

5CLIR SURVEY --- as of Spring 2010

March 23, 2010

Summary

In the fall of 2009 5CLIR sent all members (with return envelope) a “Survey of Current Members” in an effort to get an up-to-date profile of the 5CLIR membership. The form was an improvement on the effort that had begun as early as 2002 to keep collective track of the 5CLIR membership. This effort was organized and much of the work was done by Hy Edelstein under the supervision of the Tech Committee and with some labor intensive assistance by Sally Edelstein and Chuck Gillies.

The response to the survey was surprisingly good. In fact, so good that we received 296 survey forms, although the current (3/23/10) membership is listed at 286! Discrepancies are explained by the almost daily fluctuation in our membership – from drop outs, late ads, movings and/or deaths. We consider that the data gives us as good a picture of the 5CLIR membership as is possible. If we require all new members to complete the same form we can keep this up-to-date and report periodically on changes in membership.

This report is a comprehensive summary of the data collected. We recommend that this Report be delivered to Council ASAP and that a *Newsletter* article be written sharing its highlights with the membership.

New in this survey are (a) the year members joined 5CLIR (#2); (b) when they moved to the Valley (#3); (c) Questions on computer usage (#11,12,13) and (d) questions on Special Programs (#14). We used multiple choice rather than, as in the earlier surveys, fill-in-the-blank on (e) how did you learn about 5CLIR (#5)? (f) why did you join (#6)? (g) We created a more complete “connections to the colleges” question (#10) and finally, (h) we had a much better response to the “year of birth” question (#4), allowing us a more accurate fix on the age of our population. (Why was this so? Probably because of the location of the question on the form!)

In this Report we did not distinguish between Full Time members and Associates. We have generally given the full data, but if we proceed with the Newsletter article we will probably aggregate the data and show graphical representations. There are probably still matters that can be mined from the database and improvements that might be made in future surveys. We invite your comments and suggestions for the future.

- Hy Edelstein and Chuck Gillies

1. Gender
 Female 202 (68%)
 Male 94 (32%)

Note: Entries – 296 (100%) This proportion has been consistent for several years. – HE & CG

2. Year Joined

Counts by Year Joined

Note: Entries – 246 (83%) of 296. Approximately half the membership joined in 2005 or later. 25% have been members for at least 10 years. The median is 2005. – HE & CG

1987	1	1996	6	2005	19	<MEDIAN
1988	0	1997	3	2006	25	
1989	2	1998	7	2007	27	
1990	6	1999	9	2008	28	
1991	3	2000	10	2009	30	
1992	5	2001	10	2010	6	
1993	0	2002	12			
1994	2	2003	10			
1995	6	2004	19			

3. Year moved to The Valley

**Note: Entries 236 out of 296 (80%);
The Median year is 1989. Approximately half the
 membership has been living in The Valley for more than 20
 years. 17% have moved into The Valley during the last 5
 years.
 – HE & CG**

Counts by year moved to Valley

1922	1	1959	2	1976	3	1994	1
1924	1	1960	2	1977	3	1995	6
1926	1	1961	1	1978	3	1996	3
1930	2	1962	3	1979	2	1997	8
1937	1	1963	7	1980	3	1998	3
1941	1	1964	2	1981	1	1999	6
1942	1	1965	5	1983	3	2000	7
1947	1	1966	6	1984	1	2001	10
1949	1	1967	4	1985	5	2002	9
1950	1	1968	5	1986	2	2003	4
1951	1	1969	2	1987	1	2004	5
1953	4	1970	8	1988	1	2005	6
1954	2	1971	2	<u>1989</u>	<u>3</u>	2006	18
1955	1	1972	6	1990	5	2007	7
1956	1	1973	1	1991	1	2008	9
1957	2	1974	6	1992	1	2009	5
1958	2	1975	1	1993	3	2010	1

4. Birth Year

Ages of membership by decades Count

50 - 59 years	1	---
60 - 69 years	65	24%
70 - 79 years	116	42%
80 - 89 years	87	32%
90 - 99 years	5	2%

