

2006 SURVEY 1

USE OF CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE

REPORT  
January 2007

This survey was distributed and collected at  
the 2006 World Service Conference in San Diego.  
Total respondents: 58

Compiled by Carol B

Notes:  
Disregard question 3.

**It's not OK for a group to use, display, or sell non-DA literature at a meeting or an event...**

but it's OK for group members to mention outside literature in their

Q1	shares	#	%
1	Disagree completely	23	40%
2	Disagree somewhat	8	14%
3	Neither	6	10%
4	Agree somewhat	5	9%
5	Agree completely	12	21%
x	No answer	4	7%

When I see outside literature at a meeting, I always mention it in my

Q6	share.	#	%
1	Disagree completely	30	52%
2	Disagree somewhat	13	22%
3	Neither	6	10%
4	Agree somewhat	4	7%
5	Agree completely	2	3%
x	No answer	3	5%

It's OK to use it in a special event, such as a retreat or workshop, just not at a meeting.

Q2		#	%
1	Disagree completely	23	40%
2	Disagree somewhat	8	14%
3	Neither	7	12%
4	Agree somewhat	9	16%
5	Agree completely	7	12%
x	No answer	4	7%

When I see outside literature at a meeting or event, I always talk to the group secretary or event coordinator about it afterward.

Q7		#	%
1	Disagree completely	17	29%
2	Disagree somewhat	13	22%
3	Neither	7	12%
4	Agree somewhat	13	22%
5	Agree completely	5	9%
x	No answer	3	5%

When I see outside literature at a meeting, I feel uncomfortable, but I don't know what to say or do about it.

Q3		#	%
1	Disagree completely	17	29%
2	Disagree somewhat	11	19%
3	Neither	9	16%
4	Agree somewhat	7	12%
5	Agree completely	7	12%
x	No answer	7	12%

When I see outside literature at a meeting, I always bring it to the attention of the entire group at the first opportunity.

Q8		#	%
1	Disagree completely	21	36%
2	Disagree somewhat	16	28%
3	Neither	7	12%
4	Agree somewhat	9	16%
5	Agree completely	3	5%
x	No answer	2	3%

**It's OK for a group to use, display, or sell non-DA literature at a meeting or an event...**

As long as it is on a separate table and clearly marked "non-Conference approved literature."

Q4		#	%
1	Disagree completely	23	40%
2	Disagree somewhat	7	12%
3	Neither	6	10%
4	Agree somewhat	9	16%
5	Agree completely	12	21%
x	No answer	1	2%

When I hear someone mention non-DA literature in his or her share, I always interrupt the speaker to remind him or her of the 12 Traditions.

Q9		#	%
1	Disagree completely	37	64%
2	Disagree somewhat	14	24%
3	Neither	3	5%
4	Agree somewhat	0	0%
5	Agree completely	2	3%
x	No answer	2	3%

As long as it is only AA Big Books and AA 12 x 12s.

Q5		#	%
1	Disagree completely	9	16%
2	Disagree somewhat	7	12%
3	Neither	9	16%
4	Agree somewhat	4	7%
5	Agree completely	25	43%
x	No answer	4	7%

I always notice if non-DA literature is present at a meeting or event.

Q10		#	%
1	Disagree completely	8	14%
2	Disagree somewhat	5	9%
3	Neither	9	16%
4	Agree somewhat	7	12%
5	Agree completely	26	45%
x	No answer	3	5%

I notice if non-DA literature is present at a meeting or an event, but I don't really care about it.

Q11		#	%
1	Disagree completely	28	48%
2	Disagree somewhat	12	21%
3	Neither	8	14%
4	Agree somewhat	3	5%
5	Agree completely	7	12%
x	No answer	0	0%

Using non-DA literature is harmful to the DA group.

