A Survey of Preservation Activities in Cultural Heritage Institutions

FY2012 Report

Introduction and Background

"A Survey of Preservation Activities in Cultural Heritage Institutions: FY2012" is a pilot survey coordinated by the Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS) of the American Library Association (ALA) and the Association of Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS).

Any cultural heritage institution (library, museum, archives, or historical society) with preservation activities was invited to complete this pilot version of the survey. Questions focus on preservation activities for fiscal year 2012 and document administration and staffing of preservation activities, budget and expenditures, general preservation programming (disaster planning, education, outreach and more), conservation treatment, preservation reformatting and digitization, and digital preservation activities.

This survey is based on the Preservation Statistics survey program coordinated by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) from 1984 through 2008. Following the collection of the 2007-2008 Preservation Statistics data, ARL discontinued surveying its members about their preservation activities; this decision left the preservation community without a way to document, assess, and analyze its collective current practices, staff and budget resources, and strategic direction.

The Preservation and Reformatting Section of ALA / ALCTS realized the value of documenting and sharing preservation data and worked towards developing a survey not just for the library community but any cultural heritage institution with preservation programming. This pilot survey served multiple purposes:

- to assess the preservation field's true interest in and commitment to a long-term preservation statistics project
- to develop survey questions that reflect the varied activities of modern preservation programs in cultural heritage institutions
- to attune the preservation community to a survey that can and likely will change from year-to-year as preservation activities and responsibilities evolve
- to test the feasibility of an online survey platform for the collection of preservation statistics
- to begin the process to establish the survey as a component of the Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS / ACLTS / ALA).

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.

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 general interest survey. SurveyMonkey was selected as the online surveying platform (due in large to the kind offer from ALCTS to use their account), and an Instructions and Definitions document was developed to clarify procedures and encourage similar reporting practices amongst institutions.

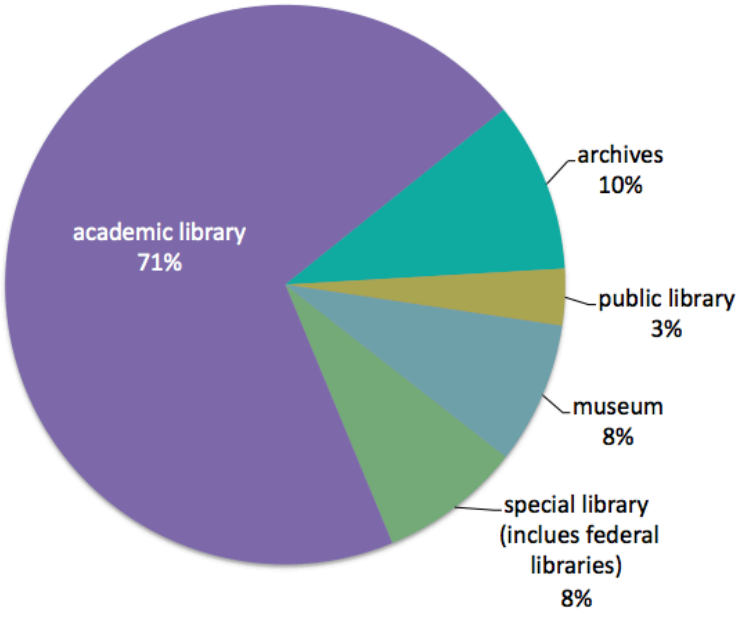
The survey was distributed to library, archives, and museum-related email lists and was open from April 25 through August 1, 2013.

View the FY2012 survey questionnaire (.pdf)
Access the FY2012 Instructions and Definitions document (.pdf)

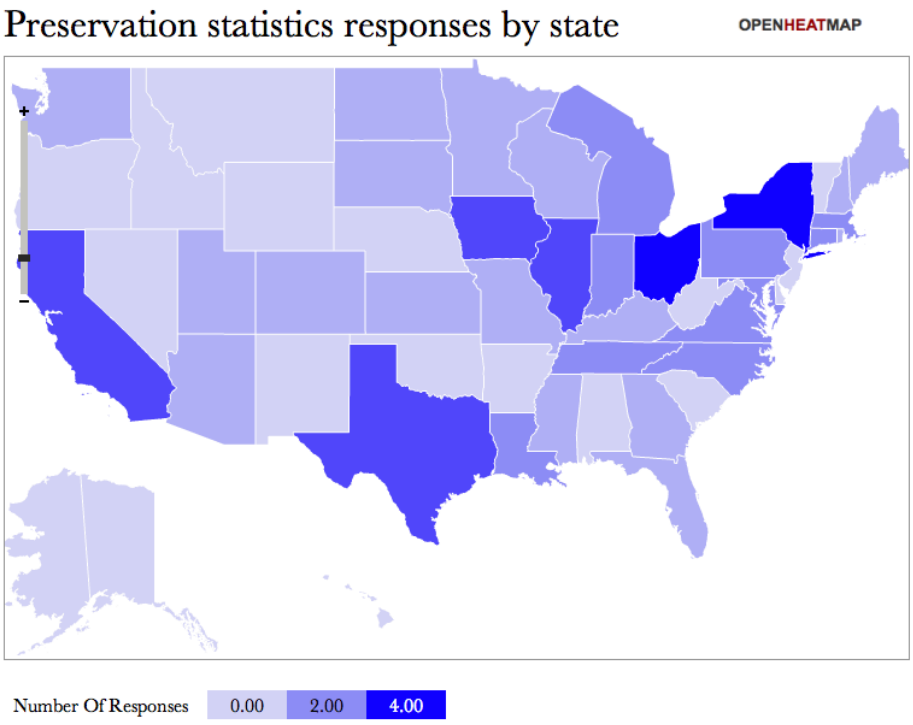
Respondents

Sixty-two institutions fully completed the survey. Forty-three of those institutions were academic libraries, six were archives, five were special libraries (a category which includes federal libraries), five were museums, and two were public libraries (Figure A).

Survey Respondents by Institution Type - Figure A



States with the highest concentration of responding institutions include New York (five), Texas (four), and Ohio (four).



An additional 60 respondents started but did not complete the survey. Survey organizers contacted many of these institutions to give them additional time to respond and assistance in answering the survey questionnaire. Feedback from smaller institutions indicates that the survey covered activities beyond their means and presented a daunting task to complete. We have identified ways to improve the navigation of the next year's survey to allow those smaller institutions with preservation programs that may not have the full range of preservation activities to skip sections that are not applicable. Many larger institutions indicated that they would like to participate in the future, but that they had not tracked statistics for many of the preservation activities included in the FY2012 pilot survey.

Results

With only 62 complete responses to the pilot FY2012 Preservation Statistics Survey, the results are not representative of cultural heritage institutions writ large. The ability to formulate extrapolations about preservation programs in libraries, archives, or museums is not the point 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 may be able to identify trends and lend quantitative analysis to support or demystify anecdotal observations.

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

Download the FY2012 full survey data set (.xlsx)
Download the survey data by Section:

- Section 1: Administration and Staffing (.xlsx)
- Section 2: Budget and Expenditures (.xlsx)
- Section 3: Preservation Activities (.xlsx)
- Section 4: Conservation Treatment (.xlsx)
- Section 5: Reformatting and Digitization (.xlsx)
- Section 6: Digital Preservation (.xlsx)

Section 1: Administration and Staffing

This section surveyed the leadership and staffing of preservation programs, both in the preservation unit and (for institutions with distributed preservation activities across multiple branch libraries, for example) institution-wide staff with preservation responsibilities. Respondents provided data on the number of staff in two contexts: by staffing category (professional staff; support or paraprofessional staff; contract, hourly, or student staff; and volunteers) and by preservation function (preservation, conservation, digital preservation, audio/video preservation, microfilming, preservation science, and other).

Almost half of the responding institutions have a full-time preservation administrator:

Administration of Preservation Programs - Table 1

	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Full-time preservation administrator (100%)	29	47%
Part-time preservation administrator who devotes 50% or more time to preservation activities, but not 100%	7	11%
Part-time preservation administrator who devotes 25% to 50% of time to preservation activities	7	11%
Preservation administrator with less than 25% of time to preservation activities or no preservation administrator	19	31%

Trends regarding the administration and staffing of preservation programs and library-wide preservation will be available with subsequent years of data sets.

