

Preservation Statistics Survey Report FY2015

Annie Peterson, Holly Robertson, and Nick Szydlowski

Guest Curator: Joshua Ranger

Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS)
Association of Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS)
American Library Association (ALA)

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Introduction and Background

The Preservation Statistics Survey is an effort coordinated by the Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS) of the American Library Association (ALA) and the Association of Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS).

For more information on the Preservation Statistics Survey project, visit:

<http://www.ala.org/alcts/resources/preservation/presstats>

Any cultural heritage institution in the United States conducting preservation activities was invited to complete this survey, which was open from January 19 through March 18, 2016. Questions focused on **production-based** preservation activities for fiscal year 2015 and document conservation treatment, general preservation activities, preservation reformatting and digitization, and digital preservation and digital asset management activities.

This survey is based on the Preservation Statistics program conducted by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) from 1984 to 2008. When the ARL Preservation Statistics program was discontinued in 2008, the Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS) of ALA / ALCTS, realizing the value of national preservation metrics, worked towards developing an improved and sustainable preservation statistics survey.

An initial pilot survey was issued in 2012, with subsequent surveys in 2013 and 2014. All Preservation Statistics Survey data sets and reports are available at: <http://www.ala.org/alcts/resources/preservation/presstats>

In 2014, the Preservation Statistics project received an ALCTS Presidential Citation in recognition for its contribution to the technical services profession.

The goal of this survey is to document the state of preservation activities in this digital era via quantitative data that facilitates peer comparison and a better understanding of trends in the preservation and conservation fields over time.

Survey Design and Implementation

The former ARL Preservation Statistics survey examined preservation activities in large academic and research libraries from a fiscal, personnel, and quantitative repair/conservation viewpoint. As highlighted in the 2009 report [*Safeguarding Collections at the Dawn of the 21st Century: Describing Roles & Measuring Contemporary Preservation Activities in ARL Libraries*](#), updates to the ARL Preservation Statistics survey were needed to better capture the wide range of preventive conservation, reformatting, digitization, and digital preservation activities of modern preservation departments.¹

An initial survey of the preservation field conducted in February 2012 indicated that 1) ARL member libraries had continued to collect preservation statistics in the years since the final 2007-2008 ARL Preservation Statistics data collection; 2) libraries and other cultural heritage institutions had robust preservation programs that both collected data about preservation activities and were willing to submit and share their preservation statistics to an organized effort; and 3) responsibilities for digitization, reformatting, and digital preservation were either increasingly managed within or closely allied to preservation departments, and those activities should be included in any revised preservation statistics effort.

With this support from the preservation community, a team of survey organizers collaborated to examine the 2007-2008 ARL Preservation Statistics survey questionnaire with new eyes. Questions, instructions, and definitions were refined or added to fill in the gaps identified in the *Safeguarding the Collections* report and the

¹ <http://www.libqual.org/documents/admin/safeguarding-collections.pdf>

general interest survey. SurveyMonkey was selected as the online surveying platform and an *Instructions and Definitions* document was developed to clarify procedures and encourage similar reporting practices amongst institutions.

The FY2015 Preservation Statistics Survey did not change significantly from the FY2014 survey tool. Two minor changes to the way respondents entered their data were implemented this year: first, allowing only numerical responses to questions about data standardized the entry of footnoted explanations and facilitated the task of data analysis; secondly, respondents were encouraged to total the sum of their responses when a question considered data by material format (i.e., book, unbound sheets, photographic materials, etc.) to both assure the validity of the numerical responses and facilitate analysis.

The FY2015 Survey did not meet the stated goal of seventy-five respondents; only sixty-nine institutions participated. As an all-volunteer operation, we must reconcile the community's interest in continuing this effort against the many hours required to annually prepare and release the survey, to drum up participation through outreach and to support participation through troubleshooting, and to analyze the data and document the results through a report that strives to support the community through new analysis and ongoing documentation of our efforts. Coupled with major life changes in the last year – moves, new jobs, new marriages – as project coordinators, we are not prepared to issue an FY2016 Survey in January 2017. We are actively seeking a new home for the Preservation Statistics project or are ready to let it go.

View the FY2015 Survey Questionnaire (.pdf):

<http://www.ala.org/alcts/sites/ala.org.alcts/files/content/resources/preserv/presstats/FY2015/FY2015-Pres-Stats-public.xls>

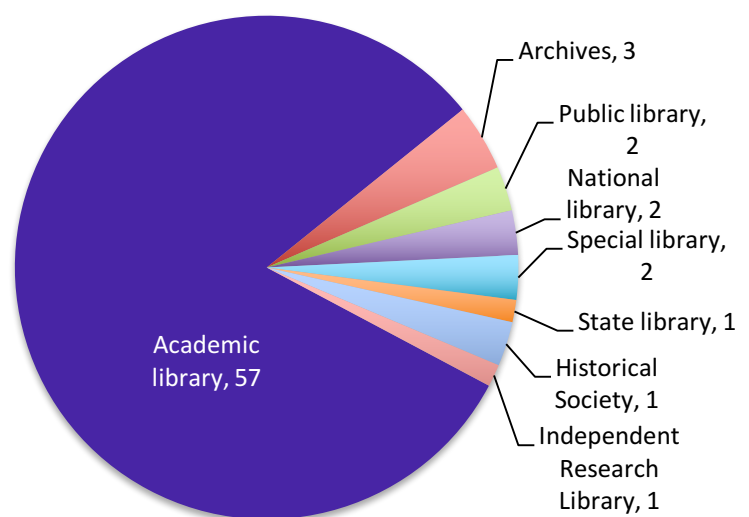
And accompanying Instructions and Definitions document (.pdf):

<http://www.ala.org/alcts/sites/ala.org.alcts/files/content/resources/preserv/presstats/FY2015/PresStatsTLE-2012-2015.xlsx>

Respondents

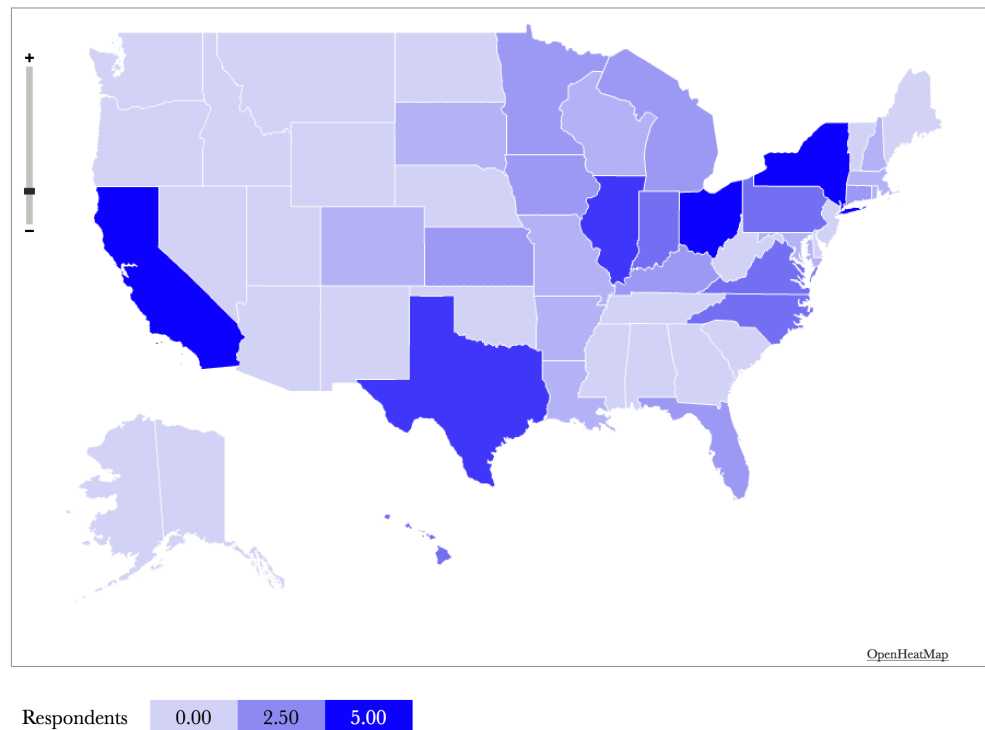
Sixty-nine cultural heritage institutions participated in the FY2015 Preservation Statistics Survey (Figure A). Fifty-seven academic libraries formed the vast majority of respondents; additionally there were three responses from archives, two each from public libraries, national libraries, and special libraries, and one each from a state library, an independent research library, and a historical society.

