

The Archives of Lesbian Oral Testimony (A LOT) Survey

The Archives of Lesbian Oral Testimony (A LOT) conducted a survey using SurveyMonkey from April 14th to April 25th, 2011. An invitation to complete the survey was distributed to various listservs including those used by sexuality studies scholars, archivists, gay and lesbian-focused archivists, historians, and researchers. It was also posted on various Facebook and Twitter pages.

The purpose of the survey was to determine the possible uses visitors might make of an online archive of lesbian oral testimony. We used this input to help us design and program the A LOT website.

We received 365 responses to the survey. None of the questions were mandatory, and the survey was completely anonymous. The numbers of respondents that answered each question is provided below the cumulative results for that question.

The results from the entire survey are not presented here, as some questions required open ended answers that exposed personal information about the survey taker. Thus, the answers for Questions 4, 8, 10, 11, 13 and the field of 'Other' in Questions 2 and 3 have been removed.

You are free to link to this survey, using the URL from our web site. If you wish to post this actual survey document on the Internet, please email us for permission. If you would like more information about A LOT, please contact the Director Elise Chenier at alot-contact@sfu.ca, or check out our web site www.alotarchives.org.

We would like to extend our deep appreciation to everyone who took the time to post and respond to the survey. Our efforts to archive lesbian oral testimony would be impossible without the support and interest of the broader community.



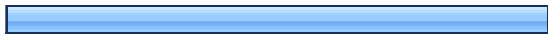

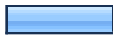
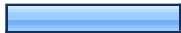

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




1. What is your age?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Under 18		0.0%	0
18-29		18.8%	68
30-39		23.2%	84
40-49		21.8%	79
50-59		22.4%	81
60 or over		13.8%	50
I prefer not to answer		0.0%	0
answered question			362
skipped question			3

2. How would you describe yourself?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Archivist		13.9%	50
Genealogist		1.4%	5
Academic (indicate your area of specialization in the box below)		47.2%	170
Independent Researcher		9.7%	35
Teacher		9.2%	33
Student Researcher		15.0%	54
Other (please specify)		58.9%	212
		answered question	360
		skipped question	5






3. Why might you use a lesbian oral history archives web site?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Class assignment		39.9%	138
Dissertation or thesis research		25.7%	89
Publication (eg. article or book)		49.4%	171
Curriculum development / teaching preparation		38.4%	133
Film or video		15.9%	55
Family history project		5.5%	19
Administrative or work-related product		8.4%	29
I'm gathering information, but don't have a final project in mind		13.9%	48
General interest		58.4%	202
Other (please specify)		11.0%	38
		answered question	346
		skipped question	19


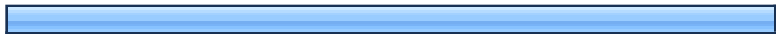
4. If applicable, describe your current research project involving the use of archival sources, and please be as specific as possible.

	Response Count
	108
answered question	108
skipped question	257




5. How long have you been conducting research in archival institutions?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Never used an archives before		24.6%	83
5 years or less		29.9%	101
5-10 years		15.4%	52
11–20 years		15.1%	51
More than 21 years		15.1%	51
		answered question	338
		skipped question	27

6. Have you done archival research in oral history archives before?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		32.9%	114
No		67.1%	232
		answered question	346
		skipped question	19



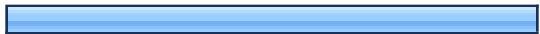
7. Did you use original sources and/or copies?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Original/Primary sources only		12.4%	13
Copies of the original/primary sources only		19.0%	20
Both originals and copies		68.6%	72
		answered question	105
		skipped question	260

8. Please list the oral history archives you have used in the past.

	Response Count
	85
answered question	85
skipped question	280

9. Did you visit these in person or on the web?

		Response Percent	Response Count
In person		45.4%	49
Web site only		8.3%	9
Both in person and web site		46.3%	50
		answered question	108
		skipped question	257

10. Thinking about the oral history archives you have used in the past, what features on the oral history web site(s) did you particularly like?