As noted in nearly every ARL Preservation Statistics report since their start in the 1980's, the "size of the staff reporting to the preservation administrator is a key factor in defining a[n] [institution's] level of preservation program development." Table 2 details the number of FTEs within the preservation unit (reporting to the Preservation Administrator) by staffing category:

Staffing within Preservation Programs - Table 2

Number of professionals			Median of Support Staff	Median of Student Assistants	Median of Total FTE
4 or more	12	28%	8.5	1.5	16.5
2-3.9	10	23%	3.85	0.75	7.65
1-1.9	14	33%	1.5	0.875	3.375
Less than 1	7	16%	1	1	3

Table 3 details the number of institution-wide FTEs with preservation responsibilities by staffing category. Table 3 includes the staff of preservation units reported in Table 2 plus staff outside the preservation unit with preservation responsibilities. As also noted by the ARL Preservation Statistic Reports, "[r]eporting accurate statistics regarding the number of FTE staff engaged in preservation activities . . . has always been problematic" as the "data show that there are preservation aspects in the work of almost every library unit and that preservation is

a[n] [institution]-wide responsibility."

Institution-Wide Staffing - Table 3					
Number of professionals			Median of Support Staff	Median of Student Assistants	Median of Total FTE
4 or more	25	40%	5	1.5	13
2-3.9	20	32%	3.25	1.25	8
1-1.9	11	18%	0	0	1.5
Less than 1	6	10%	0	0	0.75

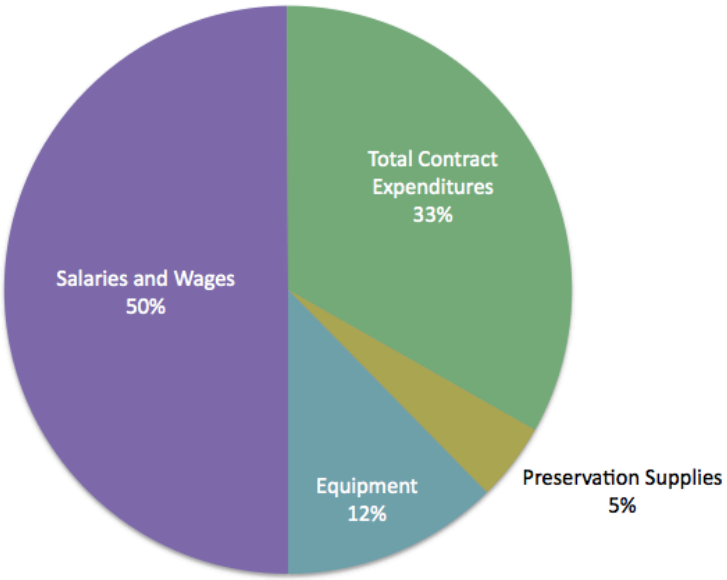
Section 2: Budget and Expenditures

This section surveyed FY2012 budget and expenditure information for preservation activities. FY2012 was defined by the respondent's institution (calendar year, academic year, or federal schedule).

Reported preservation expenditures on salaries and wages, contract services, supplies, and equipment totaled $59,561,026 for FY2012. Excluding the Library of Congress (with preservation expenditures of over $31 million), financial support for preservation ranged from a low of $800 to over $1.9 million, with a median of $213,700.

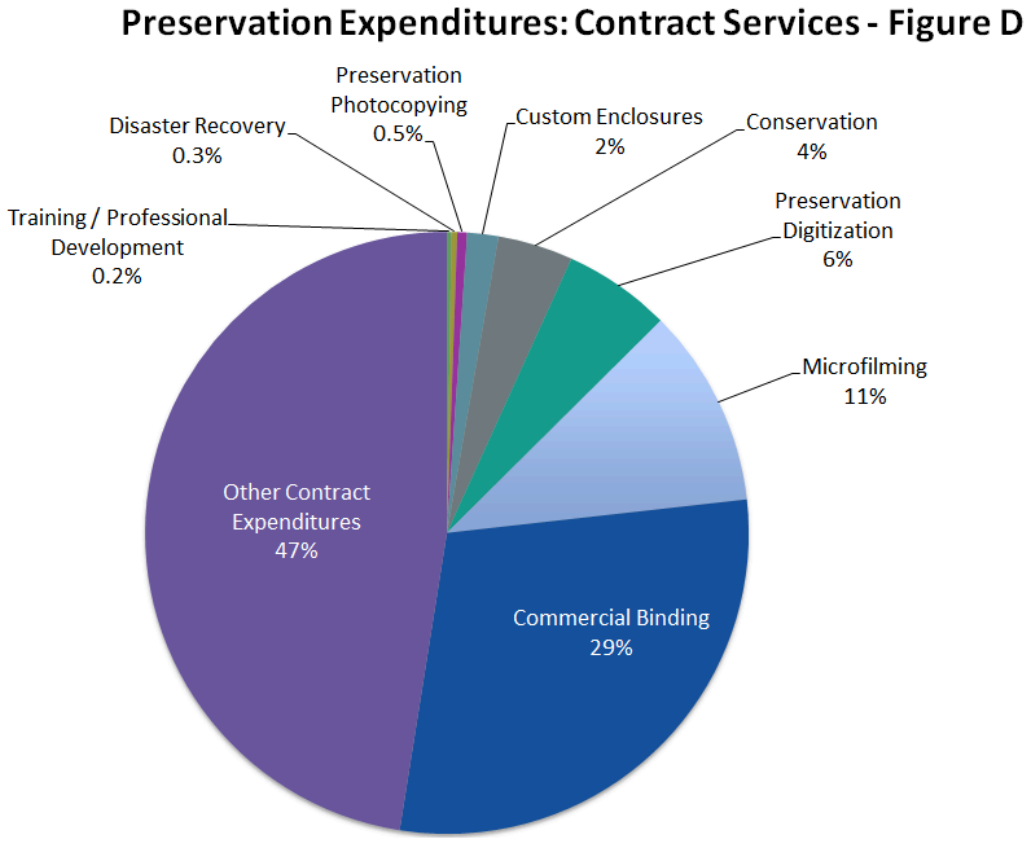
Following the trend established by the ARL Preservation Statistics surveys, salaries and wages continue to be the single largest expenditure for preservation activities (Figure C).

Preservation Expenditures - Figure C



A closer examination of contract expenditures differentiates allocations to contract conservation, contract

preservation digitization, contract commercial/library binding, contract disaster recovery, contract custom enclosure, contract preservation photocopying, contract preservation microfilming, and "other" contract services. Write-in responses for the "other" contract services category indicate that mass deacidification, offsite storage, fees for digital preservation initiatives, and fees for commercial digital storage are emerging categories for contract expenditures. In the upcoming FY2013 Preservation Statistics Survey, these emerging categories of contract preservation expenses will be added.



Institutional support for preservation activities can be assessed by calculating preservation expenditures as a percentage of total institutional expenditures. Responding institutions spent between 0.02% and 12% of their total budgets on preservation activities, with a median of 2.86%. Approximately half of the responding institutions could not provide total institutional expenditures, so these results are presented with the repeated caveat that they are not representative of cultural heritage institutions.

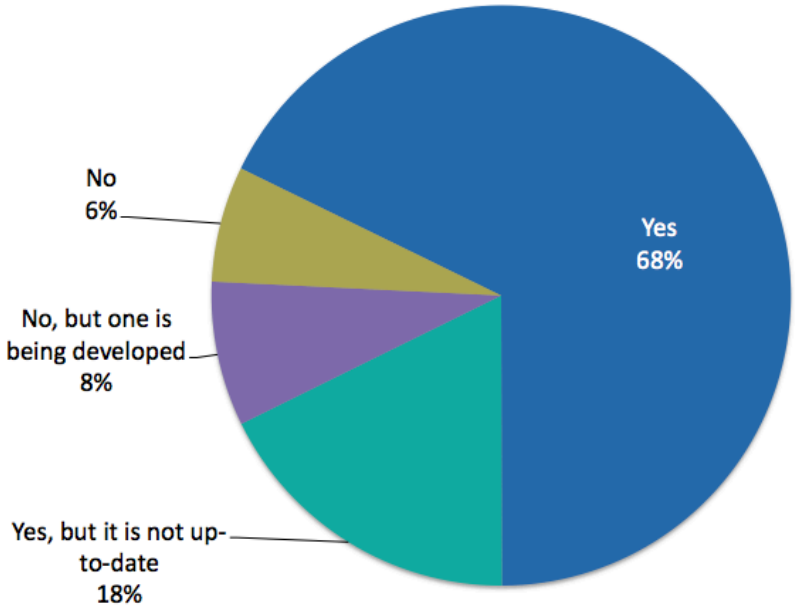
Section 3: Preservation Activities

This section surveyed general preservation program activities, including commercial/library binding, mass deacidification, disaster planning and response, environmental monitoring, and outreach and training.

