

Generations Journal Poll

BACKGROUND

The journal has had no regular editor for 7 issues. The VP Communications, whose portfolio includes the journal, became the interim editor in accordance with the VP Communications job description. After 7 issues with no editor forthcoming, with the volunteer workload of VP Communications and journal editor, it was agreed at the Executive level that MGS needs to reassess its need for a quarterly journal. So a survey was created and started Dec 1, 2022 and continued to Jan 15, 2023. The poll has been promoted on Facebook, written about in the December Generations journal, and sent to our entire mailing list (members and non-members) through our monthly *Supplement to Generations* email.

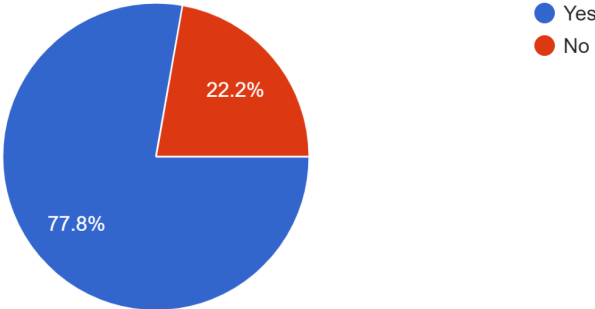
MGS Membership: 428 members; 36 responses

In comparison to the Generations Journal response, the January 1, 2023 Supplement to Generations was sent out to our email list of 1,648 email addresses. As of Jan 7/23 we had 829 people open the email and viewers clicked the links 439 times. The top views were: MGS Constitutional Changes (78), MGS Member Genealogy Project (55), MGS Library Recruitment (50), 1923 Cummin’s Map Project (48), and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) (31). Top five locations by “Open” are: Canada (580), USA (488), Sweden (25), Czech Republic (7), Russia (3).

Poll responses as of Jan 16, 2023.

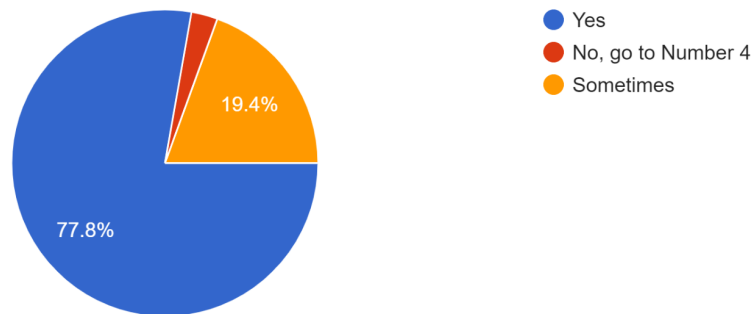
1. Is the Generations journal an important part of your MGS member benefits?

36 responses

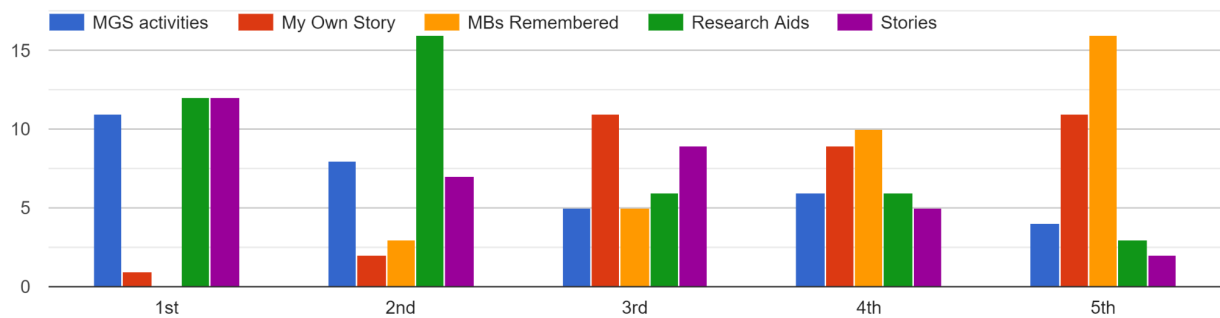


2. Do you read the Generations Journal?

36 responses



3. What do you like best about the journal? Please rate it in order of importance. Rate 1 as the most important and 5 as the least important



4. Tell us what content you think would improve the journal

20 responses

More stories

Can't think of anything

Stories and member submitted articles

Reviews of genealogical software.

