



2018 SBL Membership Report

Data Collection: January 2018

This report marks a departure from previous reports. Whereas previous member profiles often showcased new data and provided more substantial analysis of those data, this report will mark an attempt more closely associate the data reported here with the questions asked in the member profile. This is being done in order to simplify the report and to provide a more straightforward basis by which these reports can be compared year-to-year. This information, along with more intricate cross tabulation, is used by the SBL Council, International Cooperation Initiative, Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession, and Status of Women in the Profession committees to help identify and understand trends in the profession.

I. Membership Information Based on Membership Types

At the time of data collection, SBL has a total of 8465 members.

Total SBL Membership by Type		
Type of Membership	Count	% Of Membership
Full Membership	5885	69.52%
Public Membership	567	6.70%
Student Membership	2013	23.78%
Grand Total	8465	100.00%

Of these members 8,465 members, 8,344 have a country of residence associated with their membership. Currently, members reside in 102 countries around the world. A majority, 5,496 (66%), list their country of residence as the United States.

II. Membership Profile Information

As of January 2018, 8,358 members have filled out at least one question on the SBL Member Profile. Of that number, 5,519 are current members, and 65% of our current members have filled out the member profile. We will report the answer to the question posed by the member profile below. In some cases we will not report information when there is not a significant number of answers for a particular question, where the data cannot be collated in a form for easy reproduction here, or where reporting of even compiled data could risk exposing identifying information. In most of the tables below we will divide the information between the response of “All Responders” and “Current Member Responders.” The information will generally be presented in tables accompanied by corresponding question from the member profile.

In what occupation are you or were you most recently employed?

The majority of members who have filled out the member profile list their occupation as “Faculty (College or University)” followed by “Student,” “Other,” “Religious Leader,” “Administrator of an Educational Institution,” and “Independent Scholar.” Of note, the percentage of respondents who report “Student” in the member profile (14% of current member respondents) differs from the percentage of SBL members who hold a student membership (24%, as reported in the 2017 Society Report). One may note the discrepancy between the number of current members who select “student” as their occupation in the profile (14%) and the number of members who hold a student membership (24%), and this reflects the fact that student members fill out the profile at a lower rate than full or public members.

Employment Status of Responding SBL Members				
	All	% of All	Current	% of Current
Administrator of an Educational Institution	444	5.31%	251	4.55%
Faculty (College or University)	4448	53.22%	3276	59.36%
Independent Scholar	389	4.65%	243	4.40%
Librarian/Archivist	65	0.78%	36	0.65%
Museum Curator/Employee	17	0.20%	8	0.14%
Other	881	10.54%	505	9.15%
Publishing Employee	79	0.95%	47	0.85%
Religious Leader	667	7.98%	333	6.03%
Student	1293	15.47%	782	14.17%
Teacher (Primary or Secondary School)	75	0.90%	38	0.69%
Grand Total	8358	100%	5519	100%

What is your current employment status?

This question is asked in the profile unless one selects an occupation of “student” or “independent scholar.” Since this is a follow-up question to preceding the question about occupation, the following chart breaks down the employment status by occupation type.

Employment Status by Occupation																
Employment Status	Administrator of Educational Institution		Faculty (College or University)		Librarian/ Archivist		Museum Curator/ Employee		Publishing Employee		Religious Leader		Teacher (Primary or Secondary School)		Total	
	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current
Contingent (Adjunct)			299	193	1										300	193
Full-time							15	8	63	41	479	235			557	284
Full-time nontenure-track	185	102	993	715	10	5							34	17	1222	839
Full-time tenure not available					26	11									26	11
Full-time tenured or tenure track					6	4									6	4
Full-time tenure-track or tenured	142	97	2153	1633									18	9	2313	1739
Part-time	25	8	311	218	7	4			9	4	82	36	7	3	441	273
Postdoc			111	93											111	93
Retired	36	21	379	282					5	2	66	43	4	2	490	350
Unemployed	5	1	20	11	5	4					11	5	1	1	42	22
Grand Total	393	229	4266	3145	55	28	15	8	77	47	638	319	64	32	5508	3808

What is your highest degree attained?

The vast majority of our members answering this question, 80%, report a doctorate as the highest degree obtained. This corresponds closely with the 82% who report faculty positions in the occupation question.

