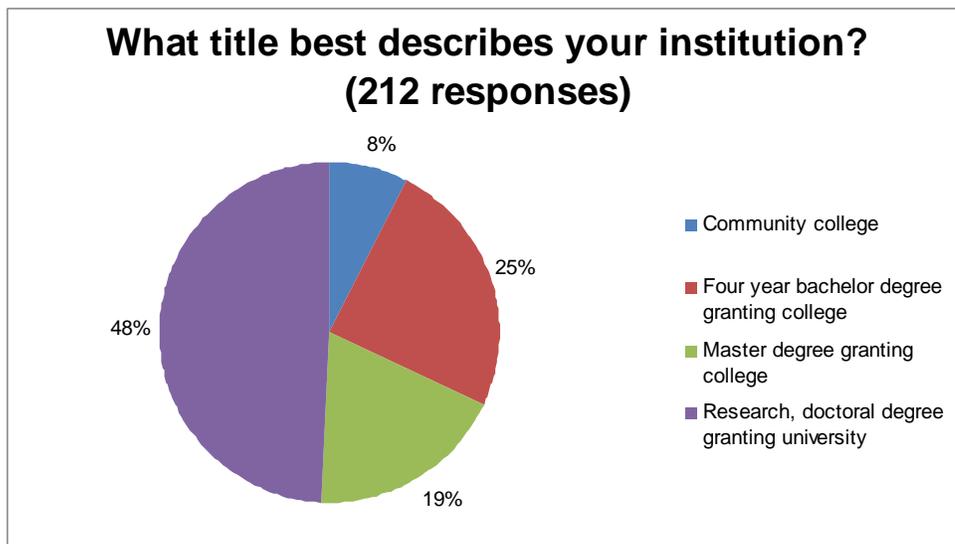


2009 Anthropology Faculty Job Market Report

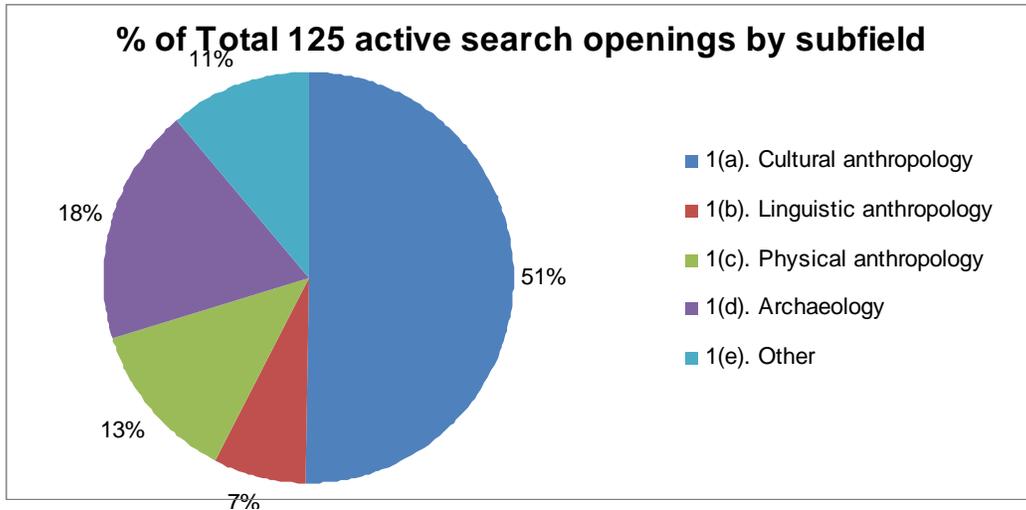
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AAA has been increasingly concerned with the academic job market. Anecdotal evidence suggests that faculty lines are being lost and searches cancelled. In one instance, a position had been offered, negotiated and accepted. Shortly thereafter, the offer was rescinded and the faculty line taken. Several members reported hearing that searches were being “paused” or suspended indefinitely. In response, we have gathered information on what has happened with academic jobs over the past 18 months.

Jobs ads posted through the online AAA Career Center declined by 19% (199 jobs) from 2007 to 2008, and applicants using the Career Center declined by 11% (223 applicants). Data for the current job cycle is even more alarming. From September 2008 through February 2009, we experienced a 22% decline in both jobs posted and applicants using the center, compared to the same period in 2007-08. Seeking additional information, we conducted a short survey of department chairs in February 2009, inquiring about current faculty searches over the past 18 months, including suspended and cancelled searches, and about faculty lines lost over the past three years.



