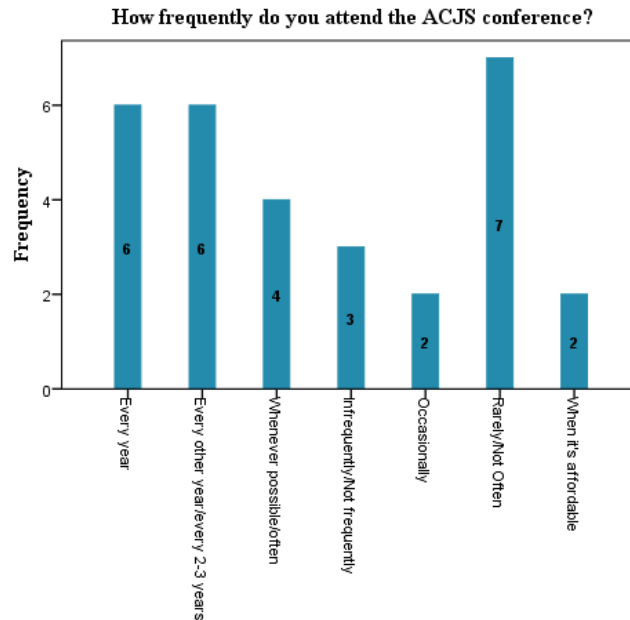
"At this point in time I have 'slowed down' a great deal and I think this question is best answered by the younger members of the association."

"The ACJS could work to improve its outreach, and be more energetic and engaged. Encouraging more involvement from historical societies and engaging more students might be a good start."

ACJS Conference

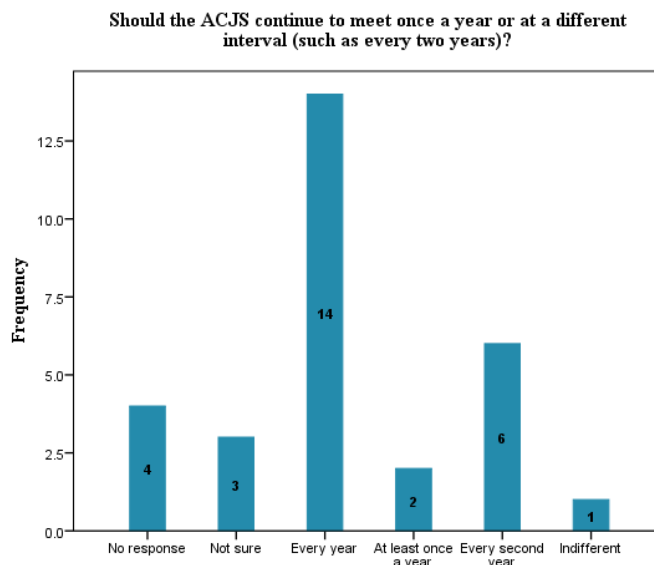
How frequently do you attend the ACJS conference?

23% of respondents rarely attend the conference, 20% attend every year, 20% attend every other year/every 2-3 years, 13% attend whenever possible/often, 10% attend infrequently/not frequently, 7% attend occasionally, and 7% attend when it's affordable.



Should the ACJS continue to meet once a year or at a different interval (such as once every two years)?

47% of respondents are in favour of the ACJS continuing to meet once a year, 20% would prefer to meet every two years, 10% are not sure, 7% would like to meet at least once a year, 3% are indifferent, and 13% did not respond.



Plus the following comments...

“Meeting more frequently would be good if we have a more ambitious agenda”

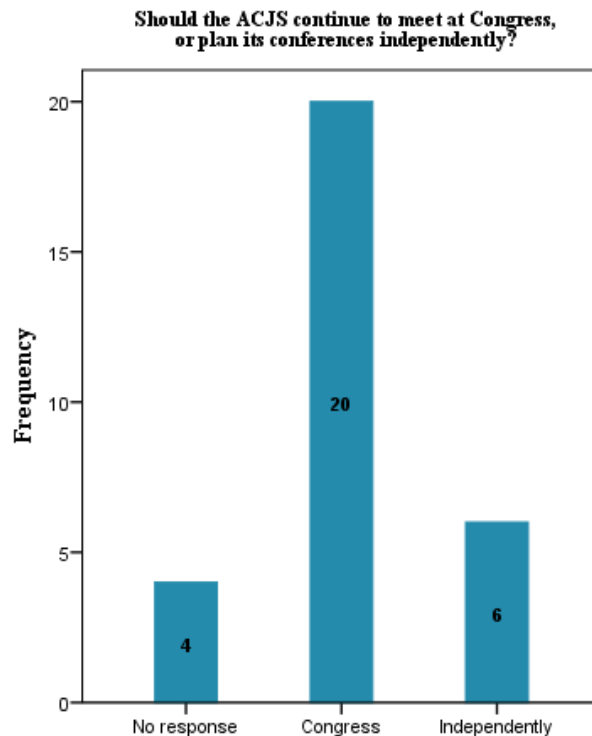
“Every two years will lighten the burden of the person co-ordinating the conference and it would increase the likelihood (I would hope) if more papers to share and more people attending.”

“Once a year if enough interest and papers”

“Annual meetings are still best, in my opinion”

Should the ACJS continue to meet at Congress or plan its conferences independently?

67% of respondents are in favour of continuing to meet at Congress, 20% would prefer to plan conferences separately, and 13% did not respond.



If Congress is being held in a location where there is no organized Jewish community, would you be in favour of the ACJS hosting our conference separately in a city that does have a Jewish community or postponing the conference until the following year? Why or why not?

“Should be independent - more control over location and region.”

“I think it should be held in the same city as the Congress”

“This is an idea that should be seriously considered.”

"There is likely a need to make a strategic decision each year and determine if the numbers will suffer by holding the conference in a city that doesn't have a Jewish community. While St. Catharines only has a very small community, it is close to Toronto, but that didn't seem to bolster attendance."

"Yes. We should consider a schedule of our own, perhaps connected to a bi-annual theme or focus for a wide ranging conference that would attract students, faculty, and members of the public. We need to widen the range of our reach..."

"Stay with Congress"

"If we stick to larger cities, we get more delegates, simply because many of our members live in bigger cities. However, I think we need the consistency of hosting the conference annually and having it when and where Congress is at least means that delegates can attend other meetings too."

"Good question. Being aligned with Congress has a lot of benefits in that people might be participating in multiple sessions at once. It also gives ACJS more academic credibility."

On the other hand, we may get more participants with better turn out if we hold conferences in the bigger cities. The question is better linked to where are the centres of Canadian Jewish Studies rather than where is there an organized Jewish community (although those are usually linked).

I'm ambivalent on this question."

"Either"

"No. It is not necessary to hold the ACJS conference in a location where there is an established and sizeable Jewish community. The conference acts as a place where academics who do work on Canadian Jewish studies can share their research and get feedback from other scholars in the field on their research."

"Postponing until the following year"

"Yes. Turn outs at the annual conference are low when there is no Jewish community near by."

"Please give a "no opinion" or "other" or "sometimes" etc alternative for question 3 above. Yes or no is not useful."

The Folklore Studies Association of Canada decides on a year-by-year basis. We meet with Congress every two or three years and separately the other times. I don't see why it has to be either-or. And if outside Congress I would think a community with few or no Jews would be interesting, as scholars."

"Working with the community has been very successful in some places. I think finding a place that is eager to host us may be a better fit. So actually a combination of Congress/Independent would be good. I think the spill-over effect from people at other conferences coming to ACJS is mostly people who don't bother to pay for our conference, so not sure they're adding anything."

"ACJS is part of a wider community of scholarly inquiry; the benefits flowing from this go back and forth, at least potentially, making connections with other "ethnic studies" or other related fields. share the wealth of what we have so wonderfully to offer and learn from others as well"

"Yes. For those who rely on being close to a synagogue and having access to kosher food, being in a city without those facilities precludes their attending."

"Very strongly. I think we are almost an afterthought to the Learneds, but we can have far more impact in an organized Jewish community. But let's remember that some smaller communities, like

Windsor and Hamilton are organized too and shouldn't be overlooked merely because they are "small", especially since these smaller communities are often more interested in our presentations. In Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, we are just another bunch of Jewish academics making speeches."

"Yes. Community engagement should be ramped up. Funding opportunities, relevancy"

"If we are associated with the Congress (as we should be as a scholarly society), then we should be meeting with the Congress regardless of location. Some of us have interests in more than one association, and cannot afford either time or money to travel to various individual associations. Surely we benefit by participating with other societies and the various plenary events at Congress (including e.g. the book displays). To me the presence of a local organized Jewish community is an add on, not the core of the Society's purpose."

"I'm strongly in favour of keeping the Conference at the Congress. It gives the Association its necessary academic standing and allows Congress attendees who aren't affiliated with the Association to attend meetings. In some years, the support and turnout from the organized Jewish community is negligible."

"3. I think this is a financial decision. It requires more thought than just voting for Congress or to be independent. There is also the fact that for some members it is an opportunity to attend their other societies.

4. The lack of an organized Jewish Community means no community day but if this also means fewer participants and fewer people to hear the papers presenting, then it makes sense to postpone til the following year (providing it is to a city with an organized Jewish presence)" ** *There wasn't a 1. or 2. that appeared with these.*

"I think it makes sense to host in a location with a pre-existing Jewish community due to the nature of ACJS"

"This is a nutty idea. The ACJS events should take place alongside the other conference events."

"I appreciated the one meeting I attended and I would be happy to attend others if the cost were lower. Most of the costs are out of ACJS'S control: airfare and accommodation. The extra fee for the Learned's is a nuisance but not a serious obstacle. I'm happy with the dorms.. My problem is really living away from the Ontario-Quebec area where the bulk of the membership live. I would have driven to Saskatchewan when the Learned's were held there but something came up and i couldn't manage."

"Yes, re separate hosting or postponing because I think a larger turnout and program provides a more fulfilling conference experience. Though if not held at the Congress the conference may be perceived as just another big-city colloquium where one drops in on a session or two - it might lose its unique appeal and focus as the general annual meeting for Canadian Jewish Studies. I also think it is important to have an annual face to face meeting to resolve issues, make policy changes, orient new officers, etc."