Total 274

**Note: Entries 274 out of 296 (93%);
 Youngest: 1954 (age 56);
 Oldest: 1913 (age 97);
Median birth year: 1933 (age 77).
 – HE & CG**

Birth Year

1913	1	1923	10	1932	10	1941	7	1950	0
1914	0	1924	9	<u>1933</u>	<u>15</u>	1942	8	1951	0
1915	1	1925	9	1934	11	1943	10	1952	0
1916	0	1926	11	1935	15	1944	6	1953	0
1917	0	1927	15	1936	4	1945	6	1954	1
1918	1	1928	9	1937	11	1946	7		
1919	2	1929	13	1938	14	1947	1		
1921	6	1930	10	1939	11	1948	1		
1922	8	1931	15	1940	14	1949	2		

5. How did you first learn of 5CLIR?

First learned through - - -

Print media	29	12%
Internet	2	1%
Word of mouth	196	81%
Other (see specifics)	14	6%

Total 241

Other means of first learning of LIR

- Book group
- Brochure at chamber of commerce
- Brochure at chamber of commerce
- Brochure in public place
- Belonged to Connecticut LIR
- Delegation from Harvard LIR
- Knowledge of similar programs
- LIR presentation to Amherst Rotary
- Materials from Smith College
- Radio announcement

- Radio announcement - WFCR
- Survey of interest
- UMass Continuing Education
- Was in Harvard LIR
- Was member of LIR in Virginia

Note: Entries – 241 out of 296 (81%); “Word of mouth” is clearly the most frequent response, but people frequently forget how they learned of something. Note the many other ways of discovering 5CLIR – HE & CG

6. Why did you join LIR? (Check all that apply)

Continue learning	222
Social aspects	133
Peer-learning model	87

Note: Entries – 240 out of 296 (81%); Notice that over one quarter were aware of the peer-learning model before joining 5CLIR. - HE & CG

7. Educational level (Check your highest level)

No College	3	1%
Bachelor level	45	18%
Graduate school	98	39%
Doctorate	79	31%
Professional	<u>27</u>	11%

Total 252

Note: Entries – 252 out of 296 (85%); We obviously have a highly educated group – over 80% have some kind of post-BA education. This may be intimidating for some. – HE & CG

8. Career backgrounds (Check all that apply)

Teaching	145
Science / Technology	39
Arts	39
Business	42
Staff / Management	46
Law	15
Medical / Health care	41
Social services	31
Research	34
Other (see specifics)	20

**Note: Entries – 247 out of 296 (83%);
Many members have had more than a
single career experience. More than half
have some teaching experience, a plus for
5CLIR! - HE & CG**

Other backgrounds

Architect
Architect
Clergy, editing
Communication
Desktop publishing
Editor
Foreign service
Gardener
Government
Government
Homemaker
International
organization
Librarian (4 instances)
Mayor
Mediation
Military
Military
Minister
Minister
OD consultant
Publishing
Reporter

9. Seminar interests

Listed by frequency ranking

Literature	196
History	180
Politics / Current affairs	143
Misc. Culture / Society	137
Art	135
Theater / Film	125
Music	124
Science / technology	101
Philosophy / Religion	99
Other (see specifics)	15

Note the broad range of interests. – HE & CG

Other seminar/workshop interests

Dance
Economics (2 instances)
Environmental issues
Law
Photography
Polar exploration, cosmology
Writing (7 instances)
Writing, travel

10. Connections to the Five Colleges

There were 163 members who have at least one connection to one of the five colleges. 18 % are retired faculty from the colleges, 24% are alumni or alumnae. We did not include the results for “other” as we considered them too vague. - HE & CG

	Alums	Faculty	Staff	Family	Totals
Amherst	6	3	7	12	28
Hampshire	1	2	2	11	16
Mt Holyoke	8	4	3	15	30
Smith	13	12	9	22	56
Umass	42	31	13	48	134
Totals	70	52	34	108	264

11. What are the primary ways you use your computer?

(Check all that apply)

