

# Society of Tennessee Archivists

Annual Meeting Feedback Survey Report, 2025

Prepared by

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## Introduction

Launched on November 10, 2025 and closed on November 21, 2025, the Society of Tennessee Archivists (STA) Annual Meeting Feedback Survey collected information regarding the Society's Annual Meeting held at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee on October 16 and 17, 2025. The Executive Committee distributed the survey to 281 members and attendees. Eighty people registered for the annual meeting. Thirty-six members and attendees completed the survey. Some of the findings include:

- All respondents are likely to attend another Annual Meeting and most are likely to attend a virtual professional development opportunity.
- Respondents are less likely to seek elected office, volunteer for committees, or contribute to the Society's newsletter.
- Respondents are most interested in community archiving and project management workshop topics.
- Several respondents indicated that networking is an important aspect of the meeting and expressed desire for additional opportunities.
- Thirty percent of respondents were dissatisfied with the registration payment options.

Findings are organized by survey question:

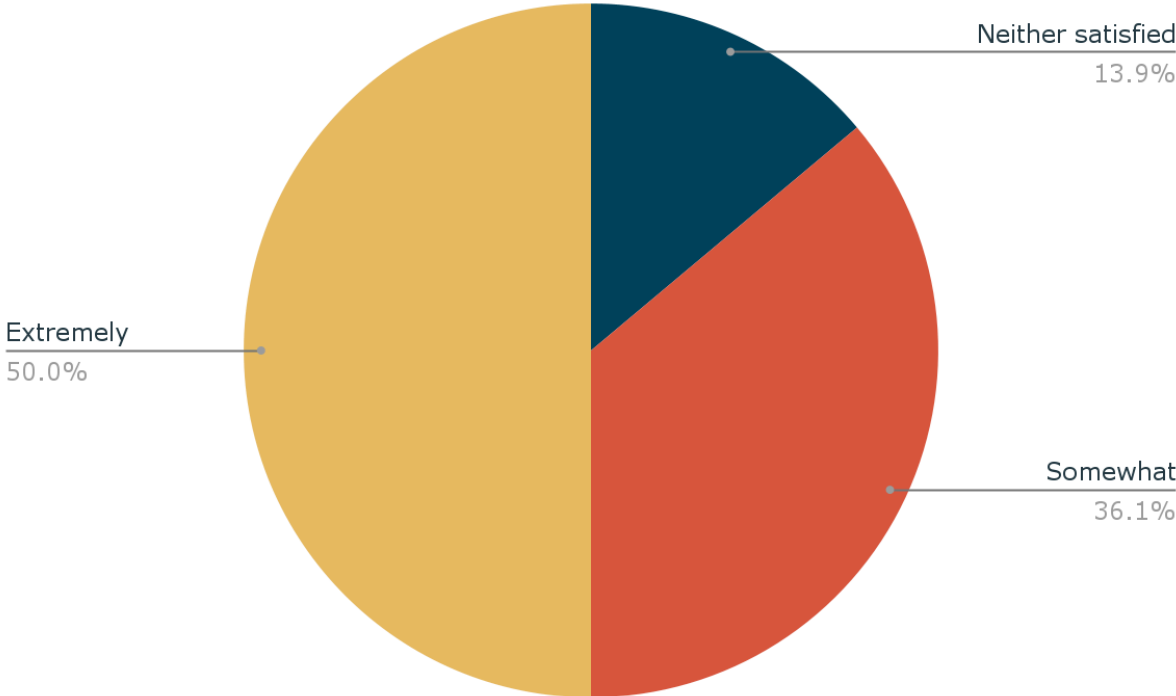
1. [How satisfied were you with the Annual Meeting's theme of "Navigating Challenges: Archives in an Age of Uncertainty?"](#)
2. [Offer additional feedback regarding the Annual Meeting's theme of "Navigating Challenges: Archives in an Age of Uncertainty," including suggestions for next year's theme.](#)
3. [Rate your satisfaction with the following elements of the Annual Meeting.](#)
4. [Rate your interest in the following potential workshop topics.](#)
5. [Enter additional workshop topics we should consider.](#)
6. [What kind of venue do you prefer for the Annual Meeting?](#)
7. [What was the most valuable aspect of the Annual Meeting?](#)
8. [What was the least valuable aspect of the Annual Meeting?](#)
9. [Offer additional feedback about the Annual Meeting.](#)
10. [Rate your likeliness to engage with the Society in the following ways.](#)

## Acknowledgements

Thanks to the attendees of the 2025 Annual Meeting for offering thoughtful feedback. The Arrangements Committee will use your feedback to inform the 2026 Annual Meeting.

