



# A SNAPSHOT OF PRIORITIES & PERSPECTIVES U.S. Library Consortia



OCLC conducted a survey among U.S. library consortia leaders to understand the demographic make-up of their groups, strategic initiatives, their groups' challenges and top methods for communicating with their members.

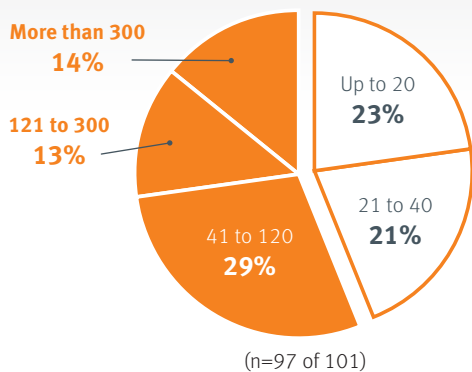
### Most U.S. library consortia:

- Have been in existence for more than 30 years
- Have more than 40 member libraries
- Consider funding to be their top challenge
- Host in-person meetings and networking opportunities with members at least several times a year.

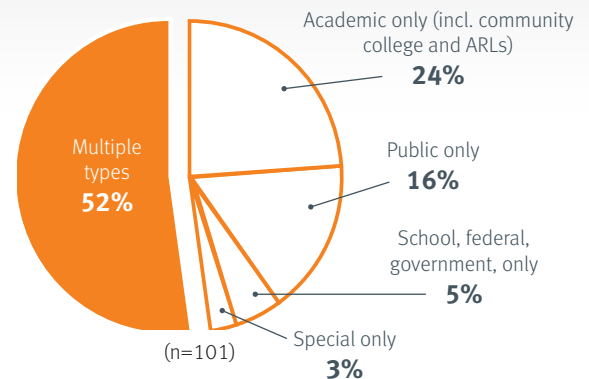
If you would like to read similar reports about libraries in the U.S., U.K., the Netherlands or Germany, see the reports at [www.oclc.org/reports.en.html](http://www.oclc.org/reports.en.html)

**The make-up of U.S. library consortia:** Of the 101 U.S. library consortia who responded to our survey, more than half have more than 40 member libraries, serve multiple types of libraries, and have operated for more than 30 years. The large majority employ full-time staff.