Respondents by Institution Type
(Figure A)

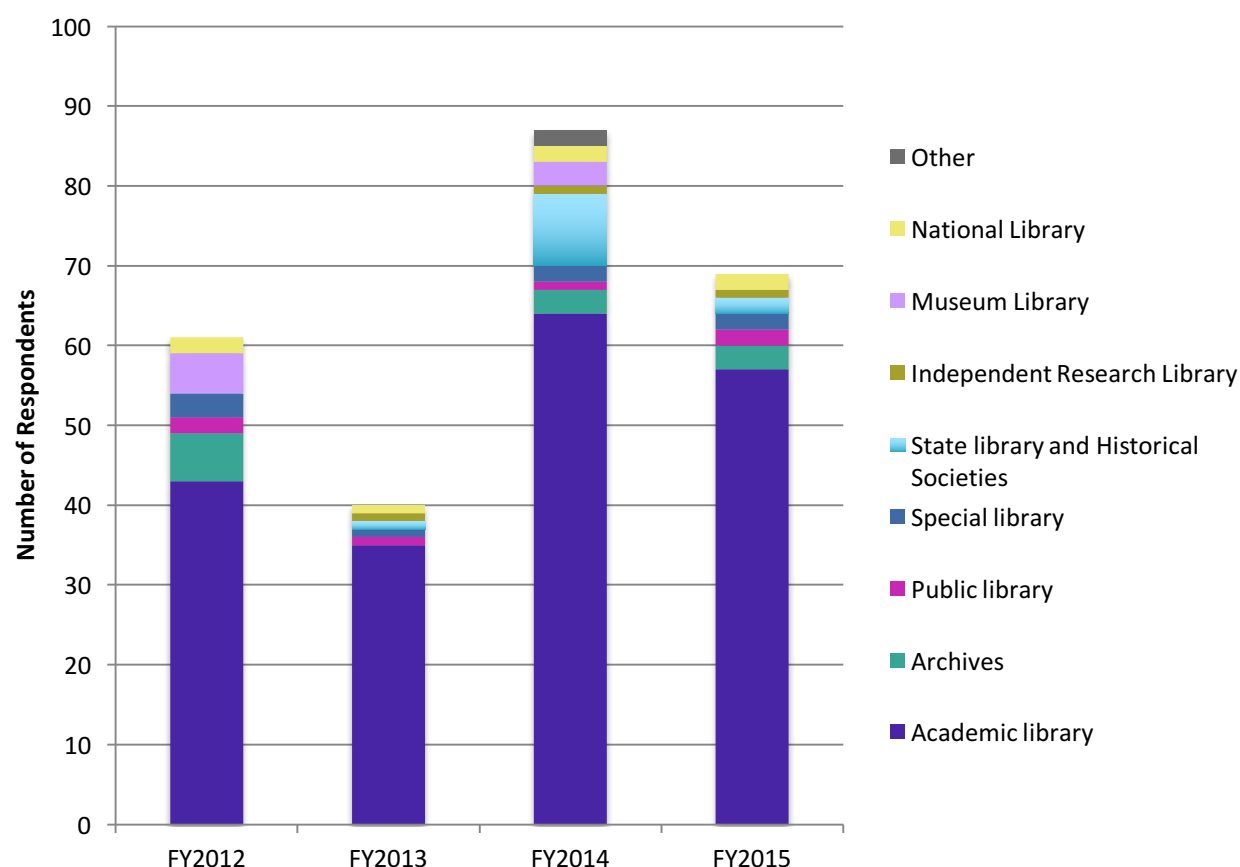


States with the highest concentration of responding institutions include New York (eight), California (six), Ohio (five) and Illinois and Texas (four) (Figure B). These five states are among the ten most populated states in the country, but several of these states also boast strong statewide preservation networks, including the [California Preservation Program](#), the [Ohio Preservation Council](#), and the [Illinois Collections Preservation Network](#).

FY2015 Respondents by State (Figure B)



Respondents: FY2015 vs. Previous Years (Figure C)



The data collected by the Preservation Statistics Survey is most meaningful if a representative number of libraries and archives consistently share their annual statistics. The level of drop off in survey responses for the FY2015 survey was disappointing. This was the second year the survey project set a goal of 75 respondents in order to continue the survey effort. To balance the effort required to manage this project and perform analysis that informs our field about current issues and ongoing trends, a significant and steady number of institutions must participate annually.

Sixty-nine institutions participated in the FY2015 Survey compared to eighty-seven in FY2014, forty in FY2013, and sixty-one in FY2012 (Figure C). Academic libraries continue to be core respondents, composing on average 75% of participating institutions. As the survey has grown and steadied, outreach to special groups has occasionally resulted in greater response rates in that institutional category; for example, an effort in FY2014 to reach state libraries, archives, and historical societies resulted in a much higher turnout in that category than any other year.

Results

As always, the results of the Preservation Statistics Survey are not representative of cultural heritage institutions writ large because the sample is self-selecting and does not represent enough institutions to be able to make definitive extrapolations. The ability to formulate extrapolations about preservation programs in cultural heritage institutions is not the purpose of the survey; rather, the survey documents the quantitative preservation activities of institutions for the benefit and use of the preservation community. As years of data accumulate, we will be able to identify trends and lend quantitative analysis to support or demystify anecdotal observations.

Continuing in the open-access path established by the previous Preservation Statistics Surveys and the ARL Preservation Statistics reports, data from the survey will be shared in order to facilitate review and additional analysis:

Download the FY2015 full survey data set (.xlsx):

<http://www.ala.org/alcts/sites/ala.org.alcts/files/content/resources/preserv/presstats/FY2015/FY2015-Pres-Stats-public.xls>

Also available: Total Library Expenditure (TLE) scaled data for 2012-2015, helpful for tracking trends over time, while accounting for the varying respondent pool.

<http://www.ala.org/alcts/sites/ala.org.alcts/files/content/resources/preserv/presstats/FY2015/PresStatsTLE-2012-2015.xlsx>

See “Using the Survey Data to Track Long-Term Trends” section below for more explanation of how TLE is used.

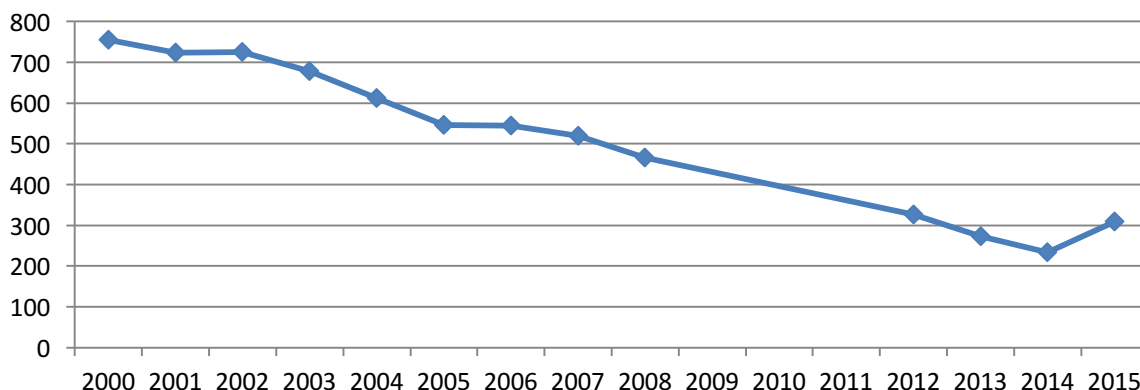
Using the Survey Data to Track Long-Term Trends

As this survey is based on the ARL Preservation Statistics Survey conducted from 1984-2008, the data from the two surveys can be combined to evaluate long-term trends in preservation activity. However, because the group of institutions responding to the two surveys differs significantly, care should be taken in drawing broad conclusions based on the available data. For the ARL survey, all ARL member libraries provided a response, and no non-ARL institutions were permitted. The current ALA survey respondents are a self-selecting pool of institutions which include both ARL and non-ARL institutions.