# How satisfied were you with the Annual Meeting's theme of "Navigating Challenges: Archives in an Age of Uncertainty?"

n=36



Selection	#	%
Extremely dissatisfied	0	0%
Somewhat dissatisfied	0	0%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	5	14%
Somewhat satisfied	13	36%
Extremely satisfied	18	50%

Offer additional feedback regarding the Annual Meeting's theme of "Navigating Challenges: Archives in an Age of Uncertainty," including suggestions for next year's theme.

n=11

It was fine. A suggestion would be something for the 250th. Like nice and general.

These are challenging times, but I didn't feel that some of the content in the talks and the workshop went along with the theme-some did, some didn't. That's okay, but maybe for next year, the theme should be more general? Suggestions for next year's them:

- Who uses your archive? Something to do with the audience and maybe figuring out how to expand the audience
- Best practices; success stories;
- The lifecycle of acquiring a collection, processing it, and making it accessible

It's a good theme - we could probably continue this next year.

A timely topic with some good information on different types of archives and archiving duties.

A lot of thought was put into this theme and it was a great program overall.

This was an awesome theme and it applied to a wide variety of audiences. I think keeping a theme that applies to all archives is useful for all.

All the presentations were good, informative, and interesting.

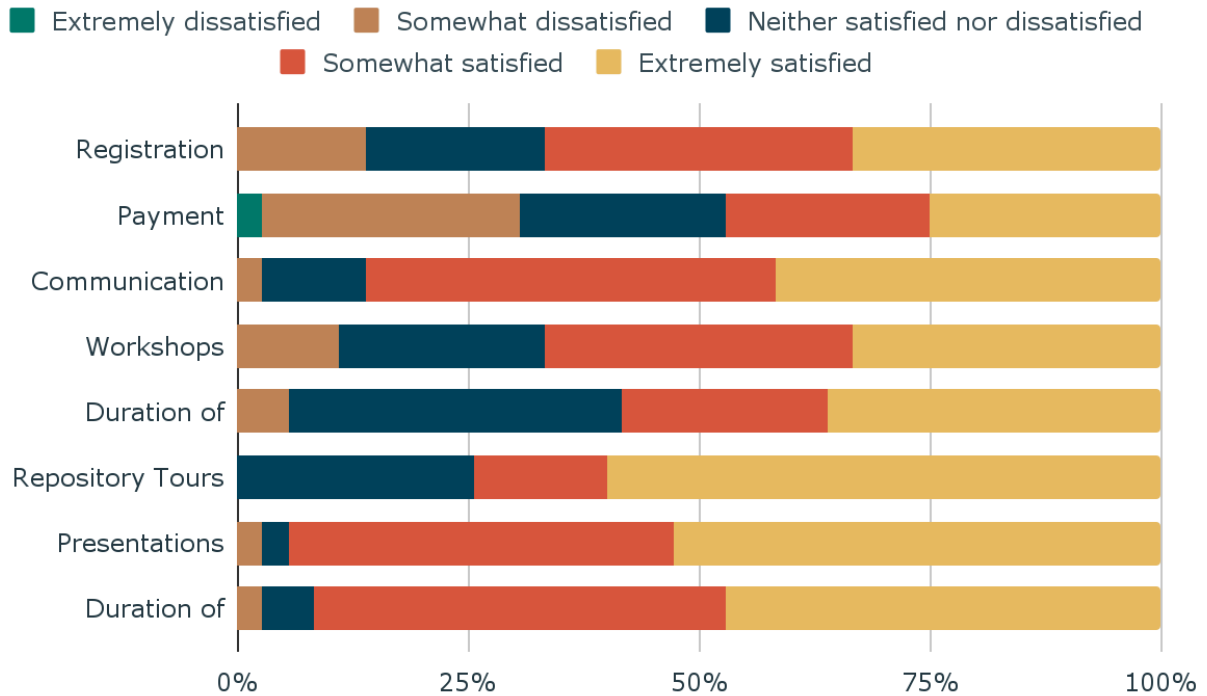
Maybe something about collaboration and community building. Or connecting/working with people of multiple generations as our field grows and changes.

