



CPD 2007 - Results

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Survey Overview

Description

To obtain CPD requirements

Instructions Provided To Respondents

ITI wants to build up more accurate information on the professional development and training needs of translators and interpreters. This is a repeat of the survey first held 2 years ago, which helped ITI to tailor its training events to real needs. We welcome your feedback and invite you to fill in this questionnaire, even if you are not an ITI member. If you would prefer to receive the questionnaire on paper or by email, contact ITI office (email info@iti.org.uk or telephone Madeline Stewart 01908 325253).

It is not essential to give your name, but if you do, you may win a prize! Respondents' names will be entered in a prize draw. The winner will be invited to attend, free of charge, a module of their choice on the ITI Professional Development Course.

This survey closes on 21 December 2007 and all replies must be received by this date. Any replies received after this date will not be included and will not be entered in the free prize draw.

Definitions:

Post-experience training = training received after you started working as a translator/interpreter.

T/I = translation and/or interpreting.

Respondent Metrics

Respondents:	96
First Response:	20/11/2007 06:19 AM
Last Response:	13/12/2007 10:34 AM

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

ITI's 2007 survey of CPD and training needs

In this article ITI's Education Officer, Emma Wagner, outlines the findings of the on-line survey conducted in November and December 2007.

ITI held an on-line survey of training needs in 2005, to identify the topics and formats preferred by most translators and interpreters for their continuing professional development (CPD). Two years on, we wanted to see if there had been any changes in attitudes and needs. So we repeated the survey on the ITI website at the end of 2007. The questions asked were mostly the same as in 2005, although some new questions were added to find out if members would be interested in a facility for on-line recording of their CPD activities, as explained in a *bulletin* article on page 41 of the November-December 2007 issue.

Lower response rate

The response rate was lower than in 2005. There were only 96 respondents, compared with 255 two years before. This could be due to the fact that the earlier questionnaire was on the ITI website for a longer period (47 days in 2005, compared with 23 days in 2007). Or perhaps the lower response rate is simply a reflection of 'survey fatigue', as people are assailed on all sides by demands to decide what they think and tick boxes accordingly.

All responses were received via the website, even though respondents were offered the option of a paper or e-mail version of the questionnaire if they preferred. The survey was open to members and non-members alike; 16% of respondents were non-members.

Take-up of Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The survey showed an increase in the rate of participation, with 93% percent saying that they had taken part in CPD in 2007 or were planning to do so in 2008. The most common CPD activities are still, as in 2005:

- attending talks and conferences
- self-directed study.

CPD includes **providing** training as well as **receiving** it, but the percentage who reported that they were doing this was still low, with findings almost identical to the earlier survey. There were 6% involved in 'teaching T/I, mentoring, giving presentations to clients about T/I' and 5.6% 'writing book reviews or articles about T/I'.

Only 7% are not taking part in CPD or planning to do so; in 2005 this percentage was much higher, at 26%.

The reason most commonly given for not taking part in CPD was **location**, i.e. the distance people would have to travel to take part, followed by **lack of time**. Cost was not the main deterrent, although several pointed out that attending training involves travel and accommodation costs as well as loss of earnings – so even if an event were free, it might still cost too much.

Use of CPD Record

Relatively few respondents use the ITI CPD Record to record their activities. As in 2005, fewer than half (46%) say that they do. Of the reasons given for not using it, some said that they keep forgetting to take it to events (31%); that they don't see the point (22%); or that they have mislaid it (12%); but the main reason was 'None of the above', given by 35%.

Support for an on-line record

This was the new question not asked in the earlier survey. The survey findings showed that a large majority (64%) is in favour of an on-line record, with 21% saying they would not use such a facility. 16% answered 'Not applicable, I am not an ITI member'.

Of those interested in using an on-line record, 73% said they would not be willing to pay for this facility. The rest would be willing to pay up to 50p per month; half of these would be willing to pay up to £1 per month.

To allay any fears, I should point out that there is no intention to make an on-line record compulsory. It would simply be an alternative to the current paper record. This survey shows very clear support for the introduction of this option, and almost equally clear unwillingness to pay for it.

Attendance at ITI events

A high proportion of respondents said they had never attended an ITI Conference (50%) or ITI Weekend Workshop (49%), but the figures for non-attendance were even higher in 2005. The ITI events most likely to have been attended are Network or Regional Group events; only 20% say they have never attended one. In 2005 this figure was 38%. The level of participation in ITI events other than those listed appears to be increasing. In 2005 68% had never attended any 'other training' organised by ITI but in 2007 this figure was down to 46%.