Highest Degree Attained								
Occupation	Doctorate		Master's Degree		Undergraduate		Total	
	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current
Administrator of an Educational Institution	344	217	75	27	10	4	429	248
Faculty (College or University)	4031	3025	327	191	7	3	4365	3219
Independent Scholar	215	147	137	73	22	12	374	232
Librarian/Archivist	23	15	38	19	2		63	34
Museum Curator/Employee	8	4	6	3	1		15	7
Other	496	324	273	133	66	26	835	483
Publishing Employee	34	23	25	14	13	8	72	45
Religious Leader	292	163	331	151	32	12	655	326
Teacher (Primary or Secondary School)	27	18	39	16	7	4	73	38
Grand Total	5470	3936	1251	627	160	69	6881	4632
Percentage	80%	85%	18%	14%	2%	1%	100%	100%

What is your expertise/specialty?

The data for this question is too large to reproduce here completely, so we will summarize the most common answers. Among the 5,116 active members who have selected at least one area of expertise/specialty, the most common texts are Genesis (1,017), the Gospel of John (1,010), the Gospel of Mark (999), the Gospel of Luke (980), the Gospel of Matthew (906), Romans (827), 1 Corinthians (770), Greek classical literature (704), Exodus (693), Deuteronomy (686), and Psalms (684). Among the methods, several larger categories are the most common. Philology of Koine Greek (2,580) and Classical Hebrew (2,355) are first and third, respectively, of all the areas selected. Among the broad areas of specialty, New Testament (2,386), Christian (1,903), Hebrew Bible (1,808), Old Testament (1,783) are commonly selected. The most common interpretive approaches are historical criticism (1,912), theological interpretation (1,698), and history of interpretation (1,241), and literary criticism (1,228).

What is your age?

Age Range of Responding Members				
Age Group	All	% of All	Current	% of Current
Under 18	0	0%	0	0%
18-30	329	5%	199	5%
31-50	2578	43%	1672	42%
51-65	1840	31%	1268	32%
66 and Older	1265	21%	858	21%

What is your gender?

Gender Identification				
Gender	All Responders	% of All Responders	Current Responders	% of Current Responders
Female	1801	21.55%	1217	22.05%
Male	5722	68.46%	3780	68.49%
Transgender	5	0.06%	2	0.04%
No Answer	830	9.93%	520	9.42%
Grand Total	8358	100.00%	5519	100.00%

What is your country of birth and country of citizenship?