"I think the annual conference should continue to be held with Congress. There are synergies that arise from this, such as joint sessions co-sponsored by other scholarly associations. Skipping a year would imo (in my opinion) be a mistake. It would act to dilute the impetus of the research that our members are carrying out and reduce the importance of their using the ACJS conferences as place to present their work, work in progress, ideas, etc."

"No. First of all, there is an organized Jewish community in nearly every city that Congress is held in, and secondly, I think it's important for the ACJS to be a part of Congress and not isolate itself. Lastly, it's a kindness to people who are part of more than one association because they only have to make one trip. I think skipping a year or meeting every two years would fragment the association."

Membership

Do you have any suggestions for how the ACJS might recruit additional members?

"Encourage more university students to join and increase public membership"

"I would suggest focusing on students at different universities, particularly those that don't have a Jewish Studies program. In order to serve members better across the country perhaps it would be possible to rely on the Internet for programming and communication. For instance, one could hold meetings and mini conferences or other programs on-line."

"If we range out and make ourselves more conspicuous, as it were, we may attract more students, faculty, researchers, and members of the public who are willing to be associate supportive members."

"Expand its mandate? Is "Canadian Jewish" too narrow a scope?"

"I think people with faculty positions need to encourage interested students. This is the major way to encourage members.

Holding smaller events to promote our activities might also help."

"No"

"Encouraging Jewish societies on university campuses to encourage their members (undergraduate and graduate students and faculty) to join. Encouraging American associations, such as AJS members, Sephardi-Mizrahi Association, and Jewish studies graduate students and faculty across the US to join."

"Not sure"

"Offer \$1 memberships for students and senior citizens."

"I don't really know what it's doing now."

"Word of mouth. Provide an incentive. Reward (with a free membership for a year, perhaps) a person who signs up a new member. "

"Grad students need to be convinced that the conference is a venue where they will be noticed by important scholars and that the journal is prestigious enough for them to be published in."

"Targeted invites for scholars marginally associated with Jewish studies programs at Canadian universities. I.e. letters from colleagues and the President; organizing something at an AJS and publicizing the work of the ACJS at the AJS"

"As above, via greater input from the Jew Studs Programmes to their students and faculty. More visible exposure in the ethnic press. Stronger liaison with local federations - send them our newsletters, announcements, etc., making use so social networks."

"This goes back to the ACJS reaching out and being received by undergrad and grad programs in Canadian Jewish Studies as well as more of an effort being made to work with the various Jewish historical and archival societies.

ACJS needs to be interesting to the students of these programs"

"No"

"See previous comment about promotion in university departments and classes where topics related to Canadian Jewish Studies are discussed." ** Respondent is referring to their comment that "Reach out more to students and potential new members. Promote ACJS in Can J Studies and Can History / Sociology / etc. courses and departments."

"I think this is an ongoing activity that requires focusing on graduate and even undergraduate students, re-using past efforts after a few years have past, because there are new students who haven't been contacted before."

"1) Asking members to recommend individuals who have an interest in Canadian Jewish studies but are not yet involved
2) In person outreach at universities
3) Directly engaging Jewish Studies departments, particularly at the beginning of the academic year so that contact could be made with incoming graduate students with proposed courses of studies relating to Canadian Jewish Studies"

How can we better retain our current members and re-attract past members?

"Consistency and stronger public profile"

"Bring in as many volunteers as possible, particularly young students, and rely on them to promote the organization. Rather than informing or presenting to members, the most successful organizations today try to implement interactive programs that empower and involve participants. I would therefore cut back on scholars and heritage professionals telling audiences what they are doing and discovered and consider other alternatives that resonate with current and prospective members who range in age from 18-30."

"Go forward publicly and not just be an academic and professional organization linked only to university agenda and practices."

"Reminder phone calls"

"Not sure" (this comment appeared three times)

"Be flexible about the definition of "Canadian" in the name, see earlier answer"

"Keep them on the mailing list, and provide an incentive for them to resume their membership."

"I am not sure."

"More & better scholarship, more aggressive asking for renewal; perhaps personal emails/calls from the board; pursue more members at archives, historical societies & museums across Canada, partner with Canadian Heritage Network, seek to give talks/workshops with Federation professionals"

"Perhaps by making the annual meeting a more lively and broader venue for the presentation and discussion of scholarship on Canadian Jewish topics."

"First, ensuring that the journal doesn't have multiyear lags in its output. Second, see above."

"One of the issues with retention -- students would join to attend a conference and then the following year were no longer members. If the student has decided they are no longer remaining in the field there is not much one can do to retain them."

For those who do stay in the field and allow their membership to lapse - I guess it comes back how to initiate or stimulate interest in the ACJS between conferences."

“Timely Journal publication, interesting conference offerings, encouraging people to speak at conferences, facilitating transportation when small communities are involved. (St. Catherines was very hard to access for non-Ontario residents.)”

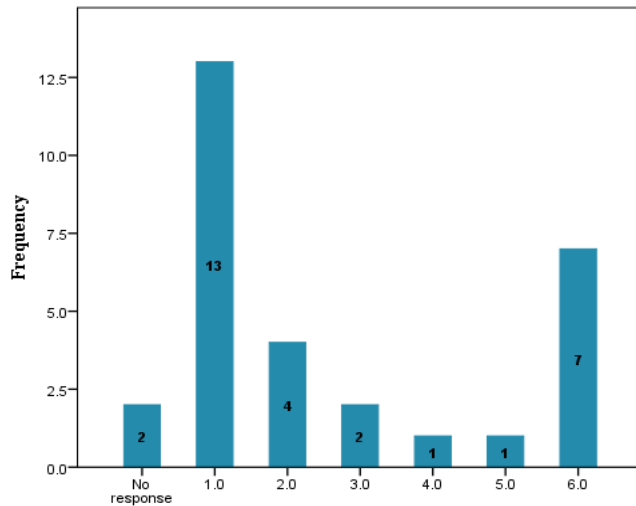
“This is a serious problem, but I’m afraid I cannot suggest anything you haven’t already heard - keep the publication of the Journal up to date!”

“Exciting conferences, stimulating material.”

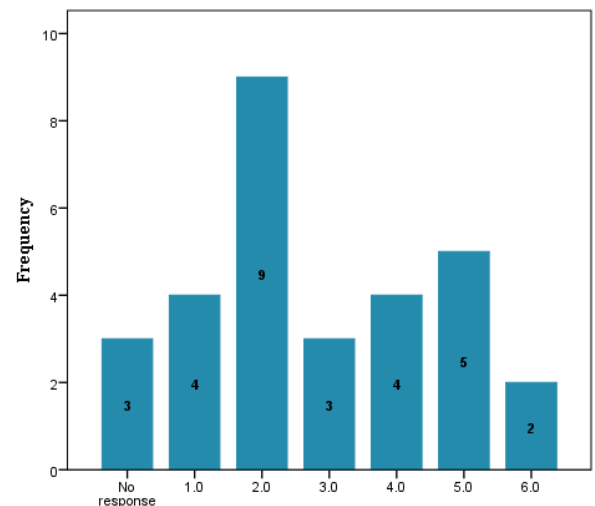
What should the ACJS’ priorities be? Please rate from 1-6 with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.

Professional Scholarship, Programming, Membership, Promoting Canadian Jewish Studies, Promoting Canadian Jewish Heritage, Other.

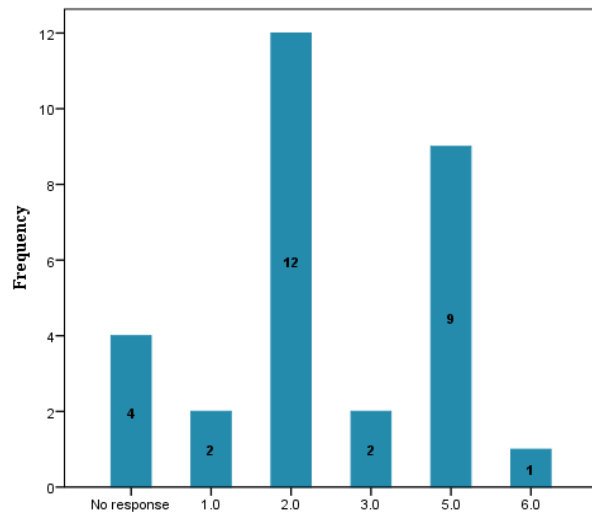
On a scale from 1-6, how important is professional scholarship?
(1=Most important, 6=Least important)



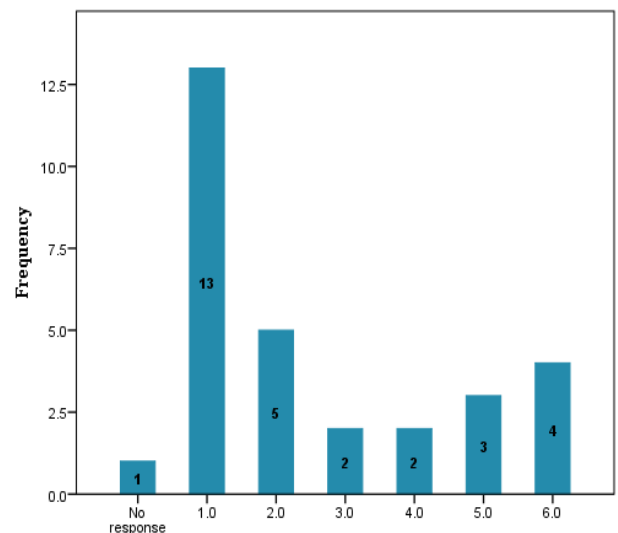
On a scale from 1-6, how important is programming?
(1=Most important, 6=Least important)



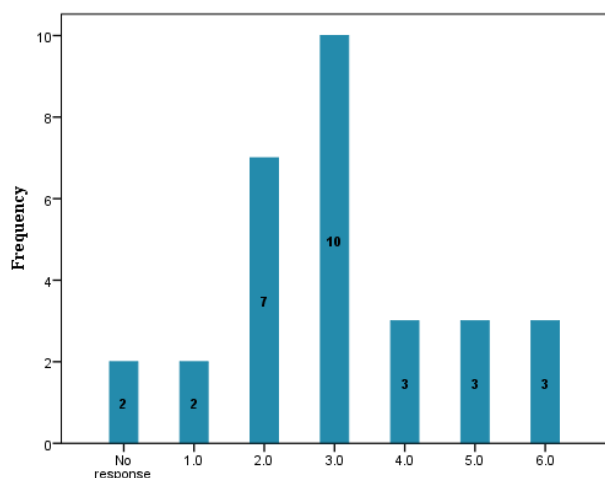
On a scale from 1-6, how important is membership?
(1=Most important, 6=Least important)



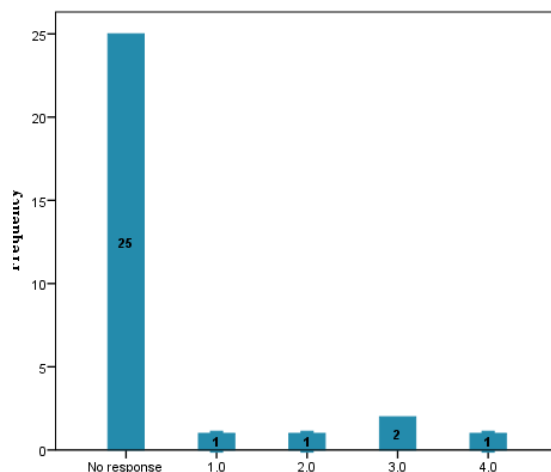
On a scale from 1-6, how important is promoting Canadian Jewish studies?
(1=Most important, 6=Least important)



On a scale from 1-6, how important is promoting Canadian Jewish heritage?
(1=Most important, 6=Least important)



On a scale from 1-6, how important are other priorities?
(1=Most important, 6=Least important)



If you ranked "Other" as 1-3, what should the ACJS' priorities be?