Sources of training

The most common sources of training reported are non-T/I bodies such as universities and professional associations. Only 22% said they had never taken part in post-experience training from these providers. A high percentage (67%, similar to 2005) have never received any training from their employer, no doubt reflecting the freelance status of our respondents.

Attitudes to CPD and reasons for taking part

The level of interest in CPD is high, and has improved since 2005. Only 1.7% (2005: 4%) feel they don't need it, while 65% (2005: 59%) say that they are 'keen to participate in relevant CPD' and 40% (2005: 35%) expect it to help them update their skills.

Confirming the striking result obtained in 2005, the survey showed again that the most popular reason for taking part in CPD and training, mentioned by 79% (2005: 70%) of respondents, is 'to meet other translators/interpreters and compare methods and tips'. Again this no doubt reflects the isolation felt by freelancers.

Training location, format and duration

A large percentage (30%; 2005: 42%) said they could not attend training in London, but only near their home. But that still leaves an even larger percentage (55%) who can attend training anywhere or actually prefer London. A large number of respondents (44%) would like a combination of on-line and classroom training. Only 19% said they are 'only interested in classroom training'. As regards duration, by far the most popular are whole-day events, preferred by 40% (2005: 27%).

Training topics

The most popular training topics in each of the various categories mentioned are, in order of numbers interested:

1. Translation workshops
2. Updates on developments in the profession (IoL Charter, CEN standard)
3. Increasing your earnings
4. Workshops (practical work) with others specialising in the same subject area
5. Terminology handling
6. Marketing and networking
7. Quickstart advice on a new subject area

Subject areas

One of the aims of this survey was to find out which specific subject areas people were interested in. An analysis of the free text replies to this question shows that among those who responded, the top five subject areas are:

1. Finance
2. Legal (including the suggestion 'strategies for dealing with the non-legal parts of contracts')
3. Medical
4. Pharmaceutical
5. Engineering + automotive

These findings will help ITI to plan and target training activities in future. Many thanks to all readers who took the time to respond to the survey, and for all your interesting comments, which have been duly noted. Thanks must also go to Lorraine Gregory at the ITI office for the layout of the questionnaire and processing of the results, and to Alan Wheatley for his active advice and support.

Survey Results

The following is a tabular/graphic depiction of the responses to each survey question. Additional comments provided by respondents, if any, are included after each table.

Section - Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

1. Have you taken part in any CPD (i.e. activities to maintain, improve and broaden the knowledge, skills and personal qualities necessary to do your job) in 2007 or will you in 2008?

92.6%	88	Yes
7.4%	7	No

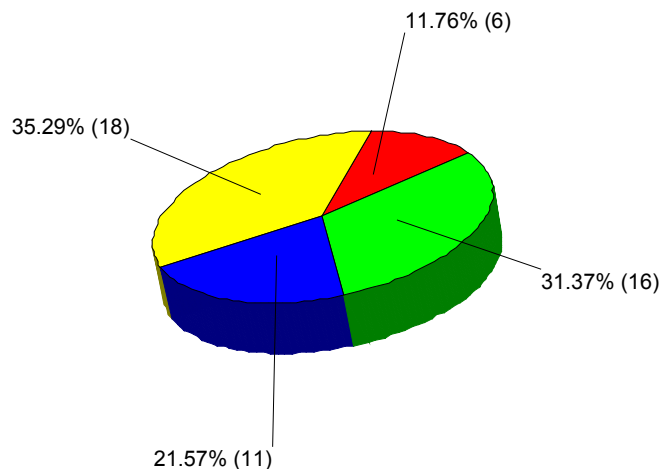
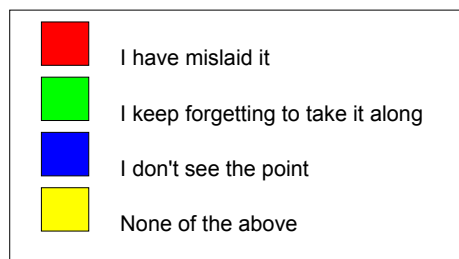
2. If so, which?