With the elimination of budget and staffing questions, this survey shares 18 quantitative questions with the ARL survey. For these questions, this report compares the total value reported for each question to the total library expenditure (TLE) of the reporting institutions. Total expenditures have been adjusted to account for inflation, and are expressed in 2015 dollars. All values are expressed per million dollars of library expenditures (e.g. items digitized per million dollars of total library expenditure). This is intended to measure the fraction of the resources of the responding institutions that is dedicated to a particular task or output.

As an example, the graph below shows the extent of commercial binding activities from 2000-2015, expressed as

Volumes Commercially Bound Per \$Million TLE (Figure D)



the number of volumes bound per million dollars of total library expenditure for all responding institutions.

For each year, the formula which produces the calculated value is:

$$([\text{total volumes bound}] * 10^6) / ([\text{total library expenditures}] * [\text{inflation adjustment}])^2$$

Most tables in this report show data from 2000 to 2015. The ARL data was made available as Excel files from 2000-2008. No survey was conducted from 2009-2011, so no information is available for those years. The 2012-2015 figures come from the ALA survey.

Institutions for which information on total expenditures was not available were excluded from this analysis. For this reason, it is critical that institutions provide a value for total expenditures when completing the survey in future years. For ARL libraries that did not provide a figure for total expenditures, the value from the ARL Statistics survey was used. This method allows 53 institutions from FY2012, 37 from FY2013, 80 from FY2014, and 66 from FY2015 to be included in the analysis.

A weakness of this method is that differences from one year to another might be better explained by changes in the group of responding institutions than by a general shift in levels of resources devoted to a specific task. For this reason, it is prudent to focus on trends that continue over several years, rather than changes from one year to the next.

² Inflation adjustments were derived from the Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Inflation Calculator:
<http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>

Section 1: Conservation Treatment

This section surveys the number of items conserved by format and/or treatment time as well as the number of protective enclosures constructed. Both conservation treatment and enclosures construction are tracked as either in-house programs or outsourced contractor services.

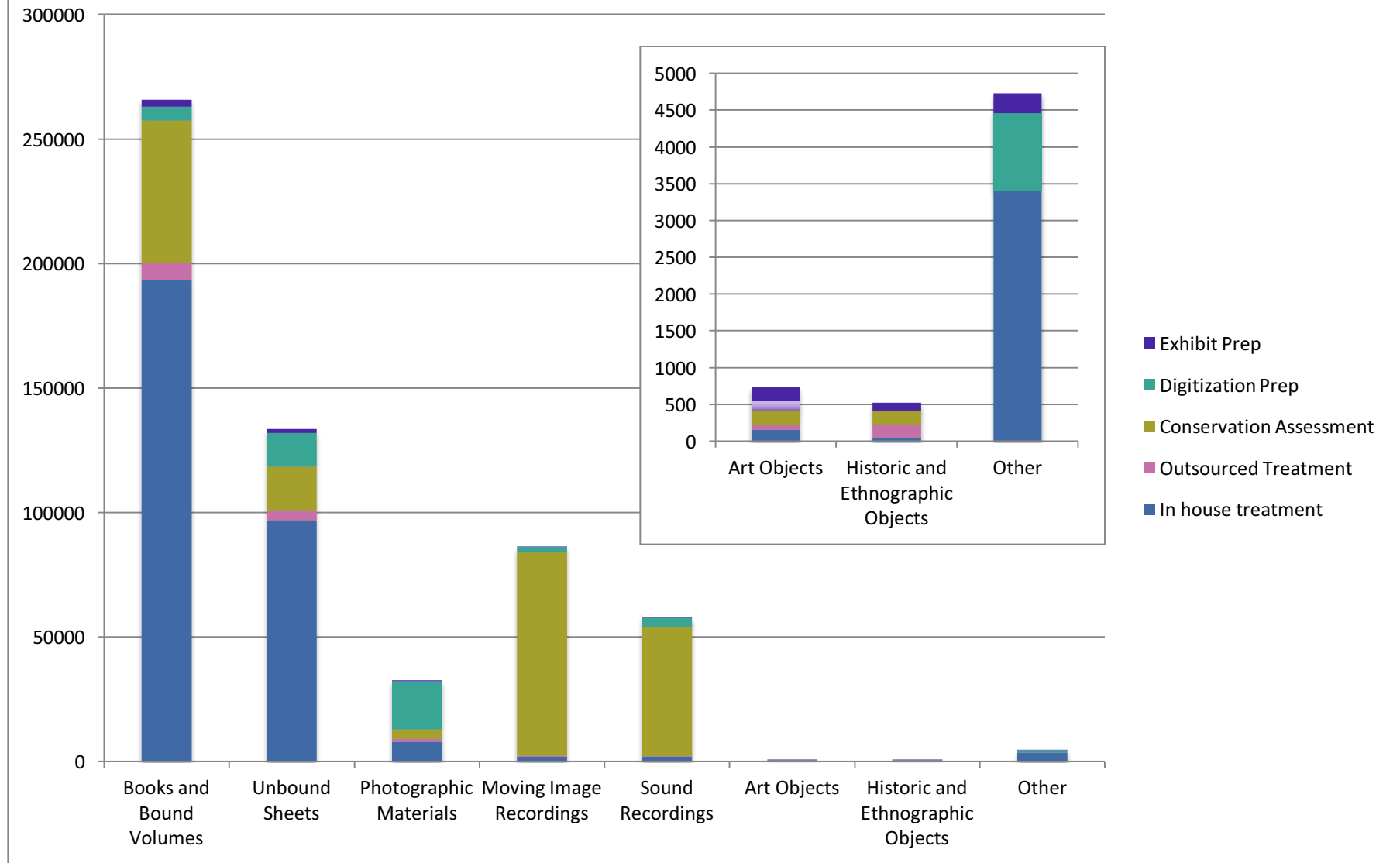
Of the 69 respondents, 42 institutions (61%) outsource conservation treatment and/or protective enclosure construction to contract vendors. Of the five respondents without an in-house conservation program, only three rely solely on contract conservation services.

Consistent with previous surveys, the majority of respondents (61%) have in-house conservation programs that track conservation treatment by the ARL- defined conservation treatment levels: Level I for treatments taking less than 15 minutes; Level II for treatment times ranging from 15 minutes to 120 minutes; and Level III for treatments that take more than two hours (Figure E).

In FY2015, responding institutions provided item-level attention to 762,387 items, down significantly from FY2014 (1.6 million) and FY2013 (1.7 million). These activities include conservation treatment and housing via custom enclosures as well as surveying or assessing an item for condition, preparing an item for digitization or exhibition (discussed further in Section 2).

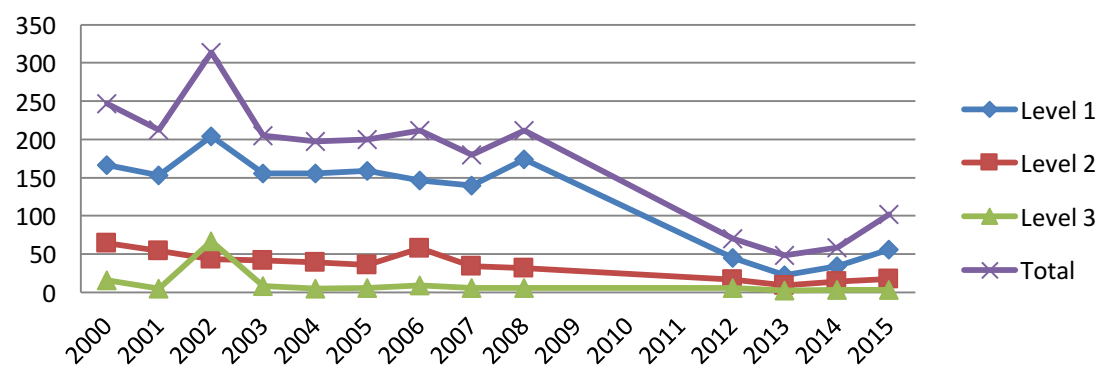
Conservation Activities

(Figure E)