Email	221
Internet	212
Writing	154
Photography	73
Other (see below)	21

Note: Entries 226 out of 296 (76%); Most members use e-mail and Internet, but a large number listed “writing.” This may suggest new possibilities for seminars or workshops. – HE & CG

Other computer uses

Art presentation	Music
Collage	Personal database
Creating DVDs	Politics
DVDs for film	Powerpoint
Finance / Banking (8 instances)	Research
Genealogy	Research
Music	
Scanning	

12. How often do you use your computer?

Entries – 222 out of 296 (75%)

Daily	189	85%
At least once a week	27	12%
Seldom	6	3%
Total	222	

13. How often do you check for email?

Entries – 218 out of 296 (75%)

Daily	186	85%
At least once a week	26	12%
Seldom	6	3%
Total	218	

14. What formats appeal to you in Special Programs?

(Check all that apply)

Lecture	190	85%
Workshop	148	66%
Local tour	128	57%
Out-of-town bus tour	105	47%

Entries – 224 out of 296 (76%)

Suggestions for Special Programs

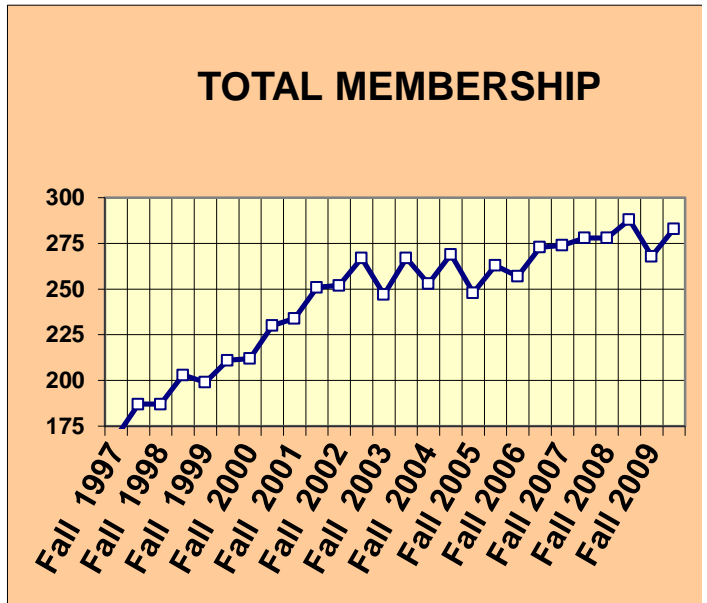
African and native American Art
 Art Museums
 Art museums in Boston, NY City
 Back to Boston
 Boston & NY museums
 Boston Gardner museum
 Boston Acquarium
 Writers' Workshops
 Deerfield
 Giza in Egypt
 Hartford Stage, Springfield SSO
 ICA Boston
 Language (Latin, German)
 Lectures on Art

West of River only
 Local museums
 Art classes
 Washington, DC
 NY City opera
 Native Americans
 Springfield History Museum
 Salem, MA
 Red Socks
 Physics, Arctic, Antarctic, Tibet
 Resources of 5 Colleges
 Brongers/Afghanistan
 More theater

