

Minitex 19th Annual Interlibrary Loan Conference
May 4, 2010

This conference is one I always enjoy attending. You get to talk to your cohorts at other libraries and meet new ones. This year speaker, David Stillman, was great.

He talked on the different generations and how we all get along, clash and who we are. There are about 75 million traditionalists, includes two generations and born before 1946. They are very loyal, patriotic, and want to leave behind a legacy. They saw and went through a lot in their time, the depression, and both world wars plus much more. Capture their knowledge before it is gone.

Baby boomers are so far the largest group with 80 million. Boomers are very competitive, questioners of authority. They still want to learn and grow everyday. They are great at playing "the game". When they were polled 75% said the greatest reward was time off from work. Boomers grew up with the Vietnam War, Watergate antiwar protest, women and civil rights movements. They also saw the assassinations of John Kennedy, Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy. Boomers have to beware of burnout, both physical and bureaucratic.

The next generation is the "Gen Xers". This is the smallest in population with only 46 million. They are eclectic, resourceful, self-reliant skeptical of institutions. We should respect the Xers skepticism – don't be offended by it. They differentiate between job security and career security. They have a better chance of see an UFO than a social security check.

The last generation is the Millennials, with a population of 76 million. They are globally concerned, integrated, cyber-literate, media savvy and environmentally conscious. This group is growing up in a scary world. They also want work to have a meaning, and make their jobs come alive. They want to belong to an organization that gives back to the community.

Ninety two percent of the Traditionalist, Baby Boomers and Gen Xers praise the Millennials.

The other morning speaker was, Wendy Pradt Lougee. She talked about UMN's partnership with Google. U of MN is starting to send monographs and serials to be scanned and made searchable, depending on their copyright, available online.

I was one of the presenters for one of the afternoon breakout session. Agnes Lee, Minitex, Sonja Eilertson, MnPals, did a session on "Aleph ILL: Best practice workflow".

I wish to thank Ruth and NLLN for granting me the scholarship to attend this conference.

Thank You,
Dianne Schmidt