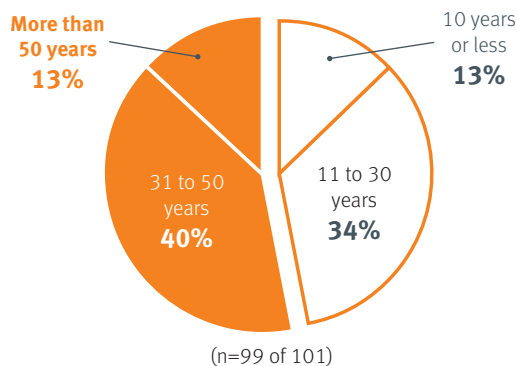
### Number of member libraries



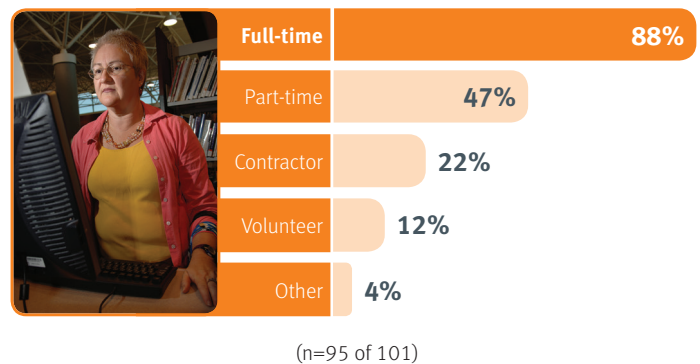
### Types of member libraries



### Years in existence



### Staff

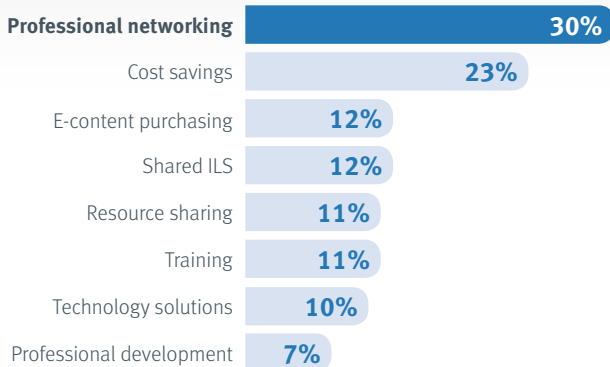


# Membership fosters collaboration

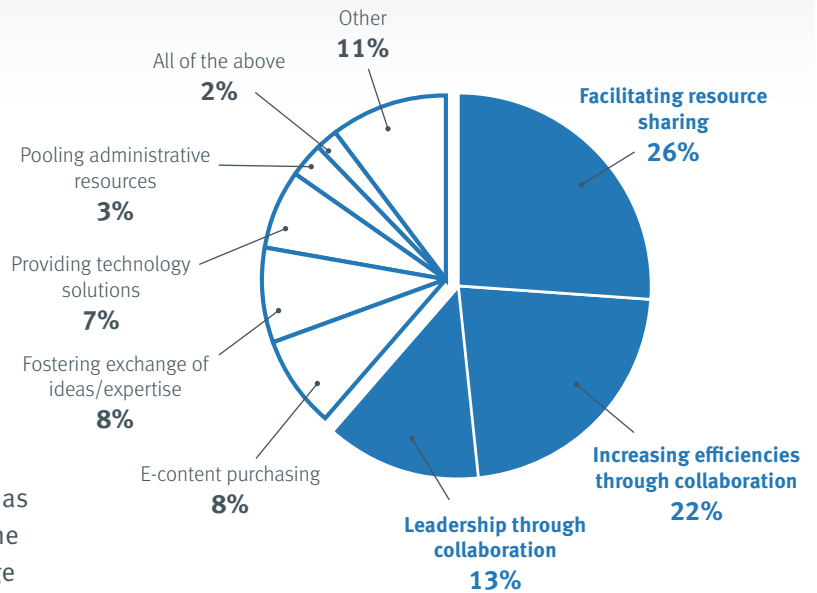
Consortia leaders have identified many valuable aspects of membership.

**Networking, resource sharing and collaboration:** Nearly a third of U.S. library consortia leaders feel professional networking is the most valuable aspect of membership. For many U.S. library consortia, facilitating resource sharing, increasing efficiencies through collaboration and leadership through collaboration are their major points of focus.

## Valuable aspects of membership



## Primary mission

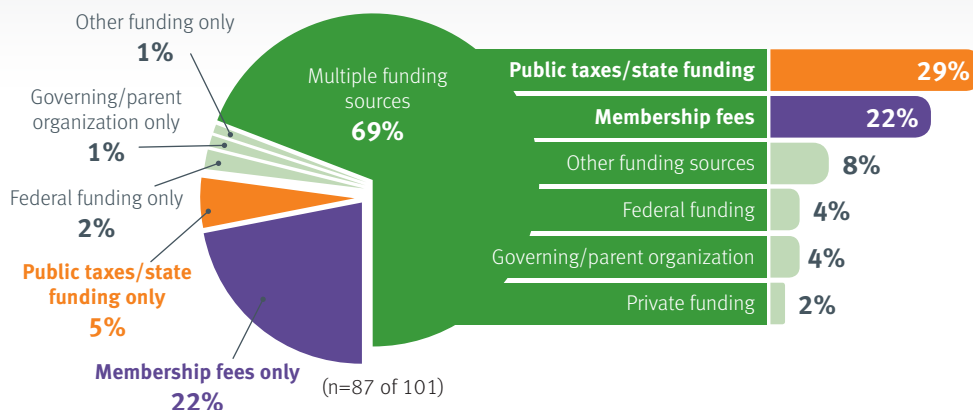


“Although our network has a small budget and staff, it has received national and international recognition for some of its programs and services. Our success is due in large part to the members’ collaborative spirit and willingness to take risks.”