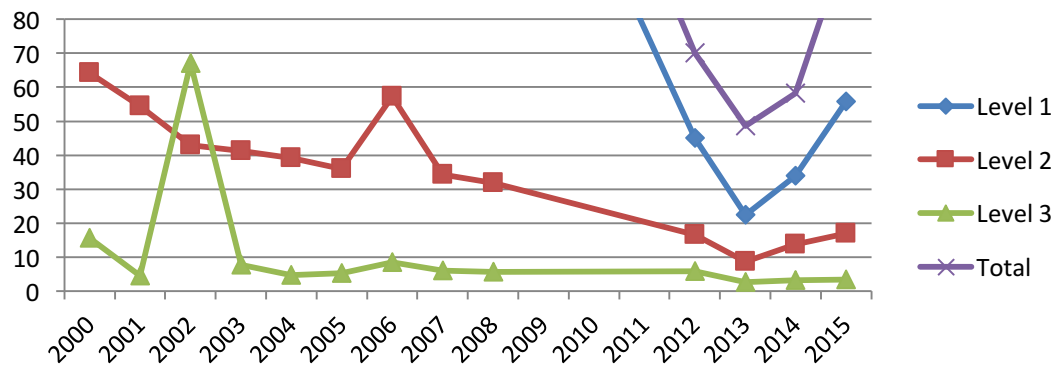
While conservation treatment of bound volumes continues to increase at every treatment level over their low point in FY2013, treatment activity remains dramatically lower than the data reported during ARL’s administration of this survey (Figure F). Since 2000, conservation treatment has declined by 59%, the same decline observed for commercial binding. This reduced level of treatment activity has been consistently supported by the data, including analysis in the pilot [FY2012 Preservation Statistics Survey Report](#) which showed similar results using a different method focusing only on institutions that had responded to both surveys. The reasons for this dramatic decrease in conservation treatment activity might be a fruitful topic of future research.

Conservation Treatments per \$Million TLE
(Figure F)



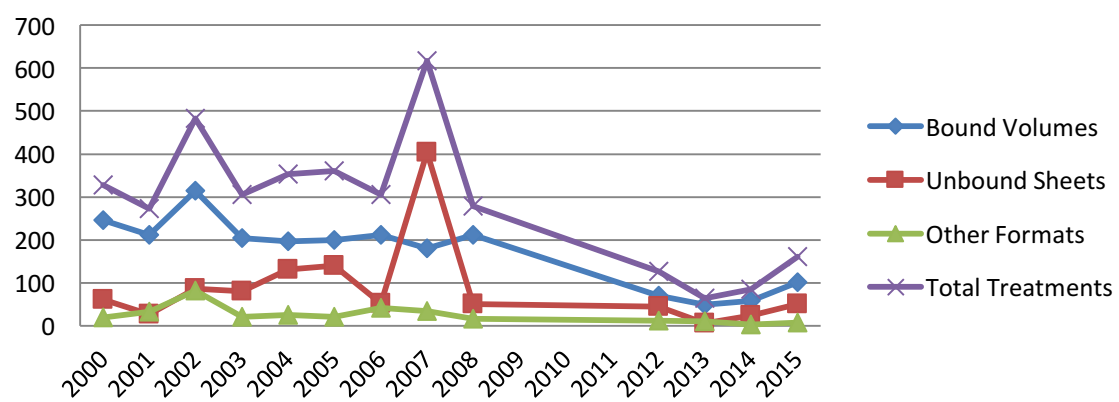
Level 2 repairs are also dramatically below the levels reported on the ARL survey, while level 3 repairs have experienced less severe declines (Figure H):

Conservation Treatments per \$Million TLE
(Figure G)

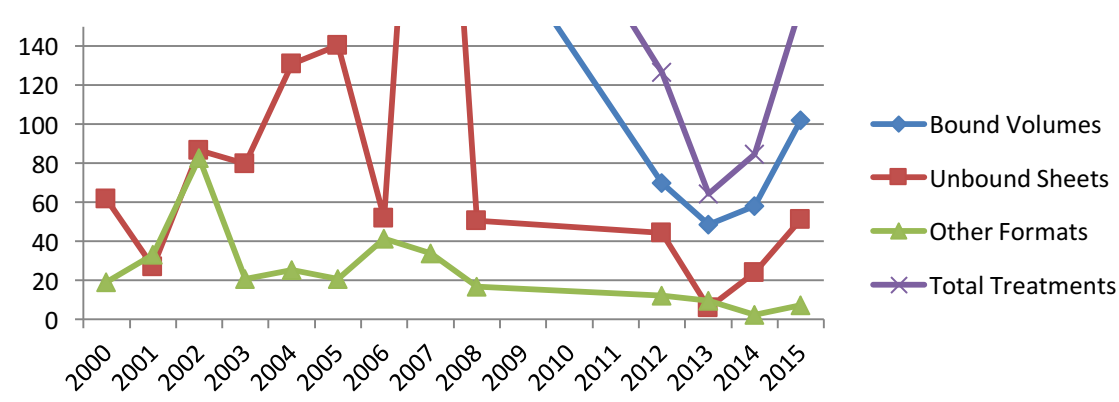


Including unbound sheets and other formats in the analysis paints a similar picture: the level of conservation activity in 2015 was at approximately half of 2000 levels, rebounding from even lower levels in the 2013 and 2014 surveys. (Figures I and J):

Conservation Treatments per \$Million TLE
(Figure H)



Conservation Treatments per \$Million TLE
(Figure I)



Section 2: Conservation Assessment, Digitization Preparation, Exhibit Preparation

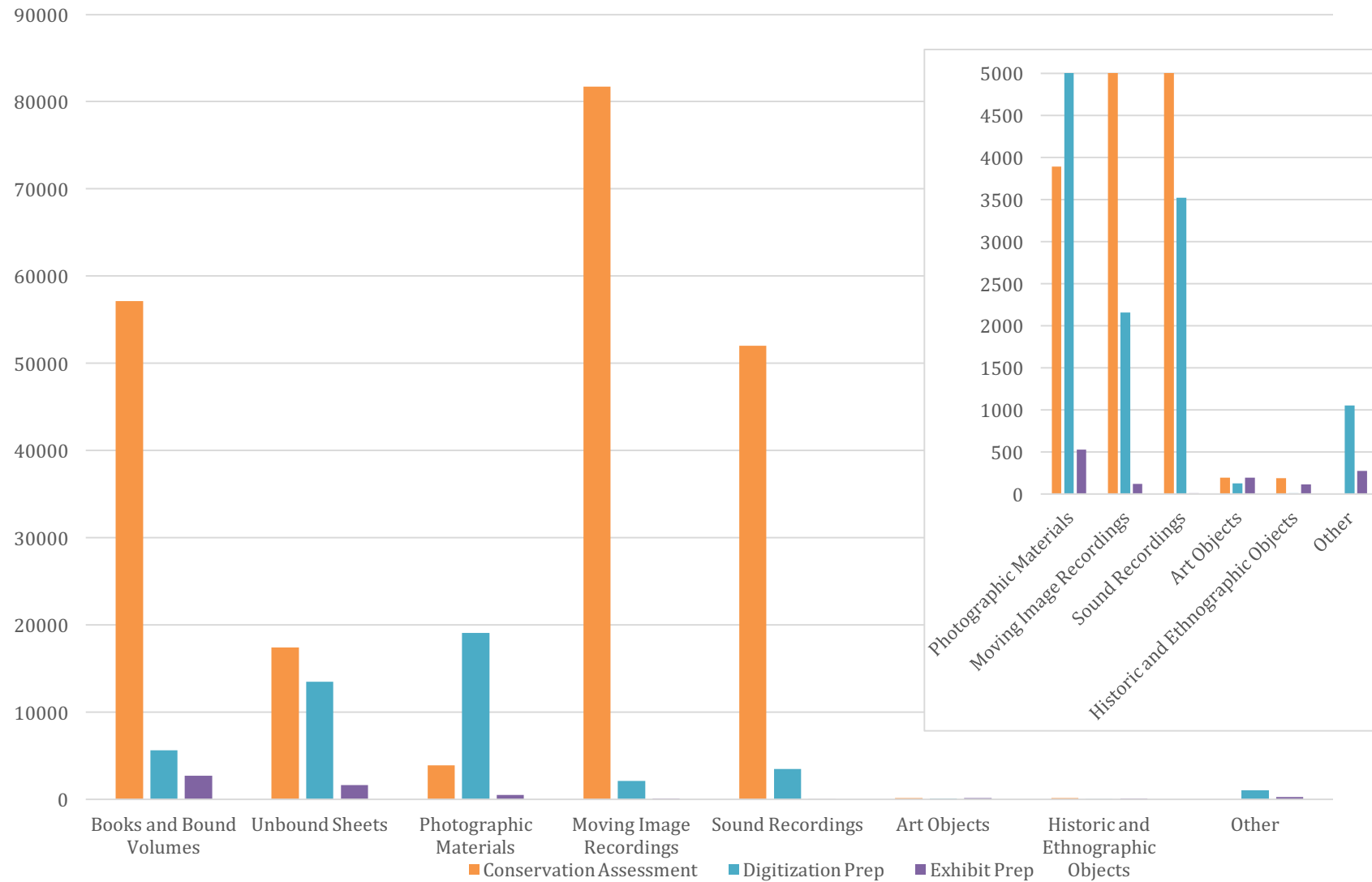
Most respondents answered this optional section and are tracking conservation assessment, digitization prep, and/or exhibit prep. In analyzing the data for these emerging areas, it is interesting to note the material formats of the items most frequently assessed (books and bound materials, moving image and sound recordings), versus those prepared (photographic materials and unbound sheet) (Figure J).