Responding institutions commercial/library bound 380,547 monographs and 209,555 serials; 278,028 monographs and 423 linear feet of unbound papers were mass deacidified. Trends regarding commercial/library binding and mass deacidification will be available with subsequent years of data.

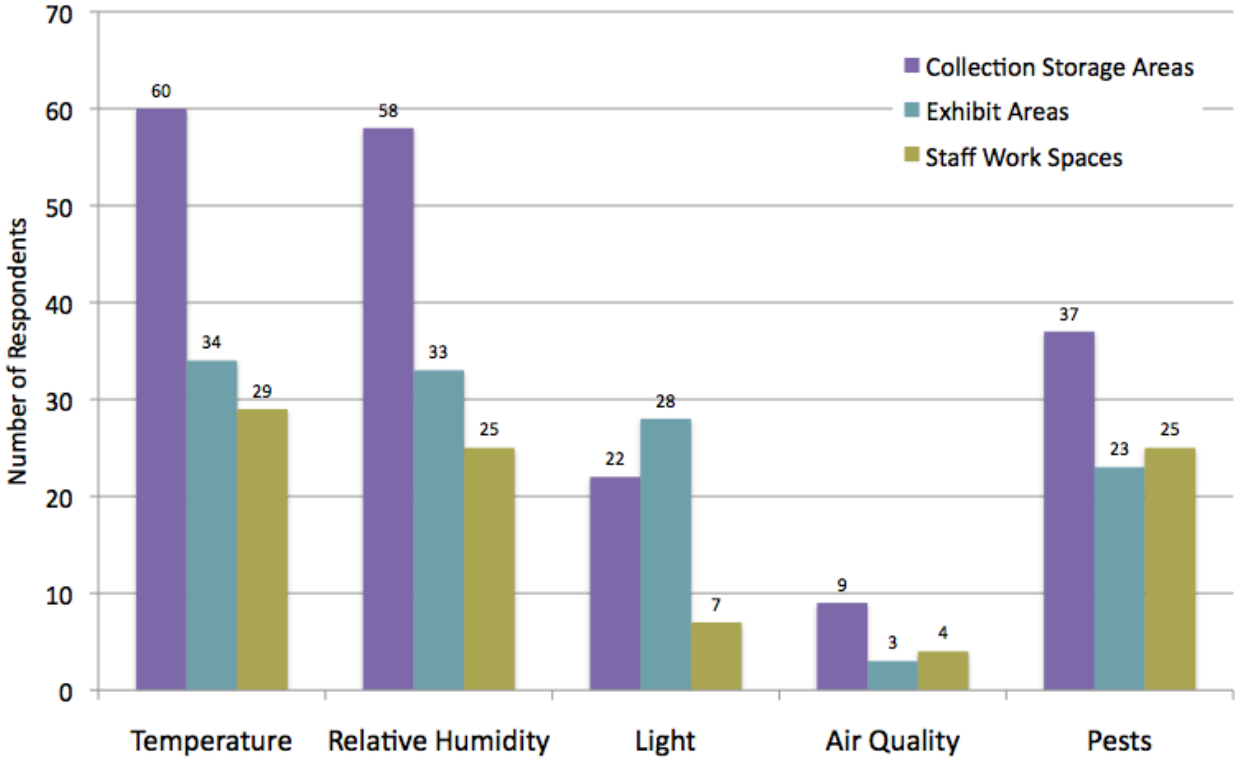
The majority of responding institutions have a current disaster plan in place:

Status of Disaster Plans - Figure E



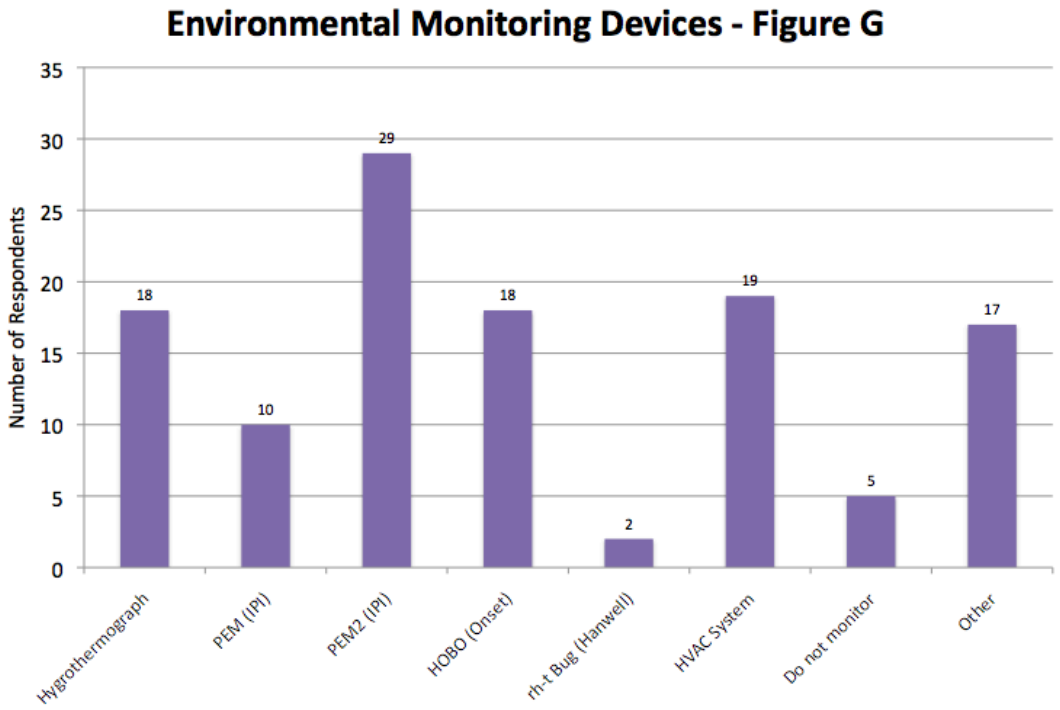
Most institutions monitor temperature and relative humidity in collection storage areas; air quality is the least monitored environmental factor, and staff work spaces are less likely to be monitored for environmental factors than are collection storage areas or exhibit spaces:

Environmental Monitoring: What & Where? - Figure F



Among responding institutions, the PEM2 (manufactured by IPI) is the most frequently used environmental monitoring device though many institutions use more than one device. The second most frequently used

environmental monitoring device is the increasingly sophisticated HVAC systems:

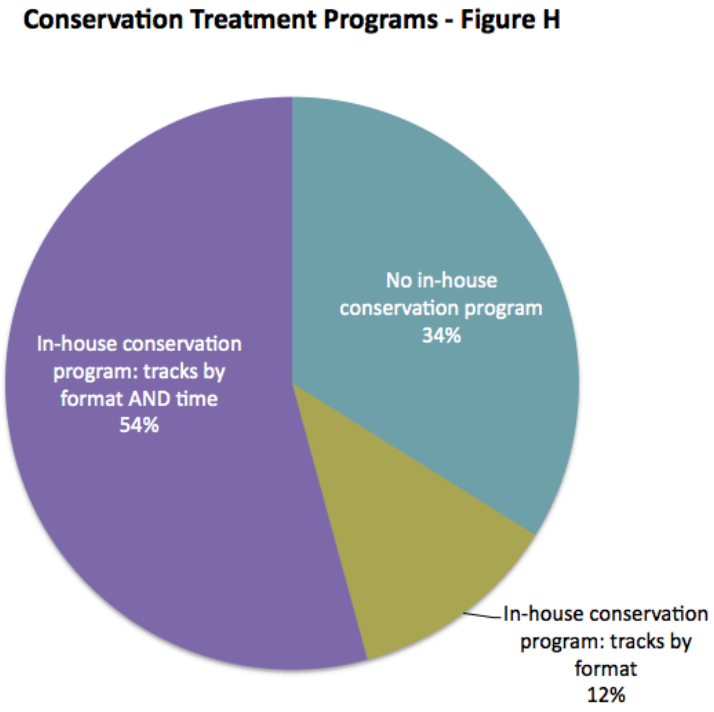


Section 4: Conservation Treatment

This section surveyed the number of items conserved by format and, in some cases, treatment time as well as the number of protective enclosures constructed by either in-house programs or outsourced contractor services. Additionally, the number of items assessed for conservation, prepared for exhibition, and prepared for digitization were new categories reflecting emerging areas of responsibility for many preservation programs.