Peer reviewed articles,

No recommendations. An article on maps might prove interesting from each of the countries represented in the organization.

More research aids/tips

Had not really thought about this. It seems to be a well thought out journal.

I can't think of anything to add at this time, thank-you.

it would be great to see queries again - and maybe someone offering suggestions to the query. I am also always interested in seeing old photographs or postcards/posters of people and places. MGS has an expert who came to Kenora to do a speech on dating old photographs. She was really interesting... sorry I don't remember her name.

Make it shorter. shorter articles. Some stories too long for this type of journal. Do not need book or periodical review information. More stories from members

More content pertaining to research methodology and research sites would be helpful.

web sites

Short focussed articles by members highlighting part of a family history, or research experiences

Not including the "funnies" is an improvement, as I found some of them over the years could be considered questionable by some members. Also be mindful of various nationalities, religions etc. when including certain images and graphics.

I enjoy the queries and personal stories, research successes etc.

Not sure

Don't know

More experiences from the members in how they overcame obstacles in their researching.

No comment

5. Why do you not read the journal?

9 responses

I never not read it.

I do read Generations journal. Should have said "If #2 was "no" then why do you not ... "

Forget to go back into emails to look for it some months.

It is a bit long and sometimes contains repeats of information (that is contained within MGS emails)

A lot of it is about the Library holdings which I am not interested in and never use.

I don't read all the book reviews. I don't read all the branch reports.

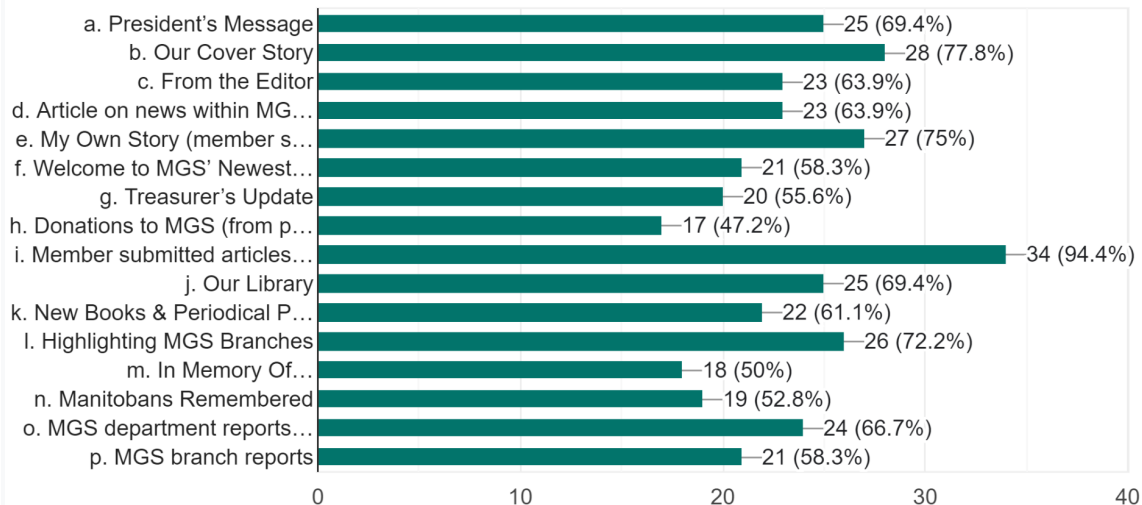
Don't find it relevant to my research but like others stories

I DO read the journal from cover to cover.

I only dabble in genealogy and have a number of priorities before I spend any more time on it. What would be most helpful to me would be to have online access to articles on specific subjects or questions that i could read whenever i run into a problem. Most would be of the sort of questions beginners would ask.