"Maintaining a speakers list or bureau."

"Collaboration with scholars in other countries"

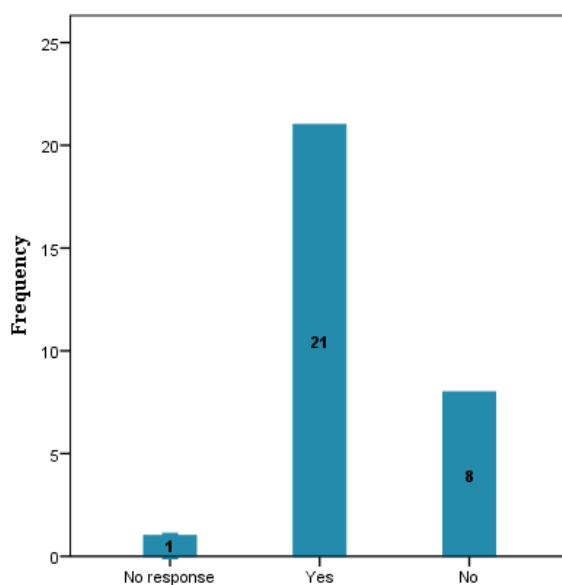
"Creating a forum for those presently interested to informally share ideas - much like the --I think it is called the H -Judaica list."

Electronic Communication/Media

Do you visit the ACJS website?

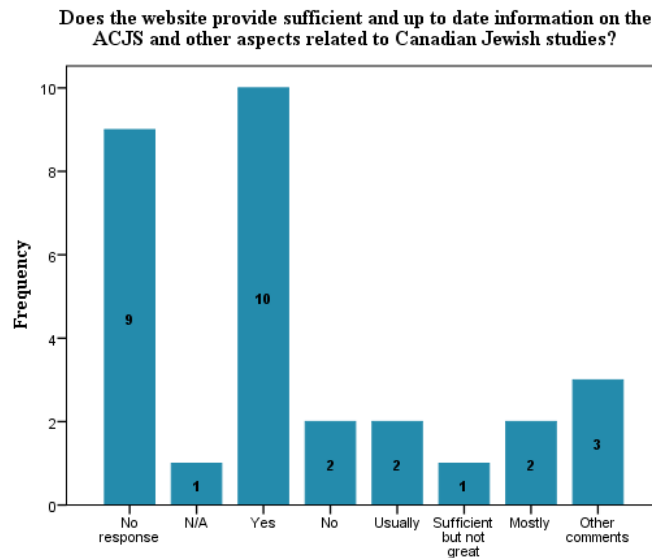
70% of respondents visit the ACJS website, 27% do not, and 3% did not respond.

Do you visit the ACJS website?



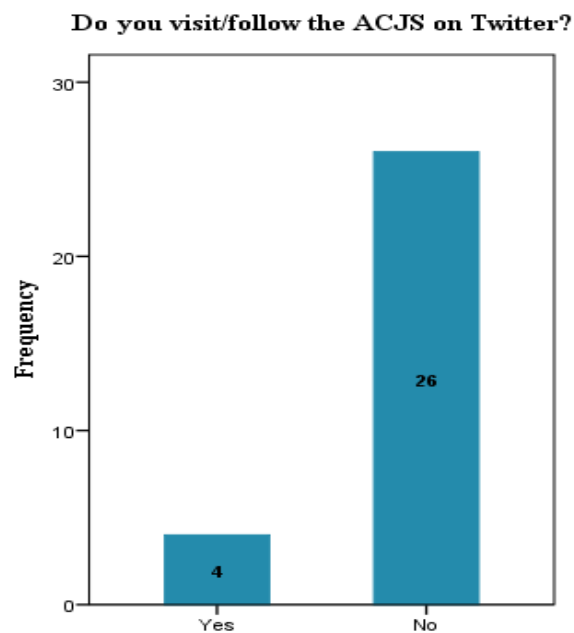
Does the website provide sufficient and up to date information on the ACJS/Canadian Jewish studies?

33% of respondents feel that the website provides sufficient and up to date information, 7% feel that it does not, 7% feel that it usually does, 7% feel that it mostly does, 3% feel it is sufficient but not great, 10% provided other comments, and 30% did not respond. This question was not applicable to 3% of respondents.



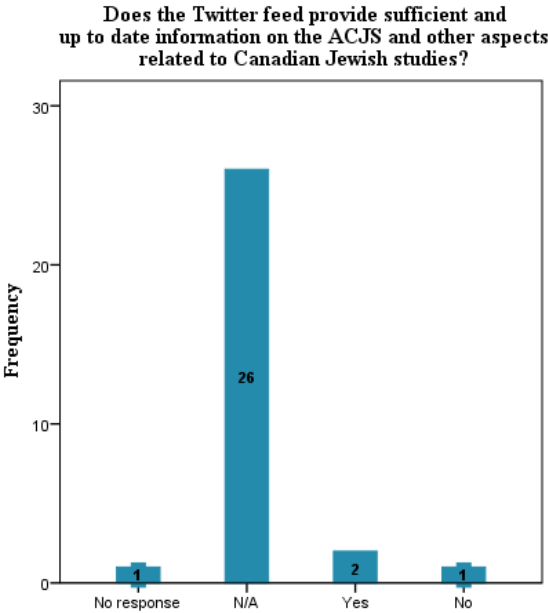
Do you visit/follow the ACJS on Twitter?

87% of respondents do not visit or follow the ACJS on Twitter, 13% do.



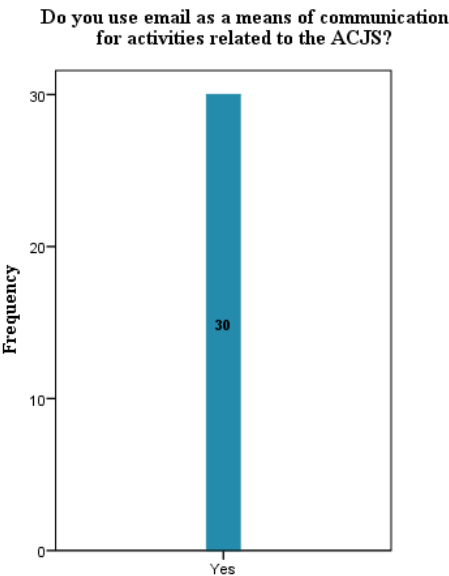
Does the Twitter feed provide sufficient and up to date information on the ACJS and other aspects related to Canadian Jewish studies?

7% of respondents are felt that the Twitter feed is sufficient and up to date, 3% disagreed, and 3% did not respond. This question was not applicable to 87% of respondents.



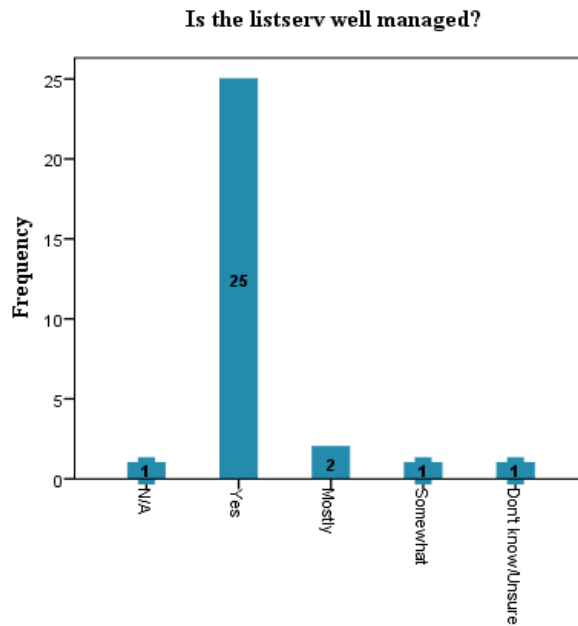
Do you use email as a means of communication for activities related to the ACJS?

100% of respondents use email as a means of communication for ACJS-related activities.



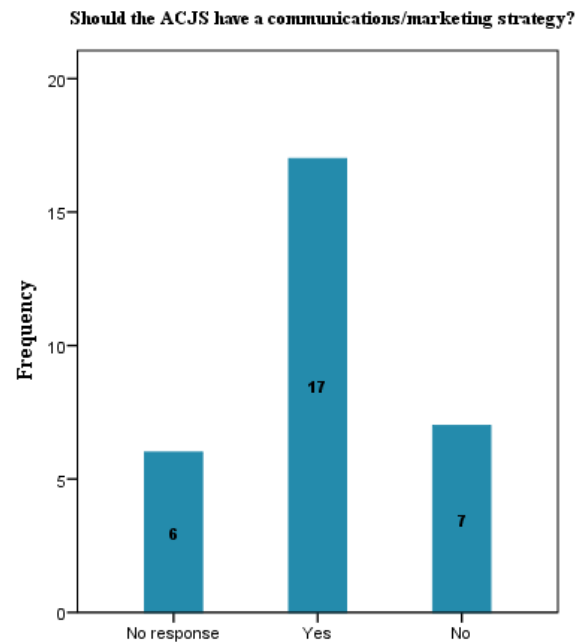
Is the Listserv well managed?

