

RESULTS OF LIBER GdC QUESTIONNAIRE 2008

20 replies

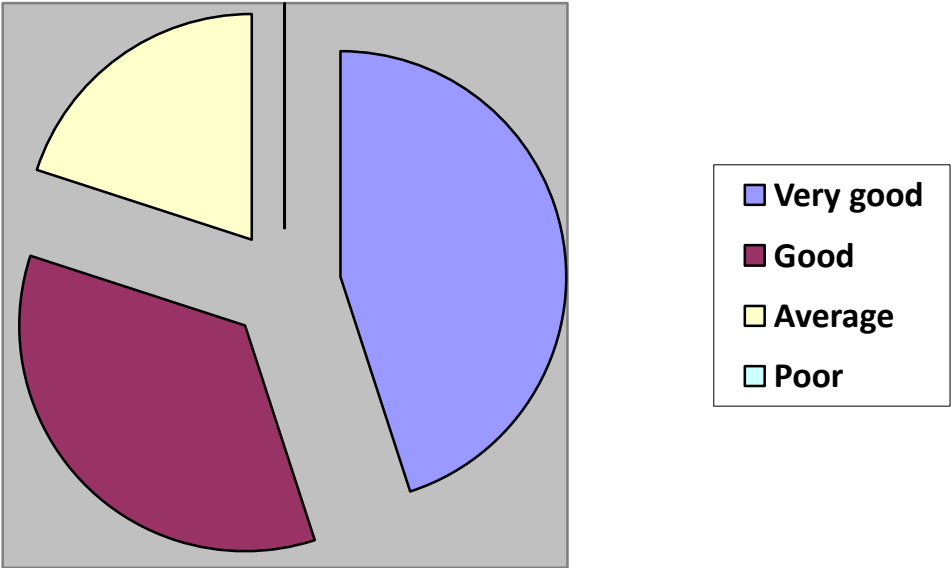
A General

How long have you been a member of LIBER GdC ?

2000, 2002, 2002, 2006,1998, 2006, 1996, 2007, 1996, 1994, 1994, 1990, 2004, 1998, 1987, 2006, 1998, 2004, 2000, 2000

Please evaluate the work of LIBER GdC

Very good	9
Good	7
Average	4
Poor	0



Comments:

- librarians throughout Europe and from all branches
- 2-yearly meetings allow people to actually meet and discuss common problems and challenges face-to-face.
- a very good way for map staff in European research libraries to keep in touch with what is going on in different countries
- conference is the most stimulating map librarianship gathering
- a very good group with very interesting people, lots of knowledge and different information, and a friendly, useful and informal exchange of ideas and knowledge between people from different countries
- good forum to meet colleagues and to learn from each other
- we are colleagues and not rivals
- a vital link between European map librarians
- the meetings are very familiar, without any stress
- people feel good and appreciate each other

Complaints or suggestions:

- whether "Big LIBER" is aware of the extent to which the group does this service
- there is little if any interaction between »Big LIBER« and GdC (representative from »Big LIBER« has not attended in recent years; whether it might be disposed to help GdC with issues such as webmasters and secretariat work which is such a significant drain on very scarce resources)
- the Group could do much more to link work happening in various countries (we do not all need to come up with individual decisions to the same issues and the Group could provide a valuable service in meshing work (e.g. clickable graphic map indexing) to the benefit of the whole community)
- more practical cooperation between European Map Rooms
- common transnational projects
- better maintaining the momentum between conferences
- on the conferences ought to be more librarian informations and problems than technical solutions