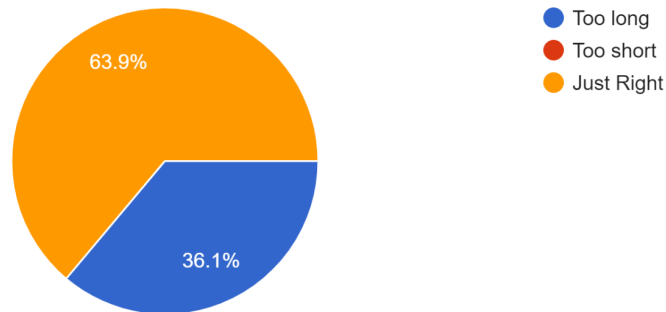
6. The MGS Journal follows a format which includes the following articles and information. Check all the regular columns that you like to read.

36 responses



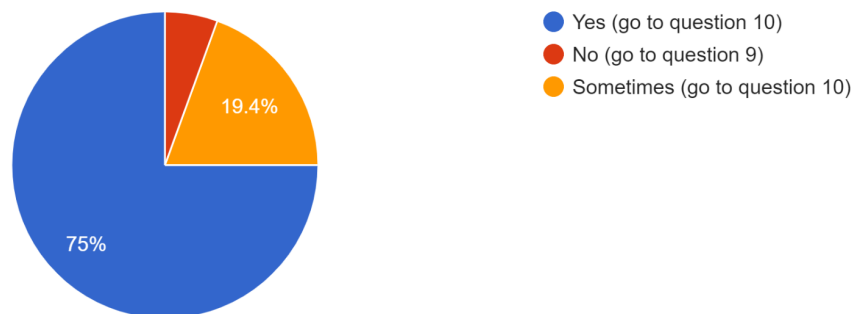
7. Do you think our present 40 page journal is

36 responses



8. Do you read the Supplement to Generations email that comes out at the beginning of each month that Generations is not published?

36 responses



9. If no, why don't you read it?

2 responses

Don't remember

I don't even remember receiving it.

10. If Sometimes, what influences you to read it or not? 18 responses

Curiosity

Priorities for my time and then may forget to go back and read.

Time constraints

interest in contents

I read all my genealogy related mail.

I read it because I might learn something new to help me in my genealogical journey.

The timing of being sent

Whether I have time or not.

Read for general information.

I enjoy reading all things genealogy. An idea or tip might come from something unrelated to my research.

current information

upcoming presentations

I always read it

always read it

Personal time restraints

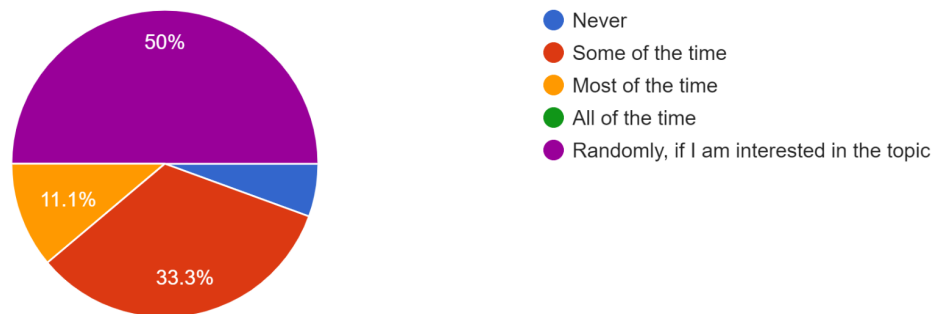
I never will get to your library or physical site so the journal and online e-mails are my contact to MB research.