83% of respondents feel that the listserv is well managed, 7% feel that it is mostly well managed, 3% feel it is somewhat well managed, 3% do not know or are unsure. This question did not apply to 3% of respondents.



Should the ACJS have a communications/marketing strategy?

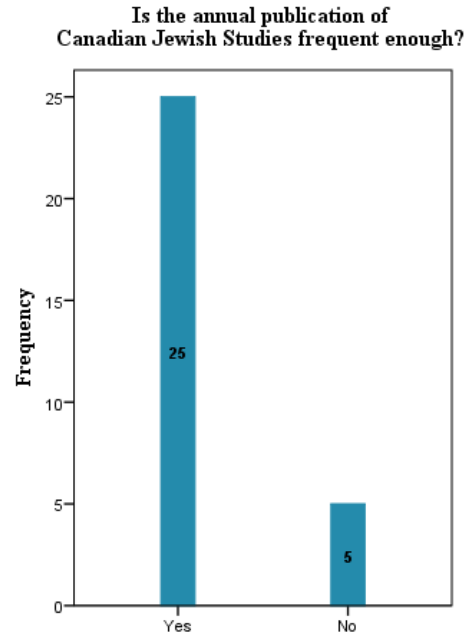
57% of respondents feel that the ACJS should have a communications/marketing strategy, 23% disagree, and 20% did not respond.



Journal

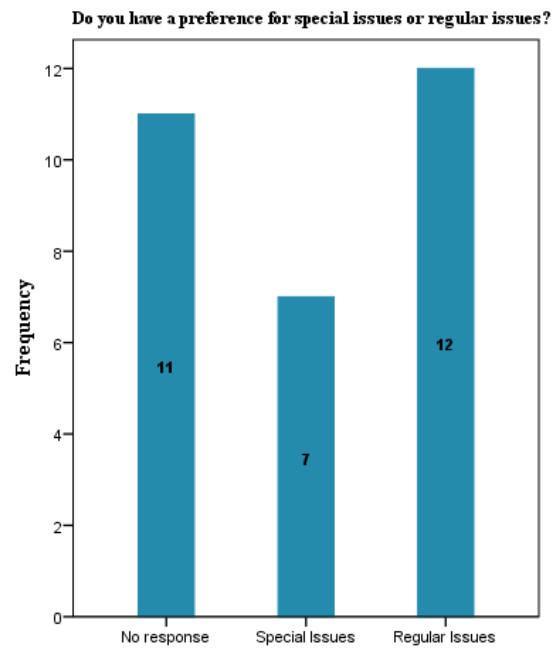
Is the annual publication of the Canadian Jewish Studies frequent enough?

87% of respondents feel that the annual publication of CJS is frequent enough, and 17% disagree.



Do you have a preference for special issues or regular issues?

40% of respondents prefer regular issues, 23% prefer special issues, and 37% did not respond.



Do you have a suggestion for journal topics/themes?

"Special issues"

"Yes"

"Sephardim-Mizrahim, Jewish women and feminism"

"none at the moment"

"I dislike themes issues intensely. If one isn't interested in the theme, that's a wasted issue. I think it's a very unappealing trend."

"Regional themes"

"Regional; youth; women"

"Canadian Jewish Women"

"I like the Archives section (but I'm biased.)"

"Re [question] 2. I think some of each is best, as may be relevant." ** *Question #2 was Do you have a preference for special issues or regular issues?*

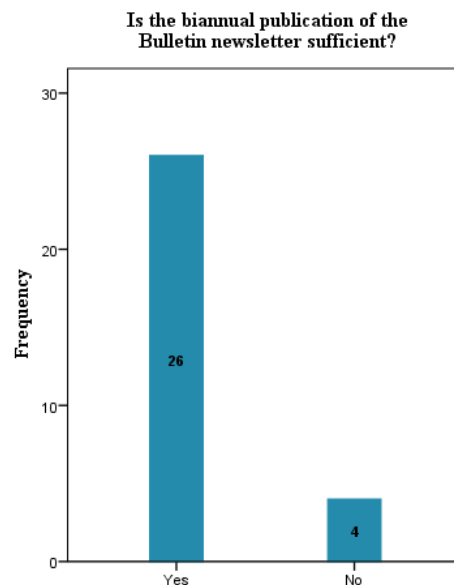
"Re: Question #2, I think that special issues and regular issues are both important to have! I'm new to the ACJS, so I'm not sure what all the past themes are, but perhaps small Canadian Jewish communities (focus on communities outside Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver), food (one anchor could be community cookbooks), immigration experience, WWII experience (what it was like for communities here during the war), Canadian Jewish Studies greats (Abella, Troper, Tulchinsky, etc.), Canadian Jewish historical societies, and a summer camp issue!"

** *Question #2 was Do you have a preference for special issues or regular issues?*

Newsletter

Is the biannual publication of the Bulletin newsletter sufficient?

87% of respondents feel that the biannual publication of the Bulletin is sufficient, and 13% disagree.



If “No”, would you prefer to receive the Bulletin once a year, or more than once a year?

“Semi-annual, NOT bi-annual”

“A few times a year, electronically”

“N/A”

“More”

“Once a year. But a biennial publication for a special issue is all right.”

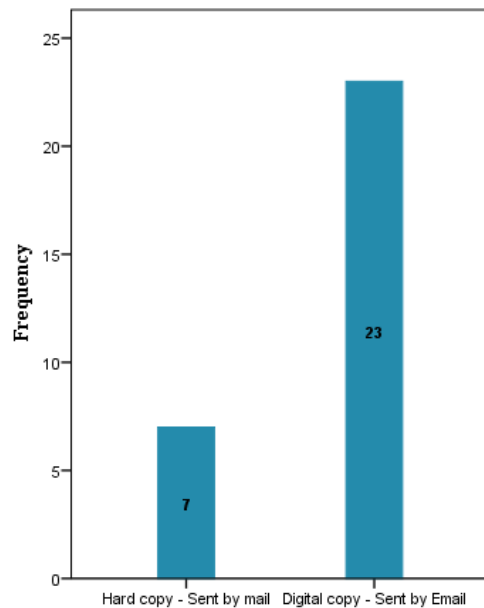
“Ideally I think it should be 3 or 4 per year (by email) but realistically no one has time to create one that often”

What format of the newsletter do you prefer reading?

Hard copy – sent by mail, Digital copy – sent by email, Digital copy – downloaded from website

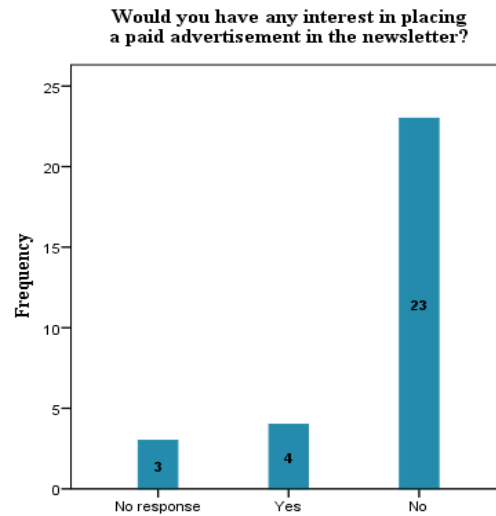
77% of respondents prefer to read a digital copy of the bulletin sent by email, and 23% prefer a hard copy sent by regular mail.

What format of the newsletter do you prefer reading?



Would you have any interest in placing a paid advertisement in the newsletter?

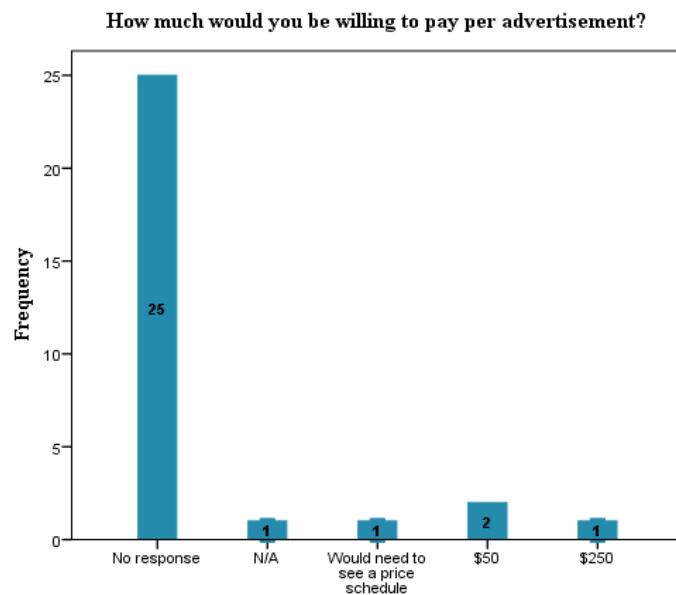
77% of respondents are not interested in placing a paid advertisement in the newsletter, 13% are interested, and 10% did not respond.



How much would you be willing to pay per advertisement?

Advertisements would both announce your service/product and raise money for the ACJS

7% of respondents would be willing to pay \$50 for an advertisement, 3% would be willing to pay \$250, 3% would want to see a price schedule, and 83% of respondents did not respond.

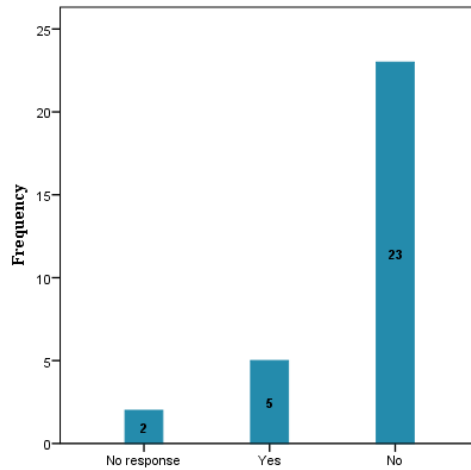


Financial

Do you have any interest in helping raise funds for the ACJS?

77% of respondents are not interested in helping to raise funds for the ACJS, 17% are interested, and 7% did not respond.