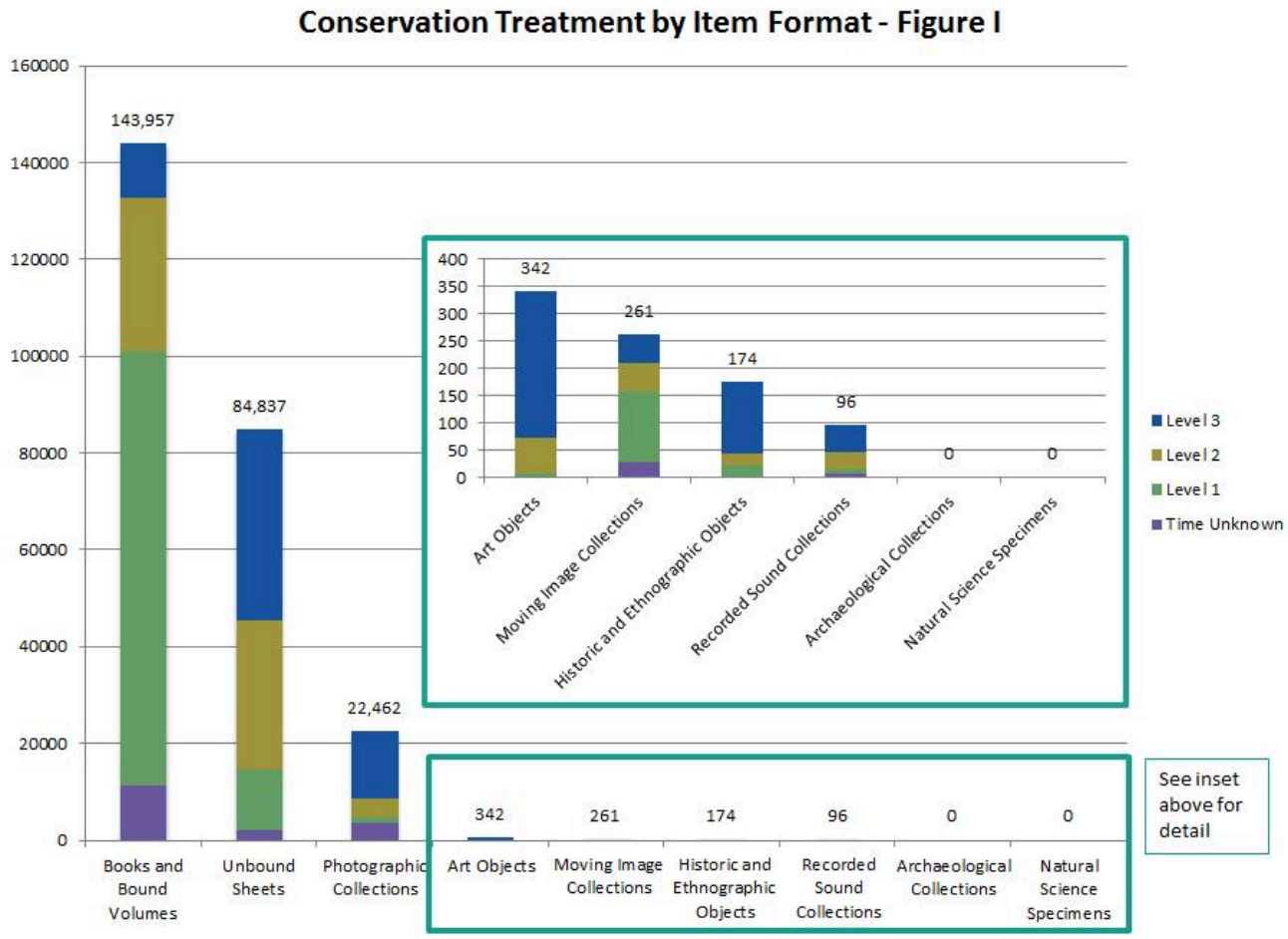
Of the 62 respondents, 41 institutions (65%) outsource conservation treatment and/or protective enclosures construction to contract vendors. Of the 20 respondents without an in-house conservation program, nine (45%) rely on contract conservation services.

The majority of respondents (54%) have conservation programs and 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.



Trends regarding conservation treatment, protective enclosure construction, exhibition prep, and digitization prep will be available with subsequent years of data sets. For FY2012, Figure I details the

book-centric conservation treatment programs of the mostly library-based respondents:

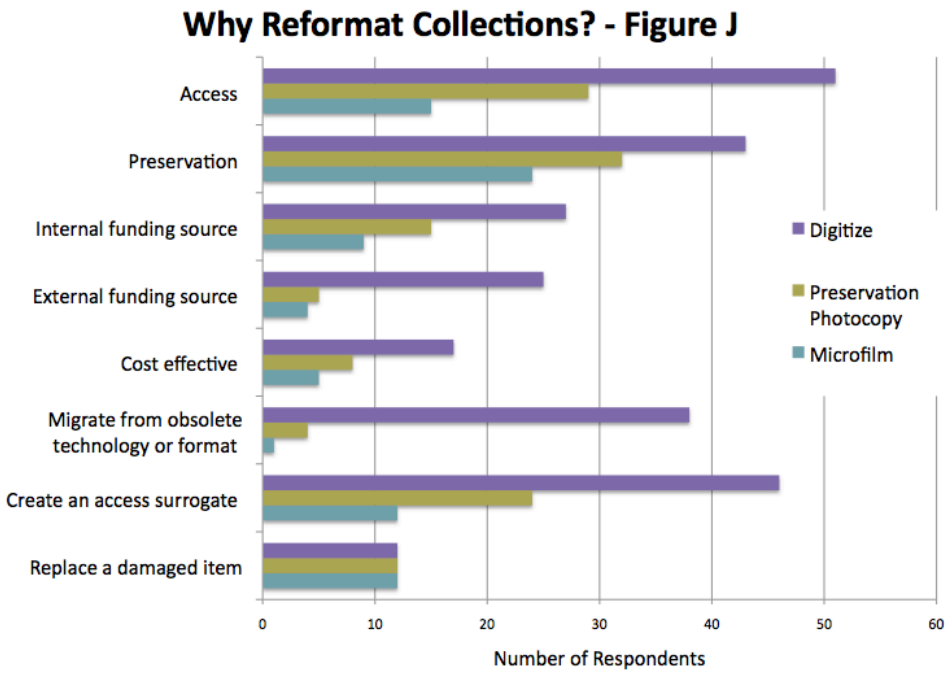


Twenty-three responding institutions are tracking the number of items assessed for conservation; 20 institutions are tracking the number of items prepared for digitization; and 20 institutions are tracking the number of items prepared for exhibit.