I hate using PayPal. Considering inexpensive accommodations was helpful. The presentation on Social Media was very educational.

The 2025 theme was timely; next year perhaps continue uncertainty theme due to problems from the current Administration.

## Rate your satisfaction with the following elements of the Annual Meeting.

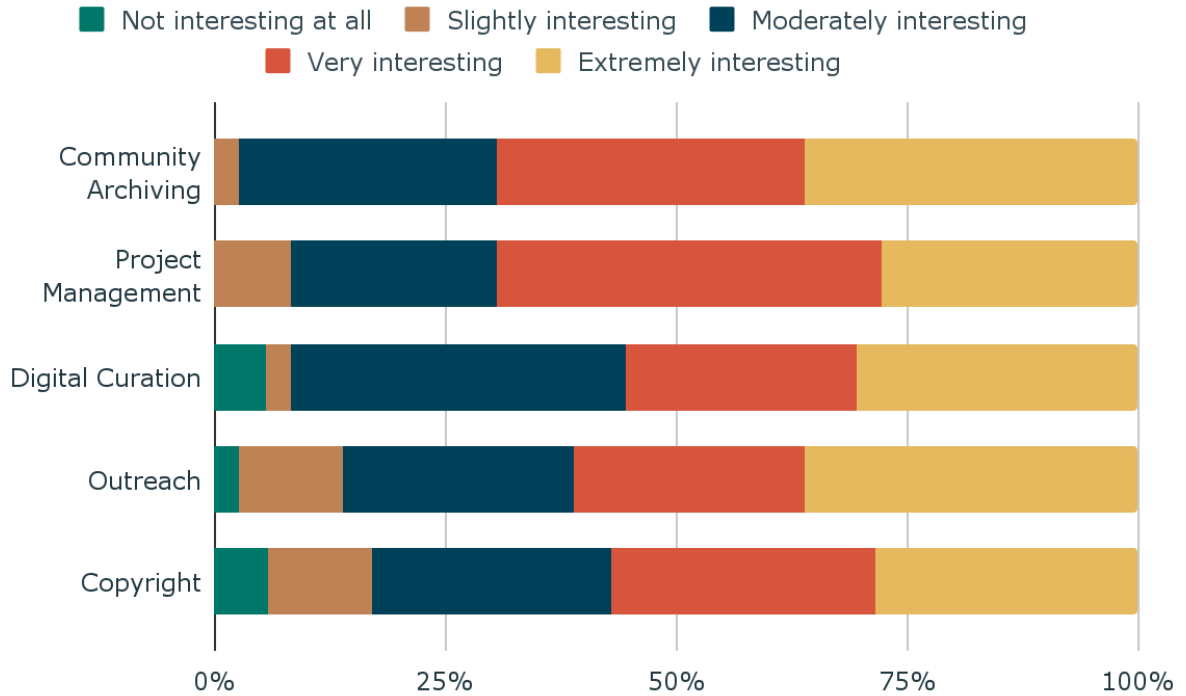
n=36



Element/Satisfaction	Extremely dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Extremely satisfied
Registration	0	5	7	12	12
Payment	1	10	8	8	9
Communication	0	1	4	16	15
Workshops	0	4	8	12	12
Duration of Workshops	0	2	13	8	13
Repository Tours	0	0	9	5	21
Presentations	0	1	1	15	19
Duration of Presentations	0	1	2	16	17

## Rate your interest in the following potential workshop topics.

n=36



<b>Topic/Interest</b>	<b>Not interesting at all</b>	<b>Slightly interesting</b>	<b>Moderately interesting</b>	<b>Very interesting</b>	<b>Extremely interesting</b>
Community Archiving	0	1	10	12	13
Project Management	0	3	8	15	10
Digital Curation	2	1	13	9	11
Outreach	1	4	9	9	13
Copyright	2	4	9	10	10

Enter additional workshop topics we should consider.

n=10

Preservation/conservation

Is there a way to apply MPLP to digital processing?