Country of Birth and Citizenship All Membership Profile Responders								
Country	Birth	Citizenship	Country	Birth	Citizenship	Country	Birth	Citizenship
AFGHANISTAN	1	1	GEORGIA	5	5	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1	0
ANGOLA	1	1	GERMANY	233	172	PARAGUAY	5	1
ARGENTINA	34	28	GHANA	15	8	PERU	21	15
ARMENIA	2	2	GREECE	12	8	PHILIPPINES	34	19
AUSTRALIA	179	188	GRENADA	2	1	POLAND	26	23
AUSTRIA	24	20	GUATEMALA	3	1	PORTUGAL	6	4
AZERBAIJAN	1	0	GUYANA	3	0	REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	2	0
BAHRAIN	1	0	HAITI	5	1	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	186	122
BANGLADESH	1	0	HONG KONG	28	16	ROMANIA	40	20
BARBADOS	4	3	HUNGARY	17	16	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	21	11
BELGIUM	21	17	ICELAND	1	0	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	1	0
BELIZE	2	0	INDIA	58	46	SAINT LUCIA	1	1
BERMUDA	1	0	INDONESIA	20	19	SAMOA	3	2
BOLIVIA	6	2	IRAN	4	1	SAUDI ARABIA	1	1
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	3	0	IRAQ	2	1	SENEGAL	1	0
BOTSWANA	2	1	IRELAND	26	23	SERBIA	6	3
BRAZIL	60	49	ISRAEL	76	86	SINGAPORE	15	13
BULGARIA	3	0	ITALY	72	56	SLOVAKIA	8	4
BURKINA FASO	3	4	JAMAICA	20	9	SLOVENIA	1	1
CAMEROON	3	3	JAPAN	53	36	SOUTH AFRICA	124	94
CANADA	330	323	JORDAN	2	0	SPAIN	27	24
CHILE	10	8	KAZAKHSTAN	1	0	SRI LANKA	5	3
CHINA	26	14	KENYA	12	6	SWEDEN	40	38
COLOMBIA	19	12	KUWAIT	1	0	SWITZERLAND	40	34
COSTA RICA	4	4	LATVIA	4	2	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	4	1
COTE D'IVOIRE	3	1	LEBANON	4	2	TAIWAN	21	12
CROATIA	8	4	LITHUANIA	0	1	TANZANIA	3	3
CUBA	10	1	LUXEMBOURG	0	1	THAILAND	1	1
CURAÇAO	1	1	MADAGASCAR	3	3	TOGO	2	1
CYPRUS	2	2	MALAYSIA	16	10	TONGA	4	3
CZECH REPUBLIC	14	6	MALTA	2	1	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	3	0
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	9	5	MEXICO	21	12	TURKEY	2	2
DENMARK	30	28	MONTENEGRO	1	0	UGANDA	5	3
DJIBOUTI	0	1	MOROCCO	2	0	UKRAINE	12	6
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	6	1	MYANMAR (BURMA)	14	11	UNITED KINGDOM	300	235
ECUADOR	4	1	NETHERLANDS	107	73	UNITED STATES	4903	4348
EGYPT	12	1	NEW ZEALAND	45	29	URUGUAY	4	3
EL SALVADOR	1	1	NICARAGUA	2	1	UZBEKISTAN	1	1
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	1	1	NIGERIA	83	70	VENEZUELA	8	5
ESTONIA	3	1	NORWAY	46	39	VIETNAM	7	2
ETHIOPIA	8	6	OMAN	1	0	ZAMBIA	4	4
FINLAND	43	33	PAKISTAN	1	0	ZIMBABWE	18	7
FRANCE	27	24	PALESTINIAN TERRITORY	1	0	No Answer	494	1724
Grand Total							8358	8358

In total 7,864 members have answered the questions related to country of birth and citizenship since the introduction of the member profile. SBL has had members in 125 countries, roughly two-thirds of the world's countries.

What is your ethnicity/race?

This question is asked only of members who indicate that the United States is their country of birth.

Ethnicity of Member Responders by Occupation														
Occupation	African Descent		Asian Descent		European or Caucasian Descent		Latin American Descent		Native American, Alaska Native, or First Nation Descent		Native Hawaiian or Oceanian Descent		Grand Total	
	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current
Administrator of an Educational Institution	24	11	8	5	281	159	10	5	10	2			333	182
Faculty (College or University)	135	66	135	81	2660	1959	99	59	54	34	6	1	3089	2200
Independent Scholar	13	4	6	2	255	155	8	4	6	2			288	167
Librarian/Archivist			2		49	27	1						52	27
Museum Curator/Employee					9	4							9	4
Other	25	8	24	12	557	303	22	9	13	4	2		643	336
Publishing Employee			1	1	59	36			1	1	1	1	62	39
Religious Leader	36	9	20	5	453	221	13	5	12	7	2	1	536	248
Student	64	28	50	18	725	435	53	26	14	6	4	1	910	514
Teacher (Primary or Secondary School)	6	2			52	24			2	1			60	27
Grand Total	303	128	246	124	5100	3323	206	108	112	57	15	4	5982	3744
Percentage of Total	5.06%	3.42%	4.11%	3.31%	85.26%	88.76%	3.44%	2.89%	1.87%	1.52%	0.26%	0.11%	100.00%	100.00%

What is your personal annual income in US dollars?

Range of Income				
Range of Income	Count of All Responders	% of All Responders	Count of Current Responders	% of Current Responders
\$0 - \$24,999	1444	26%	894	24%
\$25,000 - \$49,999	1198	21%	777	21%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	1559	28%	1081	29%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	797	14%	577	15%
\$100,000 - \$124,999	341	6%	238	6%
\$125,000 - \$149,999	119	2%	88	2%
\$150,000 and over	171	3%	117	3%
Grand Total	5629	100%	3772	100%

What level(s) of students do you or did you most recently teach (only asked of faculty and administrators)?

