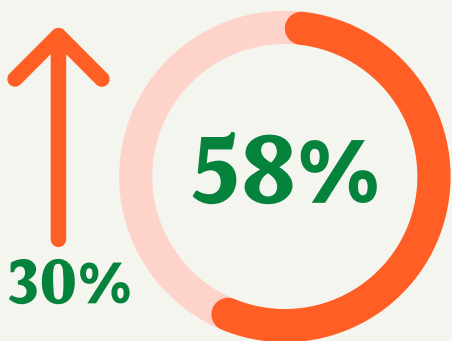


The State of Vermont's Historical Collections

The VHRP Survey 2021

What has changed?



Just over half of survey respondents have the responsibility of caring for digital materials, up 30% from 2008.

Highest Needs

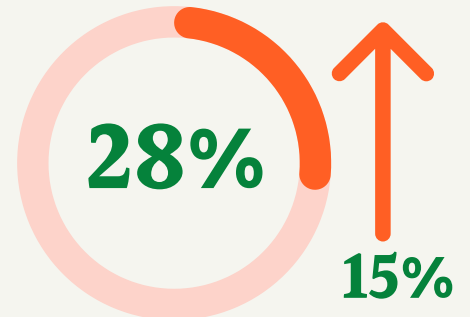
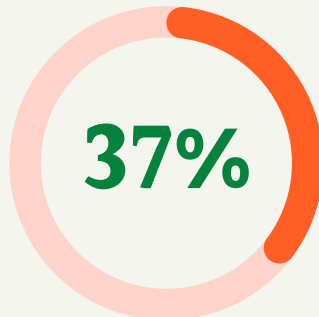
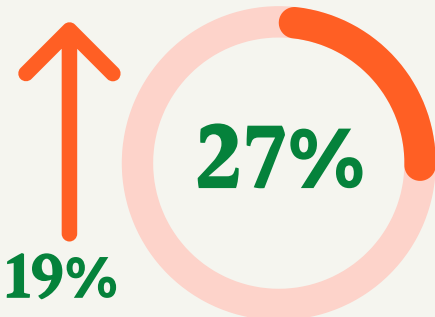
Emergency preparedness remains the highest stated need and preservation of digital collections has moved up in importance.

2008

2021

- 1 Emergency preparedness
- 2 Creating/updating collections policies & procedures
- 3 Condition surveys or assessments of collection
- 4 Staff training
- 5 Finding aids or cataloging of collection AND Environmental controls (tied)

- 1 Emergency preparedness
- 2 Preservation of digital collections
- 3 Conservation treatment
- 4 Staff training
- 5 Finding aids or cataloging of collection



Preservation Plan

About a quarter of respondents have a long-term plan to preserve collections

Collection Survey

Thirty-seven percent have had a survey done of the general condition of their collections

Disaster Plan

About a quarter have a disaster plan that addresses collections

"We are limited on active members/volunteers and feel we have accomplished great strides with what we have to work with."

-- 2021 survey respondent

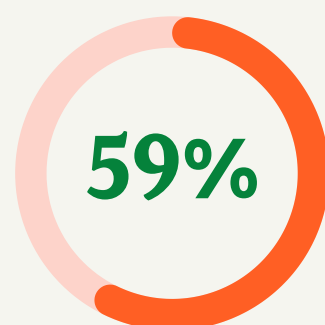
2008



Had less than half of their holdings cataloged or didn't know how much



2021



Have less than half of their holdings cataloged or don't know how much

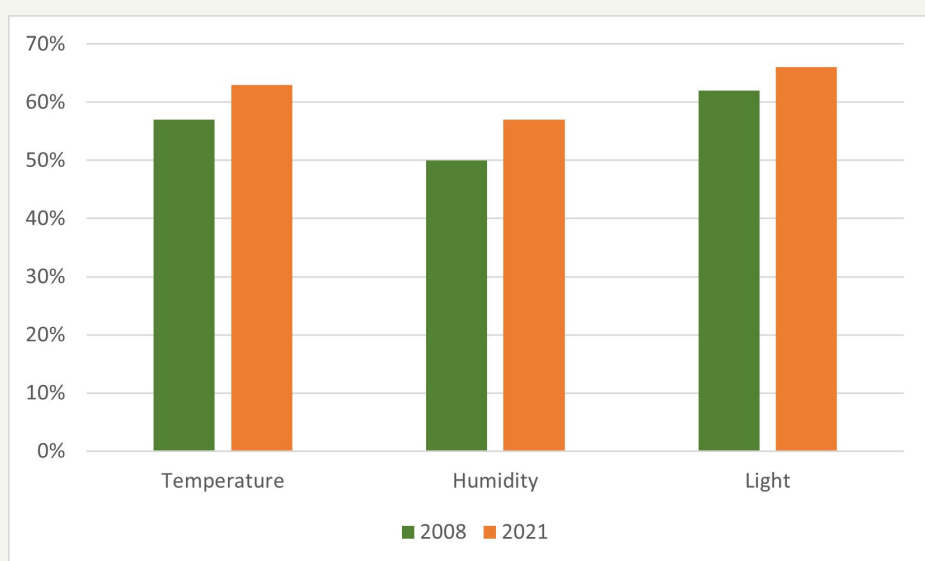
The need for cataloging, finding aids, and intellectual control has remained at essentially the same level for over the past decade.

"The biggest barrier to progress on collections work is lack of dedicated staff time and/or funding to maintain the position."

-- 2021 survey respondent

Environmental Controls

Respondents are controlling temperature, humidity, and light in their building environments slightly more than in 2008.



The top two biggest causes of damage to historical records are from physical or chemical deterioration and improper storage, the same as in 2008.

50%

Physical/chemical deterioration

41%

Improper storage

Read more: <https://bit.ly/VHRPSurvey>

In spring of 2021, the Vermont Historical Records Program (VHRP) undertook a survey of Vermont's historical records repositories to:

- Identify repositories' needs and how to best deliver support*
- Better publicize the VHRP and its services*
- Get a snapshot of the state of Vermont's cultural heritage in 2021 and compare to a similar survey conducted in 2008*

The Vermont Historical Records Program is a program of the Vermont State Historical Records Advisory Board, based at the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration. It serves to improve public access to and engagement with Vermont historical records and to encourage and facilitate collaboration among Vermont historical records repositories.