Special projects, such as collection surveys or efforts to plan future conservation treatment or digitization initiatives, can greatly alter which format is most frequently examined when assessing the condition of materials. In FY2013, respondents most frequently assessed the condition books and bound volumes (73%); in FY2014, books and bound volumes accounted for only 30% of the materials examined. This year, FY2015 respondents indicated that books and bound volumes accounted for 25% of materials assessed for condition; moving image records were 36%, and sound recordings 23%.

When preparing collection materials for digitization, FY2015 respondents were most frequently treating photographic materials (42%) then unbound sheets (30%). Efforts this year are significantly different from previous years: in FY2014, respondents focused digitization prep on unbound sheets (76%), which was consistent with the findings of the FY2013 report (75% unbound sheets).

When preparing materials for exhibition, respondents were once again primarily focused on print materials: preparing books and bound volumes (36%) as well as unbound sheets (22%).

Conservation Assessment, Digitization Prep, and Exhibit Prep by Format
(Figure J)



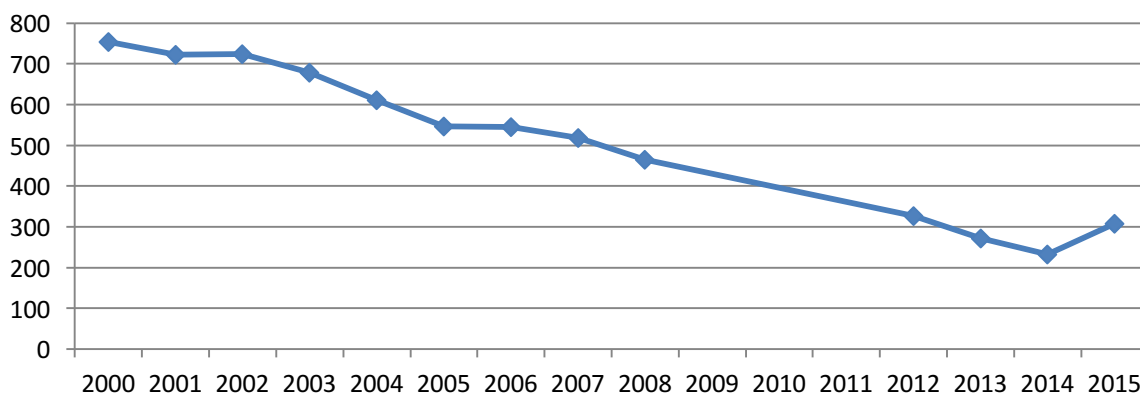
Section 3: General Preservation Activities

This section of the survey collected information on library binding and mass deacidification activities. Disaster response, environmental monitoring, and outreach/training activities assessed in the FY2012 and FY2013 surveys were removed prior to the FY2014 survey in an effort to shorten the survey to focus on production activities.

Responding institutions commercial/library bound 371,690 monographs and 227,003 serials; 195,450 monographs and 513 linear feet of unbound papers were mass deacidified. It should be noted that the mass deacidification activities of the Library of Congress accounts for 94% of monographs mass deacidified and 100% of unbound paper mass deacidification in FY2015.

In examining the long-term trend, the number of volumes commercially bound (as compared to total institutional budgets) continues to show a dramatic overall decline, but with a slight uptick in 2015. (Figure K):

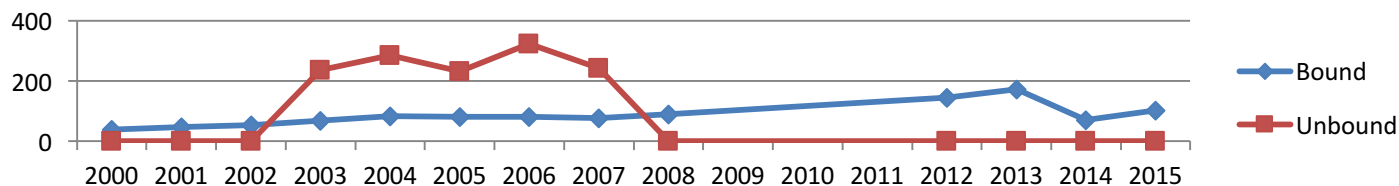
Volumes Commercially Bound Per \$Million TLE
(Figure K)



The number of bound volumes receiving mass deacidification continued to fluctuate relative to library expenditures (Figure L). Because the results in this area are dominated by the Library of Congress (which conducts 33% of all reported library binding of monographs, and 25% of all report library binding of serials), the result tends to fluctuate from year to year, with the number of institutions responding to the survey exerting a significant effect on the results.

Thirteen institutions reported mass deacidifying collections in 2015, and this core group of responders are all ARL research libraries with generally steady year-to-year mass deacidification of bound volumes, suggesting that this effort is tied more to budget than to special projects. Results in this area are also dominated by the Library of Congress, which conducts 93% of all reported deacidification of bound volumes and pamphlets and 100% of all reported deacidification of unbound paper.

Number of Items Receiving Mass-Deacidification per \$Million TLE
(Figure L)



Section 4: Reformatting and Digitization

This section surveyed the number of items (from traditional materials such as books and unbound paper to sound recordings and moving image formats) reformatted via microfilming, preservation photocopying, and digitization. Both in-house vs. outsourced contract services for reformatting and digitization.

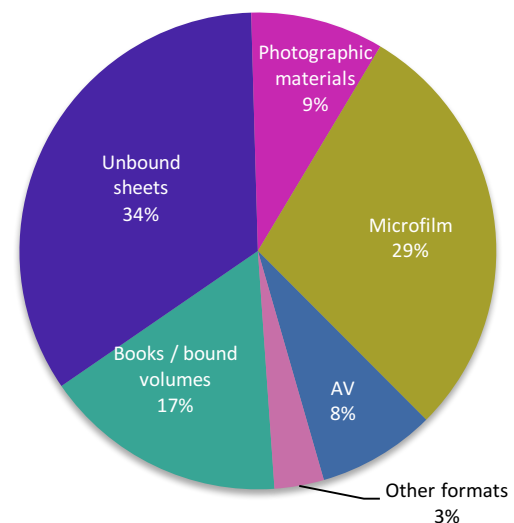
Tracking the number of items reformatted and digitized year-to-year with a variable population of institutional respondents is challenging. Unlike conservation and its related activities of collection assessment, digitization prep, exhibit prep, commercial binding, and mass deacidification – all of which are more than likely to take place within the preservation unit – the activities of reformatting and digitization may be administered whole or in part by an entirely separate unit. These outside units may not share their statistics with the preservation unit, so while the best data would reflect reformatting and digitization activities institution-wide, some responses may be limited to just those reformatting and digitization activities carried out by the preservation unit.