Level of Students Most Recently Taught by Faculty (College or University)			
	Doctorate	Master's	Undergraduate
All Responders	1482	2608	2977
Current Responders	1094	1970	2194

How many courses do you teach during an academic year (only asked of faculty and administrators)?

Number of Courses Taught in a Year		
# of Courses Taught	# of All Responders	# of Current Responders
0	351	229
1	336	232
2	611	420
3	460	322
4	806	609
5	507	384
6	660	510
7	236	174
8	396	282
9	112	75
10	226	161
Total of Responders	4701	3398

Of the following, which best describes the department(s) at which you are or were most recently employed? Check all that apply (only asked of faculty and administrators).

Department of Employment						
Department	Administrator of an Educational Institution		Faculty (College or University)		Total	
	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current
African Studies	6	1	39	21	45	22
Anthropology	4	1	41	24	45	25
Arab/ic Studies and/or Islamic Studies	2	2	34	20	36	22
Archaeology	18	15	121	79	139	94
Asian Studies	3	1	16	10	19	11
Biblical Studies	245	152	2563	1934	2808	2086
Classics and/or Classical Civilizations	14	10	215	163	229	173
Divinity	47	25	333	257	380	282
Early Christian Studies	35	19	362	261	397	280
Greek	43	25	504	361	547	386
Hebrew	45	24	598	454	643	478
History	22	13	231	160	253	173
Humanities	23	22	222	134	245	156
Interdisciplinary Studies	15	10	129	78	144	88
Jewish (Judaic) Studies	26	16	320	244	346	260
Latin American Studies	1	1	12	6	13	7
Linguistics	8	6	95	67	103	73
Literature/Comparative Literature	13	10	91	54	104	64
Near Eastern Studies (Ancient or Modern)	18	14	223	159	241	173
Other	50	25	241	149	291	174
Pastoral Counseling	18	8	44	25	62	33
Philosophy	12	8	146	89	158	97
Religion or Religious Studies	91	49	1228	912	1319	961
Sacred Music	5	3	9	6	14	9
Theology or Theological Studies	120	71	1255	902	1375	973
Women's Studies	6	4	83	54	89	58
Grand Total	890	535	9155	6623	10045	7158

If you are a teacher in a primary or secondary school, in what course(s) do you or did you most recently teach biblical literature? (Check all that apply.)

All Responding Teachers Courses Taught		
Bible as Literature Course	All Responders	Current Responders
Classics	6	3
Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	36	19
Introduction to Bible	23	11
Literature	7	3
New Testament	38	19
Other	16	9
World History	10	5
World Religions	12	8
Grand Total	148	77

If you are a teacher in a primary or secondary school, what subject(s) do you or did you most recently teach? (Check all that apply.)

Subjects Taught by Teachers of Primary and Secondary Schools		
Subjects Taught	All Responders	Current Responders
History	27	12
Language Arts	11	5
Literature	18	8
Mathematics	12	5
Science/Technology	2	1
Social Studies	11	7
Grand Total	81	38

If you are a student what is/are the name(s) of the department(s) in which you study? (Check all that apply.)

Departments of Study for Current Student Responders	
Department	
African Studies	1
Anthropology	3
Arab/ic Studies and/or Islamic Studies	7
Archaeology	23
Asian Studies	2
Biblical Studies	453
Classics and/or Classical Civilizations	45
Divinity	93
Early Christian Studies	95
Greek	122
Hebrew	165
History	45
Humanities	24
Interdisciplinary Studies	21
Jewish (Judaic) Studies	70
Latin American Studies	3
Linguistics	33
Literature/Comparative Literature	19
Near Eastern Studies (Ancient or Modern)	119
Other	54
Pastoral Counseling	12
Philosophy	27
Religion or Religious Studies	218
Sacred Music	3
Theology or Theological Studies	236
Women's Studies	11
Total	1904

If you are a museum curator or employee, what type of work do you do?

Only 13 members responded to this question. Of those, 9 are employed in collection work and 4 in gallery work.

If you are a religious leader, in what way is the organization at which you are or were most recently employed best described?

Employment Type Religious Leader		
	All	Current
Christian	636	312
Jewish	10	9
Other	11	7
Total	657	328