

Annual Sessions: Pro & Con

— A Foreword

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During the 1973 North Carolina Library Association convention, a resolution offered by the Junior Members Round Table was passed by the membership to investigate the possibility of holding the North Carolina Library Association conventions annually rather than biennially. The resolution further specified that a committee be formed to investigate this possibility and all financial factors involved. The committee was charged further with the composition of a proposed constitutional change allowing annual sessions to be voted on at the 1975 convention.

The committee was appointed by Gene Lanier and includes Alieen Aderholdt from Lenoir Rhyne College Library, Sharron Deal from Edgecombe Technical Institute, Ruth Hodge from Havelock Senior High School Library, Nancy Wallace from the State Library, Ariel Stephens from the Charlotte Mecklenburg County Library, and Robert May from the Forsyth County Public Library.

The committee has met three times and decided on a course of action. The committee would: (1) contact leaders of neighboring southeastern state library associations for their opinions of annual sessions; (2) poll exhibitors on willingness to support the North Carolina Library Association annually; (3) investigate financial ramifications of annual sessions; and (4) invite opinions from the North Carolina Library Association membership.

Letters of inquiry were sent to five state association presidents. Four responded favorably regarding annual sessions. Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Florida Library Association leaders were for annual sessions, and the Georgia Association president was against annual sessions. The pro and con points in these letters will be described elsewhere in this report.

Exhibitors were polled informally at the 1974 American Library Association Convention in New York City. Approximately 50% of the exhibitors who exhibit normally said they would definitely support the North Carolina Library Association on an annual basis.

Concerning financial factors, it should be observed that rental of exhibit space bears a large part of the burden for supporting the convention. If the number of exhibitors decreased because of annual sessions, it is possible that registration and perhaps membership fees would have to be increased. A fifty percent increase in exhibits might mean as much as a \$3.00 increase in the registration fee, all other factors remaining equal.

More than a dozen North Carolina Library Association members expressed their opinions concerning annual sessions to the members of the Annual Sessions Committee. The following articles embody arguments for and against annual sessions as culled from these opinions.