In last year's FY2014 report, respondents indicated that unbound sheets comprised 91% of digitization efforts. FY2015 data (Figure M) shows a much more balanced distribution of digitization across all formats: unbound sheets continued to lead, with microfilm a close second. Two institutions were responsible for 99% of this year's microfilm digitization data, highlighting how special projects targeting specific formats can skew data from year-to-year (in FY2014, microfilm digitization accounted for less than 5% of all digitization activities).

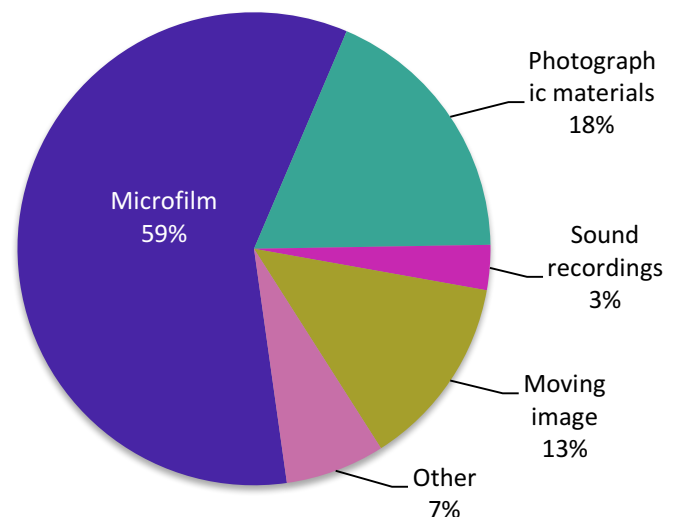
AV digitization, which composed less than 1% of digitization activities in FY2014 was significantly higher this year – 8% of all formats digitized in-house or outsourced were audio-visual materials. Even within non-print items that were digitized, audiovisual collections still represent a small percentage of those materials (16%), especially when compared with microfilm (59%).

The rate of audiovisual digitization may be shifting, but for more analysis of fluctuations over time, the Preservation Statistics team turned to Joshua Ranger, Public Records Officer / Archivist, NYPD Video Production Unit, for special commentary.

Digitization by Format
(Figure M)



Non-Print Items Digitized
(Figure N)



Special Commentary: Audiovisual Preservation and Digitization

Joshua Ranger, Public Records Officer / Archivist, NYPD Video Production Unit

I always like to start simply: due to obsolescence and relatively rapid decay, the preservation of audiovisual materials requires reformatting. Reformatting is the transfer of content from one carrier/format to another, either the same format or a new format. At this point in time, digitization is the recommended means of reformatting in most cases (I will not get into the debate over film digitization here). That's really it. Reformatting absolutely needs to happen to preserve audiovisual content, and needs to happen at a frequency that is much more rapid than might be required for other media types – on the factor of tens of years or less rather than hundreds of years. If an organization is not planning for or performing the digitization of magnetic, optical, film, and other physical media now, they are running an increasingly greater risk of loss of those assets.

Impacts of digitization of audio and video

That said, things are *not* so cut and dried simple. The digitization of audiovisual materials will have a significant impact on an organization due to the complexity and size of resulting files, as well as the cost of planning and digitizing large collections. The complexity of the new digital files, the existence of preservation masters and derivatives, and the intricacies of the reformatting process results in a large increase in the potential amount of metadata to capture, and leads to the question of how to capture, what schemas to use, and where to store the data so that it is useful. First and foremost, however, is the impact of file size. When digitized, paper and (to a degree) photographs are relatively small in size, and many third party storage services and IT departments gear their offerings for storage based on that. Preservation quality audiovisual files (not necessarily uncompressed) will range up to 100 GB per hour for video, and then even 1-4TB (or more in some cases) per hour of digitized film.

These impacts present difficult roadblocks to the preservation of audiovisual materials, especially in organizations where expertise and/or targeted funding is limited or non-existent.

Digitizing In-house vs. Outsourcing

Given the prevalence of microfilming and scanning stations in archives and libraries, the differentiation between in-house and outsourced work for audiovisual collections doesn't really need to be explained. However there is a high likelihood of a hybrid approach – part in-house and part outsourced – due to the large number of audio and video formats (well over 80), the limited expertise or literature available around the less popular formats, and the limited or very expensive equipment for certain formats. For example, while VHS, U-matic, and audiocassettes can be transferred easily with training, 2” Quad or wire recordings present fussier transfer quality, and there are only a handful of Quad machines currently available.

A Look at the Numbers

Combined Totals, In-house and Outsourced

	Total Digitized, Audio	Total Digitized, Video
2012	16,993	29,333
2013	67,471	1087
2014	83,618	33,808
2015	42,480	168,364

What we see above are the total number of audio and film/video items digitized by respondents. What we can't see here are any clear patterns. The numbers are up and down from year to year, or take extreme dips and leaps. Though it is not stated in the survey responses, my guess is that these numbers are an outcome of the impact of grant and other large scale funding for organizational initiatives. In many cases, due to the high costs, digitization does not take place without the support of significant targeted funding. This leads to a feast or famine situation with digitization, which I feel would lead to the wild fluctuations in audiovisual items preserved. And this is important to underscore: as outlined above, digitization of AV *is* preservation of the content.

In-house vs. Outsourced

Beginning in 2013, the survey differentiated between digitization performed in-house and work outsourced to a digitization vendor. In some cases, outsourced work may actually take place onsite using labor and equipment from a vendor.

The bulk of audio digitization is performed in-house:

Audio

	Total Digitized In-house	Total Digitized Outsourced
2012	16,993*	
2013	39,610	27,861
2014	54,478	29,140
2015	29,387	13,093

*Responses were not split in 2012.

There is a significant amount of video being digitized in-house, though that flips suddenly in 2015 when outsourced work leaps to over four times that of in-house. This is likely the result of the Library of Congress' mass digitization initiative using SAMMA robots. As discussed above, this type of funding/initiative skews the numbers and makes it difficult to see patterns. This issue will be addressed below:

Video

	Total Digitized In-house	Total Digitized Outsourced
2012	29,333*	
2013	573	514
2014	29,389	4,419
2015	30,187	138,177

*Responses were not split in 2012.

As another view of these numbers, the comparative percentage of items shows that audio in-house hovers around 60%-70%, somewhat stable. Video, on the other hand, shows erratic percentages (flipping between years) and extreme numbers.

Percentage of In-house vs. Outsourced: Items

	Audio In-house	Audio Outsourced	Video In-house	Video Outsourced
2012	*		*	
2013	59%	41%	53%	47%
2014	65%	35%	87%	13%
2015	69%	31%	18%	82%

*Responses were not split in 2012.

To get a clearer, less skewed view of the numbers we should look at the totals minus the largest count from among the respondents. This should also give us a better view of how much preservation work is being done without the support of very large grants or targeted budget allocations.

Totals minus the largest projects

Audio

	Total Digitized In-house Minus Largest Project	Percent of Total In-house	Total Digitized Outsourced Minus Largest Project	Percent of Total Outsourced
2012	6,368*	37.50%*		
2013	2,026	5.10%	2,461	8.80%
2014	29,080	53.40%	4,140	14.20%
2015	23,599	80.30%	9,505	72.60%

*Responses were not split in 2012.

We see with the audio that in-house work remains the primary generator of digitization, and that prior to 2015 the largest response made up a significant portion of the grand total of work.

Video

	Total Digitized In-house Minus Largest Project	Percent of Total In-house	Total Digitized Outsourced Minus Largest Project	Percent of Total Outsourced
2012	5,193*	17.70%*		
2013	573**	53.00%**	514**	47.00%**
2014	3,673	12.50%	3,669	83.00%
2015	6,450	21.40%	4,219	3.00%

*Responses were not split in 2012.

**Statistically insignificant numbers.

Interestingly here, subtracting the largest item counts brings the totals close to even. And except for outsourced video in 2014, the amount left after subtraction is a small percentage of the overall grand total. This might suggest that, compared to audio, there is much less preservation work occurring with video or much less being done without large scale funding/budgeting. Video is more difficult to work with than audio, it is more expensive in regards to equipment as well as outsourcing, and the large file sizes make it daunting to digitize and store.

