

Survey Reveals General Satisfaction with MPSA Conference

A majority of conference attendees (54%) indicated papers presentations were useful or very useful, and 56% thought the number of panels should remain the same. Fewer respondents (22%) said they found the poster presentations to be useful or very useful, although 62% thought the number of poster presentations should remain the same.

Regarding attendance at sessions, 23% said it was “good,” 44% said it was “average,” 17% said it was “poor,” and 17% said they had not presented or attended a conference before. Compared with other conferences, 22% of respondents said there had been no problems with presenters, discussants, or chairs not showing for a session; 37% said there were a “few” problems with no-shows, and 15% though there was a problem.

Most conference attendees said they heard about the conference by word of mouth (32%), e-mail (32%), or a postcard sent by the association (32%). Asked about the proposal acceptance rate, a majority (39%) said it should remain the same, and 27% said it should be increased somewhat. Fewer (15%) said the acceptance rate should be decreased somewhat.

The greatest percentage attendees — 34% — said they work in the Midwest, followed by the East (25%), the South (17%), the West (14%), and other countries (11%). Sixty-two percent of attendees indicated they were current members of MPSA.

In the fall of 2007, individuals who submitted proposals for the MPSA conference and visitors to the MPSA web site were invited to complete a brief web survey. The survey was designed to gather opinions about specific aspects of the conference. More than 1,000 people responded (the survey was designed so each person could respond only once).