

# Realities of Digital Preservation – What are the Concerns and the Practice?

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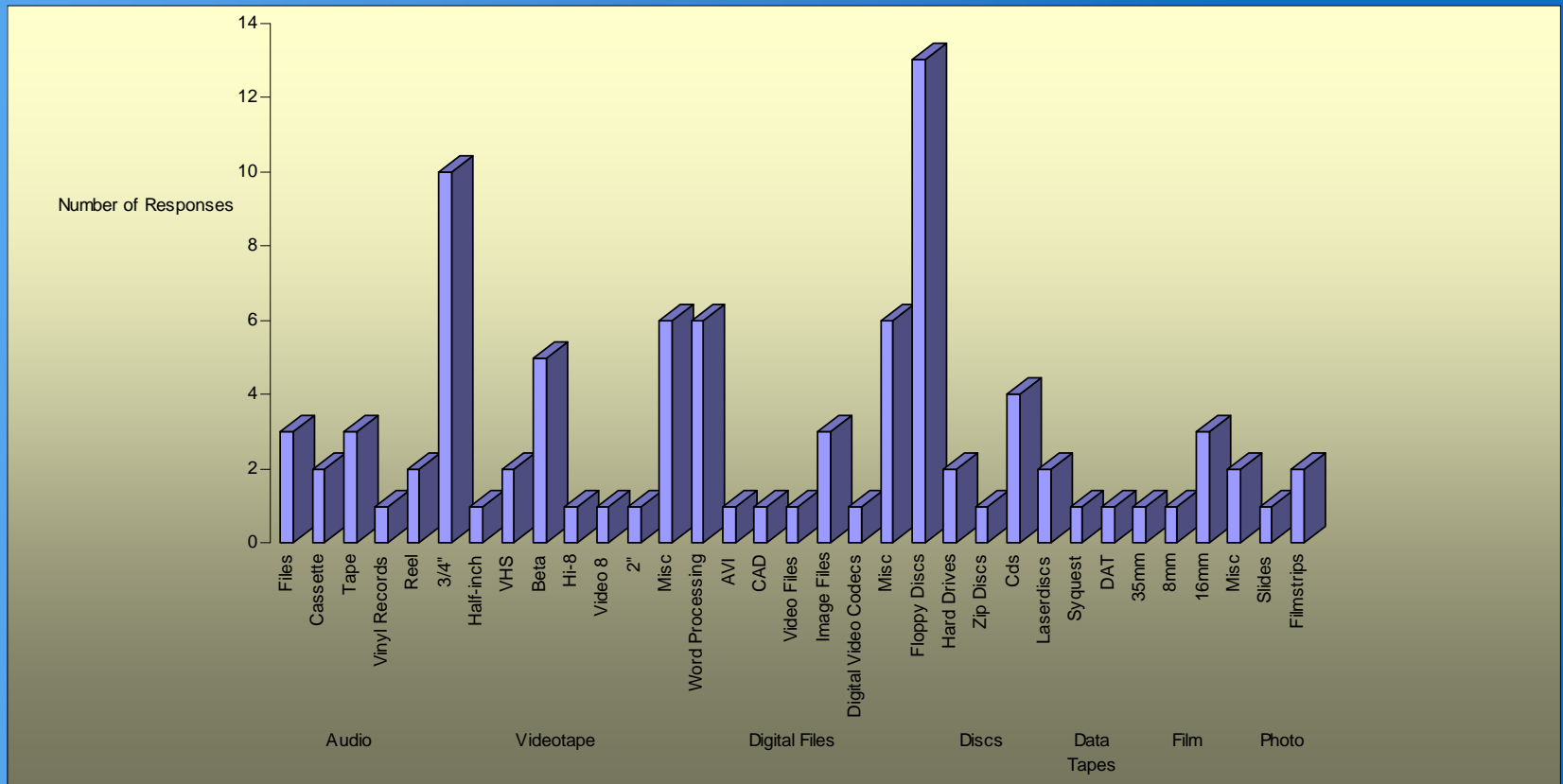
# Concerns

- In 2011 I conducted a survey via professional listservs (AMIA and SAA) and Survey Monkey asking what were archivists greatest concerns regarding obsolescent and digital formats. Of 129 respondents I saw a wide range of concern.

# Breakdown of Concerns

Broad Formats	Percentages
Video All Formats	29.40%
Digital Files All Formats	20.70%
Discs All Formats	25.00%
Audio All Formats	11.90%
Film All Formats	7.60%
Photo All Formats	3.30%
Data Tapes All Formats	2.20%

# Breakdown of Concerns



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- Top Formats
  - Floppy Discs
  - $\frac{3}{4}$ " Videotapes
  - Word Processing Files
- Not to be Overlooked
  - “Miscellaneous” Videotape and Digital Formats tied with Word Processing Files just to show the wide disparity of need.
  - This was a self-applied term and may mean they do not know what the format is or it is rare enough that they can only term it “Miscellaneous”.

# Breakdown of Concerns

% Archive unable to read/play/open	Respondents
Less than 5%	41.90%
5-10%	34.10%
15-20%	11.60%
25-35%	9.40%
40-90%	3.20%

# Action



- What to do?



# Practice

- In 2013, Lance Stuchell, Digital Preservation Librarian from UM Libraries and I began a Regional Digital Preservation Practitioners Group who we affectionately call (RDPP).
- We targeted the Southeastern Michigan(Detroit)/Ann Arbor/Toledo/Lower Ontario area.
- This group meets each quarter to discuss practical solutions and demonstrate tools in use at member institutions.



# Issues of Practice

Concerns raised from the first meeting included:

- **Metadata:**  
How much is needed? What is needed? How do we deal with migration and permanence?
  - **Storage:**  
What do we do with removable media? How do we store digital collections?
  - **Access & Outreach:**  
How do we educate users? How do we promote digital collections?  
How do we provide access to users? How do we negotiate fair use?
- <http://digitalpreservationpractitioners.wordpress.com/2013/05/17/minutes-from-april-meeting/>

# Issues of Practice

- Concerns raised from the first meeting included (con't):
  - Resource Sharing:  
Collaboration and pooling of resources come up often, but does not happen frequently. It would be great if the group took this one where it makes sense.  
Policies would be a good place to start, if people are able to share them.
  - Digital Preservation Failures:  
There is a need for a space to talk about projects that go wrong in order to encourage learning from others' mistakes.
  - Other Concerns Mentioned:  
Education and resources for professionals; new forms of data; digital curation, acquisition, and appraisal; digitization workflow processes; born digital items; disaster planning
- <http://digitalpreservationpractitioners.wordpress.com/2013/05/17/minutes-from-april-meeting/>

# First Needs in Practice

- From a survey of the participants of the RDPP they feel that their missing pieces are:
  - Lack of inventories to use for comprehensive planning.
  - Lack of knowledgeable staff to focus on steps needed. Spirit is willing but finding training specific to their collection need is a challenge.
  - Lack of IT support.

# Next Steps

- RDPP Self-Assigned “Homework” to look at the NDSA Levels of Digital Preservation and ascertain how they can work for their institution.
- More work within the meetings and outside to develop more knowledge of tools that are affordable from an install, maintenance and learning curve perspective.



# Continued Outreach

- NDSA Outreach Committee has been working hard to reach out to current members in order to communicate issues and resources.
- This needs to be done on a regional basis as well.
- Mid-Michigan is holding a RDPP meeting next week.
- Some of my distance students have offered to begin similar groups in Washington and Alabama.

# Realities of Digital Preservation – What are the Concerns and the Practice?

- Contact me for continued research into how we are implementing the practice of digital preservation.
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