

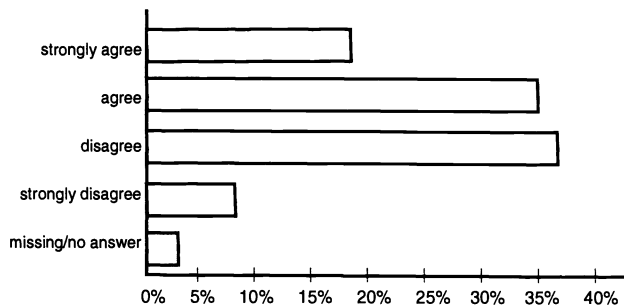
Optical Engineering Readers: We Got Your Input

Earlier this year we mailed out a carefully constructed questionnaire to all our readers. It was entitled "Optical Engineering Readers: We'd Like Your Input." Indeed, we did receive your input with approximately one thousand direct written responses as well as oral responses. We appreciate the feedback since it will help your society to plan the future of *Optical Engineering*. We must say as your Editor and Managing Editor, respectively, that we thank you for your response to the questions and your additional written comments. You made us feel good about what *Optical Engineering* has accomplished even though we fully recognize that we can do even better. It is important that we share with you, the readers, a summary report of the survey; hence in this editorial and the next we will share with you your collected input unrationalized by our editorial presence.

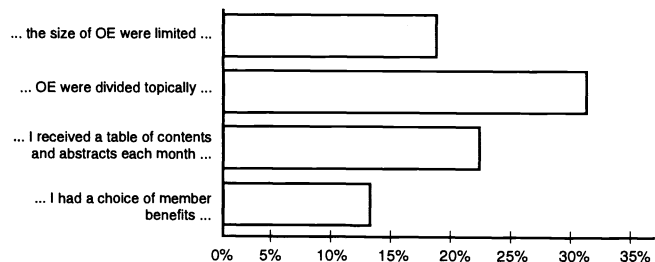
The following bullets summarize the 981 responses to the survey questions, which will give you some sense of the collective impressions and attitudes of the readers (users) of *Optical Engineering*:

- Approximately 52% agree that OE's growing size and broad scope serve their needs and would like to see it continue to be published once a month with an unlimited page count. Approximately 44% disagree.
- Approximately 25% find four to six papers a month of interest; approximately 65% find one to three of interest.
- Approximately 75% refer to OE one to three times a month.
- Approximately 85% recommend OE to a colleague to read a paper every month or occasionally, while 15% never do.

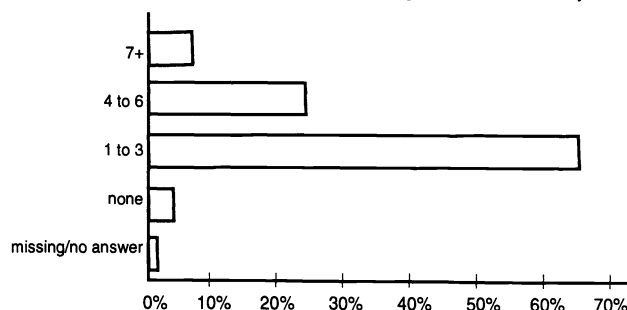
OE's growing size and broad scope serve my needs. Therefore, it should continue to be published once a month with an unlimited page count.



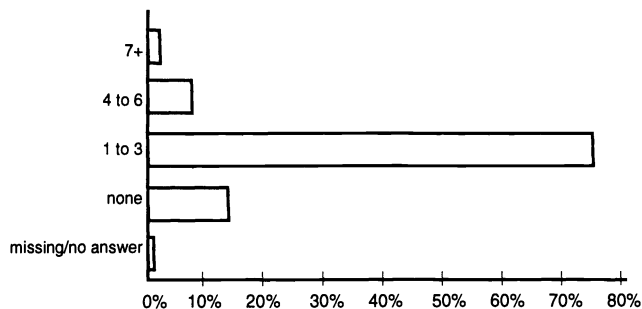
My needs would be better served if ...



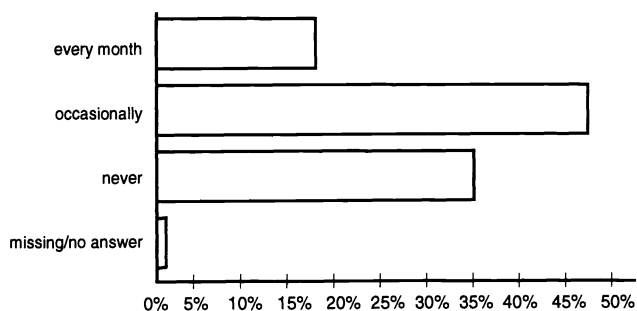
What number of papers in each issue, on average, are of interest to you?



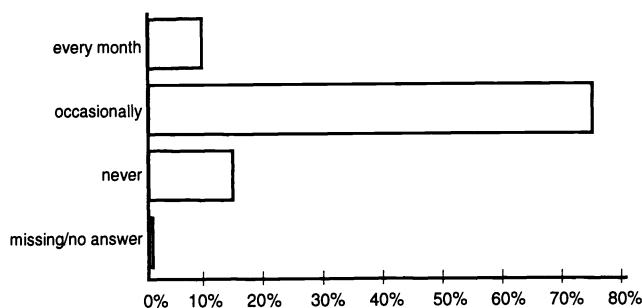
How many times do you refer to OE on a monthly basis?



How often do you pass on your copy of OE to a colleague?



How often do you recommend OE to a colleague to read a paper?



- Approximately 87% feel the regular inclusion of special sections adds value and interest to the journal.
- Approximately 49% say receiving OE is their principal reason for being an SPIE member; approximately 50% say it's not.
- Approximately 88% say the papers are of good quality.
- Approximately 81% are primarily interested in applications-oriented papers, while approximately 36% are interested in basic research/theory type papers. (Numbers skewed because some answered as having primary interest in both types.)
- Approximately 51% would like to see an electronic version of OE offered along with the print version, but only approximately 22% would go for just the electronic version.
- Approximately 87% consider OE a primary or secondary reference.

The basic data from which these conclusions are drawn are the nine questions asked in the questionnaire. The accompanying graphs show the actual percentage response to the first five questions.

Stay tuned; next time we will give you the raw data on the rest of the questions.

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