Annual Meeting Survey Results

The survey went to more than 8,600 registered attendees, including AAR members. Of this group 1,723 completed the survey.

- The key new findings of this year’s survey are that members prefer program unit sessions with more than one presentation and with time for discussion. (Click here to see the guidelines for submitting a new program unit.)

- The survey confirmed three matters: the primary reason members attend the meeting is to participate on the program; most members make purchases in the exhibit hall; and the preference of members to eat close to the meeting sessions during the day and to go further afield for the evening meal.

- Thirty six survey respondents volunteered to propose new program units. Click here for information on proposing a new unit.

- Answers to the question of whether to attend the SBL or AAR or both 2008 annual meeting followed the pattern of organizational demographics.

Details on the above findings are below.

**Most and least preferred session types and formats**

**Preferred type:**
- Program unit sessions
- Special sessions (those not hosted by a program unit) on hot topics
- Receptions (of course!)

**Preferred session format**
(how many speakers, who speaks, etc.)
- More than one paper
- Panel discussions
- Seminar style (papers with prepared responses)
Least Preferred: One speaker in a session with no respondent.

Where Members Prefer to Eat
Q: Why would the SBL care where we eat?
A: To tell hotels and local restaurants so they can staff & stock ahead for better service.

Breakfast
- Room service: 65%
- Hotel Restaurant: 75%
- Coffee shop: 75%

Lunch
- Exhibit Hall Cafe: 88%
- Restaurant: 70%

Dinner
- Nearby Restaurant: 90%
- Hotel Restaurant: 23%

Top three reasons for attending the meeting:
Exhibits

96.5% of respondents entered the exhibit hall.
81% bought books

Which 2008 Annual Meeting will you attend?

1805 answered this question
1234 SBL Meeting
333 AAR Meeting
124 Both meetings
114 Neither meeting