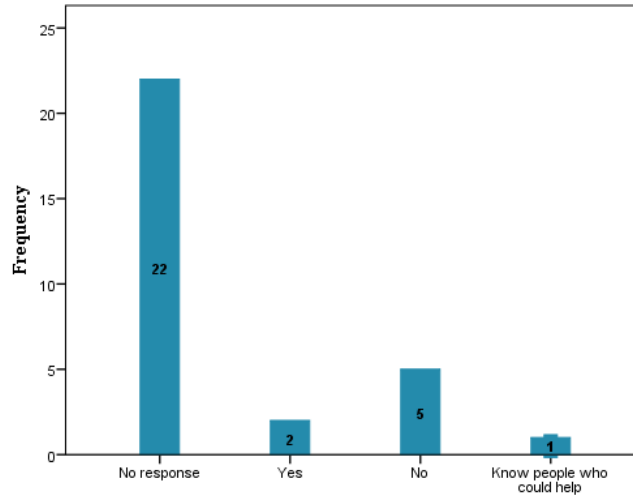
Do you have any interest in helping raise funds for the ACJS?



Do you have any expertise or resources that could assist in raising funds? If yes, please explain.

17% of respondents do not have expertise or resources that could assist in raising funds, 7% do have expertise, 3% know people who could help, and 73% did not respond.

Do you have any expertise or resource that could assist in raising funds?



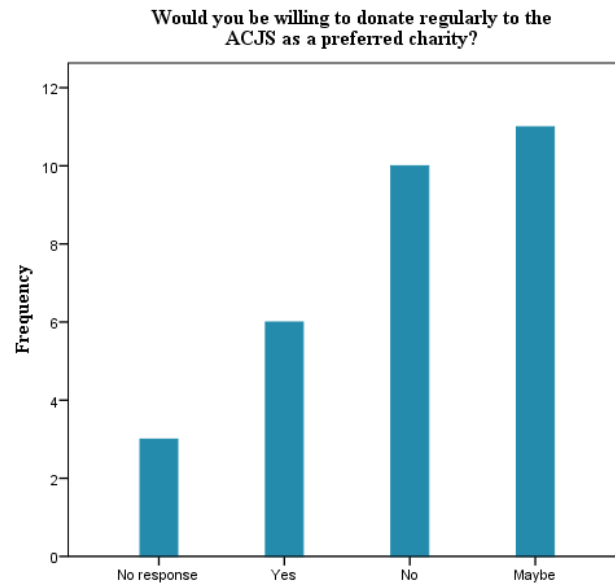
Plus the following comments...

“I have a great deal of experience with private donors and applying for special grants.”

“Yes, I raise funds constantly for my home program – for its cultural and academic events and for the publications produced by our faculty members and students.”

Would you be willing to donate regularly to the ACJS as a preferred charity? Not only would your donations be greatly appreciated, but they would also be tax deductible in Canada.

37% of respondents are maybe willing to donate regularly to the ACJS as a preferred charity, 33% are not willing to, 20% are willing to, and 10% did not respond.



Executive and Board of Directors

Presently there are nine permanent positions on the Executive Committee, though some positions have co-chairs. Do you feel that any of these positions are unnecessary? Check all that apply.

Journal Editor, Bulletin Editor, Communities and Archives Chair, Membership Chair, Programs and Conference Chair, Book Review Editor, Academic Committee Chair, Finance Chair, Nominations Chair.

Position	No. of respondents who feel it is unnecessary
Journal Editor	3
Bulletin Editor	3
Communities and Archives Chair	2
Membership Chair	2
Programs and Conference Chair	3
Book Review Editor	4
Academic Committee Chair	4
Finance Chair	3
Nominations Chair	5

Do you feel that there is a new position that should be permanently added? If so, why?

"You may not need another position but the individuals responsible for communities, membership and programs need to work together to update the Association's offerings in order to draw in new members and retain and engage existing members who may not be very active."

"Perhaps an Associate Membership Chair whose key goal would be to bring in more students and members of the public, especially now that there is a growing number of retirees with widening interests in Jewish Studies."

"No"

"No"

"Member-at-large, Student liaison, Non-tenured and independent scholars liaison, Community outreach"

"Fundraiser."

"Grad Students Chair/Recruitment Chair"

"Never heard of any work done by C&Archives Chair or Membership, or Academic Committee. I don't even know what these people are supposed to do... let alone doing. Does there really have to be a nominating chair?"

"Can't think of any."

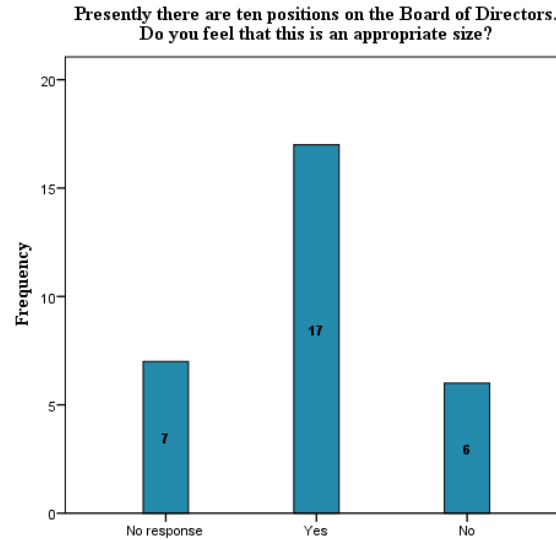
"The Academic cttee chair has not been filled for at least 15 years - and seems to have little relevance; The Finance chair could be folded into a fundraising Chair which would make more sense. Since the Vice-Pres is the person responsible for Nominations in the ACJS (it is usually the Past Pres. in other organizations) having a separate Chair for Nominations is redundant. Create a social media chair so that all aspects of promotion through the various levels of media can be effectively co-ordinated and streamlined."

"I don't know the organizational side well enough to comment."

"I think that Membership Chair or Academic Committee Chair could be expanded to include a student outreach responsibility - or Student Outreach Chair could be separate but taken on by the existing chairperson best suited to the job "

Presently there are ten positions on the Board of Directors. Do you feel that this is an appropriate size?

57% of respondents feel that ten positions is an appropriate size for the Board of Directors, 20% disagree, and 23% did not respond.



If “No”, what would be a better number?

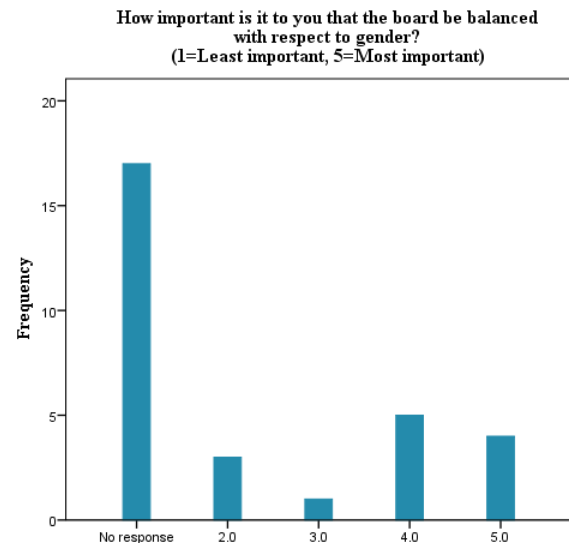
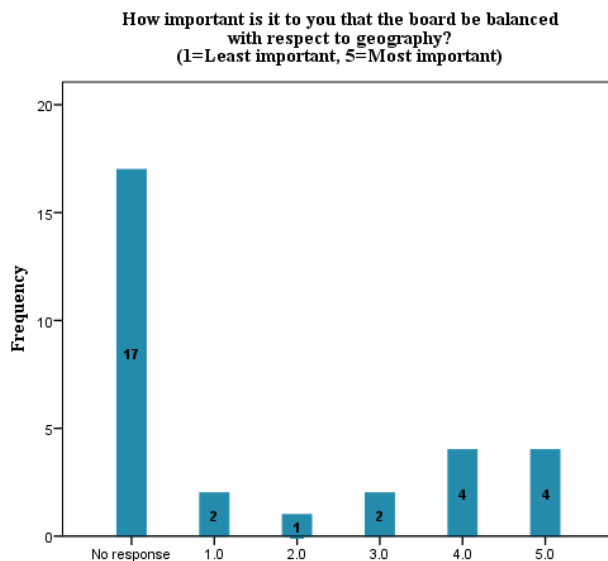
Responses: 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, and “The number is less relevant than the job description”.

a. Should those who sit on the Board of Directors be balanced with respect to demographics, such as geography, gender, age, Anglophone/Francophone, profession, etc.?

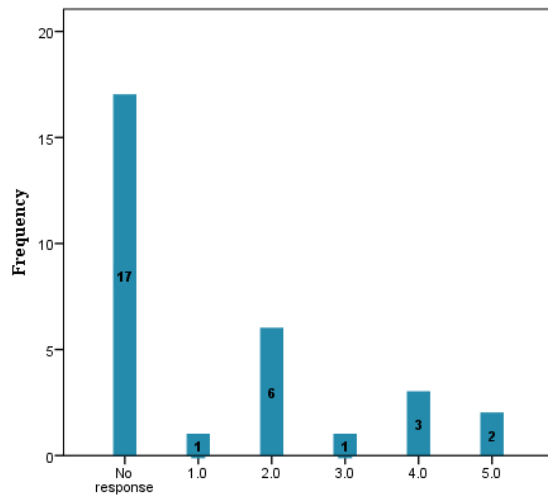
47% of respondents feel that demographics do not matter as long as board members are qualified, 40% feel that the board should be balanced with respect to demographics, and 13% did not respond.

b. What demographic aspects are the most important on a scale of 1-5? 1 being least important and 5 being most important.