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONSORTIUM LEADER**

**Budget:** Consortia receive funding from a variety of sources. Public taxes, state funding and membership fees comprise a majority of their budgets.

## Funding sources



# Services, initiatives and challenges

Resource sharing is the most-used service by U.S. library consortia member libraries. Licensing of e-content will continue to be the top initiative for the next few years.

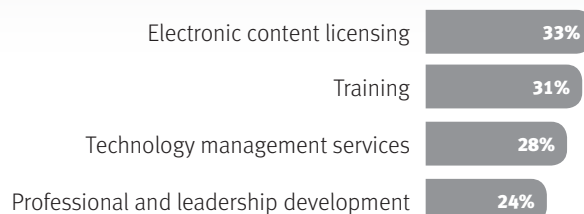
**Serving member libraries and beyond:** Resource sharing, shared online catalog and cooperative purchasing are among the most-used services offered by U.S. library consortia. And, their reach extends beyond their members with services used by nonmember libraries and end users.

## Use of services

### 3 MOST-USED SERVICES



### OTHER MOST-USED SERVICES

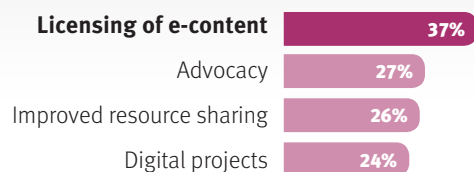


## Who benefits beyond member libraries?

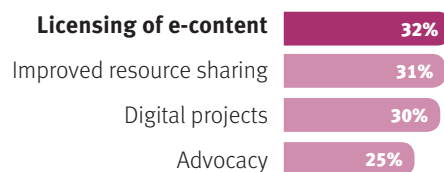


**Strategic focus and pressing challenges:** Licensing of e-content is the top initiative among U.S. library consortia both now and in the near future. Funding is by far the most pressing challenge U.S. library consortia are facing.

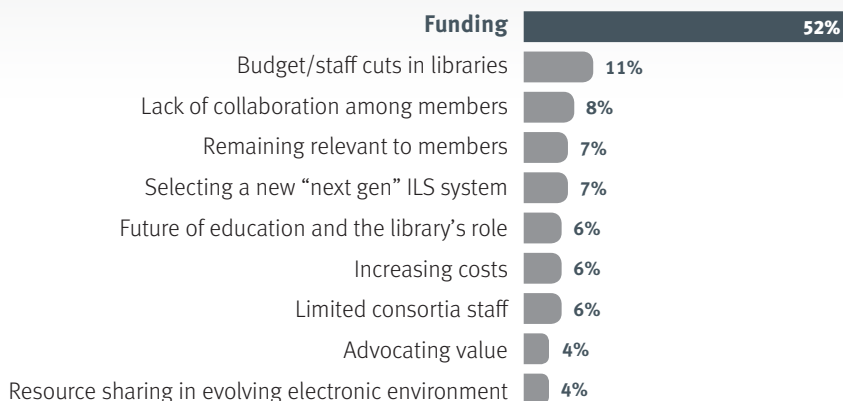
## Top initiatives today



## Top future initiatives



## CHALLENGES



“Talking to other consortia about what we are doing has been very helpful for developing strategies for the future.”