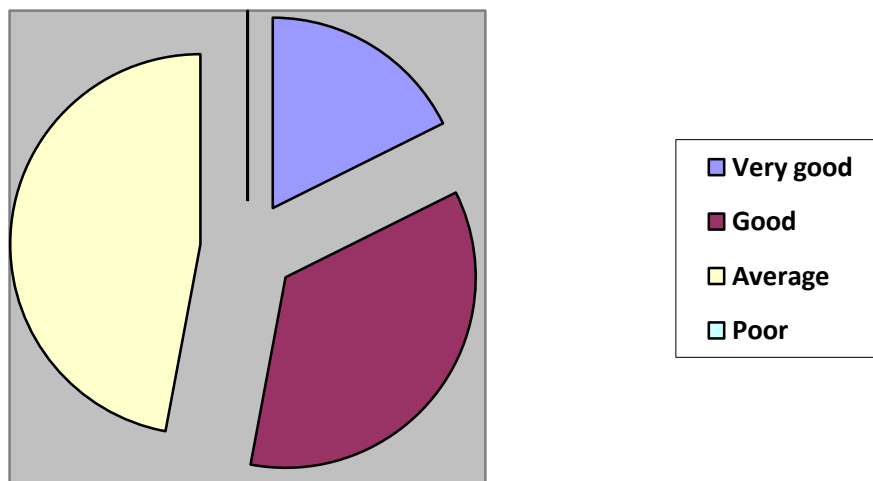
- better affectivity

Please identify possibilities of your contribution to the LIBER GdC group?

- Military Survey UK may give a presentation on their system (Military Survey UK have achieved what appears to be a long held LIBER GdC goal of creating, maintaining and using for purposes other than map cataloguing, geospatial / georeferenced map indexes which we have allied to our map ordering system)
- education for map curators
- members of the working groups
- representing papers
- to be national correspondents
- making the link between small and large libraries through Ditmap project
- **sympathy, but no work, sorry!**

Please evaluate the work of the Board of LIBER GdC

Very good	3
Good	6
Average	8
Poor	0



Your comments, complaints or suggestions:

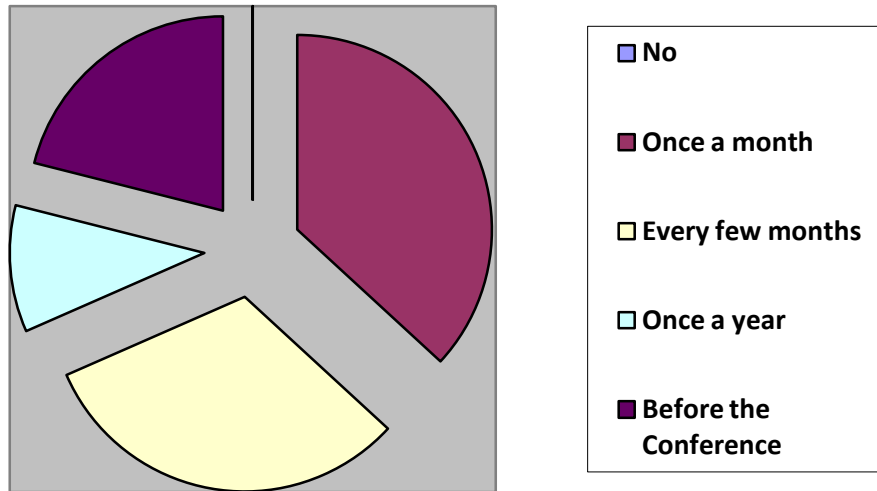
- do not think the Board does much and it seems to drop into silence fairly soon after each conference
- should be making a bigger effort to steer the attention of members to what is happening in the European map world and beyond
- to work on several issues of general concern to us all
- have to initiate projects
- more communication
- let the membership know about discussions and future plans
- we have to obtain a help from the LIBER headquarters in order to have a permanent secretary of the GdC
- where the local organizing committee for the conference is well-organized, experienced and able to secure funding (as for Amsterdam), then the Board is largely irrelevant and the conference is very successful. Where this is not the case, the advice and assistance of the Board is more important
- the success of LIBER GdC outside of the conferences is chiefly in the Secretary (for reports and papers from the conferences) and web-master, and the Board should work hard to find good people with time for these roles
- organize a proper evaluation of the last conference(s); make (every conference again) a text with the things you learned from the last conference. What was good? What could be done in another/better way? What can be done again during a next conference / What shouldn't we do again
- take initiatives that the city that will organize the conference in 4 years is known. In 2010 it should be clear where the conference will be organized in 2014
- keep in frequent touch with the organizers of the next conference. Organize that one of the members of the organizing committee is a contact for the board for the period up to his/hers conference. It mustn't be a condition that he/she is a permanent member (in fact that is the present situation)
- do have an organized hour during a conference to speak with the organizers of the next conference
- make an agenda for that and send that to the organizers at least two weeks before the conference starts
- describe what the minimal wishes of the board are