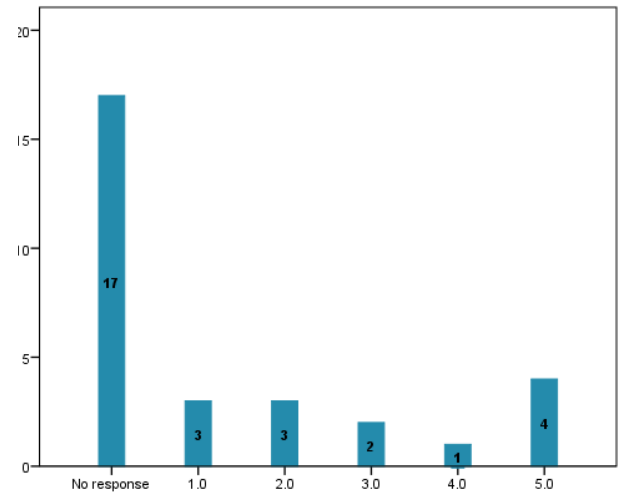
Geography, Gender, Anglophone/Francophone, Profession, Other



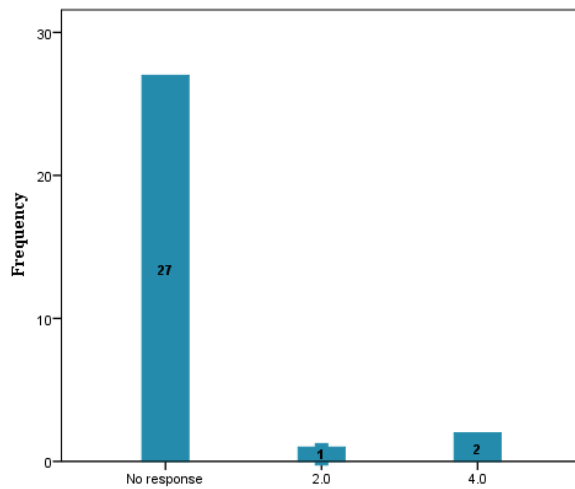
How important is it to you that the board be balanced
with respect to Anglophones and Francophones?
(1=Least important, 5=Most important)



How important is it to you that the board be balanced
with respect to profession?
(1=Least important, 5=Most important)



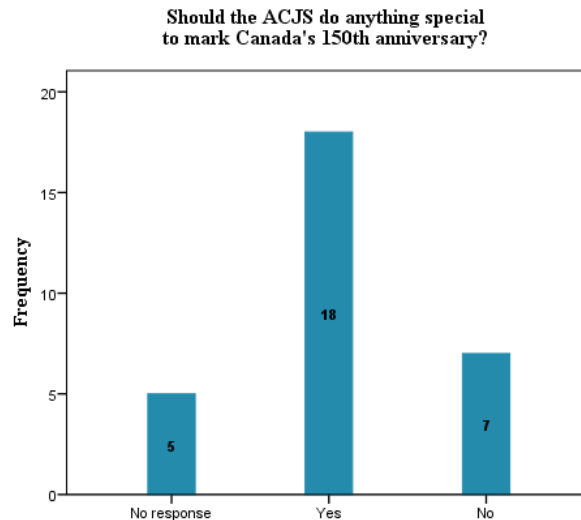
How important is it to you that the board be balanced
with respect to other factors?
(1=Least important, 5=Most important)



Additional Programming and Outreach

The year 2017 will mark the 150th anniversary of Canada. Should the ACJS do anything special to observe this occasion?

60% of respondents feel that the ACJS should do something special to commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary, 23% feel that the ACJS should not do anything, and 17% did not respond.



If “Yes”, what types of events and/or initiatives would you be interested in?

“150 years of the Jewish community”

“Conference”

“Publication”

“It may be too late but there are interesting grants available to launch a program or virtual initiative that would enable the Association to document, celebrate and promote Jewish Canadians' contributions to Canada since Confederation.”

“A special conference or 'festival of learning' (like Limmud) that would highlight features of the Jewish Canadian community--with three sessions, one in Montreal, one in Toronto, and one in Vancouver. Other centers could also join if they wished...like Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Calgary.”

“Maybe a conference”

“Some kind of reception at Congress perhaps”

“Publication of some kind. Maybe a special issue of Canadian Jewish Studies.”

“Where is ‘maybe’???”

“Anyway probably not, there's going to be too much going on already.”

"Definitely an online/travelling exhibition, lively, interactive, fun, intelligently conceived"

"Showing the history of the Jewish community in Canada and its contributions to the country."

"Special issue of journal? Partnership with other groups? Special theme at conference? Offer speakers to interested institutions"

"See Celebrate 350 in USA and emulate it."

"The arrival of the first Jewish settlers c 1760. Jews who held positions in local governments in 1867. Other Jews of "influence" in 1867."

"The conference should reflect this and the papers out of the conference should be published"

"Something focusing on Jews in Canadian History"

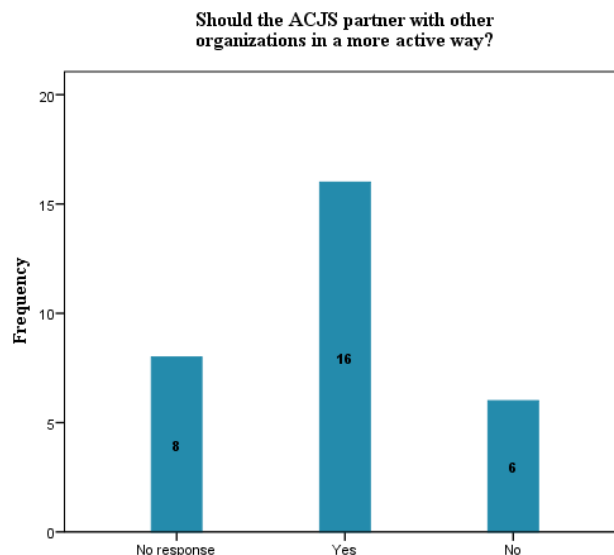
"Special issue and some programming. Possibly a book instead of a special issue."

"Encourage some papers which address long term historical themes. Devote an issue of the Journal to different aspect of the pioneer or founders experience? "

"Special issue of the journal, commemorative program at the conference, and a conference theme that celebrates the Canadian Jewish historical societies!"

Should the ACJS partner with other organizations in a more active way?

53% of respondents feel that the ACJS should partner with other organizations in a more active way, 20% disagree, and 27% did not respond.



If “Yes”, which organizations and why?

“AJS - reduce membership fees and scholarly cooperation”

“University programs in Canadian and Canadian Jewish studies.”

“Jewish Historical Societies”

“Jewish Genealogical Society”

“The Jewish heritage organizations generally work on their own and produce their own programs, on-line databases and virtual products. In turn, the Jewish Studies programs in Canada also tend to operate on their own. In order to expand and thrive, the ACJS must try to break down some of the silos and coordinate special programs and initiatives that would entice different groups to get involved as partners or participants.”

“Jewish organizations and public libraries.”

“Not sure with whom, but I think the mandate and scope needs to be expanded to attract interest. I think it used to be part of Canadian Jewish Studies. Time to go back to that? Or be a part of a Canadian Studies group?”

“Association for Jewish Studies.”

“Other Jewish Studies, other Canadian Studies, EAJS, AJS”

“Other ethnic/multicultural history organizations. We're all struggling with the same issues as small organizations--partnering with larger organizations is less successful as we become an afterthought. (e.g. we had a joint program with the Canadian Historical Association a few years ago, which not one member of the CHA actually attended, not even their board).”

“Probably, this seems like a good idea, not sure which organizations”

“N/A”

“Cdn Ethnic Studies: there can be much fruitful dialogue here about many topics and methods”

“CHR: we need to become more of a presence as an important strand of Canadian History.”

“Archives, museums, federations, other academic groups in S.Africa, Australia, Mexico, etc.”

“The Canadian Historical Association, in part because we held joint sessions at the Congresses through the 1990s, in part because it makes sense.”

“This has been tried and it should be tried again - see previous answers about ACJS and CJ study programs, etc”

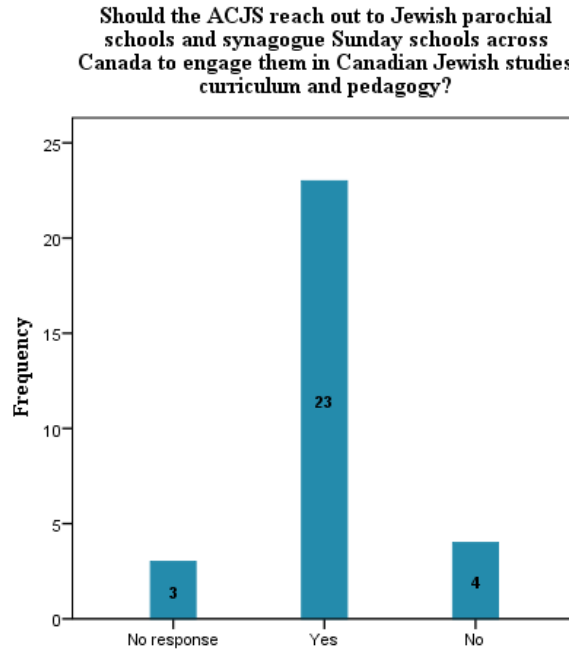
“When appropriate occasions allow it, sharing conference sessions is good because it may attract new members or attention from academics who were not yet affiliated with ACJS.”

“As I noted above regarding co-sponsorship of sessions at Congress.”

“Jewish schools and weekend Hebrew/synagogue schools!”

Should the ACJS reach out to Jewish parochial schools and synagogue Sunday schools across Canada to engage them in Canadian Jewish studies curriculum and pedagogy?

77% of respondents feel that the ACJS should reach out to Jewish parochial schools and synagogue Sunday schools to engage them in Canadian Jewish studies curriculum, 13% disagreed, and 10% did not respond.



ACJS Mandate

We are looking to establish the ACJS as a more active organization in the next five years. How would you like to see this accomplished?

“More openness - less closed door activity.”

“Possibly through a Canadian Jewish Studies column in CJN?”

“There is a definite need to modernize the outreach programming, rely more on social media and the Web and take more of a leadership role in the community when it comes to the Association's liaison role as well as organizing special programs and initiatives. “

“Outreach with a speakers bureau and selected 'learning' events in various urban centers.”

“Not sure”

“Perhaps a forum of some kind, through the ACJS, where educators can get together (either live or virtually) to discuss issues related to teaching Canadian Jewish studies”

“Student outreach, work with local historical societies, local events”

“By promoting Jewish Canadian issues (history, literature, etc.); by helping to implement courses with Jewish content in schools, colleges, and universities.”

“Get involved with synagogues, JCC's and the like in making Canadian Jewish History a subject to be taught and studied for adults and kids. Perhaps we can build from the bottom up.”