	Response Count
	44
answered question	44
skipped question	321

11. Thinking about the oral history archives you have used in the past, what useful features were missing on the oral history web site(s)? Please be as specific as possible.

	Response Count
	36
answered question	36
skipped question	329

12. If you came to the A LOT web site, what features would you like to see there?

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important	Not Applicable	Rating Average	Response Count
Online finding aids	2.2% (6)	2.5% (7)	22.6% (63)	72.0% (201)	0.7% (2)	3.66	279
Downloadable finding aids	12.9% (35)	22.9% (62)	28.4% (77)	33.6% (91)	2.2% (6)	2.85	271
Online audio files	1.4% (4)	10.0% (28)	24.0% (67)	63.1% (176)	1.4% (4)	3.51	279
Downloadable audio files	6.8% (19)	22.7% (63)	27.0% (75)	42.1% (117)	1.4% (4)	3.06	278
Online video files	2.1% (6)	15.1% (43)	31.3% (89)	50.4% (143)	1.1% (3)	3.31	284
Downloadable video files	9.6% (26)	25.0% (68)	30.1% (82)	34.2% (93)	1.1% (3)	2.90	272
Online text transcripts of audio/video files	0.7% (2)	10.8% (30)	22.9% (64)	64.5% (180)	1.1% (3)	3.53	279
Downloadable text transcripts of audio/video files	2.5% (7)	14.9% (41)	25.1% (69)	56.0% (154)	1.5% (4)	3.37	275
Free podcasts and/or audio files available through iTunes	18.2% (51)	30.0% (84)	24.3% (68)	24.3% (68)	3.2% (9)	2.56	280
Saved searches on the site	17.7% (49)	32.1% (89)	27.4% (76)	20.9% (58)	1.8% (5)	2.53	277
Search the archives for specific keywords/keyphrases	0.4% (1)	2.5% (7)	14.5% (41)	80.9% (229)	1.8% (5)	3.79	283
Order copies online (if they are not offered on the web site)	4.0% (11)	14.8% (41)	32.9% (91)	46.6% (129)	1.8% (5)	3.24	277
Request access to restricted files	4.6% (13)	13.9% (39)	35.7% (100)	44.6% (125)	1.1% (3)	3.22	280
Request access to materials for an in person visit	8.3% (23)	20.7% (57)	29.0% (80)	39.9% (110)	2.2% (6)	3.03	276

Communicate with archivist	2.8% (8)	16.0% (45)	32.3% (91)	47.2% (133)	1.8% (5)	3.26	282
Listing of recently added files	4.3% (12)	25.0% (69)	37.3% (103)	32.2% (89)	1.1% (3)	2.99	276
View online exhibits on select topics	4.6% (13)	28.8% (81)	33.8% (95)	31.3% (88)	1.4% (4)	2.93	281
Instruction on how to conduct an oral history interview	13.2% (37)	29.3% (82)	26.1% (73)	28.2% (79)	3.2% (9)	2.72	280
Information about organizing an oral history project	10.2% (28)	34.5% (95)	26.5% (73)	25.8% (71)	2.9% (8)	2.70	275
Educational resources such as lesson plans for high school teachers which use the material on the website	12.9% (36)	30.7% (86)	27.5% (77)	21.8% (61)	7.1% (20)	2.63	280
Educational resources such as lesson plans for university and college teachers which use the material on the website	11.1% (31)	25.4% (71)	31.8% (89)	29.3% (82)	2.5% (7)	2.81	280
Gifts, photographs and books available for retail sale	39.4% (110)	34.8% (97)	13.6% (38)	9.3% (26)	2.9% (8)	1.93	279
Links to similar lesbian oral history sites	0.7% (2)	15.9% (45)	34.6% (98)	46.3% (131)	2.5% (7)	3.30	283
Links to general LGBT archival web sites	2.1% (6)	17.0% (48)	33.3% (94)	45.0% (127)	2.5% (7)	3.24	282
Other (please specify and give importance beside it)							28
answered question							288
skipped question							77

13. We welcome any other comments or suggestions that relate to the new A LOT web site.

**Response
Count**

67

answered question

67

skipped question

298