Q12		#	%
1	Disagree completely	10	17%
2	Disagree somewhat	10	17%
3	Neither	8	14%
4	Agree somewhat	11	19%
5	Agree completely	19	33%
x	No answer	0	0%

1. I think it is fine for someone to mention non-DA literature in share and say they'd be happy to share it after the meeting to those interested, or do display it with notice that it is non-DA literature.
2. I am from LA and I believe SCDA is breaking traditions by not making their literature part of world service. As SCDA becomes more prosperous I believe they will share and give it up to WS. They said at our SCDA RAG meeting that there were copyright issues.
3. It's OK to mention it to newcomers after the meeting.
4. Literature developed by the meeting or true literature developed by Intergroup, if deals specifically with DA and is marked non-Conf approved. Other things like Rich Man, Poor Man absolutely not. I would like to move towards making good things developed by Intergroups etc conference approved.
5. I believe it's not OK for group, not OK for shares. I don't really think it's ever OK at meetings except for AA stuff. In BDA we use what we can due to lack of available material.
6. I don't.
7. Only AA literature is DA conference approved. No other literature should be allowed.
8. Never in meetings or meeting-produced events.
9. [It's OK] If the literature is AA or if it written to encompass the Steps, and it has been approved by long-timers, otherwise NO.
10. In the absence of our own literature like the 12x12 or Stepbook.
11. Never.
12. AA literature only.
13. I think it's OK if a group has had a group conscience and made a decision to have non-DA literature, but it should be decided by specific book.
14. I think it is OK to use "informal" literature, i.e., Numbers book as developed by SoCalif Intergroup or GSR group) if it is not put out on the lit table, but obtained directly from the Literature person. I think the Mundis books might well become conference-approved and am glad that issue is being addressed.
15. I believe it's OK to use a handout in a workshop so long as it is marked clearly that it is non-Conference approved. I do not think it should ever be used in meetings. However, because AA literature is a DA tool, I would make an exception for AA literature referred to in a share, by a speaker, or in a workshop. I still however believe that AA literature should not be sold ever by DA.
16. AA literature is OK. DA literature approved by regional board and area group is OK (i.e., the Numbers Booklet). I think that literature is great! And should be able to be sold (i.e., SCDA approved).
17. During a private outside retreat or event in private conversation with members in context of ESH and in referencing it using ESH.
18. I think this questionnaire might yield results that lack clarity. The title refers to non-Conference approved literature, and the Literature refers to non-DA literature. I would contend that a Social PRG manual is entirely focused on DA and is thus DA literature, but that it is not Conference approved. This would contrast with the display and sale of a Mundis book that refers to DA but not exclusively DA, nor is it Conference approved, or say Suze Orman book, which is about money but not DA. One of the reasons why this distinction matters is that the SoCal PRG manual could someday become Conference Approved and has been grass roots developed to meet a perceived need toward working the program. By contract, Mundis, Orman, Quicken and so forth, while perhaps helpful to the lives of DA members, would never become Conference approved literature.
19. I believe it is OK to display non-DA literature at a meeting if it marked as such and displayed separately from DA conference approved literature.
20. All AA literature, no non-DA or non-AA literature.
21. Should not sell non-DA or non-AA literature, but can be mentioned by a member in a meeting or event as a source of ideas, suggestion, knowledge they found helpful to their DA program and