I skim through and if so something catch's my interest then I link such as this pill as I have not read Decembers issue yet

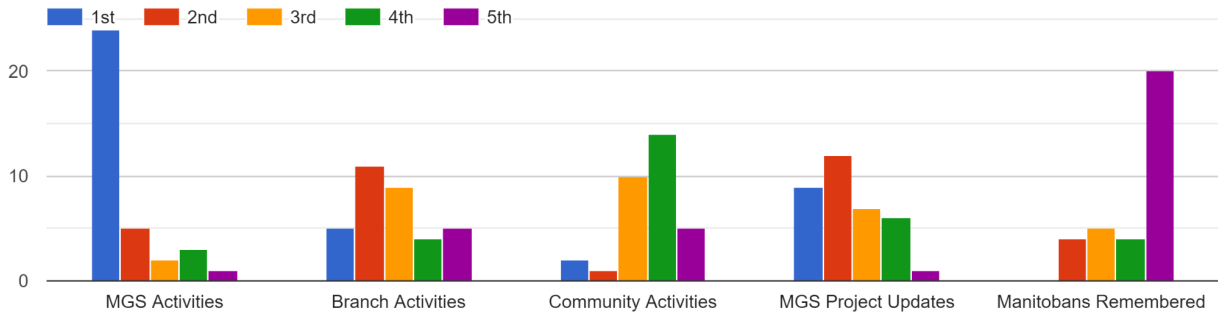
Always skim it to see if there is something I want to read.

11. Thinking of the last Supplement to Generations email that you read, did you follow the links

36 responses



12. Thinking of the Supplement to Generations email, tell us what you like the best (rate in order of importance. #1 is most important)



13. Thinking about reading the *Generations Journal* (a .pdf) and *the Supplement to Generations* (email with links), which format do you prefer and why?

32 responses

pdf

I like them both, but if I had to choose, I would choose the email with links.

Journal, interests me more

As it is

Either is acceptable, however, with a .pdf, I can scan for interest.

email only because the journal doesn't open well on my phone, which means I need to find time to read at my computer.

Pdf so I can save it easily.

Both

Generations journal in pdf format for articles, much of the content is already on website and need not be repeated here, or is of corporate operations which should not necessarily be shared with those outside of the organization.

both work for me.

Generations Journal

Either one is good for me although clicking on a link is easy

A .pdf

Journal because information is all in one.

PDF

Equally happy with either format.

I am okay with it being online - pdf preferred.

Both are useful. Serve different purposes.

I like the pdf as I can keep a copy and be sure it will exist for as long as I chose. Links from an email might eventually be broken.

Supplement - easier to maneuver

Pdf to save

PDF. Then I save it in my books app for ease of reading and filing

? Do not understand the question

Pdf because I can read it like a book/magazine and I can download it

I like the format of each as they are currently distributed. Journal is longer, something you want to flip through vs the Supplement is an in-between update and based on your interest in the topic you follow the link. I don't think this needs to change.

I like the print version best but I can live with an e-version. I like the print version as I often read at night in bed! And sometimes I read it more than once or weeks after I have received it!

Doesn't matter

I like the supplement because it is easier to read on the computer.

email with links

Generations Journal (a p-df)

14. The *Generations* Journal content is created out of both member and non-member submitted content. If you have never submitted a family history story, what stops you?

32 responses

Haven't felt I had something others would find interesting.

It is too long

I am working full-time and with family, I do not have time at the moment.

I am new and would like to read more member submissions to understand what type of content is desired.

A family history story is of interest only to members of that family, unless some genealogical research ideas are offered which can be used by most members or teach some aspect of Manitoba or Canadian history. Typically, stories about a person's family have a very narrow focus; are of no general interest to the membership; and, thus are a waste of time for the author and the reader.

Inexperienced story teller.

time

I have done lots of research but do not feel that I am a good writer.

Maybe one day as I am fairly new to this

I don't have the time

My roots are not Manitoban.

I am not finished researching a branch(es) of my family history.

I have. Submitted

Not sure my family history would be of interest to anyone.

Many years ago I have submitted queries. I do plan to submit stories but worry that I don't have enough 'sources' to 'prove' something is rock solid. I may just right it up as if it is a story.

I have submitted a family story in the past. Would do again as time permits. Some sort of promoting (E.g. Asking in each journal for the next journal we are looking for stories on X topic)

I don't feel I have enough research completed on my family history.

Don't have one ready

not a writer

Just started

Apart from living here, I have little to share re Manitoba or even Canadian family history. I did submit something a few years ago which I thought had some value in terms of traps one can fall into if you pick the wrong person. "A Cautionary Tale" was its title. I got zero feedback.

not enough time, wonder if it would be of interest to others.