- keep in the next two years an active contact with the organization committee (realize that for them it is mostly the first time that they organize a conference). Do not only answer questions, but ask questions yourself. During a conference try to make together (board and next organizing committee) a time path especially about the moment the call for papers will be presented, the moments of subscribing, the content of the program and the moments of contact with the participants
- try to stimulate that several papers will be presented by 'non-incrowd-speakers' (integration with other disciplines)
- be additional and positive critical about what is presented on the conference website
- prepare a speech on behalf of the board with expectations on the first day of any conference
- make a speech at the end with concrete expectations for the next conference at the end make appointments with working groups (what they will do / have to do in the next two years and be sure that that will be circulated to all; cancel the whole group if no concrete results are to be expected. It is no use to give working groups time to present themselves during a conference if nothing is done at all)
- find a new webmaster
- avoid late announcements of the conferences

B The LIBER GdC homepage

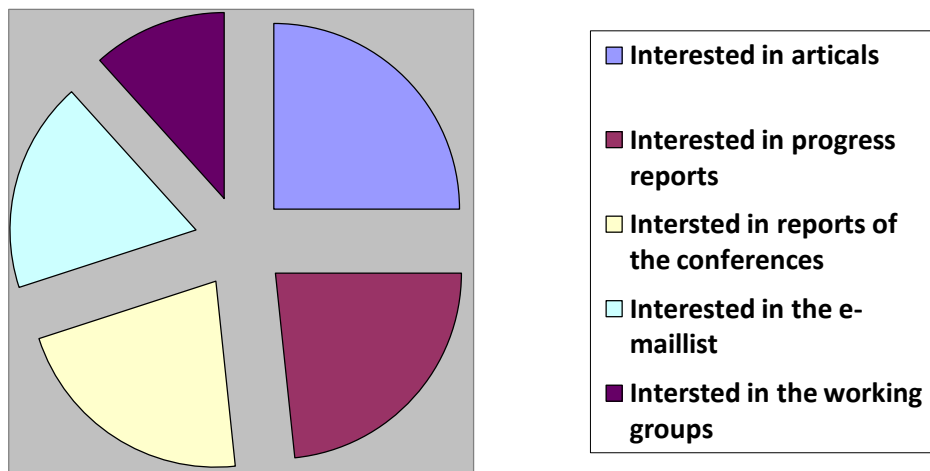
Do you visit LIBER GdC homepage?

No	0
Once a month	7
Every few months	7
Once a year	2
Before the Conference	4



Please give the reasons why you visit the LIBER GdC homepage (multiple answers can be recorded)

Interested in articles	15
Interested in progress reports	14
Interested in reports of the conferences	13
Interested in the e-maillist and discussion list	11
Interested in the working groups	7



What do you miss on the LIBER GdC homepage?

- it might be much more accessible if our homepage was in the same house style as the Big LIBER homepage
- from the Big LIBER homepage link to ours
- it looks very old-fashioned
- webmaster
- names and addresses for the different countries are not all correct or up-to-date
- a little more engagement of all members for more actuality
- updating, actualization
- history of GDC, past events, bibliography and progress reports of the European countries
- relevant recent information
- follow ups about working groups
- an information button for the Paris conference in 2006
- an archival button for the information that is old and not relevant any more
- pictures on the sites
- more structure behind a button (now sometimes very messy)
- information (at least an invitation) for Tallinn 2010
- a newsletter

C The Working Groups (Working Group for Education, Working Group for Central and Eastern Europe)

Are you a member of a LIBER GdC working groups? If so, please list 2 advantages and 2 disadvantages of your working group!