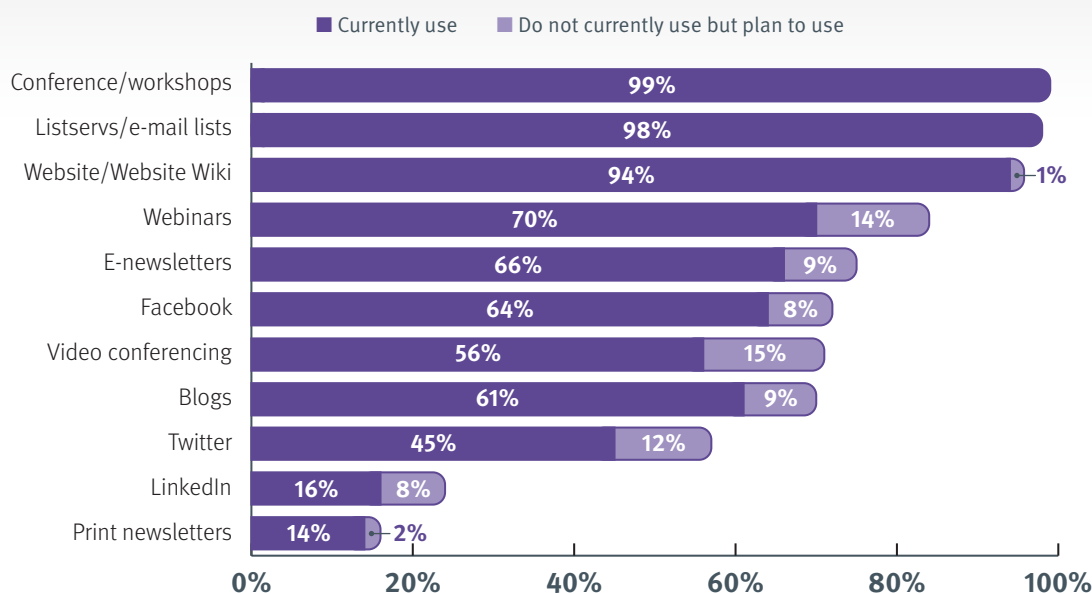
**PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSORTIUM LEADER**

# Connecting electronically and in-person

Most U.S. library consortia use conferences/workshops, listservs/e-mail lists and websites to communicate with their users, and most host in-person meetings with members several times a year or more often.

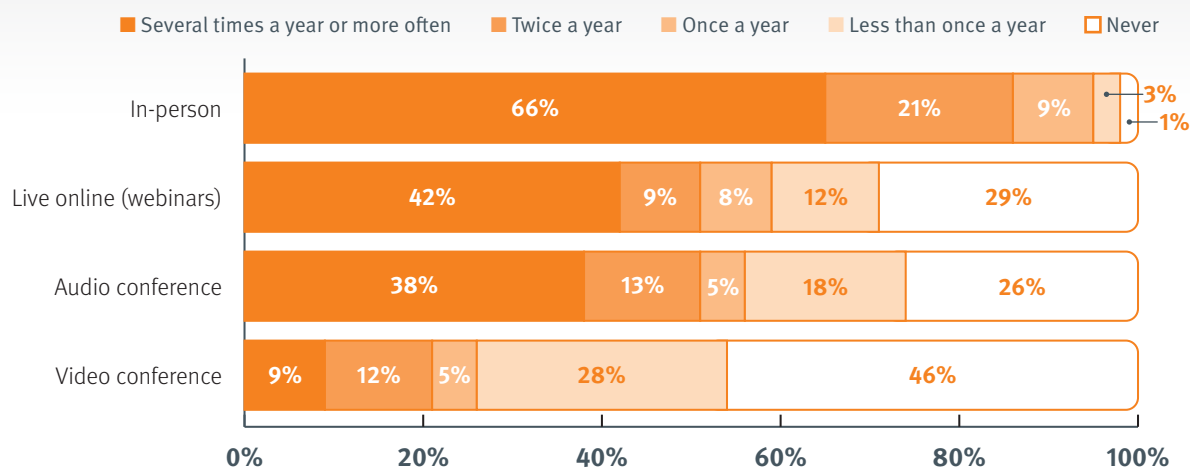
**Conferences, listservs and websites are top communication channels:** Conferences/workshops, listservs/e-mail lists and websites are the most-used communication channels by U.S. library consortia while webinars, e-newsletters, social media and video conferencing are gaining ground.

## Communicating with users



**In-person gatherings are the most common way to hold meetings:** Two-thirds of U.S. library consortia host in-person meetings and workshops to connect with members several times a year.

## Meeting with members



OCLC conducted primary research in 2012 by inviting library consortia staff via personal e-mail to participate in a survey. This report details findings from the 101 U.S. library consortia leaders who participated.