29.0%	73	Attending talks and conferences on any professionally relevant subject
24.2%	61	Study and learning undertaken on your own (reading, on-line tutorials etc)
19.0%	48	Taking part in T/I workshops
14.7%	37	Following formal training courses on any professionally relevant subject
6.3%	16	Teaching T/I, mentoring, giving presentations to clients about T/I
5.6%	14	Writing book reviews or articles about T/I
1.2%	3	Not applicable

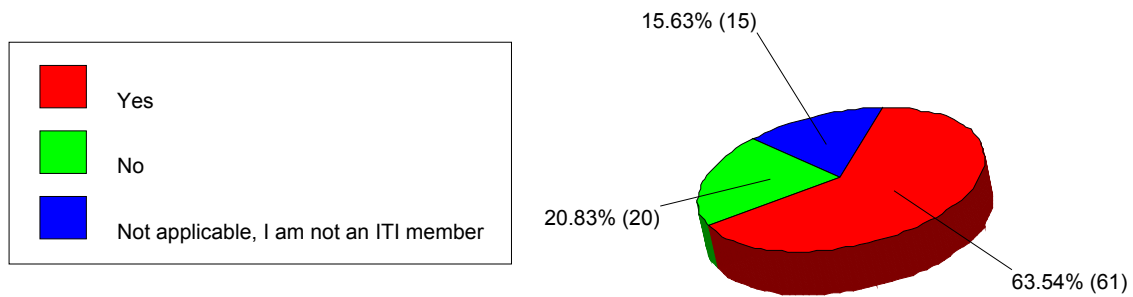
3. Do you use the ITI CPD Record to record this?

54.3%	51	No
45.7%	43	Yes

4. Please tell us why you don't use the CPD record:



5. If ITI introduced a facility for on-line recording of CPD by members, would you use it? (For explanation, see article in ITI Bulletin, November-December 2007, page 41.)

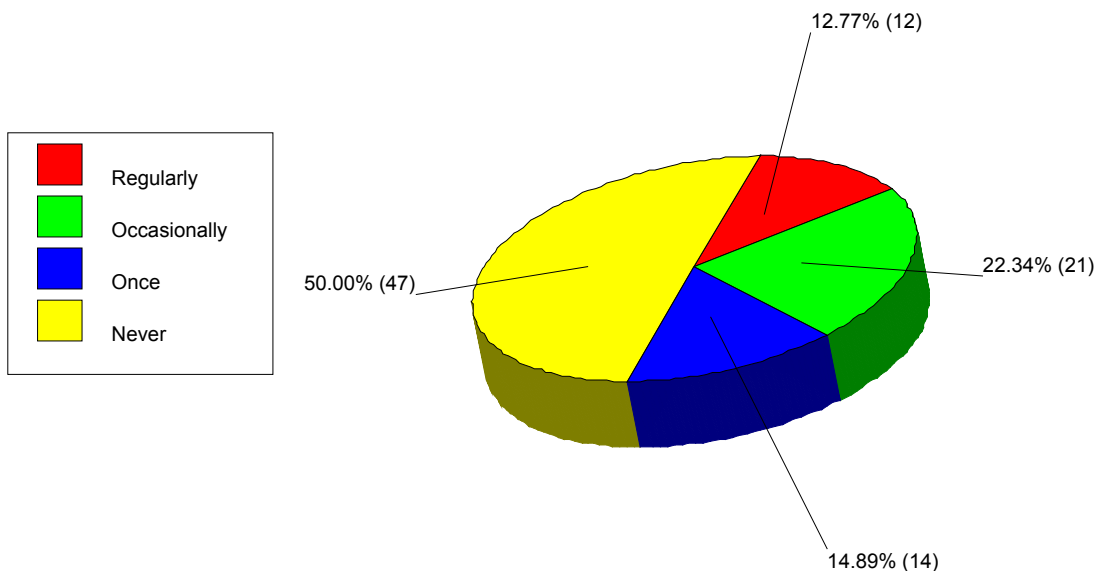


6. If you answered "Yes" to question 5, would you be willing to pay for this facility?

72.7% 48 No, I would not be willing to pay
 13.6% 9 Yes, I would be willing to pay up to £1 per month
 13.6% 9 Yes, I would be willing to pay up to 50p per month