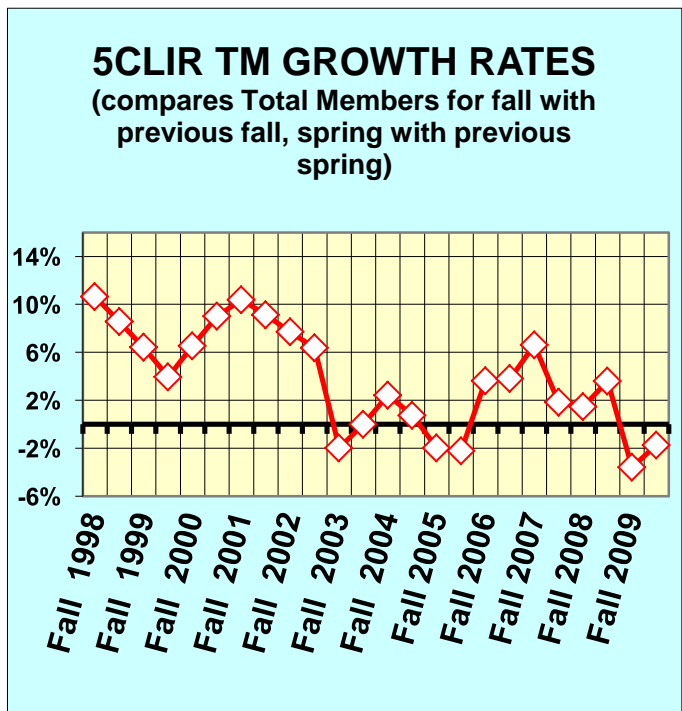
15. Further Comments on 5CLIR

Explore other college facilities
 Hope for more physically accessible locations
 I appreciate the moderator model
 Lotteried out when only one selected
 Designate two weeks, midterm to visit seminars
 More art!
 More art history and decorative arts
 NY City museums
 Seminar on genius
 Photo workshops
 Question members who travel much
 See survey form
 More seminars on current events
 Too much history
 Short seminars
 Friends afraid of presentations
 Survey should have been on-line
 Too many seminars not peer-learning
 Very happy with 5CLIR
 Willing to attend nights, weekends
 Less taxing seminars
 Yale museum, Mass MOCA

16. Some other Data



5CLIR's Total Membership grew rapidly in the early years, but recently has appeared to level off. Fall numbers are usually less than spring, creating the see-saw effect.



5CLIR's growth rate has been declining as our membership has grown slightly.

17. Where do current active LIR members reside? Entries: 286 (100%)

Note: Entries – 286. This data is taken from the 286 who are current active members – HE & CG

Count by Town			Sorted by Count			East vs West of the River		
Agawam	1	W	Amherst	116	E	Amherst	116	E
Amherst	116	E	Northampton	70	W	Belchertown	2	E
Belchertown	2	E	Florence	20	W	Deerfield	1	W
Chesterfield	1	W	Easthampton	16	W	East Longmeadow	1	E
Deerfield	1	E	South Hadley	9	E	Granby	2	E
E. Longmeadow	1	E	Leverett	7	E	Greenfield	1	E
Easthampton	16	W	Leeds	6	W	Hadley	5	E
Florence	20	W	Hadley	5	E	Hatfield	3	E
Granby	2	E	Pelham	4	E	Holyoke	3	E
Greenfield	1	E	Hatfield	3	E	Leverett	7	E
Hadley	5	E	Haydenville	3	W	Longmeadow	1	E
Hatfield	3	E	Holyoke	3	E	Montague	1	E
Haydenville	3	W	Williamsburg	3	W	Northfield	1	E
Holyoke	3	E	Belchertown	2	E	Pelham	4	E
Leeds	6	W	Granby	2	E	Shutesbury	2	E
Leverett	7	E	Shutesbury	2	E	South Hadley	9	E
Leyden	1	W	Sunderland	2	E	Sunderland	2	E
Longmeadow	1	E	West Springfield	2	W	Wendell	1	E
Montague	1	E	Agawam	1	W	East Total	161	
Northampton	70	W	Chesterfield	1	W			
Northfield	1	E	Deerfield	1	E	Agawam	1	W
Pelham	4	E	E. Longmeadow	1	E	Chesterfield	1	W
Shutesbury	2	E	Greenfield	1	E	Easthampton	16	W
South Hadley	9	E	Leyden	1	W	Florence	20	W
Sunderland	2	E	Longmeadow	1	E	Haydenville	3	W
Wendell	1	E	Montague	1	E	Leeds	6	W
West Springfield	2	W	Northfield	1	E	Leyden	1	W
Westhampton	1	W	Wendell	1	E	Northampton	70	W
Williamsburg	3	W	Westhampton	1	W	West Springfield	2	W
Total	286		Total	286		Westhampton	1	W
						Williamsburg	3	W
						West Total	125	