“See above” ** *Not sure if respondent is referring to their comment that “Special issue of journal? Partnership with other groups? Special theme at conference? Offer speakers to interested institutions”, or their suggestion of a possible partnership with “Cdn Ethnic Studies: there can be much fruitful dialogue here about many topics and methods”, or both.*

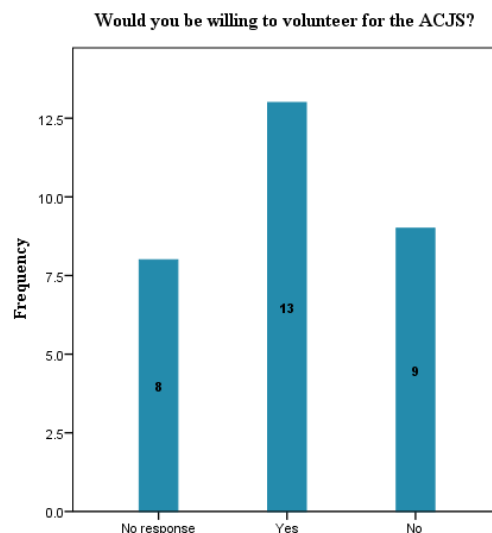
“Attracting younger members in active roles (as is already being done) is a good step.”

“This question should be answered by the younger members of the association, who are now the 'life blood' of the organization.”

“Engage and attract passionate members, do more community outreach and community programming, make sure the historical societies are equal partners. “

Would you be willing to volunteer for the ACJS?

43% of respondents would be willing to volunteer for the ACJS, 30% would not be willing to volunteer, and 27% did not respond.



If “Yes”, in what ways?

“I would be willing to help the Board plot out a strategy for the future.”

“As a speaker and canvasser in various communities which would offer the opportunity to attract more members and raise further funds for our activities.”

“Maybe”

“(sorry --- too swamped)”

“In various ways.”

“It depends on time and activities. Again, where is “maybe”?”

“don't have time to do much right now but could help out on specific projects someone else leads”

"Maybe. I am interested in interactive exhibitions"

"There's the rub. I am not sure. I am on the board of the Jewish Book Festival in Vancouver; perhaps the ACJS should be more visible at this and other similar festivals in Canada in order to raise its profile and to advertise itself."

"Working on the above type of program" ** Respondent is referring to their suggestion that the ACJS "Get involved with synagogues, JCC's and the like in making Canadian Jewish History a subject to be taught and studied for adults and kids. Perhaps we can build from the bottom up."

"Having been active in the Association for years, continuing to do so, especially in contributing to and editing the Journal, and being on the finance committee."

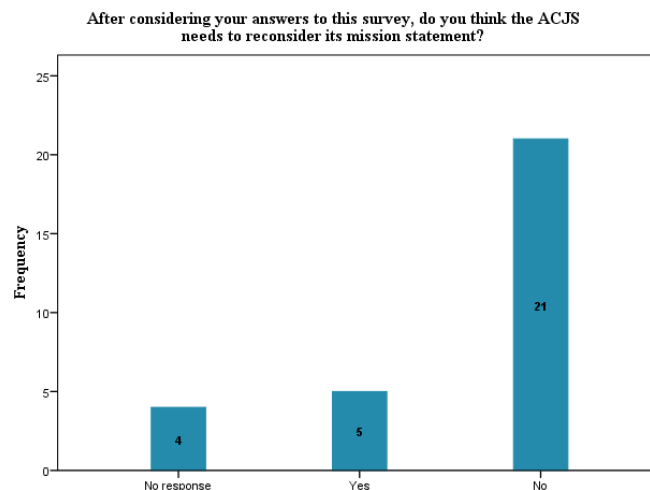
"Not at this time == once you have a list of what is needed where, post it and that might bring some response from members."

"It would depend on what was required"

"I already do ... still willing, though I'm also ready to let one of those younger members take on what I've been doing."

According to the bylaws, the purpose of the ACJS is to "...be a national organization established to enable and facilitate the pursuit of the study of the Canadian Jewish experience in all its aspects". After considering your answers to this survey, do you think the ACJS needs to reconsider its purpose/mission?

70% of respondents feel that the ACJS does not need to reconsider its mission statement, 17% feel that it does, and 13% did not respond.



If "Yes", what would you like to see in the new mission? Do you think the mandate should be focused on something different?

"I would alter it to enable the Association to implement special programs and assume a leadership role within the Canadian Jewish community when it comes to history and heritage if that is possible. "

"The work of Canadian Jewish scholars and work related to Jewish studies in Canada. Keep it flexible. It's ridiculous to limit it to Jewish studies in/about Canada"

"N/A"

"Adding "educating a new generation of Canadians and Canadian Jews to appreciate the Jewish contribution to our country's history....encouraging university students to seek careers in Canadian Jewish studies."

"It should either coast along or be prepared to ramp up efforts to really reach its mission. This would mean raising funds for a part or full time paid officer who can achieve a lot more; Also:

1. *Speakers' Bureau*. Put together a list of speakers, their locations, contact information, and topics they would like to lecture/teach on. Such a list would be made available to synagogues, local historical (or other scholarly) societies, adult education groups, etc. who are interested in learning more about Canadian Jewishness. The ACJS would provide little more than this middle-man service to anyone who'd want it.

2. *Local Seminars*. Figure out how to arrange small meetings at universities, JCC's and/or other institutional hosts with local members of the ACJS in concert with other local scholars on topics of interest. I'd like to see local events (not day-long community programs but smaller, one-off scholarly events) with Jewish studies scholars and scholars of either other religious or ethnic minority groups, presenting work on relevant topics. I'd also like to see strictly Jewish studies events that might help increase our membership - inviting local rabbi/scholars, professors who have marginal or part-time interests in Jewish subjects, etc.

3. *Adding a "Wish-List" Window to the Newsletter*. Once we get a list going, we can put a box in the newsletter asking people to submit other ACJS wishes, and offering a casual fund-raising invitation to anyone interested in supporting such efforts.

4. *International Liaison / Networker*. A person or two who might spend some time making contacts with other Jewish scholarly associations in Australia, the UK, Argentina, etc., etc., to see what they're up to and to open channels for brainstorming possible collaborations in the future - journal issues, conferences, scholar-exchanges, etc.

5. *International Joint-Projects*. The planning of actual joint-projects with other similar associations (perhaps Commonwealth nations to begin with so that everything's in English). These might be arranged at a meeting of the AJS.

6. *Scholarships*. For Student/Graduate Student papers & conference presentations. Hold essay writing contests on Canadian Jewry subjects (history, politics, sociology, anthro, literature, film, etc.) and raise money to bring top notch student scholars to our annual conference.

7. *Federal Government Partnerships*. Explore Grants & Programs that jibe with our mandate. The aim here is to spend some time searching among the nooks and crannies of SSHRC, Heritage Canada, education ministries, etc., to open up further brainstorming for appropriate projects that the ACJS might undertake in line with our mission. These would likely have funding and might put us in touch with more members, more institutional partnerships, etc.

8. *Bundle of Museum Exhibitions*. It'd be great if we could help plan, support or even curate some small Canadian Jewry exhibitions in conjunction with local Jewish museums. Some of these might be broad - i.e. not local but on "cool" subjects that cross provincial and local boundaries, and hence be taken on the road. We could brainstorm a great list of subjects here - ones that would have good visual culture.

9. *Build a Museum of Canadian Jewry*. Perhaps one day we could contribute to planning a full scale, ultra awesome museum on a national scale? It never hurts to think big.

10. *Syllabus Bank*. Pool syllabi on Canadian Jewish studies topics - in whichever discipline they are in. Some sort of open-source (or members' only) data base to encourage more sharing and contagion in the teaching of Jewish Canadiana at the uni level.

11. *Consult with AJS*. To the best of my knowledge, AJS is undertaking a large quantitative study of Jewish Studies programs, departments, minors, etc. at North American universities and colleges. I think they're including Canada. At minimum, we should get access to their data findings, write up some interpretive analysis and publish it in our journal and/or newsletters. We might also use the AJS to help us identify where more Jewish studies courses would be welcomed. Finally, we might arrange a consultation with Rona Shemary the executive director of the AJS (and/or Sara Horowitz?) to just brainstorm good-practices for institution building and inspiration.

12. *Canadian Jewish History high school text book*. To the best of my knowledge, we don't have a textbook for the teaching of Canadian Jewish history. One ought to be produced, eventually. A teaching text might help getting history taught. *Telling Our Story: A History of the Jews in Canada to 1920*, written by Meir Balofsky, Donnie Friedman and Jack Lipinsky, UJA Federation, 2004.

13. *Put Canadian Jewish History into the curricula at Jewish high schools*. In addition to having a textbook, we might spend some time/effort brainstorming ways of encouraging Jewish day schools - already rather skimpy on history curriculum - to consider teaching the history of our own communities (at all, or in a more sophisticated manner). Perhaps we can arrange partnerships with teacher consortiums, organizations like JESNA, the Boards of Jewish Ed and the Network for the Teaching of Jewish History. Of course, teaching Canadian Jewish social studies (lit, sociology, contemporary culture & politics, etc.) is welcomed too.

14. *Support more Canadian Jewish studies courses at universities and colleges*.

If we can ever gain enough leverage with university administrations, programs, funders, etc. (I have no idea what it'll take), we would do well with increasing the visibility of the field at the university level. Perhaps Posen Foundation grants or something would help?

15. *Identify philanthropist and foundations (Jewish and non)* that might be interested in helping us expand with these kinds of projects.

16. *Establish and support small working-groups of scholars interested in particular topics* (like the Jews/Multiculturalism/Canada group, or the new one in Montreal);

"I do not think we are anywhere near meeting the mission we have never mind seeking to replace it!!"

Please provide any additional comments, suggestions, input or information.

"Perhaps we need a 'national' meeting of interested members sometime during the academic year to review what we have done and how we function--and then animate ourselves to new initiatives. We meet only once a year and that does not help build our collegiality and maintain ongoing contacts. We need to believe in our mission...and support its goals."

"Should consider recruiting other institutional members."

"More options in the questionnaire yes/no questions"

"The ACJS is a relatively small and not widely known association. It needs to be marketed better and to increase its fundraising potential. "

"My major activity is through the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada. We are isolated here through geography and strained resources. I would welcome help maintaining contact across the country."