The logistics of making born digital materials available without the limitations and time investment of online platforms that require metadata work (such as content dm or others).

Donor Relations

Best Preservation Practices for Non-Paper Materials; Metadata: What Do You Really Need to Serve Researchers?; Expanding Outreach (aka How to Get People to Visit the Archive - what programs/events/ideas are seeing success?); it would be nice to have more content aimed at early professional/student attendees on finding archives jobs, networking, etc.

Theoretical and cultural topics. Libraries/archives as memory spaces. Less focus on case studies and procedural discussion.

Basics of Oral History - what to include when working with various people/subjects.

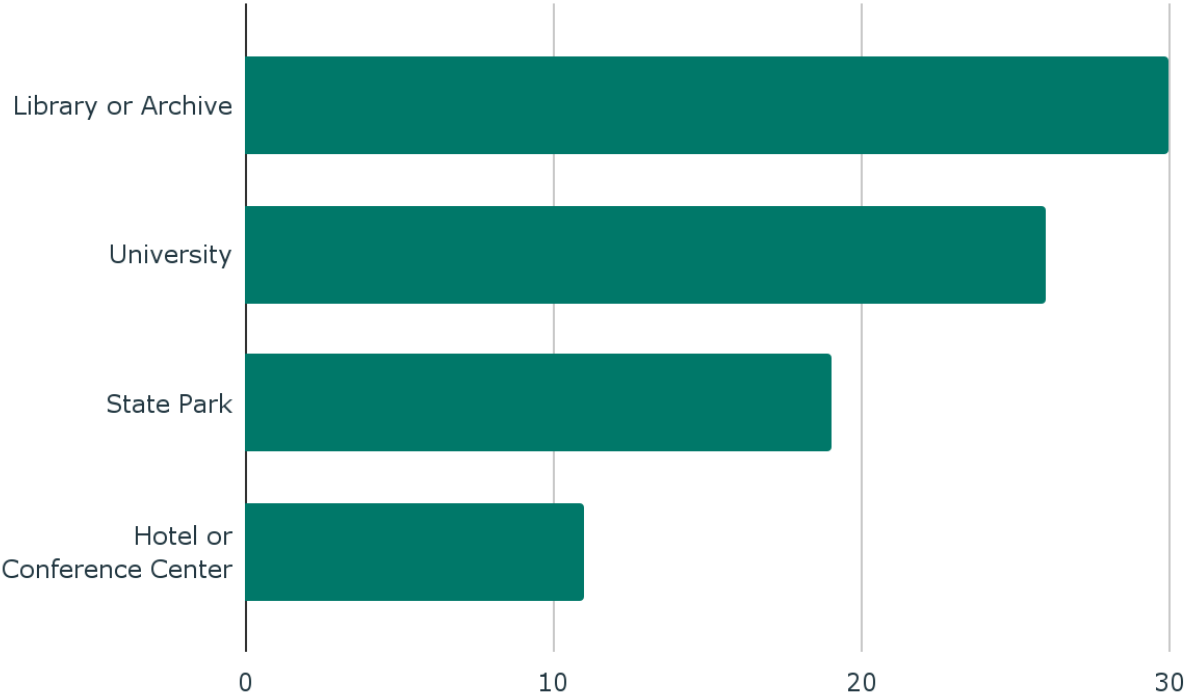
I love any of the legal presentations. I wish Brigitte's was longer! As someone who works in county government, I really like the talks about copyright, replevin, TN codes annotated etc. and would love to see some more of that.