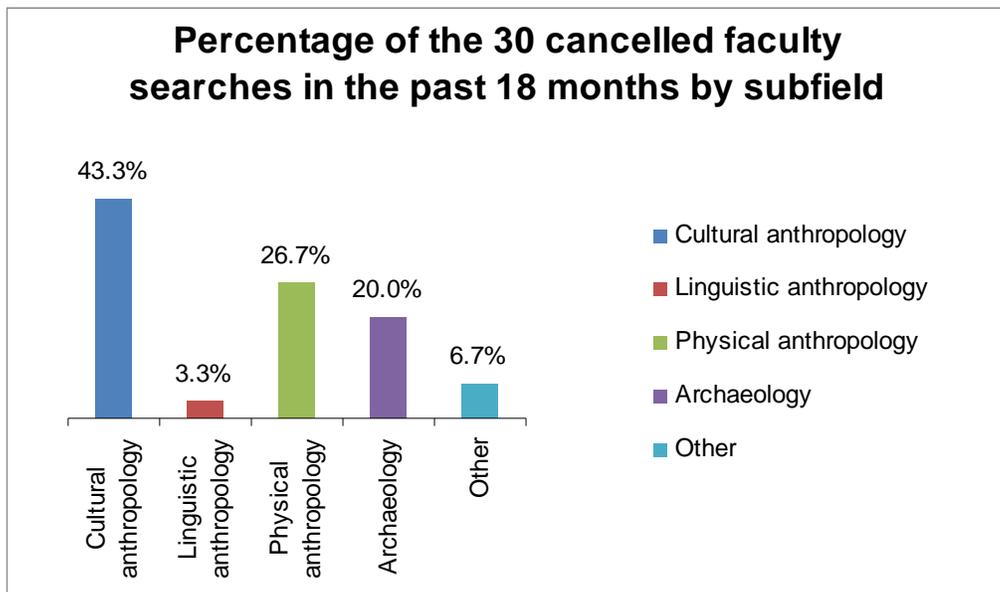
The survey was sent to 493 anthropology programs, with a 43% response rate. The respondents were largely from public institutions (69%) and represented PhD granting programs (48%); 19% represented master's granting programs, 25% four-year bachelor's and 8% community colleges.



Collectively, they reported 125 active searches: 51% in cultural anthropology, 18% in archaeology, 13% in physical anthropology, 7% in linguistic anthropology and 11% in “other.”

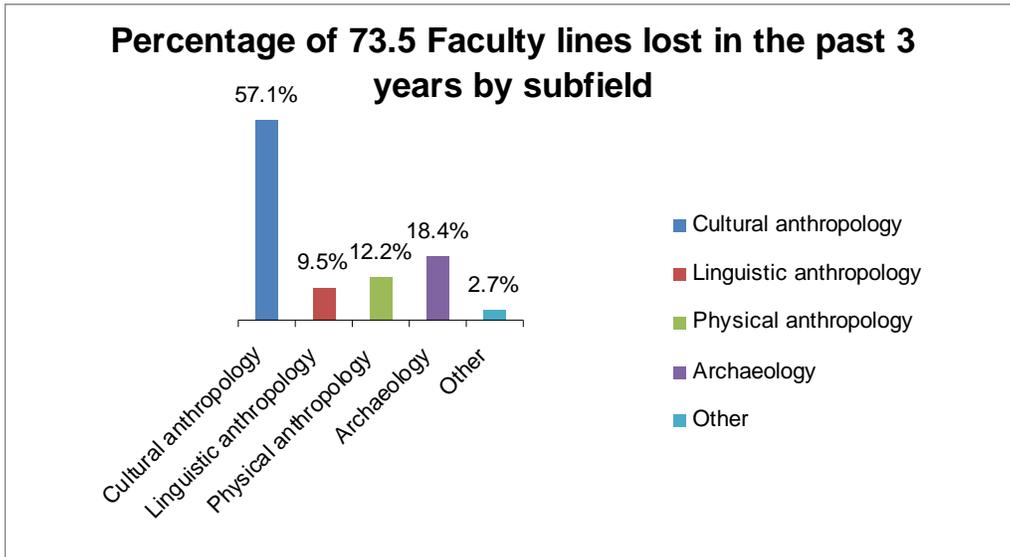
Of the current searches, 93% are in public institutions, and 14% of respondents reported paused, frozen or suspended searches—largely in public institutions (92%) and with the same subdisciplinary distribution.