"Comments about this survey - a few of the questions, especially about the newsletter, had only YES/NO or toggle choices, which didn't quite cover what I wanted to say. Notably; I think an electronic newsletter is easier to distribute and quite effective, but there still need to be some hard copies for display in libraries, archives, at conferences and in university departments. About outreach to parochial schools - "maybe" would be my preferred answer. I.e. it's worth a try if someone is willing, but I'm not sure it should become a major focus."

Appendix A: Coding
CODED RESPONSES/NOMINAL DATA/NUMERIC DATA (SPSS) SPREADSHEET

Getting to Know You

What is your age (check one)?

0=0-21 1=21-30 2=31-40 3=41-50 4=51-60 5=61-70 6=70+

What is your highest level of education (completed or in progress)?

0=N/A 1=High school diploma/GED 2=Pre-Baccalaureate College Degree (Associates Degree, Certificate, CEGEP, Diploma, etc.) 3=Bachelors Degree 4=Professional Graduate Degree (Masters, Juris Doctor, Rabbinic Ordination, etc.) 5=Doctorate Degree (PhD, DHL, etc.)

What is your gender?

0=Male 1=Female 2=Other

Where do you live (check one)?

1=AB 2=BC 3=MB 4=NB 5=NFLD/LAB 6=NS 7=ON 8=PEI 9=QC 10=SK 11=NWT/NU/YK 12=USA
13=ISR 14=Other

What is your occupation?

1= Professor 2=Consultant 3=Librarian 4=Post Doc 5=Teacher/Jewish Ed. 6=Sessional 7=Adjunct
8=Historian 9=Retired 10=Archivist 11=Graduate Student

What is your professional affiliation?

0=N/A 1=University 2=Historical Society 3=Library/Archives 4=Other

How long have you been a member of the ACJS?

0=Less than 1 year 1=1 year 2=2 years 3=3-5 years 4=6-10years 5=11-15 6=16-20 7=21-25 8=26-30
9=31-35 10=36-38

ACJS Services

What is your level of satisfaction with the following ACJS initiatives? 1 is not satisfied and 5 is highly satisfied.

Annual Meeting/Conference, Journal, Newsletter, Twitter Feed, Website, listserv, Membership Renewal Process

ACJS Conference

How frequently do you attend the ACJS conference?

1=every year 2= every other year/every 2-3 years 3=whenever possible/often 4=infrequently/not frequently 5=occasionally 6=rarely/not often 7=when it's affordable

Should the ACJS continue to meet once a year or at a different interval (such as once every two years)?

0= not sure 1=every year 2=at least once a year 3=every second year 4=indifferent

Should the ACJS continue to meet at Congress or plan its conferences independently?

1=Congress 2=Independently

Membership

What should the ACJS' priorities be? Please rate from 1-6 with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.

Professional Scholarship, Programming, Membership, Promoting Canadian Jewish Studies, Promoting Canadian Jewish Heritage, Other.

Electronic Communication/Media

Do you visit the ACJS website?

1=Yes 2=No

If "Yes", does the website provide sufficient and up to date information on the ACJS/Canadian Jewish studies?

0=N/A 1=Yes 2=No 3=Usually 4=Sufficient but not great 5=Mostly 6=Design/Aesthetic needs improvement 7=Other comments

Do you visit/follow the ACJS on Twitter?

1=Yes 2=No

If "Yes", does the Twitter feed provide sufficient and up to date information on the ACJS and other aspects related to Canadian Jewish studies?

0=N/A 1=Yes 2=No

Do you use email as a means of communication for activities related to the ACJS?

1=Yes 2=No

If "Yes" is the listserve well managed?

0=N/A 1=Yes 2=No 3=Mostly 4=Somewhat 5=Don't know/unsure

Should the ACJS have a communication/marketing strategy?

1=Yes 2=No

Journal

Is the annual publication of the Canadian Jewish Studies frequent enough?

1=Yes 2=No

Do you have a preference for special issues or regular issues?

1=Special issues 2=Regular issues

Newsletter

Is the biannual publication of the Bulletin newsletter sufficient?

1=Yes 2=No

What format of the newsletter do you prefer reading?

1=Hard copy – sent by mail 2=Digital copy – sent by email 3=Digital copy – downloaded from website

Would you have any interest in placing a paid advertisement in the newsletter?

1=Yes 2=No

If "Yes", how much would you be willing to pay per advertisement? Advertisements would both announce your service/product and raise money for the ACJS

0=N/A 1=Would need to see a price schedule 3=\$50 4=\$250

Financial

Do you have any interest in helping raise funds for the ACJS?

1=Yes 2=No

Do you have any expertise or resources that could assist in raising funds?

1=Yes 2=No 3=Know people who could help

Would you be willing to donate regularly to the ACJS as a preferred charity? Not only would your donations be greatly appreciated, but they would also be tax deductible in Canada.

1=Yes 2=No

Executive and Board of Directors

Presently there are ten positions on the Board of Directors. Do you feel that this is an appropriate size?

1=Yes 2=No

If “No”, what would be a better number?

Should those who sit on the Board of Directors be balanced with respect to demographics, such as geography, gender, age, Anglophone/Francophone, profession, etc.?

1=Yes, the Board of Directors should be balanced with respect to demographics

2=No, demographics do not matter as long as all Board members are qualified

If you answered “Yes” to Question #4a, what demographic aspects are the most important on a scale of 1-5? 1 being least important and 5 being most important.

Geography, Gender, Anglophone/Francophone, Profession, Other

Additional Programming and Outreach

The year 2017 will mark the 150th anniversary of Canada. Should the ACJS do anything special to observe this occasion?

1=Yes 2=No

Should the ACJS partner with other organizations in a more active way?

1=Yes 2=No

Should the ACJS reach out to Jewish parochial schools and synagogue Sunday schools across Canada to engage them in Canadian Jewish studies curriculum and pedagogy?

1=Yes 2=No

ACJS Mandate

Would you be willing to volunteer for the ACJS?

1=Yes 2=No

According to the bylaws, the purpose of the ACJS is to “...be a national organization established to enable and facilitate the pursuit of the study of the Canadian Jewish experience in all its aspects”. After considering your answers to this survey, do you think the ACJS needs to reconsider its purpose/mission?

1=Yes 2=No

NUMERIC DATA (SPSS) SPREADSHEET QUESTION NUMBERS

Numeric Data (SPSS) Question Numbers

A= What is your age (check one)

B= What is your highest level of education (completed or in progress)?

C=What is your gender (check one)?

D= Where do you live (check one)?

E= What is your occupation?

F= What is your professional affiliation?

G= How long have you been a member of the ACJS?

H= What is your level of satisfaction with the following ACJS initiatives [Annual Meeting/Conference]?

I= What is your level of satisfaction with the following ACJS initiatives [Journal]?

J= What is your level of satisfaction with the following ACJS initiatives [Newsletter]?

K= What is your level of satisfaction with the following ACJS initiatives [Twitter Feed]?

L= What is your level of satisfaction with the following ACJS initiatives [Website]?

M= What is your level of satisfaction with the following ACJS initiatives [listserv]?

N= What is your level of satisfaction with the following ACJS initiatives [Membership Renewal Process]?

O= How frequently do you attend the ACJS conference?

P= Should the ACJS continue to meet once a year or at a different interval (such as once every two years)?

Q= Should the ACJS continue to meet at Congress or plan its conference independently?

R= What should the ACJS' priorities be [Professional Scholarship]?

S= What should the ACJS' priorities be [Programming]?

T= What should the ACJS' priorities be [Membership]?

U= What should the ACJS' priorities be [Promoting Canadian Jewish Studies]?

V= What should the ACJS' priorities be [Promoting Canadian Jewish Heritage]?

W= What should the ACJS' priorities be [Other]?

X= Do you visit the ACJS website?

Y= If "Yes," does the website provide sufficient and up to date information on the ACJS/Canadian Jewish studies?

Z= Do you follow the ACJS on Twitter? Y/N

AA= If "Yes," does the Twitter Feed provide sufficient and up to date information on the ACJS/Canadian Jewish Studies?

AB= Do you use email as a means of communication for activities related to the ACJS? Y/N

AC= If "Yes", is the listserv well managed?

AD= Should the ACJS have a communications/marketing strategy?

AE= Is the publication of the Canadian Jewish Studies frequent enough? Y/N

AF= Do you have a preference for special issues or regular issues?

AG= Is the biannual publication of the Bulletin newsletter sufficient?

AH=What format of the newsletter do you prefer reading?

AI= Would you have any interest in placing a paid advertisement in the newsletter?

AJ= If "Yes", how much would you be willing to pay per advertisement?

AK= Do you have any interest in helping to raise funds for the ACJS?

AL= Do you have any expertise or resources that could assist in raising funds?

AM= Would you be willing to donate to the ACJS as a preferred charity?

AN= Presently there are ten positions on the Board of Directors. Do you feel that this is an appropriate size? Y/N

AO= Should those who sit on the Board of Directors be balanced with respect to demographics, such as geography, gender, age, Anglophone/Francophone, profession, etc.? Y/N

AP= If you answered "Yes" to Question # 4.a., what demographic aspects are the most important on a scale of 1-5? [Geography]

AQ= If you answered "Yes" to Question # 4.a., what demographic aspects are the most important on a scale of 1-5? [Gender]

AR= If you answered "Yes" to Question # 4.a., what demographic aspects are the most important on a scale of 1-5? [Anglophone/Francophone]

AS= If you answered "Yes" to Question # 4.a., what demographic aspects are the most important on a scale of 1-5? [Profession]

AT= If you answered "Yes" to Question # 4.a., what demographic aspects are the most important on a scale of 1-5? [Other]

AU= The year 2017 will mark the 150th anniversary of Canada. Should the ACJS do anything special to observe this occasion? Y/N

AV= Should the ACJS partner with other organizations in a more active way? Y/N

AW= Should the ACJS reach out to Jewish parochial schools and synagogue Sunday schools across Canada to engage them in Canadian Jewish studies curriculum and pedagogy? Y/N

AX= Would you be willing to volunteer for the ACJS? Y/N

AY= According to the bylaws, the purpose of the ACJS is to "...be a national organization established to enable and facilitate the pursuit of the study of the Canadian Jewish experience in all its aspects." After considering your answers to this survey, do you think the ACJS needs to reconsider its purpose/mission? Y/N