Advantages	Disadvantages
small group so rapid decisions	if one or two people are on holiday nothing gets done
very varied membership so many opinions and solutions	nothing much happens
the chance to work closely with a few valued colleagues	the REAL work is done by very few – too many passive members
seeing Jürg Bühler's website getting better and better	current lack of a webmaster
friendship, teamwork, information and help	appointments are made without a real engagement
	seem to have achieved little over the years

Have you any suggestions for another Group being created? If so, please list the reasons why!

- Working Group on Digitisation
- Working Group of GIS
- Working Group on Outreach (If big paper libraries are being bypassed by people using the internet, how can map librarians reach out and interest people in maps?)
- Working Group to co-ordinate work on the development of clickable graphic map indexes
- Working Group for Education by map curators
- Working Group for Digital Born Map Archiving
- Working Group for Standardization in Map Description
- Working Group for map series
- Working Group for the description format of the future

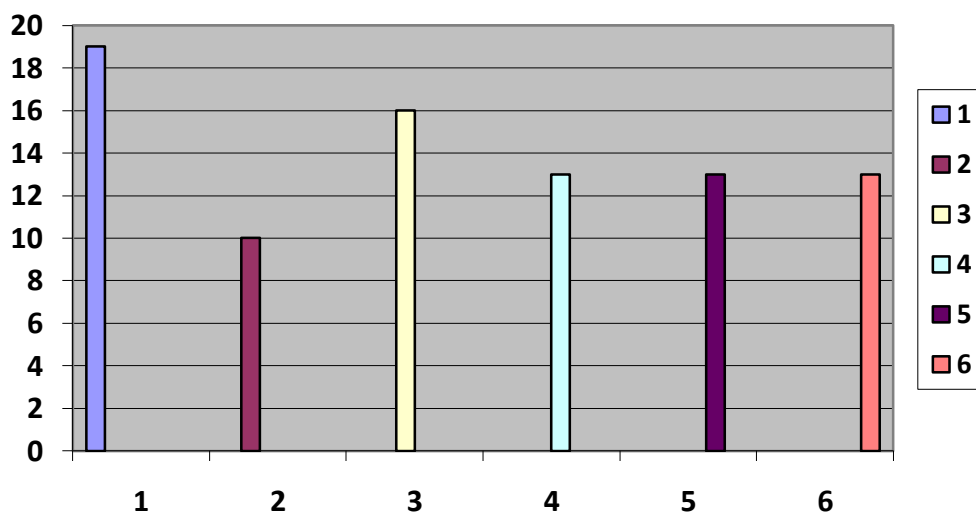
D Conferences

How many LIBER GdC conferences have you attended?

Average 3,5 conferences

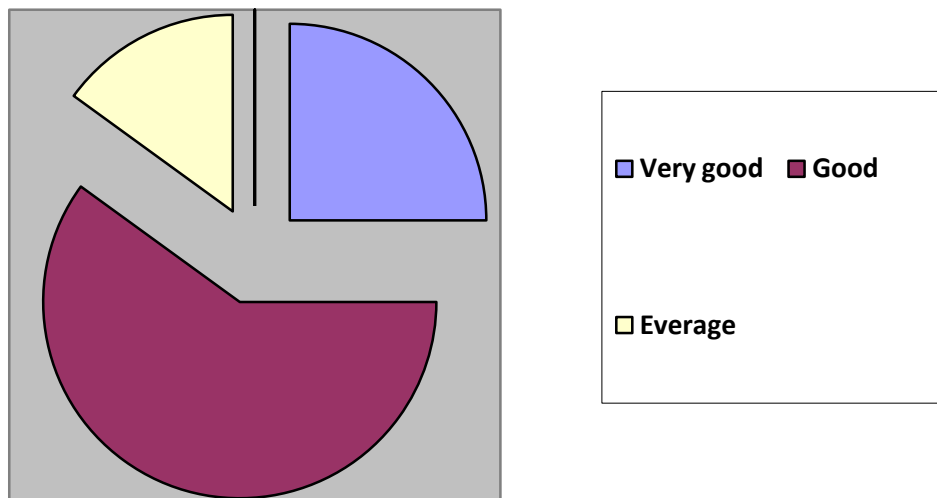
Please point out which of the listed aspects you think are important for LIBER GdC conferences (multiple answers can be recorded)