Section 5: Reformatting and Digitization

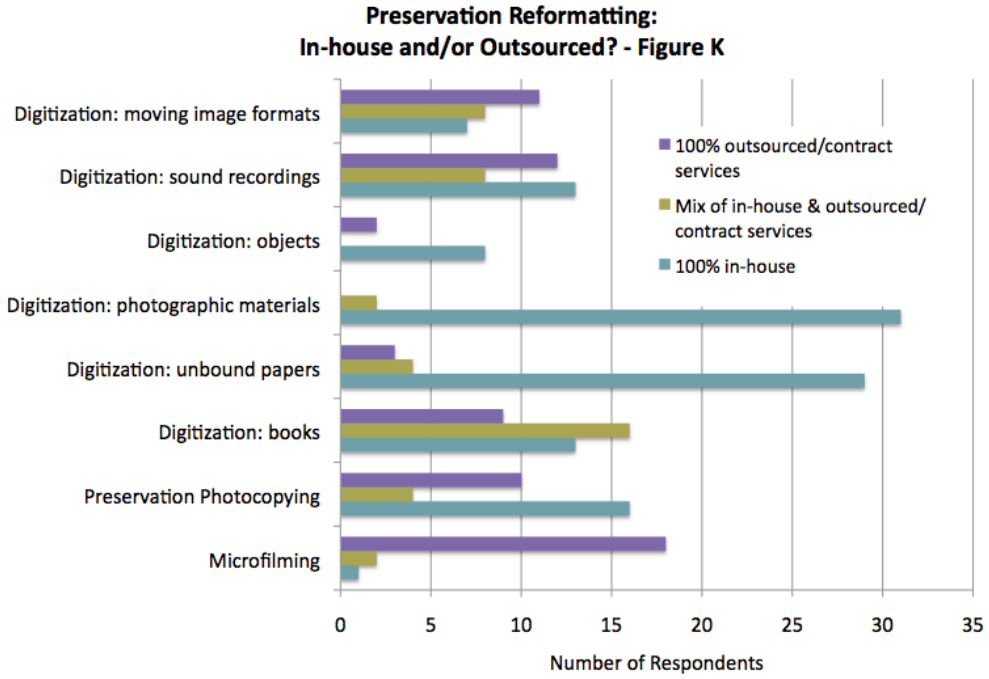
This section surveyed the number of items (from traditional collections such as books and unbound paper to sound recordings and moving image formats) reformatted via microfilming, preservation photocopying, and digitization. Additionally, participation in mass digitization or collaborative digitization projects was surveyed, as was the quantity of in-house vs. outsourced contract reformatting.

While the survey was primarily designed to capture quantitative information about preservation activities, survey designers sought insight on the motivation for reformatting from various institutional perspectives. Respondents were asked to identify why they digitize, preservation photocopy, and microfilm collections: access, preservation, internal or external funding sources (i.e., a special fund established only for preservation photocopying or a grant project that requires microfilming), cost-effective reasons, migration from obsolete technology or format, creation of an access surogate, and/or replace a damaged item (Figure J):

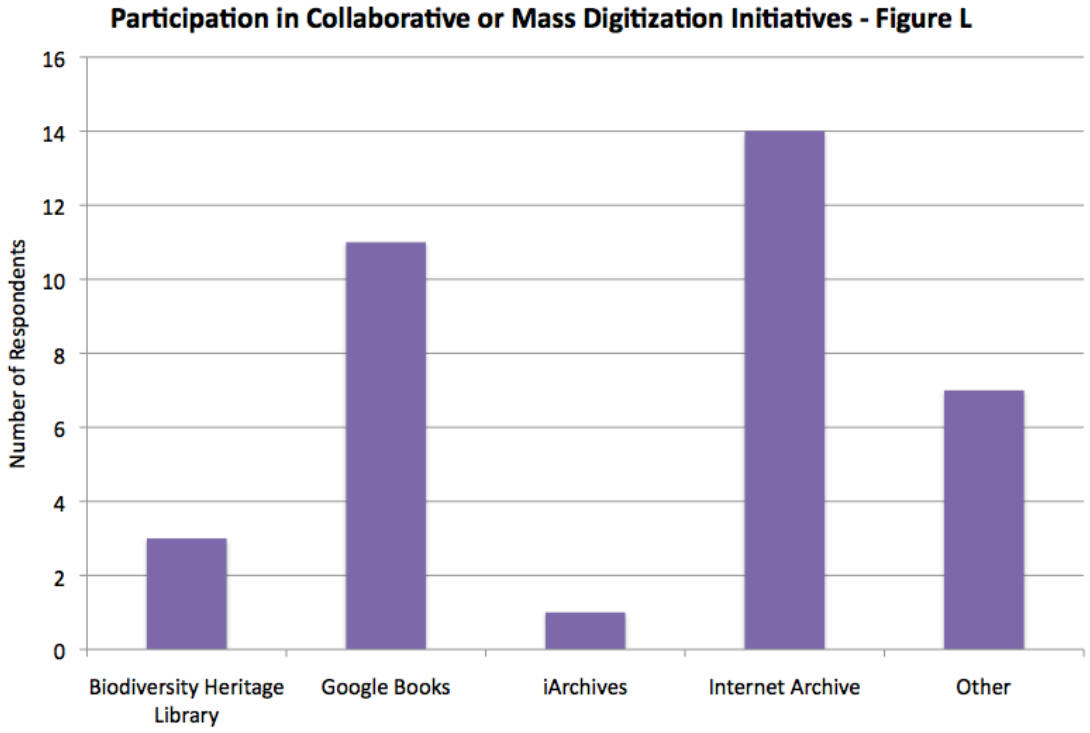


Nineteen responding institutions (31%) are microfilming collections; 32 responding institutions (52%) preservation photocopy, and 42 responding institutions (68%) digitize for preservation. Thirty-three responding institutions (53%) digitize recorded sound collections and report digitizing 16,993 recorded sound items. Twenty-nine responding institutions (47%) digitize moving image collections and report digitizing 29,333 moving image items.

The decision to reformat via microfilming, preservation photocopy, or digitization varied by reformatting method and -- within the category of digitization -- by the format digitized. Only one responding institution microfilms in-house. Preservation photocopying is a near equal mix of in-house and/or outsourced contract services. Digitization of books is also a near equal mix, as is the digitization of sound recording formats and moving image formats. Digitization of unbound papers and photographic materials is overwhelmingly conducted in-house in responding institutions:



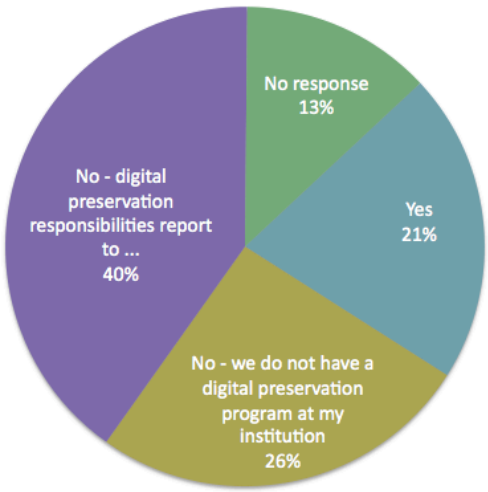
Twenty-six responding institutions (42%) report participating in mass digitization or collaborative digitization projects. Eight institutions (13%) participate in two or more projects. "Other" projects include Medical Heritage Library, Legal Information Preservation Alliance, Field Book Project, Hathitrust, and Flickr Commons.



Section 6: Digital Preservation

This section surveyed the staffing, responsibilities, and activities of digital preservation programs, including the number of items and quantity of data added to the digital preservation repository during FY2012 and held by the digital preservation repository in total. Many institutions reported having a digital preservation program but being unable to report on any quantitative activities.

