



# The Art of Collections Management Technology

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In 2017, LYRISIS received a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to study collections technology in museums and other non-textual collecting organizations.



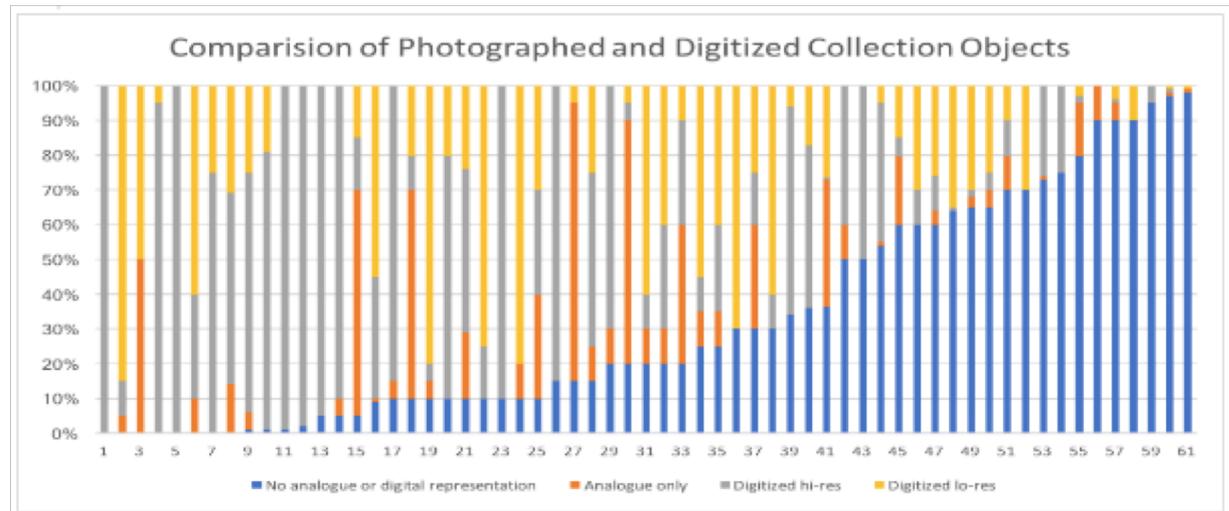
- Digitization
- Collections Online
- Selection
- Strategy
- Themes
- Change

3/4: digitizing less than 1000 objects per year

Almost all shooting/reshooting original

1/2 have unmanaged digital assets (DAMS)

2/3: digitize everything (eventually)



Collections increase by 1% / year

Cataloging & digitization rates = 1.5% / year

35,000 museums | 9.3M objects | 4.5 millennia

What a beautifully optimistic field we work in....

1/10: 100% collections online; 1/2 <10%

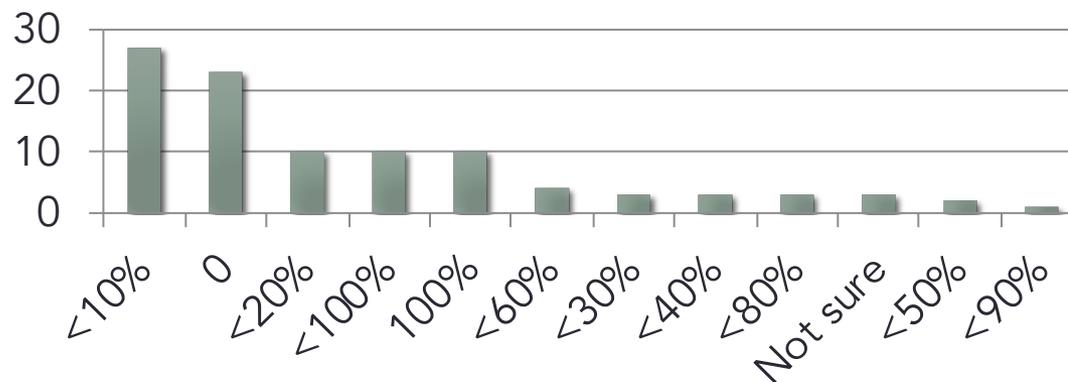
3/4: less than 20% of their collection on view

2/3: less than 10% of objects have edu or interpretive copy

40%: leverage their CMS' online module

2/3: only have highlights or use social media

## What percentage of your collection is available online?



"We thought this would be done years ago"

"Would like to but no plan yet"

"Discussed often but no plan of what/when"

Broken promise of "digital" addressing comprehensive collections access.

