

Measuring Collections
Care: Survey,
Self-assessment,
Consultant, or Index?

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A little bit about me...



Heritage Preservation,
National Endowment for the Humanities,
National Endowment for the Arts,
OCLC Research...



Why is this important?



In 2014, HHI found that 47.6% of U.S. cultural heritage institutions have no general condition assessment, and of those that had an assessment, 14% completed a general condition assessment once and do not regularly update it.

HHI 2014 also found that 51.9% do not have paid staff dedicated to conservation/preservation.

In the 2017 program evaluation, 70% of respondents said MAP assessments improved their collections stewardship by a great or considerable extent.

How can we measure Collections Care ?

- Survey
- Self-assessment
 - Consultant
 - Index

Let's talk about the options



How can you measure how you care for your collections?

- Consultants
 - Purpose is to provide expert assessments and advice for improving collections care and operations
- Self-assessment & study
 - Purpose is to enhance collections care learning and feedback through community platforms and ongoing training
- Survey of each responsibility for collections care
 - Purpose is to provide a deep dive for the survey respondent allowing them to self assess and to provide a national picture of what is being done and what still needs work

Consultants

- [Collections Assessment Program](#) (CAP) - FAIC
- [Museum Assessment Program](#) (MAP) - AAM
- Consultants - for private hire (e.g., Preserve This, CIPP)

Self-assessment/ Study

- [Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations](#) (StEPs) - AASLH
- [Connecting to Collections Care](#) (C2CC) - FAIC
- [Preservation Self-Assessment Program](#) (PSAP) - UIUC
- [Lyrasis online classes](#)
- [NEDCC](#)

Survey

- Heritage Health Information (HHI) - Heritage Preservation/AIC
- [Preservation Statistics](#) - ALA/ALCTS
- Preservation Statistics at ARL

But what about the index?



Index:

An index is a way of compiling one score from a variety of questions or statements that represents a belief, feeling, or concept.

Self-assessment

Survey



Collections Care Index

Collections Care Index Overview

- Builds one summary measure for collections care
- Parsimonious approach
- How can it be used:
 - Organizations can benchmark their scores
 - Fundraising tool for organizations
 - Education about collections care practices

Source Data: HHI 2014

- Heritage Health Information (HHI) is the only comprehensive survey to assess the condition and preservation needs of U.S. collections.
- Archives, historical societies, libraries, museums, archaeological repositories, and scientific research organizations
- Collecting institutions of all sizes and from every U.S. state and territory
- 1,714 responses

Collections Care Practices in the Index

- Temperature controls for exhibits and storage
- Light controls for exhibits and storage
- Humidity controls for exhibits and storage
- Storage
- Emergency planning and training for staff
- Digital preservation
- Digitization
- Security
- Budgeting
- Donations/fundraising for preservation
- Staffing
- Conditions assessment

Index Construction

- Select collections care practices from HHI 2014 (based on prior preservation studies)
 - 32 in total
 - 12 topic questions
 - 20 follow-up questions
- Check validity of each for the index
- Score responses to each care variable
- Sum the scores by respondent

Scoring example

- Topic Question
 - Do you have an emergency plan?
 - ▶ Yes = 1
- Follow-up Questions
 - Do you have an update schedule for the emergency plan?
 - ▶ Yes = 0.5
 - Is your staff trained to carry out the emergency plan in the event of a natural disaster?
 - ▶ Yes = 0.5

So how does this help us?



Index as a Tool

Advantages

- Self-directed assessment
- Starter point for further assessment
- Gut check for annual, biannual, 5-year periods
- Comparison to peer institutions
- Valuable data about your practice for grant applications

Disadvantages

- Not an action plan
- Provides a starting point for further self-study or consultant
- Comparison to peer institutions

Let's look at the tool



www.CollectionsCareIndex.com

Questions?



Thank you!

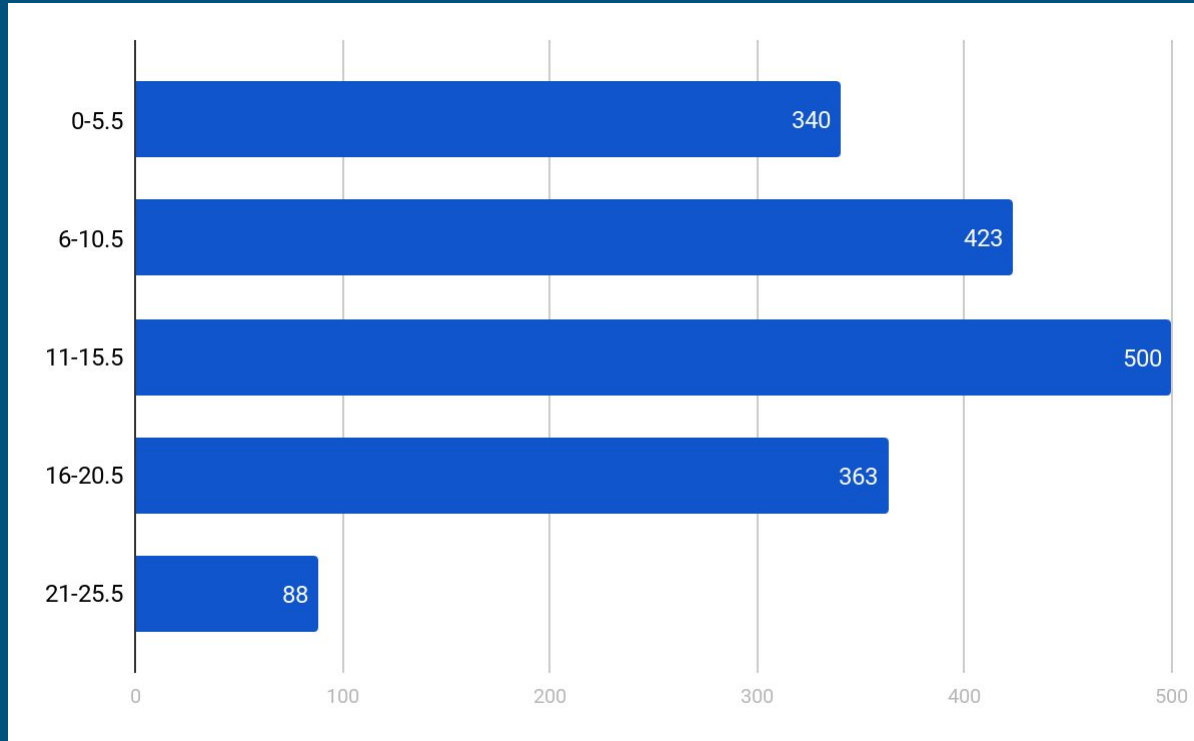
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Back Matter

Scoring Results - 2014 HHI Respondents



Distribution by Collection Type

Index Score	Archive	Historical Society	Library	Museum	Scientific Collection/ Archaeological Repository
0-5.5	8	53	175	87	17
6-10.5	34	54	142	162	31
11-15.5	76	61	146	195	22
16-20.5	41	37	76	201	8
21-25.5	9	6	28	44	1

Predicted Index Scores by Large Institutions

Institutional type	Size	Budget	Collection Items Count	Staff Count	Predicted Index Score
Archive	Large	\$1,000,000	5,000	10	12.182
Historical society	Large	\$1,500,000	1,500,000	10	17.558
Library	Large	\$1,000,000	1,500,000	35	14.472
Museum	Large	\$1,500,000	1,500,000	10	17.662
Scientific collection	Large	\$500,000	500,000	5	16.193