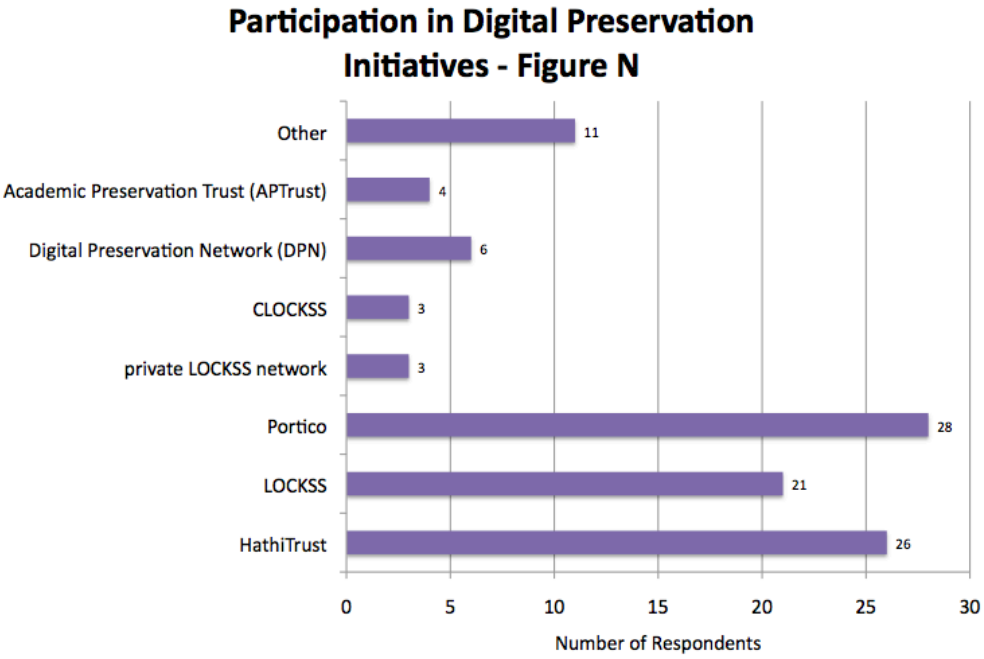
Are digital preservation activities a responsibility of the preservation department at your institution? - Figure M



Trends regarding the number of items preserved, the original formats of those digitized items, and the quantity of data preserved in digital repositories will be available with subsequent years of data sets.

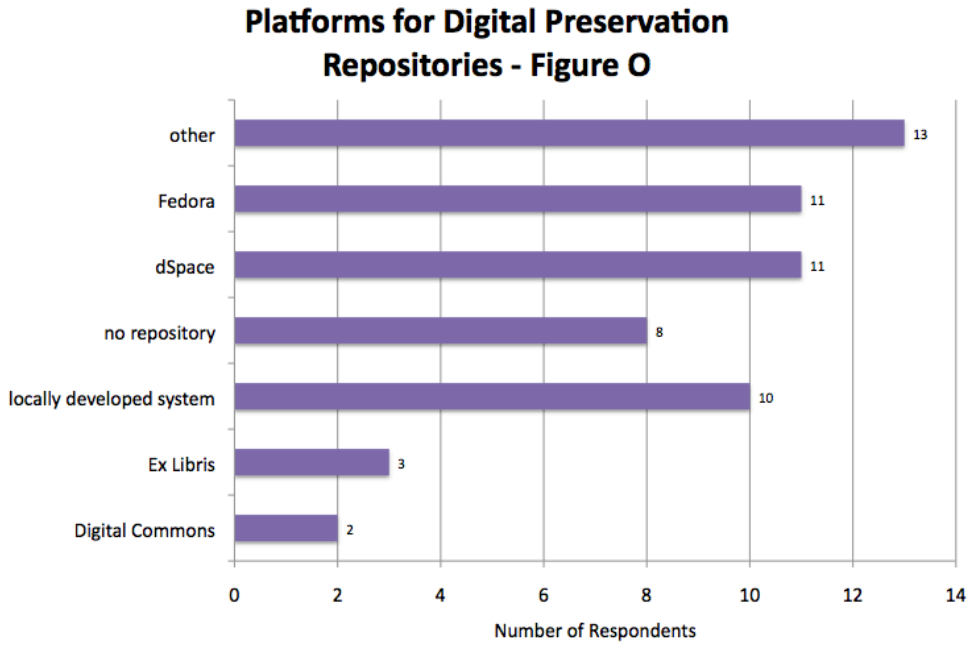
Figure M details that less than one quarter of the responding institutions indicated that digital preservation was a responsibility of their preservation program. More than one quarter of respondents do not have a digital preservation program.

Trends regarding participation in collaborative digital preservation initiatives will be available with additional years of data sets. Twenty-one responding institutions (34%) participated in three or more digital preservation initiatives, usually Hathitrust, LOCKSS, and Portico (Figure N):



While many institutions responded to the questions requesting the amount (in gigabytes) of material and number of files added to their digital preservation repositories, a substantial number of respondents indicated that their responses were best estimates. Many others indicated that though they could not respond this year (or that their responses were estimates), now that they know these statistics will be requested, they will track statistics for quantitative digital preservation efforts for the FY2013 Preservation Statistics Survey.

Figure O details that there is little consensus among respondents on a platform for digital preservation repositories. Many rely on a locally developed system, but most respondents use a collaborative or commercially developed platform:



Then and Now:
Preservation in ARL Institutions in 2007 vs. 2012

Thirty-four respondents to the pilot FY2012 Preservation Statistics Survey are members of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). Their responses are particularly useful as they allow for comparisons of data from FY2012 to FY2007 and earlier. While this pilot survey sought to document preservation activities not covered by the ARL Preservation Statistics surveys (including general preservation activities such as environmental monitoring, disaster response, outreach, and education) as well as emerging preservation responsibilities (such as exhibition and digitization prep, reformatting and digitization, and digital preservation), much of the pilot survey parallels the ARL Preservation Statistics questionnaire, allowing us to compare activities and expenditures over time.

A significant number of Association of Research Library members responded to the pilot FY2012 Preservation Survey: 34 of 125 member libraries, or 27.2%. Approximately ten additional ARL members indicated that they intend to respond in FY2013 when they will able to gather statistics geared towards the new set of questions. Two institutions indicated that they no longer gather and submit preservation statistics due to time constraints or dispersed preservation activities. Other ARL member institutions gave no indication as to why they did not respond.

These responses by ARL member libraries allow us to examine trends in preservation activities in academic research libraries, providing crucial data where the preservation community previously only had anecdotal narratives to describe the shifting nature of preservation activities in the digital era. This comparison of data from the 2007-2008 ARL Preservation Statistics Survey and the pilot FY2012 Preservation Statistics Survey is not a conclusive statement on preservation over the past five years, and the analysis below is intentionally presented with little commentary.

The following trends demonstrate a shifting environment for preservation over the past five years from 2007-2008 to 2012:

- While staffing in preservation units is up +32%, library-wide preservation staffing is down -19%. These numbers support anecdotal evidence that, over the past few years, preservation has become a more centralized activity in many academic research libraries, with operations in branch libraries closing and activities and staffing lines moving to the main preservation unit.
- Overall, expenditures on preservation salaries are down -10%. Salary expenditures for professional staff are up +31% while salary expenditures for non-professional staff are down -44% and expenditures for hourly staff are down -46%. Note that these percentage changes do not describe the increase or decrease in the salaries of staff; rather, these describe the total amount spend on staff salaries.
- Contract expenditures are almost uniformly down: contract conservation is down -42%, contract commercial binding is down -31%, and contract preservation photocopying is down -56%. "Other" contract expenditures are up (+19%); write-in information from this question indicates that "other" contract expenditures include mass deacidification, fees for digital preservation initiatives, digital storage or software costs, and offsite storage (cold storage for film, for example).
- Accordingly, the number of items commercially bound (library binding) is down -40%.
- Mass deacidification efforts are down -30% for bound volumes and -70% for unbound papers.
- Conservation treatment at Level I (-83%) and Level II (-33%) are down, but complicated Level III treatments are on the rise (+33%). Paper conservation is also down (-17%) but photographic and

non-paper conservation (includes a/v conservation) is up +60%.

- Microfilming of entire bound volumes is down -96% while microfilming of unbound papers is up +42%.
- Preservation photocopying of entire bound volumes is down -17%; preservation photocopy of unbound papers is down -95%.
- Digitization of entire bound volumes is up +28%; digitization of unbound papers is down -57%; and digitization of photographs and non-paper based materials is down -17%.

The table below shows a comparison of results from the 2007-2008 ARL survey and the pilot FY2012 Preservation Statistics Survey on preservation activities, based on data from the 34[1] ARL libraries that responded to both surveys. This comparison does not include data from any non-ARL libraries, archives or museums that responded to the pilot FY2012 Preservation Statistics Survey, nor does it include data from the 2008 ARL survey for libraries that did not respond to the pilot FY2012 Preservation Statistics Survey. The values reported are the sum of all responses for the 34 libraries that responded to both surveys.