- attaining solvency or getting out of debt. Can mention it as a source of some practical use but should also mention it is not conference approved literature which does not automatically mean it's opposing DA or "bad" for a DA member.
22. People need to be open to many forms of help. There is no one doctor to treat all that ails you. Just that there is no one 12-Step program that will answer all your issues. Since many of our issues are inter-related, people should be encouraged to seek whatever it is to make them whole. The point is non-DA literature is valid and need not be ignored.
  23. Reflects the Steps from another perspective.
  24. OK for AA Big Book and 12x12 to be sold
  25. x
  26. I believe that as long as it is clearly stated that material is not DA approved and that the opinions expressed are personal and not official DA, it is OK to mention, display and review ideas from non-DA literature.
  27. None.
  28. This is a tough one. The Mundis books are what I see/hear about most often. They are great aides to progress, but I think they dilute our program. How can we fill the gap that they currently fill?
  29. Non-DA material is OK it is AA approved. Mundis #2 is OK now because until DA more underearning literature, "Earn what you Deserve" fills the gap. Mundis' other book is now covered in the pamphlets.
  30. None.
  31. None.
  32. It's not.
  33. I've been at the same meeting for 7 years and the Big Book and 12x12 are considered approved literature. We purchase them fro the SCDA office. It's on the order form. If I'm not mistaken we have a conference-approved pamphlet on AA literature acknowledging the reading and implementing the words of AA and the 12x12. Have we ever brought it up at the Conference to approve the Big Book and the 12x12 as Conference approved? Is that necessary? Is that possible? Personally, I think it is totally inappropriate to have these pieces of AA literature as part of our recommended conference approved literature. Re: the other readings, I have not been to any meetings where non-Conference approved literature was sold (with the exception of SCDA approved literature). The world is beginning to recognize debting as a problem. There are books, articles, and mention on TV... we do not live in a vacuum. Awareness is one of our Tools. I feel anything we read that wakes us up and inspires us to share aids in our recovery. Should be shared. If that means allotting literature funds for it and selling it at our meetings, great!!
  34. Almost (I hate to make sweeping statements) no circumstances. Especially "for profit" literature.
  35. Because my group is BDA, we have used non-conference literature while waiting for our own literature to be approved. The meeting is aware of this, and it's the only non-conference approved literature we use. I privately tell people about the traditions if they mention non-conference approved literature. Our group also has separate outside events at times with non-conference approved literature and we are very clear it's not conference approved.
  36. If the world service hasn't produced literature for BDA (we've been waiting 15 years) what can we do?
  37. I've used non-conference approved literature to lead business plan workshops because there's no other way I can figure out how to teach business plan workshops.
  38. Sponsor may suggest other literature to help a sponsee work through a specific issue.
  39. There is no place for it. I think a short reference to something is OK as long as it is clearly not DA.
  40. Only AA literature is acceptable in my humble opinion. No Gerrold Mundis, Robert Kiyosaki, Clutter Information, etc.

## Survey 1: Non-Conference Approved Literature

Your answers on this survey will help us understand our current attitudes and beliefs about using non-conference-approved literature at DA meetings and events.

First, please indicate how long you have refrained from incurring unsecured debt \_\_\_\_\_.

For each of the following statements, please circle a number to indicate your level of agreement, where 1 means you disagree completely and 5 means you agree completely.

Disagree  
Completely Agree  
Completely

I believe **it's NOT OK** for a group to use, display, or sell non-DA literature at a meeting or an event ...

but it's OK for group members to mention outside literature in their shares. .... 1 ..... 2..... 3..... 4 ..... 5

It's OK to use it in a special event, such as a retreat or workshop, just not at a meeting. .... 1 ..... 2..... 3..... 4 ..... 5

when I see outside literature at a meeting, I feel uncomfortable, but I don't know what to say or do about it. .... 1 ..... 2..... 3..... 4 ..... 5

I believe **it's OK** for a group to use, display, or sell non-DA literature at a meeting or an event ...

as long as it is on a separate table and clearly marked "non-Conference approved literature." ..... 1 ..... 2..... 3..... 4 ..... 5

as long as it is only AA Big Books and AA 12 x 12s ..... 1 ..... 2..... 3..... 4 ..... 5

When I see outside literature at a meeting, I always mention it in my share. .... 1 ..... 2..... 3..... 4 ..... 5

When I see outside literature at a meeting or event, I always talk to the group secretary or event coordinator about it afterward. .... 1 ..... 2..... 3..... 4 ..... 5

When I see outside literature at a meeting, I always bring it to the attention of the entire group at the first opportunity. .... 1 ..... 2..... 3..... 4 ..... 5

When I hear someone mention non-DA literature in his or her share, I always interrupt the speaker to remind him or her of the 12 Traditions. .... 1 ..... 2..... 3..... 4 ..... 5

I always notice if non-DA literature is present at a meeting or an event. .... 1 ..... 2..... 3..... 4 ..... 5

I notice if non-DA literature is present at a meeting or an event, but I don't really care about it. .... 1 ..... 2..... 3..... 4 ..... 5

Using non-DA literature is harmful to the DA group..... 1 ..... 2..... 3..... 4 ..... 5

Under what circumstances do you think it is OK to use, display, or sell non-DA literature at a meeting or event? (Please use the other side of the paper to share your thoughts.)