

## THEATRE INFORMATION GROUP

### 1999 MEMBERS SURVEY

#### SUMMARY OF RESULTS

##### DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERSHIP

By the end of August 1999, 24 of the 69 members listed in the TIG directory had replied. A response rate of 35% is considered to be good for a postal survey. The response has been compared with the population listed in the 1999 edition of the TIG Directory and it indicates that the sample, although self selected, is representative of the range of collections and locations.

A summary of the results, by type of collection, by location and time in TIG is shown below. The Schools, Performance Companies and Special Collections (attributed by the surveyor) are also listed.

Membership is spread quite widely over a range of interests, including education, libraries, company and special collections.

The majority of members are in London and South East, although there are other collections and centres in the regions who may be attracted to join. There are no members in the north east or in eastern England.

The length of time in membership indicates that the majority of respondents have belonged for many years, many since the inception of TIG. We do not have access to the joining dates for the full population. It would appear however that while many long time members find benefits from membership few have been recruited in recent years.

##### WHAT ARE THE MAIN BENEFITS TO YOU OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE TIG ?

Meeting other people to discuss matters of mutual interest, and the support which this gives, especially to members of small organisations, or solo operators in libraries are particularly valued.

Collecting and exchanging ideas and information are also extremely important. This has been separated from simple networking to identify the importance of information transfer, and not just the communication process through which it is encouraged and achieved.

Although not attracting large numbers of votes, the importance of the SIBMAS connection was stressed by two correspondents.

## WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FROM TIG IN THE FUTURE TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR WORK ?

Visits and conferences did not feature highly in the current benefits but were mentioned as an important part of the future service provision.

The role that TIG has in setting up specialist training, as well as organising demonstrations of, for example, computer programmes is also important,

Members would also like more discussion of mutual problems, not only at meetings but also on-line, with wider access to information, mentioning both a Website with SIBMAS links, and a TIG Listserve.

TIG is seen to have an important future role in co-ordinating better collaboration over projects.

Raising the profile of theatre collections is also seen as a priority.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all who responded to the appeal for information.

My thanks also go to Linda Butland for her help with analysing the questionnaires.

Alan Butland  
Chair  
Theatre Information Group

September 1999

**THEATRE INFORMATION GROUP MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 1999  
DATA SUMMARIES**

**TYPE OF COLLECTION/ORGANISATION**

	Survey	Directory	
Museum	1	1	
Schools			
Art	1	1	
Dance	1	2	
Music and Drama	3	6	
Public Libraries	3	8	
Higher Education		1	9
Arts organisations	2	6	
Commercial	1	2	
Performance companies			
Dance	1	2	
Opera	1	2	
Theatre	2	6	
Broadcasting	-	1	
Special collections	4	11	
Individuals	3	11	
Library Association	-	1	
	24	69	

**LOCATION**

	Survey	Directory
Scotland	-	2
Wales	1	1
Northern Ireland	-	1
North West	1	6
North East	-	1
Midlands	1	6
South and West	2	4
London and South East	19	48
Eastern	-	-
	24	69

**LENGTH OF MEMBERSHIP**

	Survey
0-2 years	1
3-5 years	3
6-10 years	5
Over 10 years	13
Not known	2

ATTENDANCE

TIG MEETINGS

Often	Sometimes	Never
7	16	1*
		* new member

TIG CONFERENCES

Often	Sometimes	Never
8	13	3*
		1 new member
		1 inconvenient time
		1 cannot get time off

WHAT ARE THE MAIN BENEFITS TO YOU OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE TIG ?

7 Discussion of matters of mutual interest and concern  
7 Contacts with similar collections/organisations  
7 Networking  
4 Support and reassurance especially for solo operators  
Contacts and interaction with similar small departments

2 SIBMAS connections very important

6 Exchange of information, and ideas  
3 Information about developments (including IT)  
2 Information about other collections  
Information about handling (acquisition, cataloguing)  
2 Information gathering

Opportunities for co-operation

Passing on de-accessioned items

Visits to other collections

Don't know - new member

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FROM TIG IN THE FUTURE TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR WORK ?

3 Carry on with visits programme (usually very interesting)

Following visits a summary of collection and information on proposed developments

More of the same, especially conferences

2 Specialist training/workshops in theatre/performing arts collections techniques

2 Advice on computerisation and information management (including dealing with enquiries)

Problems to be discussed at TIG meetings even if Collection cannot be present

Helpline

Demonstrations by manufacturers of computer programmes

Website with SIBMAS to list conferences, exhibitions and events

TIG LISTSERVE

Networks within the international drama sector

More active discussions relating to co-operation

Collaboration on new developments (digitisation, funding sources, internet) and fostering funding opportunities

Raising profile of theatre collections

More national representation (for example contact with Library Association)

Tie-ins with costume design and costume history in general

More information

7 No comment

FURTHER COMMENTS

More pro-active with lobbying/publicity/advocacy for performing arts collections

Working together on saving cross discipline collections (including boundaries of public/private sector organisations)

Need to meet varied levels of skills and experience of members and differing levels of development of collections (IT, size, scope) in training programmes

Carry on and expand

Meetings in the afternoon for those travelling long distances

[Offer of help on small specific tasks - Ian Herbert]