So who are these large project institutions? Well, many years it was the Library of Congress, which makes sense – they have one of the largest collections of audiovisual materials in the world and, when congressional funding is provided, they have the massive NAVCC center where digitization can take place. In other years we have the Texas State Libraries & Archives Commission, which I would guess supported statewide outsourcing of audio for archives and libraries, and then several university libraries which would likely have received grants or had internal initiatives for large-scale projects.

List of largest digitization projects

	Audio In-house	Audio Outsourced	Video In-house	Video Outsourced
2012	Library of Congress*		Library of Congress*	
2013	Indiana University	Texas State Libraries & Archives Commission	**	**
2014	Wake Forest Libraries	Texas State Libraries & Archives Commission	Library of Congress	University of Minnesota Libraries
2015	Library of Congress	Library of Congress	Library of Congress	Library of Congress

*Responses were not split in 2012.

**Statistically insignificant numbers.

Rate of Change

Looking at the rate of change in digitization from year to year (percentage increase or decrease in the number of items) we see a repeat of the irregularity in the total number of items. For example, with video we see in-house work increase by over 5000%, and then drop to only a 3%. This again suggests a feast or famine reality where institutions are wholly reliant on grants and targeted funding. After those are awarded there are great increases in preservation work, but that work disappears with the funding dries up.

Audio

	In-house	Outsourced	In-house Minus Largest	Outsourced Minus Largest
2012	*	*	*	*
2013				
2014	38%	5%	1335%	68%
2015	-46%	-55%	-19%	130%

*Responses were not split in 2012.

Video

	In-house	Outsourced	In-house Minus Largest	Outsourced Minus Largest
2012	*	*	*	*
2013				
2014	5029%	760%	541%	614%
2015	3%	3027%	76%	15%

*Responses were not split in 2012.

Respondents not digitizing

The total number of items tells us one story, but we also need to look at the number of institutions who are actively preserving audiovisual materials to get a fuller view of things. As we see in the first two tables below, over 50% of organizations are not digitizing in-house or outsourcing. The numbers are trending downward (more organizations digitizing), but there is still a gap.

Audio

	In-house No Digitization	In-house Digitization	Outsourced No Digitization	Outsourced Digitization
2012	52%*	48%*	*	*
2013	73%	27%	65%	35%
2014	64%	36%	72%	28%
2015	59%	41%	57%	43%

*Responses were not split in 2012.

Video

	In-house No Digitization	In-house Digitization	Outsourced No Digitization	Outsourced Digitization
2012	63%*	37%*	*	*
2013	70%	30%	63%	37%
2014	70%	30%	67%	33%
2015	57%	43%	52%	48%

*Responses were not split in 2012.

To refine our view here of how many respondents are doing preservation work, we should look at organizations that are doing no digitization (neither in-house nor outsourcing) versus those that are doing one or both (in-house and/or outsourced). What we see here is that the gap gets much smaller, hovering around the 50/50 range until it drops to a greater differentiation in 2015 with the majority of respondents doing some sort of digitization.

	Audio No Digitization	Audio Digitization	Video No Digitization	Video Digitization
2012	52%	48%	63%	37%
2013	48%	52%	48%	52%
2014	52%	48%	48%	52%
2015	39%	61%	39%	61%

Conclusions

So what can we conclude about the state of audiovisual preservation from these numbers? Well, first off, because many of the numbers increase and decrease rapidly from year to year, it is difficult to identify any patterns in the work being done. However from this we can conjecture that audiovisual digitization is not a regular, consistent project within most organizations, but rather either small scale or tied to grant funding or internal initiatives. Numbers go up and down because there is no reliably consistent (and reliably large) funding source from year to year as there was with microfilming or something similar.

That said, preservation is happening, at a large scale in a handful of cases, and that is a positive sign. However, in most years, the totals of the number of items being digitized is dominated by one or two very large projects. While this is positive that an institution is getting a lot of work done, overall it skews the numbers and we don't get a true picture of the broad health of audiovisual preservation.

A surprisingly significant portion of the preservation work being done is occurring in-house. I say this is surprising because, though it can be cheaper to go with in-house work, not every organization has the appetite or capability to take it on with audiovisual collections. From my experience the bulk of university and research library collections are VHS, U-Matic, Betacam/BetacamSP, 1/4" open reel audio, and audiocassettes, which are formats easily handled in-house, so that may explain the leaning to in-house to a degree.

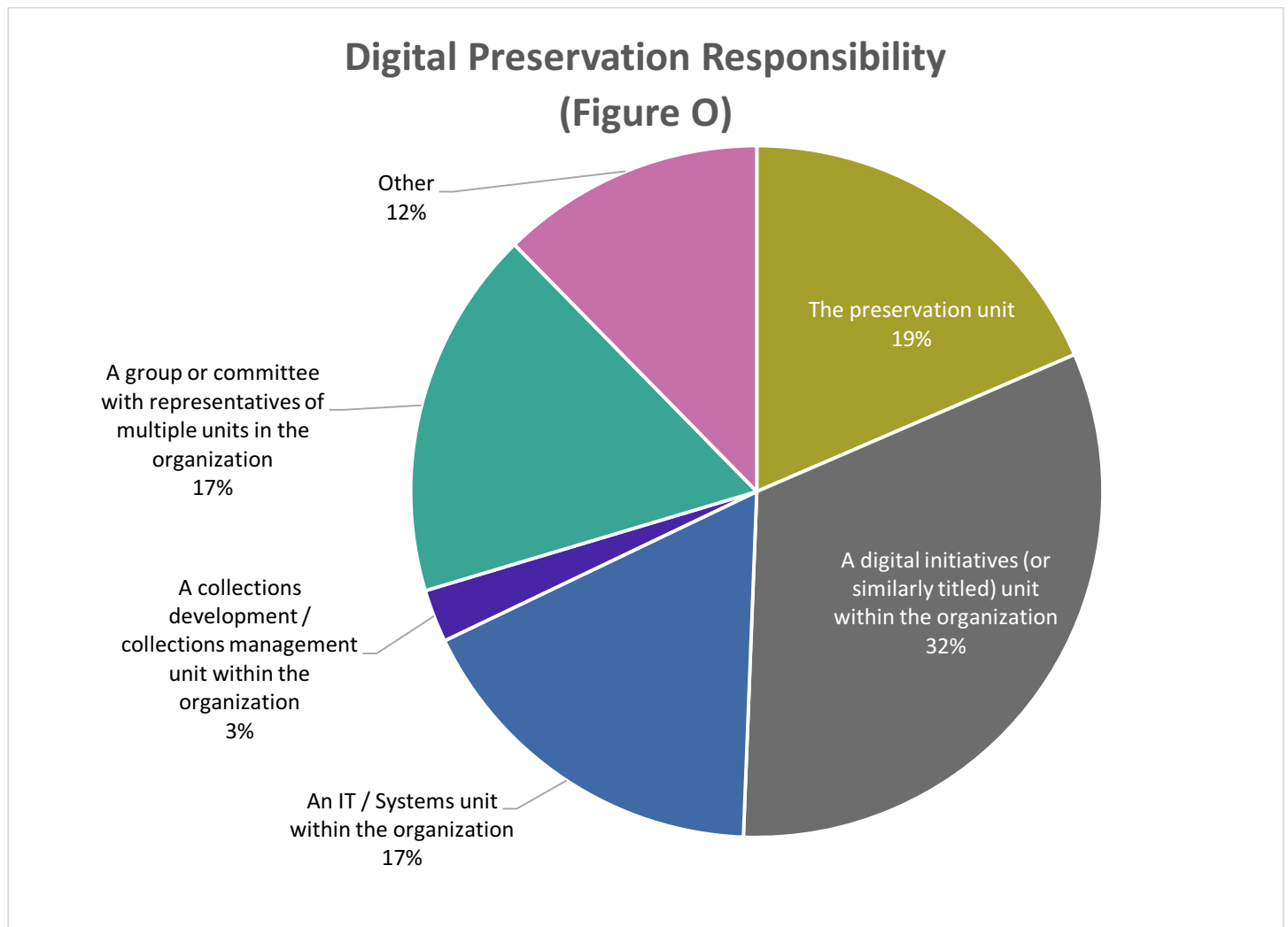
Finally, as discussed above, the preservation numbers going up and down suggest a strong tie to inconsistent funding availability. This appears to have led to a state of feast or famine with grants where

very little can get done without external funding. In order to save audiovisual collections in the time we have left before decay and obsolescence overtake them, there needs to be a dedication of internal funding or internal support in fundraising that are not 100% tied to grants. We can't wait or hope for future grants that are at the service of distant grant cycles, or that are not enough to cover the total amount of work required for digitization and digital preservation, or that are so competitive that it may be years before one is received. The work to preserve audiovisual collections has to start now.