While the table below may be helpful as a quick reference, the data in many categories is heavily influenced by changes at the libraries with the largest preservation programs. A more nuanced view is provided in Appendix A of this report, which records the number of libraries indicating increase or decrease in activity for each question which overlaps between the two surveys.

ARL Question Code	ARL Question	Percent Change	2008 ARL Result	2012 ALA Result
	Staffing			
isadmin	Is there a preservation administrator?	11%	86%	95%
admperc	Average percentage of administrator's time devoted to preservation	1%	78%	79%
prestot	Staffing, in FTEs, in preservation departments	32%	401.01	530.7
prespro	Professional staff in preservation departments	57%	141.99	222.8
presnpro	Non-professional staff in preservation departments	25%	193.51	241.98
presstu	Hourly staff in preservation departments	1%	65.51	65.92
libtot	Total staffing for preservation, library-wide	-19%	729.69	591.5
libpro	Total professional staffing for preservation	8%	199.73	215.5
libnpro	Total non-professional staffing for preservation	-31%	387.45	266

[1] Two libraries that reported to ARL in 2008 reported to ALA on two separate lines, reflecting activities performed in different parts of those organizations: University of Texas at Austin and the Smithsonian Institute. In both cases, the 2008 survey result represented the entire organization, so the 2012 results for University of Texas at Austin and the Smithsonian Institute represent the sum of both responses from each institution.

libstu	Total hourly staffing for preservation	-23%	142.52	110
	Salaries			
totsal	Total salaries	-10%	$30,549,759.98	$27,619,859.93
salpro	Total professional salaries	31%	$14,034,954.94	$18,442,272.00
salnpro	Total non-professional salaries	-44%	$14,700,403.66	$8,201,669.00
salstu	Total hourly salaries	-46%	$1,814,401.38	$975,918.93
	Contract Expenditures			
contot	Total contract expenditures	-2%	$19,576,758.14	$19,239,214.42
concon	Contract conservation	-42%	$1,284,596.35	$742,770.00
conbind	Contract commercial binding	-31%	$7,698,377.26	$5,335,824.21
concopy	Contract preservation photocopying	-56%	$231,094.34	$101,946.05
confilm	Contract preservation microfilming	-1%	$2,130,777.44	$2,105,655.00
conoth	Other contract expenditures	19%	$8,390,493.75	$9,992,371.50
	Supplies and Equipment			
suppl	Preservation supplies	17%	$2,113,505.81	$2,470,386.81
equip	Preservation equipment	577%	$814,881.62	$5,514,679.69
	Total Expenditures			
presexp	Total preservation expenditures	-6%	$53,054,905.55	$49,850,034.51
exp_ext	Total preservation expenditures that came from external sources	30%	$2,956,208.00	$3,832,064.00
	Conservation Treatment			
tottreat	Number of volumes/pamphlets given conservation treatment	-76%	542,724	128,694
treat1	Volumes/pamphlets given Level 1 treatment	-83%	493,498	84,033
treat2	Volumes/pamphlets given Level 2 treatment	-33%	41,207	27,631
treat3	Volumes/pamphlets given Level 3 treatment	33%	8,019	10,668
treatunb	Number of unbound sheets given conservation treatment	-17%	100,947	84,067
deacbnd	Number of bound volumes/pamphlets mass deacidified	-30%	394,398	276,524

deacunb	Number of linear feet of unbound papers mass deacidified	-70%	1,414	423
treatoth	Number of photographs and non-paper items given conservation treatment	60%	11,413	18,275
	Commercial Binding			
volsbnd	Number of volumes commercially bound	-40%	966,893	581,729
	Preservation Reformatting			
bndcopy	Number of bound volumes/pamphlets photocopied in their entirety	-17%	2762	2279
bndfilm	Number of bound volumes/pamphlets microfilmed in their entirety	-96%	8,002	311
bnddig	Number of bound volumes/pamphlets digitized in their entirety	28%	54,365	69,795
unbcopy	Number of single unbound sheets reformatted by photocopying	-95%	101,962	5,584
unbfilm	Number of single unbound sheets reformatted by microfilming	42%	4,386,997	6,236,329
unbdig	Number of single unbound sheets reformatted by digitizing	-57%	617,889	268,322
othana	Number of photographs and non-paper items reformatted by analog means		10,308	Not requested
othdig	Number of photographs and non-paper items reformatted by digital means	-17%	159,956	133,417

Plans for the FY2013 Survey

An updated version of the online Preservation Statistics survey to cover fiscal year 2013 will be released in January 2014 and will remain open for three months.

Based on feedback from the pilot survey, the FY2013 Preservation Statistics Survey will be open to libraries in the United States. Survey organizers hope to collaborate with the Society of American Archivists and the American Alliance of Museums, as well as other cultural heritage organizations, to survey the preservation activities of archives, museums, historical societies and other allied organizations.

Changes to the FY2013 Preservation Statistics Survey will focus on improving the survey experience through refined instructions and definitions, improved navigation, and revisions to the survey formatting. To allow year-to-year tracking of trends and to help institutions prepare for the survey, most of the data requested in the FY2012 Preservation Statistics survey will be requested on the FY2013 survey.

The ongoing management of the Preservation Statistics Survey is now a responsibility of the Preservation Standards and Practices (PS&P) committee of the Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS) of the American Library Association. As of the writing of this report, efforts are underway to make the Preservation Statistics Survey an official activity hosted and endorsed by PARS, ALCTS, and ALA.

Credits

Previous Preservation and Reformatting Section Chairs Karen Brown, Tara Kennedy, Ann Marie Willer, Jacob Nadal, and current chair Becky Ryder have provided valuable support and guidance on the Preservation Statistics project.

The survey questionnaire development team includes Helen Bailey (Library Fellow for Digital Curation and Preservation, MIT Libraries), Annie Peterson (Preservation Librarian, Tulane University), Holly Robertson (Preservation Consultant, Washington, D.C.)
and Emily Vinson (Archivist, Rice University).

Kind reviewers provided much-needed feedback and ongoing cheerleading; this stealthy group includes Jeanne Drewes, Karen Brown, Tina Seeto, Laura McCann, Christine McCarthy, Ian Bogus, Ann Marie Willer, David Lowe, Kara McClurken, and Jianrong Wang.

Report authors are Annie Peterson, Holly Robertson, and Nick Szydlowski.

Thank You!

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

Appendix A: Extended Comparison of 2008 ARL Survey and 2012 ALA Survey

For each question that overlaps between the 2008 ARL survey and the 2012 ALA survey, this table identifies the number of institutions whose answer increased or decreased and the average percentage change for increasing and decreasing institutions. This analysis is intended to help readers gauge which trends and changes are consistent across the ARL libraries surveyed, and which are driven by major changes in smaller number of institutions.

In order to ensure that only accurate data was used, blank responses on the 2012 ALA survey were counted as non-responses for the purposes of this analysis.

ARL Abbreviation: **prestot**
Expanded question: **Staffing, in FTEs, in preservation departments**

- **19** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **50%** or **8.23** FTEs.
- **12** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-36%** or **-2.82** FTEs.
- **2** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **31%** or **129.69** FTEs.
- **33** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **prespro**
Expanded question: **Professional staff in preservation departments**

- **16** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **382%** or **5.53** FTEs.
- **7** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-47%** or **-0.78** FTEs.
- **8** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **58%** or **80.81** FTEs.
- **31** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **presnpro**
Expanded question: **Non-professional staff in preservation departments**

- **15** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **90%** or **4.52** FTEs.
- **9** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-37%** or **-1.96** FTEs.
- **7** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **26%** or **48.47** FTEs.
- **31** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **presstu**
Expanded question: **Hourly staff in preservation departments**

- **12** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **181%** or **2.26** FTEs.
- **16** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-47%** or **-1.68** FTEs.
- **4** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **0%** or **0.41** FTEs.
- **32** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **libtot**
Expanded question: **Total staffing for preservation, library-wide**

- **11** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **98%** or **7.92** FTEs.
- **22** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-39%** or **-10.67** FTEs.
- **0** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-20%** or **-138.19** FTEs.
- **33** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **libpro**
Expanded question: **Total professional staffing for preservation**