1 Content of the presentations and quality of information	19
2 Ability to gain new practical skills	10
3 Ability to gain new contacts	16
4 Content of the presentations and quality of information	13
5 Knowledgeable and experienced presenters	13
6 Possibility to have a good time with colleagues	13



How did the conferences help to achieve your goals and expectations?

Very good	5
Good	11
Everage	3
Poor	0



What were your goals and expectations before coming to the conferences?

- to be inspired by the presented papers
- to be inspired by interesting and useful debates after presentations
- to exchange expert and current knowledge with map curators
- to gain new contacts
- to learn about maps and maps librarianship
- to exchange information and experiences
- to get status and overview in the field of Map Libraries
- to learn about collections in other countries, especially the host country
- to compare working situations
- to explore possibilities of future collaborations
- to look for solutions to certain problems regarding collection policies

- to get information about the future of the other map libraries (technological point of view, strategically place in the institution....)
- to work on creating a timetable for future conferences

What are your goals and expectations for the next conferences?

- the creativity in trying to find new methods of presenting
- papers which present an future vision
- to be inspired by the presented papers
- to be inspired by interesting and useful debates after presentations
- to meet people and compare working situations
- to explore possibilities of future collaborations
- to look for solutions to certain problems regarding collection policies
- to evaluate the possibility to share data and connect the catalogues
- to see GdC focuses on doing a small number of tasks well, rather than doing a wider number of tasks less well
- organization of some workshops with special characters
- to see the experimental format used in Amsterdam repeated – the extra session saw everybody talking – it didn't matter what the outcome was, it simply encouraged people to work together
- to see more of presented information in web solutions in the field of maps, aerial photographs and satellite images
- to achieve some results in the field of Education BY map curators and Digital Born Map Archiving
- to work towards co-coordinating the work of the Groups and to 'energise' members into taking more action on behalf of the Group
- conference week should be a working week, not a holiday week
- we should be realistic about any changes that will require more input by members to sustain them
- to learn how a newly independent nation, but with a long and distinguished cartographic history, developed its map libraries since 1993
- to learn how the librarians have embraced internet technology
- to learn how/whether libraries have interacted with Estonian and foreign commercial and military map makers to enhance and develop their collections
- to hear how Estonia has interacted with its neighbors particularly the Baltic States but also Finland and Russia to develop collections

- to understand how the national library and University of Tartu collections interact
- to enjoy Estonian hospitality and maybe the St.John's national holiday

Your comments, complaints or suggestions (in general):

- if you show interest in their subject, librarians will give freely of their time and knowledge. LIBER GdC is a shining example of this
- would more linguistic variety encourage more people to attend?
- conference numbers do seem healthy though, it is just a pity there isn't a more even geographical spread
- conferences and exchanges in working groups give lots of help and ideas for the current work and help to think and to build the future too
- the european group is a very good international base of exchange and progress and we could give some impulses to the worldwide map librarianship. Perhaps once we can influence the IFLA section with our knowledge and power
- it is necessary to reinforce the cooperation between map libraries in Europe and LIBER GdC could be a good platform
- need plenty of notice about when conferences taking place and venue so that leave can be booked and funds raised
- **a good initiative, this questionnaire, but only if something will be done with the results!!!!**