Local archives- preservation and care for collections.

From SAA's Continuing Education Catalog: Train the Trainer: Building a Successful Continuing Education Course, Grant Proposal Writing, and Toward Financial Sustainability in Archives.

What kind of venue do you prefer for the Annual Meeting? Check all that apply.

n=35



<b>Selection</b>	<b>#</b>
Library or Archive	30
University	26
State Park	19
Hotel or Conference Center	11

## What was the most valuable aspect of the Annual Meeting?

n=22

Presentations from other institutions

Networking opportunities

Seeing everyone; catching up with colleagues; seeing exhibits at the venue; hearing from different institutions and work settings (size, staffing, audience, etc.)

I liked having a chance to discuss what we want to be as an organization

Meeting fellow TN archivists

I really enjoyed the more advanced workshop about digitization.

The presentations are a great way to share a variety of aspects of current archival practice with us; I especially liked the social media and LGBTQ+ archives presentations for practical ideas (although the other presentations were very good for pure interest if not actual application).

Enjoyed hearing about what other archives are doing and their structures, needs, experiences, etc.

Networking

Seeing and getting to know colleagues throughout the state.

Time for networking and talking openly with others.

Net working

The planning session for making improvements to STA.

Interfacing with other Archives professionals from across the state that are facing similar challenges and expectations.

As a first time attendee, it was very valuable to hear about what other institutions across the state are working on and to hear from other professionals in the field what challenges and concerns they are experiencing.

Seeing and connecting with colleagues.

Networking.

Getting to meet with other archival folks

Great presentations, excellent speakers.

Getting to network and talk with like-minded individuals.

Strategic planning session.

The collaboration of staff and archives for presentations

## What was the least valuable aspect of the Annual Meeting?

n=9

The workshop

Not sure. Nothing felt completely unnecessary.

I wanted the presentations to be longer and more in depth. Perhaps a longer conference to get more substance.

There was little opportunity (or inclination?) for meeting/discussion among attendees. I think it would be hugely beneficial if STA not only encouraged but facilitated networking among TN archivists in person (particularly for younger professionals who do not already have rich contacts among the org.).

Parking was somewhat of a problem.

Parking.

Digital preservation workshops were repetitive. Last year's conference also offered a digital preservation workshop. I learned in the "advanced" track; however, there was not enough lead time to fully prepare for the workshop. It seemed to be offered at the last meeting. Even though it is more costly, I hope the organizers will consider bringing another SAA workshop to next year's conference. It's great to have well-prepared professional development opportunities than those less organized.

the payment option

## Offer additional feedback about the Annual Meeting.

n=13

Move the raffle to the business meeting or have people sign up for the raffle with the information that the raffle will happen at the end of the conference.

Food was very yummy! Yay and thank you.!

Overall it went well. It might be nice to have some sort of reception so people could get to know each other a little better.

I thought it was a great conference and am excited to return next year. It would have been nice to have a workshop in-between the super simple introduction and the very complex one. I felt like the first was too simple/heard it before and the one I went to asked us to download too many things and was too complicated for just one person to give it with no help. She spent most of the time addressing issues with individual computers. I would have really liked something in-between. That being said, the workshop was good and primarily let me see how overwhelming and complicated born-digital items are. I had no idea how much I didn't know.

I would love to see, in addition to a major overhaul of the ancient website, a little more content aimed at student participation (ex. poster exhibits or social media contributions) to encourage new membership. Also, the business meeting on Day 2 felt scattered and long, comparatively speaking, since not everyone could vote and a handful of the officers were not present to deliver updates (honestly, keep these to the emails or newsletter and use some of that time to create social space and force people to leave their cliques and meet people from other institutions).

1. Several people felt the door prize tickets should be drawn throughout the meeting.
2. It was disappointing to see so many people leave after the last session on Friday.
3. I saw that there was an effort to have a Thursday evening gathering, but no one signed up to go to any of the places. I think the arrangements committee needs to make a plan for some activity Thursday evening (walking tour of a specific area, drinks/dinner, bookmaking or other hands-on activity) for those who are coming in from out of town after day one.
4. More emphasis on networking during the meeting - like a speed networking session with business card exchange. Be prepared to share 3 things, a research interest, and their contact info.