Section - Past participation in ITI training

7. Have you attended the ITI conference?



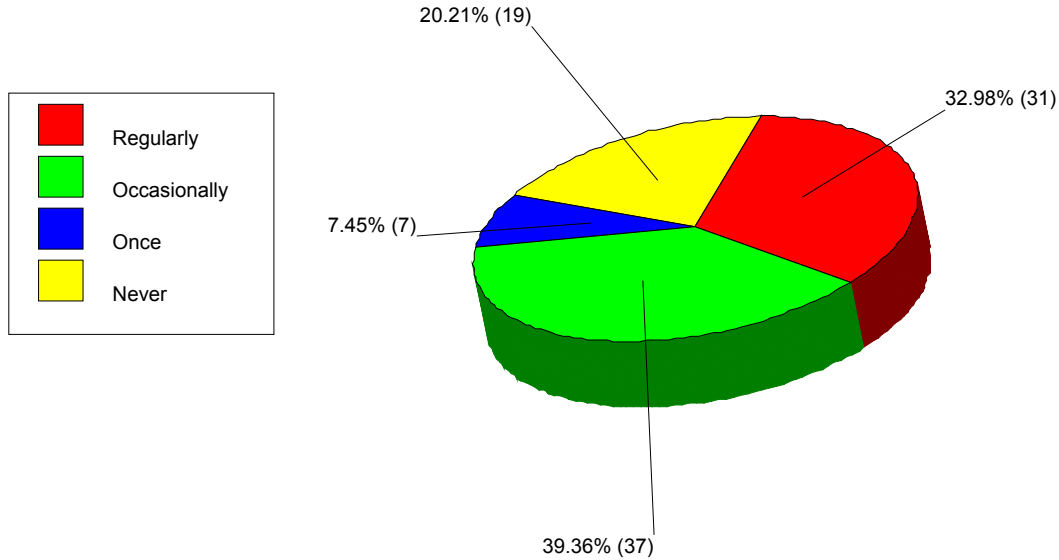
8. Have you attended any module(s) of the ITI Professional Development Course?

76.9% 70 Never
 11.0% 10 Once
 8.8% 8 Occasionally
 3.3% 3 Regularly

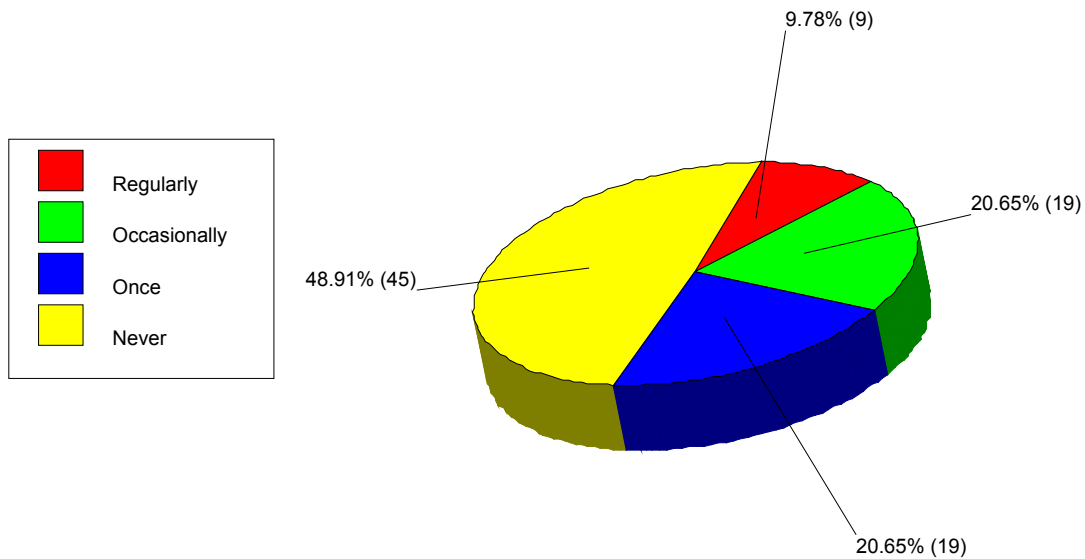
9. Have you taken part in ITI Peer Support Scheme?