My writing skills

Submitting a family history story is not currently a priority in my family history research.

I intend to submit more than I do. I just don't get organized enough and I worry that I don't have enough sources quoted and the critics will question this.

I haven't taken the time to put one together.

I have a couple of times

Time and I am not a writer.

Don't have anything to contribute

Manitoba is only a collateral line for me and I did not think I had anything to contribute, but this question has me thinking.

Lack of time to do it.

I don't think I have anything that would be interesting to enough people.

15. Any other thoughts you would like to add to this information?^{13 responses}

No

I am a former editor. Please don't give up

Generations is far too long and any submitted articles are just buried by all the stuff before and after.

I hope you will find another editor with energy, enthusiasm, skills as the previous ones have shown.

Best wishes. Sorry, but I couldn't take on another job at the moment.

None at this time.

I would love you to feature a little bit on some of the smaller communities around Wpg like Beausejour or Ladywood or Whitemouth etc... just a bit about the first settlers etc.

I would hate to see Generations disappear but understand the workload challenge it is creating for the interim editor. Angela has done a great job and is owed a big thank you from us all. I am concerned that some members may not renew if we do not provide a publication as per the constitution.

I wish there was someone willing to step up and take on the Editors role. Generations needs an editorial board to oversee the publication and share the workload.

I wonder if we could learn/ share editorial duties/skill sets with another journal by a similar organization like Manitoba Historical Society? is there such a thing as editors for hire?

I'd like to comment on the length of the journal. In the last one 10 or 11 of those 40 pages were taken up with changes to the constitution. We don't have such pieces like this in every journal so the number of pages could be flexible - say regularly 28 or 32 - and longer when something like constitution updates need to be communicated to members.

Question 6 asked for what I like to read - these are what I selected. I do read the items I did not select and I think they are important to always include in the Journal, they're just not necessarily what I read first or completely, or at all. Also regarding comments made in the latest Supplement about members not submitting responses to this survey, have you considered members may not want to be identified and might rather respond anonymously? As well, the link to the survey came out with the December newsletter - December being a busy time of year for a lot of people.

I think if the journal totally disappears, you will lose out of town members. I belong to a totally online branch (Hamilton Branch of OGS) which used to be very active and have a quarterly etc. It now costs \$5 per year to belong and really it is useless. Future Hamilton area researchers will get very little help or inspiration from this group - what a shame.

Generations is an important option for reaching out to others who may have the same interests through the opportunity to do a query. I have long thought of doing this, but have never got around to it. Again, this survey has inspired me to get going.

Facts not thoroughly proven.

16. Suggestions for improvement

14 responses

Can't think of anything.

I understand the time commitment required to generate a quarterly Generations Journal. Thank you for these in the past. Due to the time commitment, perhaps a bi-annual edition be considered instead.

Terminate Generations since we have no editor. Just focus on the monthly newsletter having no emphasis on contributed articles. Anyone who complains should be offered the position of editor.

My sense is that much of the current journal is a "newsletter". Themes for articles could help, book reviews, tips for researchers,

None at this time.

I think Generations can be omitted, as within MGS there are a quarterly newsletter from the SW Branch, an ezine monthly update from SE & Wpg Branch plus a supplement to Generations. Any

information that needs to be included in Generations could be included in the other publications as each are always looking for content.

Don't give up - Many of us put in time with our local group to gather history for those who don't live in our community any more.

For the format to be in two columns.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Going electronic is probably inevitable. However keeping up with technology is not cheap either. Somehow you need to recruit younger energetic people who value preserving MB's records. Those of us who live far away can help a bit but really the citizens of the area are the critical link to keeping things going. I belong to my own local club and we try to keep our area active so we can help others who don't live in our area.

Think the committee is right and time for the journal to go. Emails once a month or less (supplement) are enough

None

Do more researching - talk to older relatives.

I complete a lot of surveys and I detest those questions that force me to answer so I answer those questions in a way that adds nothing to the survey results except possibly a problem.