Good to have a meeting in a university setting, but continue to have a variety of institutions and topics.

There seemed to be some mis-communication with registration? A lot of people from my work place didn't have name badges or get registered for the lunch.

It would be great if coffee and tea were available throughout the duration of the conference, not just in the morning. I did really appreciate that hot tea was an option, though.

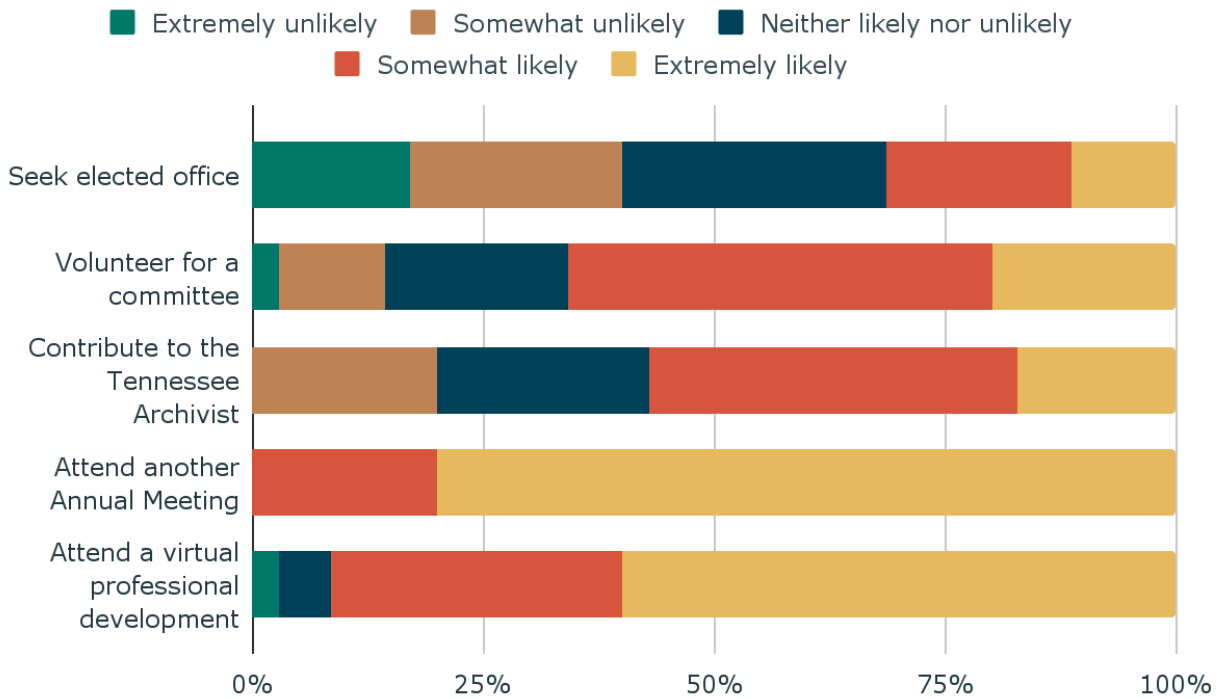
Really enjoyed the historic space reuse.

Very good work in organization for the conference.

Thank you for organizing a lovely event in a beautiful space! Our hosts at Vanderbilt were outstanding. The tours were a real highlight!

## Rate your likeliness to engage with the Society in the following ways.

n=35



<b>Engagement/Likelihood</b>	<b>Extremely unlikely</b>	<b>Somewhat unlikely</b>	<b>Neither likely nor unlikely</b>	<b>Somewhat likely</b>	<b>Extremely likely</b>
Seek elected office	6	8	10	7	4
Volunteer for a committee	1	4	7	16	7
Contribute to the Tennessee Archivist newsletter	0	7	8	14	6
Attend another Annual Meeting	0	0	0	7	28
Attend a virtual professional development opportunity	1	0	2	11	21