81.9%	77	Never
8.5%	8	Once
6.4%	6	Regularly
3.2%	3	Occasionally

10. Have you attended an ITI Network or Regional Group event?



11. Have you attended an ITI weekend workshop?



12. Have you attended St Jerome Seminars?

86.7%	78	Never
13.3%	12	Once

13. Have you attended any other training organized by ITI?

45.7% 42 Never
45.7% 42 Occasionally
4.3% 4 Once
4.3% 4 Regularly

Section - Post-experience training from other providers

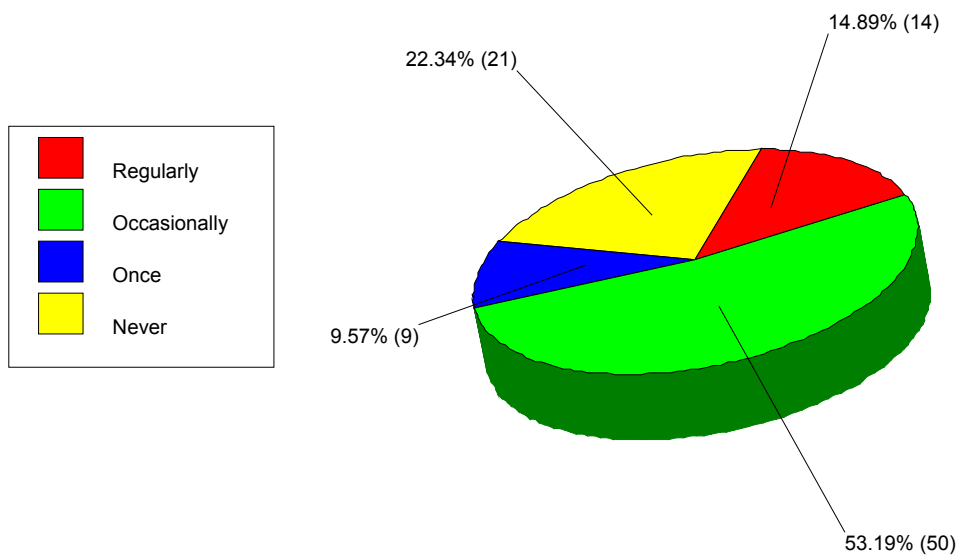
14. Have you received training from other translation/interpreting associations (ATA, CloL, SFT etc.)?

54.8% 51 Never
33.3% 31 Occasionally
6.5% 6 Regularly
5.4% 5 Once

15. Have you received training from your employer?

66.7% 56 Never
19.0% 16 Occasionally
8.3% 7 Once
6.0% 5 Regularly

16. Have you received training from other non-T/I bodies (universities, professional associations)?



Section - CPD and training preferences

17. Your attitude to CPD and training

52.5%	62	I am experienced in T/I and am keen to participate in relevant CPD and training
32.2%	38	I am working in T/I and feel the need to update my skills in some areas
8.5%	10	I am a beginner and need help starting out in T/I
3.4%	4	I am already working in T/I but have never received any formal training
1.7%	2	I am happy with my level of skill in all areas and don't need any CPD
1.7%	2	None of the above

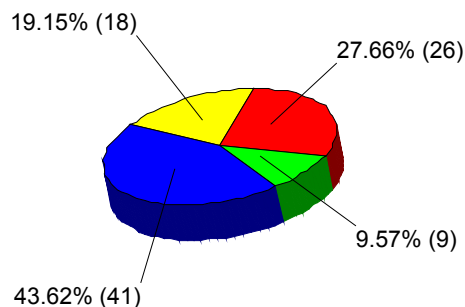
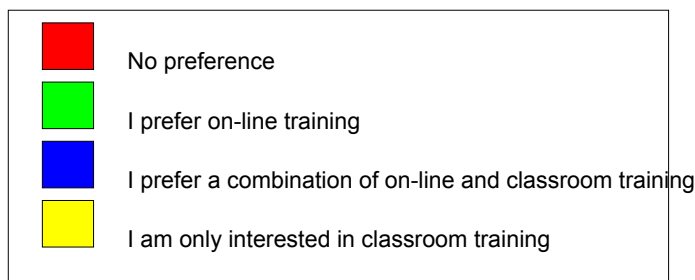
18. Your goals - what you would like post-experience training to help you achieve?

15.7%	76	To meet other translators/interpreters and compare methods, share tips
14.2%	69	To fill gaps in my specific knowledge in certain subject areas
13.4%	65	To learn how to use new technology
12.8%	62	To provide a general update and fill gaps in my general knowledge of the profession
10.3%	50	To increase my earnings
8.7%	42	To help me break into a new subject area or a new type of T/I work
8.7%	42	To reassure me that I am doing things right
8.0%	39	To fulfil the CPD requirements to obtain individual chartered status
4.5%	22	To become a MITI (I am not yet a qualified member)
2.5%	12	To help establish myself in T/I (I am new to the profession)
1.2%	6	To help me go freelance (I am a staff translator/interpreter)