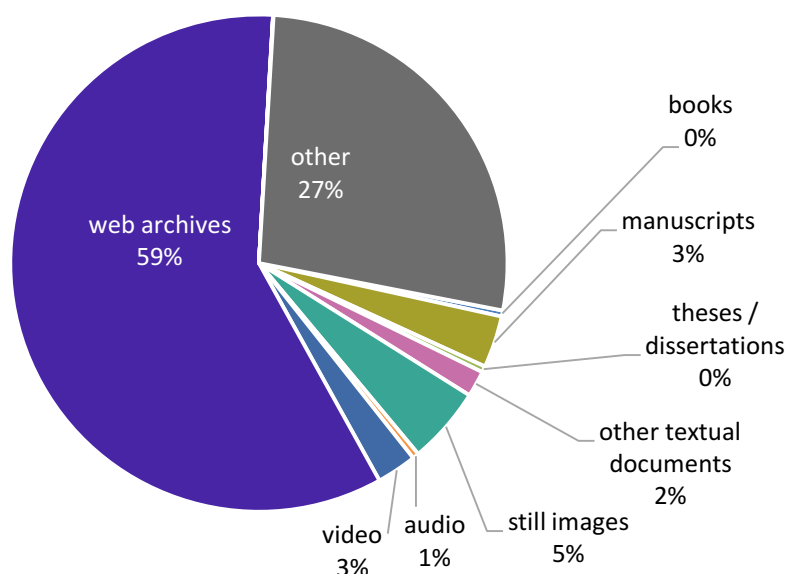
Section 5: Digital Preservation and Digital Asset Management

This section surveyed the activities of digital preservation programs, including the number of items and quantity of data added to the digital repository during FY2015.

Consistent with past years' survey data, most respondents reported that digital preservation responsibilities are held by a department or staff outside of the preservation unit. Digital preservation responsibility is held by varying entities (Figure O); 32% of respondents stated a digital initiatives (or similarly titled) unit within the organization is responsible for preserving digital collections.



Items Added to Digital Repositories (Figure P)



In FY2014, respondents reported that they were managing a total of 10PB of data. In FY15, respondents indicated they are managing 66PB of material. Institutions reported adding over 18 million items to their digital repositories. These materials may be born digital or digitized from analog collections.

In addition to these totals, the survey tracks formats of items added to the digital repository, which has proven to be a challenging piece of data to collect uniformly across institutions. “Web archives” comprise 39% of the total number of items added to a digital repository in FY2015, but institutions have indicated that they are more likely to count those as individual files. An institution might count a 1,000 page book as one item but also count a single still image file as an item, making comparisons across formats challenging. However, looking at FY14 and 15 data, we can ascertain that web archiving is definitely an area of growth for institutions. In FY14, only one institution reported adding any web archives to their digital repositories; in FY15 nine institutions reported activity in web archiving.

Digital Preservation Activity per \$Million TLE, 2012-2015

(Figure AA)

	Digital to Digital Migration	Unique digital content in GB	Added to Repository - books	Added to Repository - manuscripts	Added to Repository - theses / dissertations	Added to Repository - other textual documents	Added to Repository - still images	Added to Repository - audio	Added to Repository - video	Added to Repository - web archives	Added to Repository - emails	Added to Repository - data sets	Added to Repository - other	Total Number of Items Added
unit of measurement	number of files	GB	number of items											
FY2012	Not Asked	5,281.88	15.51	944.59	2.61	18.67	108.81	1.04	1.43	270.07	0.24	0.13	793.48	2,156.59
FY2013	Not Asked	9,735.56	1.48	1.65	5.60	33.50	92.76	35.85	202.45	668,851.94	0.00	101.80	22.70	669,955.15
FY2014	25.01	123,440.98	6.93	28.90	7.46	347.68	184.24	1.20	2.69	890.02	1.66	0.14	3.19	8,841.49
FY2015	50.66	34,715.19	23.03	198.35	23.06	60.34	166.81	24.07	154.12	3491.30	0.58	0.19	1597.84	7022.33

Some of the numbers in figure AA are likely the result of major, grant-funded projects at institutions, and vary by format because of the different ways that people choose to collect the data (i.e. files vs. title). As these activities continue in libraries, a standard way of tracking across institutions and standards could help gather more meaningful data over time.

Conclusions and Long-Term Trends

For many questions on these surveys, the results vary significantly year-to-year, without a consistent trend in one direction or the other. These changes can often be explained by large projects at a small number of institutions or, for the ALA survey, changes in the composition of the group of responding institutions. However, there are a few trends that can be identified from the data with some measure of confidence, at least as they apply to the institutions that responded to the survey:

- Web archiving is a tracked activity at many more institutions in FY15 (nine institutions reporting data) than in FY14 (only one institution reported data)
- From 2000 to the present, total conservation treatments of bound volumes appear to have dropped by 59%.
- From 2000 to the present, total conservation treatments of all formats have dropped by 51%.
- From 2000 to the present, commercial binding of bound volumes appears to have dropped by 59%.

Potential Research Topics

The Preservation Statistics survey data is available for download as an Excel spreadsheet at <http://www.ala.org/alcts/resources/preservation/presstats> We encourage others to use this data for further research, by further analyzing it, or using it to inform other survey or research projects. Some questions that arose during data analysis and reporting, which may be answered through further analysis and/or research include:

- Do digitization projects help preserve analog collections? Does an increase in digitization efforts correspond to a decrease in the handling of fragile physical objects?
- Are libraries replacing systematic creation of print surrogates with print-on-demand services, offered more and more by library binders?
- How does the administration of preservation change as preservation department priorities and personnel shift towards digitization and/or digital preservation?
- What drives conservation treatment today: condition, curatorial priorities, exhibition, and/or digitization?
- How can we collect statistics about preserving born-digital collections that can help us track trends in digital preservation?
- Can this data be used to help shift audiovisual preservation efforts from a “feast or famine” approach to a more systemic, embedded part of preservation programs?

FY2016 and Beyond

The data collected by the Preservation Statistics Survey is most meaningful if a representative number of institutions and archives consistently share their annual statistics. Given the effort required to manage this project and perform analysis that informs our field about current issues and ongoing trends, the goal of seventy-five respondents will be fundamental to achieve each year. With only sixty-nine respondents to the FY2015 Survey, we did not meet that goal. At this time, the current coordinators are not prepared to issue an FY2016 Survey in January 2017. We are actively seeking new volunteers for the continued management for the Preservation Statistics project.

Credits

The Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS) Executive Committee: Annie Peterson, Kristen Kern, David Lowe, Ian Bogus, Gina Minks, and Jeanne Drewes reached out to academic libraries to encourage respondents.

Previous PARS Chairs Kara McClurken, Becky Ryder, Karen Brown, Tara Kennedy, Ann Marie Willer, Jacob Nadal, and Kara McClurken have provided valuable support and guidance on the Preservation Statistics project.

The pilot FY2012 survey questionnaire development team included Helen Bailey (Digital Curation Analyst, MIT Libraries), Annie Peterson (Preservation Services Librarian, LyraSIS), Holly Robertson (Exhibits Coordinator, University of Virginia Library) and Emily Vinson (Archivist, Rice University).

The Preservation Statistics Survey coordinators from 2012 – 2016 were Annie Peterson, Holly Robertson, and Nick Szydlowski.

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who took time from their busy schedule to participate in the FY2015 survey. Your feedback is especially appreciated: contact us at preservationstatistics@gmail.com