# SELECTION

Mostly collections/curatorial BUT half of staff have now left

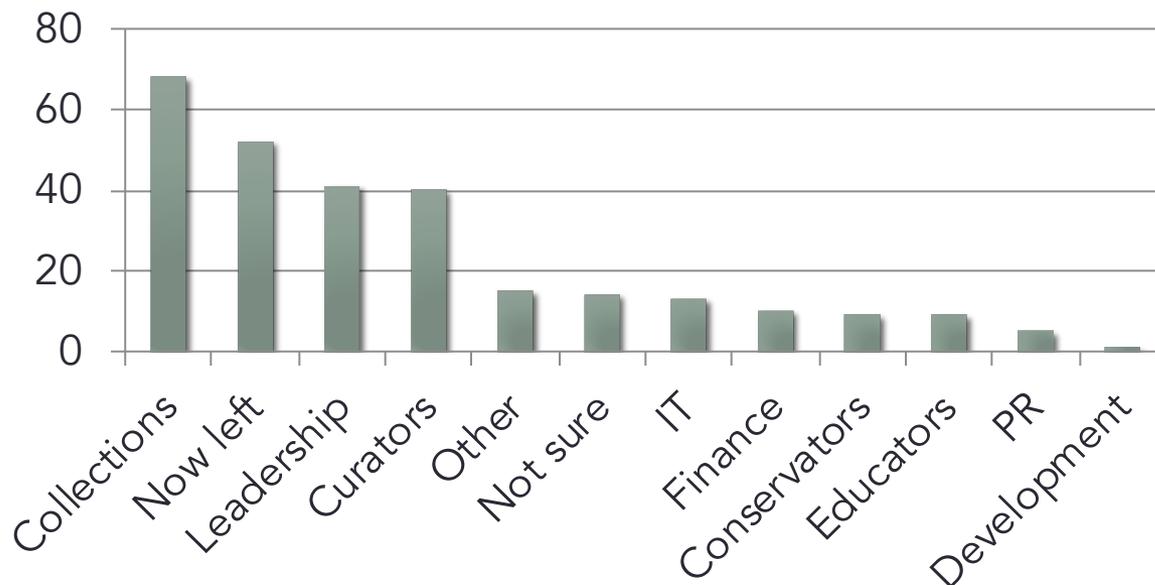
Mostly led by collections BUT staff that have now left

Final decision: 1/3 not sure, 1/4 leadership, 1/4 collections

Only 1/4 followed a formal process

Majority peer recs, prior familiarity, other "informal" methods

Which staff were involved in CMS selection?



Half of staff involved in selection have left

Lack of formal matching requirements

Frustration with incumbent system is expected

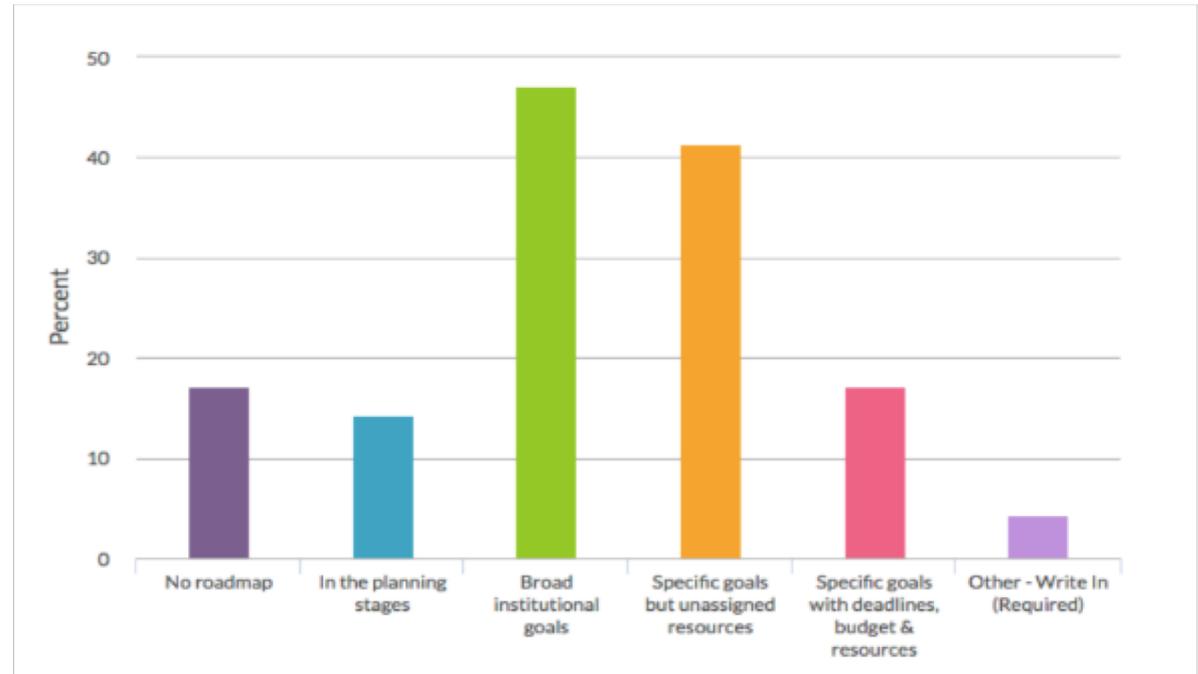
50%: broad collections management institutional goals

40%: specific goals but unassigned resources

16%: specific goals and a genuine resourced plan

2/3: 15+ years managing collections electronically

1/2: have had the same CMS for 10 years or more



**Disconnect between collections management strategy and the ability or commitment to deliver on it**

CMS needs to be more than a CMS

Being used as a productivity/workflow tool through reports

Half would like to replace their CMS "at some point"

Struggle to make the case

Pain of using the tool < the perceived pain of switching

Users want to easily get stuff in & out, vendors reluctant because it makes it easier to switch (?)



# Support for Change

Begging

Have a reason

Have a goal

Have a plan

Have data

Keep asking





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