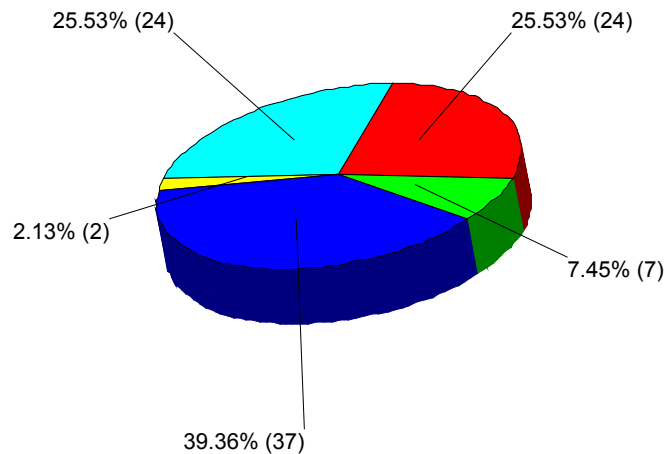
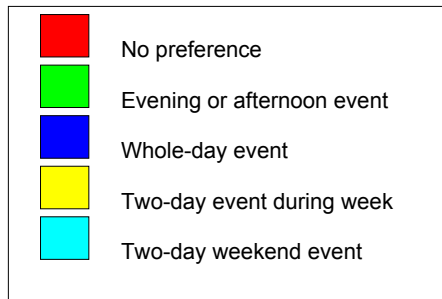
19. Please indicate your preferred location for training

29.5%	28	I can only attend training near my home, which is not near London
27.4%	26	I prefer training to take place in London or within the M25 boundary
16.8%	16	I can attend training anywhere, including abroad
14.7%	14	None of the above
11.6%	11	I can attend training anywhere in the UK

20. Please indicate your preferred format for training



21. Please indicate your preferred duration of classroom training



Section - Training topics - Which general areas interest you most?

22. Moving into a different area of T/I work

- 45.3% 43 Quickstart advice on a new subject area
- 37.9% 36 New forms of translation (e.g. subtitling, voiceover)
- 16.8% 16 Other areas of interpreting (e.g. conference, community service)

23. The bigger picture

- 34.4% 66 Update on developments in the profession (Chartered Linguist, quality standards)
- 26.6% 51 Users of T/I : the client's point of view
- 15.1% 29 Academic translation studies
- 14.6% 28 Ethics of T/I
- 9.4% 18 Professional standards and definitions for interpreters

24. Language skills

- 23.2% 67 Translation workshops
- 19.7% 57 Keeping source language skills up to date
- 17.6% 51 Keeping target language (usually mother tongue) skills up to date
- 17.0% 49 Writing skills in the target language
- 15.6% 45 Revision workshops (revising each other's work)
- 6.9% 20 Interpreting workshops

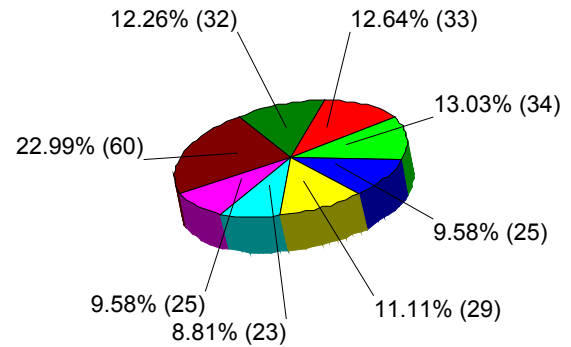
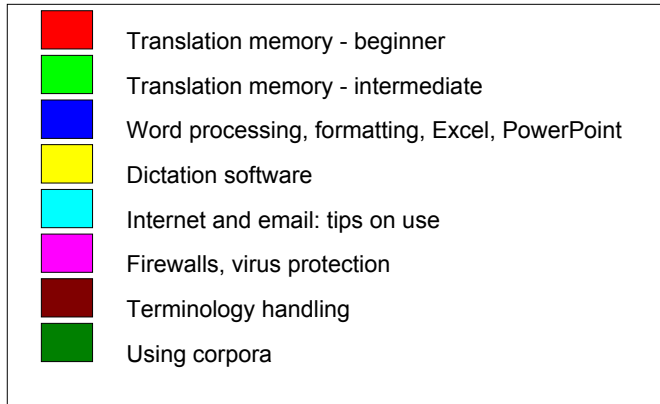
25. Subject knowledge

- 34.8% 65 Workshops (practical work) with others specializing in the same subject area
- 34.2% 64 Subject research skills and resources
- 31.0% 58 Specific topics in your subject area

26. Business skills

39.3% 64	Increasing your earnings (advice from high-earning translators/interpreters)
33.1% 54	Pricing, negotiating deadlines, dealing with clients
15.3% 25	Financial planning; sources of assistance; making a business plan
12.3% 20	Taxation

27. IT skills



28. Personal skills