- **19** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **486%** or **2.59** FTEs.
- **13** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-39%** or **-2.77** FTEs.
- **1** library reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **7%** or **15.77** FTEs.
- **33** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **libnpro**
Expanded question: **Total non-professional staffing for preservation**

- **8** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **43%** or **3.02** FTEs.
- **23** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-51%** or **-6.61** FTEs.
- **2** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-33%** or **-121.45** FTEs.
- **33** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **libstu**
Expanded question: **Total hourly staffing for preservation**

- **14** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **221%** or **3.56** FTEs.
- **18** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-75%** or **-4.60** FTEs.
- **1** library reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-23%** or **-32.52** FTEs.
- **33** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **totsal**
Expanded question: **Total salaries**

- **11** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **91%** or **$677,158.27**.
- **22** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-67%** or **-$491,392.78**.
- **0** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-11%** or **-$2,929,900.05**.
- **33** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **salpro**
Expanded question: **Total professional salaries**

- **13** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **383%** or **$624,989.77**.
- **10** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-44%** or **-$165,334.40**.
- **0** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **46%** or **$4,407,317.06**.
- **23** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **salnpro**
Expanded question: **Total non-professional salaries**

- **10** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **47%** or **$76,157.23**.
- **14** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-57%** or **-$262,117.00**.
- **0** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-20%** or **-$6,498,734.66**.
- **24** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **salstu**
Expanded question: **Total hourly salaries**

- **6** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **84%** or **$36,968.44**.
- **21** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-61%** or **-$38,653.86**.
- **1** library reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-33%** or **-$838,482.45**.

- **28** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **contot**
Expanded question: **Total contract expenditures**

- **10** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **43%** or **$401,996.63**.
- **23** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-49%** or **-$189,687.39**.
- **0** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-2%** or **-$337,543.72**.
- **33** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **concon**
Expanded question: **Contract conservation**

- **9** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **223%** or **$20,115.63**.
- **12** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-87%** or **-$56,806.33**.
- **4** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-39%** or **-$541,826.35**.
- **25** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **conbind**
Expanded question: **Contract commerical binding**

- **5** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **29%** or **$33,595.09**.
- **26** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-45%** or **-$83,020.33**.
- **0** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-26%** or **-$2,362,553.05**.
- **31** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **concopy**
Expanded question: **Contract preservation photocopying**

- **4** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **688%** or **$5,300.00**.
- **12** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-75%** or **-$8,971.33**.
- **6** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-37%** or **-$129,148.29**.
- **22** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **confilm**
Expanded question: **Contract preservation microfilming**

- **6** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **315%** or **$85,315.26**.
- **8** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-75%** or **-$66,818.13**.
- **13** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-1%** or **-$25,122.44**.
- **27** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **conoth**
Expanded question: **Other contract expenditures**

- **8** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **244%** or **$468,774.75**.
- **11** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-74%** or **-$125,682.77**.
- **1** library reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **28%** or **$1,601,877.75**.
- **20** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **suppl**
Expanded question: **Preservation supplies**

- **10** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **136%** or **$86,360.61**.
- **22** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-49%** or **-$23,976.46**.
- **0** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.

- The total change on this question was **16%** or **$356,881.00**.
- **32** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **equip**
Expanded question: **Preservation equipment**

- **17** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **1210%** or **$295,269.85**.
- **11** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-85%** or **-$29,980.85**.
- **5** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **576%** or **$4,699,798.07**.
- **33** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **presexp**
Expanded question: **Total preservation expenditures**

- **12** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **71%** or **$1,148,335.92**.
- **14** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-58%** or **-$524,209.44**.
- **0** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **12%** or **-$3,204,871.04**.
- **26** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **exp_ext**
Expanded question: **Total preservation expenditures that came from external sources**

- **12** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **30103%** or **$95,310.08**.
- **9** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-76%** or **-$127,646.11**.
- **5** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **0%** or **$875,856.00**.
- **26** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **tottreat**
Expanded question: **Number of volumes/pamphlets given conservation treatment**

- **7** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **136%** or **3,558.86** items.
- **26** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-61%** or **-16,882.38** items.
- **1** library reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-76%** or **-414,030** items.
- **34** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **treat1**
Expanded question: **Volumes/pamphlets given Level 1 treatment**

- **6** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **150%** or **2,860.50** items.
- **26** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-67%** or **-16,397.58** items.
- **1** library reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-83%** or **-409,465** items.
- **33** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **treat2**
Expanded question: **Volumes/pamphlets given Level 2 treatment**

- **13** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **115%** or **744.92** items.
- **19** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-76%** or **-1,220.68** items.
- **1** library reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-33%** or **-13,576** items.
- **33** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **treat3**
Expanded question: **Volumes/pamphlets given Level 3 treatment**

- **16** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **272%** or **350.06** items.
- **16** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-73%** or **-184.25** items.

- **1** library reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **33%** or **2,649** items.
- **33** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **treatunb**
Expanded question: **Number of unbound sheets given conservation treatment**

- **10** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **522%** or **6,669.50** sheets.
- **21** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-79%** or **-3,979.76** sheets.
- **3** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-17%** or **-16,880** sheets.
- **34** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **deacbnd**
Expanded question: **Number of bound volumes/pamphlets mass deacidified**

- **2** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **252%** or **379.00** items.
- **14** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-58%** or **-8,473.71** items.
- **12** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-30%** or **-117,874** items.
- **28** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **deacunb**
Expanded question: **Number of linear feet of unbound papers mass deacidified**

- **0** libraries reported an increase over 2008.
- **2** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-60%** or **-60.00** linear feet.
- **23** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-8%** or **-991** linear feet.
- **25** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **treatoth**
Expanded question: **Number of photographs and non-paper items given conservation treatment**

- **7** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **1473%** or **2,043.00** items.
- **17** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-79%** or **-437.59** items.
- **10** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **60%** or **6,862** items.
- **34** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **volsbnd**
Expanded question: **Number of volumes commercially bound**

- **3** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **61%** or **4,026.33** items.
- **31** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-58%** or **-12,814.29** items.
- **0** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-40%** or **-385,164** items.
- **34** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **bndcopy**
Expanded question: **Number of bound volumes/pamphlets photocopied in their entirety**

- **8** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **19420%** or **127.25** items.
- **15** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-72%** or **-91.33** items.
- **3** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-13%** or **-483** items.
- **26** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **bndfilm**
Expanded question: **Number of bound volumes/pamphlets microfilmed in their entirety**

- **1** library reported an increase over 2008, with an increase of **6.00** items, as opposed to zero items in

2008.

- **9** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-87%** or **-806.67** items.
- **15** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-91%** or **-7,691** items.
- **25** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **bnddig**
Expanded question: **Number of bound volumes/pamphlets digitized in their entirety**

- **12** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **5765%** or **3,426.58** items.
- **10** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-92%** or **-2,482.80** items.
- **3** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **30%** or **15,430** items.
- **25** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **unbcopy**
Expanded question: **Number of single unbound sheets reformatted by photocopying**

- **3** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **1534%** or **1,075.33** items.
- **17** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-97%** or **-5,859.06** items.
- **13** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-95%** or **-96,378** items.
- **33** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **unbfilm**
Expanded question: **Number of single unbound sheets reformatted by microfilming**

- **4** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **49%** or **536,611.00** items.
- **5** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-86%** or **-59,422.40** items.
- **24** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **42%** or **1,849,332** items.
- **33** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **unbdig**
Expanded question: **Number of single unbound sheets reformatted by digitizing**

- **5** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **5211%** or **22,921.20** items.
- **14** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-85%** or **-12,559.36** items.
- **4** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-10%** or **-349,567** items.
- **23** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.

ARL Abbreviation: **othdig**
Expanded question: **Number of photographs and non-paper items reformatted by digital means**

- **9** libraries reported an increase over 2008, with an average increase of **388%** or **8,403.89** items.
- **22** libraries reported a decrease, with an average decrease of **-85%** or **-4,660.64** items.
- **2** libraries reported the same value as in 2008.
- The total change on this question was **-17%** or **-26,539** items.
- **33** libraries responded to this question on both surveys.