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INTRODUCTION

Three faculty librarians, the communication coordinator, and the metadata and digital resources coordinator of the Western Michigan University Libraries arranged events for the celebration, including instrumental and vocal music performances. We aimed to include as many performers from as many units on campus as we could in order to increase the University Libraries’ visibility, and to make diverse campus units aware of the kinds of performances done in other parts of the University.

The musical performances were mostly informal performances that took place in unexpected venues, or what we called “pop-up” events, but we had a formal, concert-style musical performance at our opening event, along with poetry readings. The events took place in the Waldo Library (our main library), the Harper C. Maybee Music and Dance Library, the Gary and Rita Swain Education Library, and the lobby of the Lee Honors College.

The musical performances included two wind quintets, a woodwind quartet, a horn quartet, two choral performances, two solo piano performances, and a tuba and voice duet. We conducted a survey to collect feedback data from our user community.

SURVEY DATA

Question 6 asked respondents to share comments about poetry month planning. We read each of the responses, and then assigned them to one of nine categories. These are, in alphabetical order, critique of advertising, critique of content, critique of performances, critique of programming, critique of venue, generally positive, illegible, neutral, and suggestion.

A majority of the answers (60%, N=54) were generally positive. SurveyMonkey’s text analysis tool identified the following 27 terms as key terms in the answers to Question 6, in order of frequency: poetry, fun, performance, library, nice, interesting, enjoyed, experience, question 4, next year, students, audience, amazing, going, known, happy, beautiful, idea, wish, illegible, opportunity, email address, needs, remember, choir, and share. The terms “question 5,” “question 4,” “illegible,” and “email address” were added in the process of transcribing answers, so they must be disregarded as our respondents didn’t use these terms. This figure shows these remaining 23 terms.

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The Poetry Month Planning Group included Michael Duffy, Performing Arts Librarian
Kathleen Langan, Humanities Librarian
Lou Morgan, Communication Coordinator
Susan Steuer, Head, Special Collections and Rare Books
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