Of the paused searches, 59% were in PhD granting programs, 20.5% in master’s programs, 18% in bachelor’s programs and 3% in community colleges.

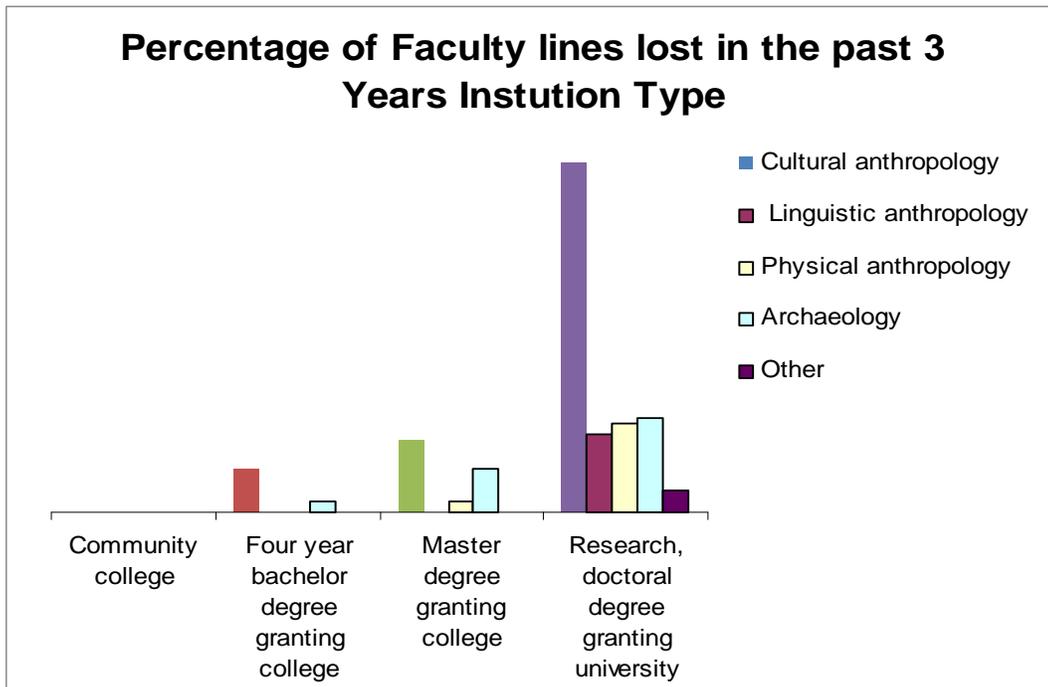


Of those who responded, 12.3% indicated they have cancelled searches in the past 18 months. Again, the majority were in public institutions (93%) and affect cultural positions (43%), followed by physical anthropology (27%) and archaeology (20%) positions.

Also, the majority of the cancelled searches were in PhD granting programs (47%), followed closely by master's (40%) and bachelor's granting programs (13%). No community colleges reported cancelled searches. Respondents indicated that 41% of searches were suspended or cancelled prior to conducting pre-visit interviews, 32% prior to campus visits, 18% after candidate short lists were determined and 9% after the individual was selected or the position offered.



In terms of existing positions, 18.4% of respondents indicated that they have lost faculty lines in the past three years (totaling 73.5 faculty positions) in cultural (57.1%), archaeology (18.4%), physical (12.2%) and linguistic anthropology (9.5%), and "other" (2.7%).



The vast majority of lost faculty lines were in PhD granting programs (78%); only 16% of master's and 6.8% of bachelor's degree granting programs reported losing faculty lines, and no community colleges reported losing positions. Respondents providing verbatim comments suggested that 27% see steady growth in their faculty, 40% feel that they are stable and 20% indicate that they are having difficulty or face losing faculty lines. Additionally, 30% observed that the situation seems to be rapidly deteriorating and 40% believe the next 2-3 years will be difficult.

Survey results paint a rather bleak picture for academic jobs, particularly in public PhD granting programs, but we can not yet know what this means in the long term. Data from the AAA Career Center suggest that 2009 may well be a difficult year for academic programs and job seekers, but without data from previous years, we do not have an accurate gauge of the severity of the situation. AAA will conduct this survey again in the fall and spring in an effort to get additional comparative data. We thank all departments who responded to the survey. If you have any comments regarding the current job climate, please send them to academic@aaanet.org. We will make additional data and information available as we receive it.