

# Digitization Selection at the Louisiana Digital Library: A Survey

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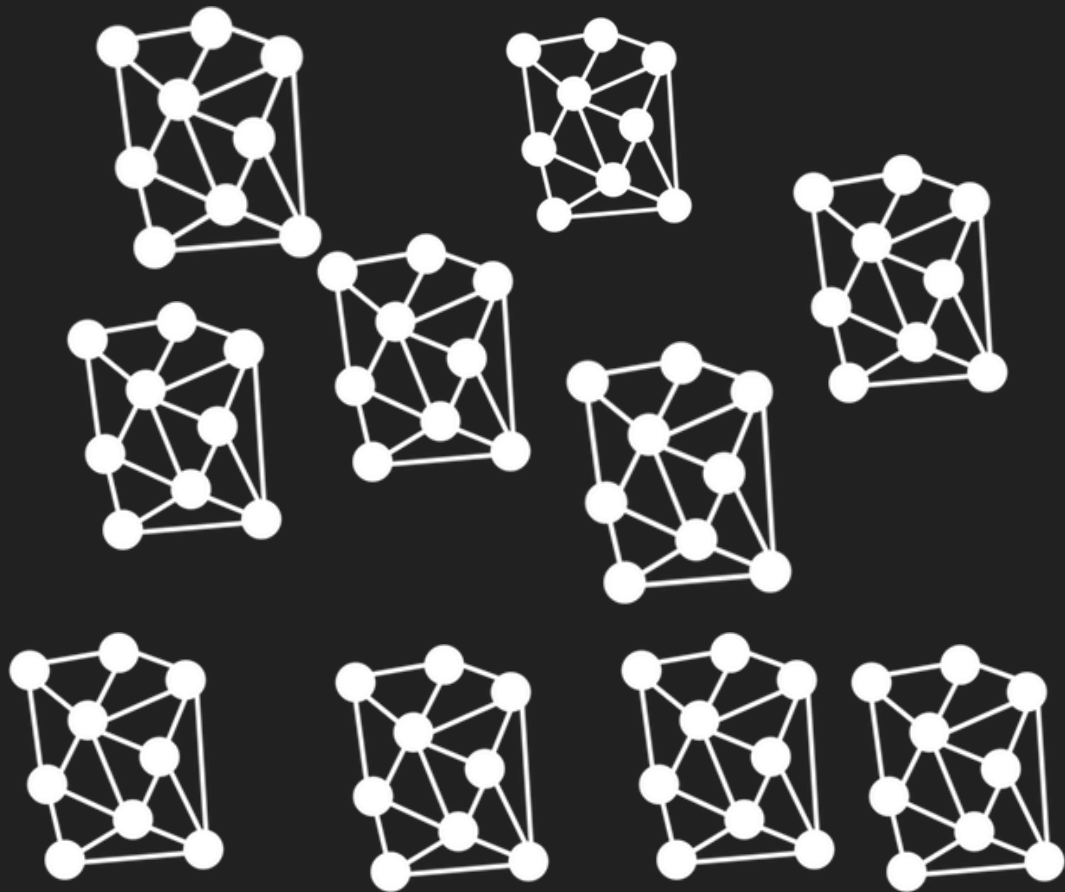
# Outline

## Background

- Collections As Data
- Louisiana Digital Library

## Survey

- Methodology
- Results
- Takeaways



## Background - Collections As Data

“Collections as Data: Part to Whole aims to foster the development of broadly viable models that support implementation and use of collections as data. This effort is made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.” (<https://collectionsasdata.github.io/part2whole>)

# Background - Our Project

**Leah Powell**, Disciplinary Scholar

- Focusing on **Teacher and Researcher** use of the LDL

**Elizabeth Joan Kelly**, Disciplinary Scholar

- Focusing on **LDL practitioners** evaluating use/reuse of collections

**Gina Costello**, Admin Lead

- Ensuring that the project remains relevant to, and supported by, the library

**S. L. Ziegler**, Project Lead

- Project management focusing on logistics, outreach and promotion

# Background - Louisiana Digital Library

## State-wide digital library with...

- More than 236,000 images
- Over 70,000 newspaper pages
- Over 100 oral histories
- And more than 104,000 pages of books and manuscripts

## Contributed by...

- Archives
- Academic libraries
- Public libraries
- Museums



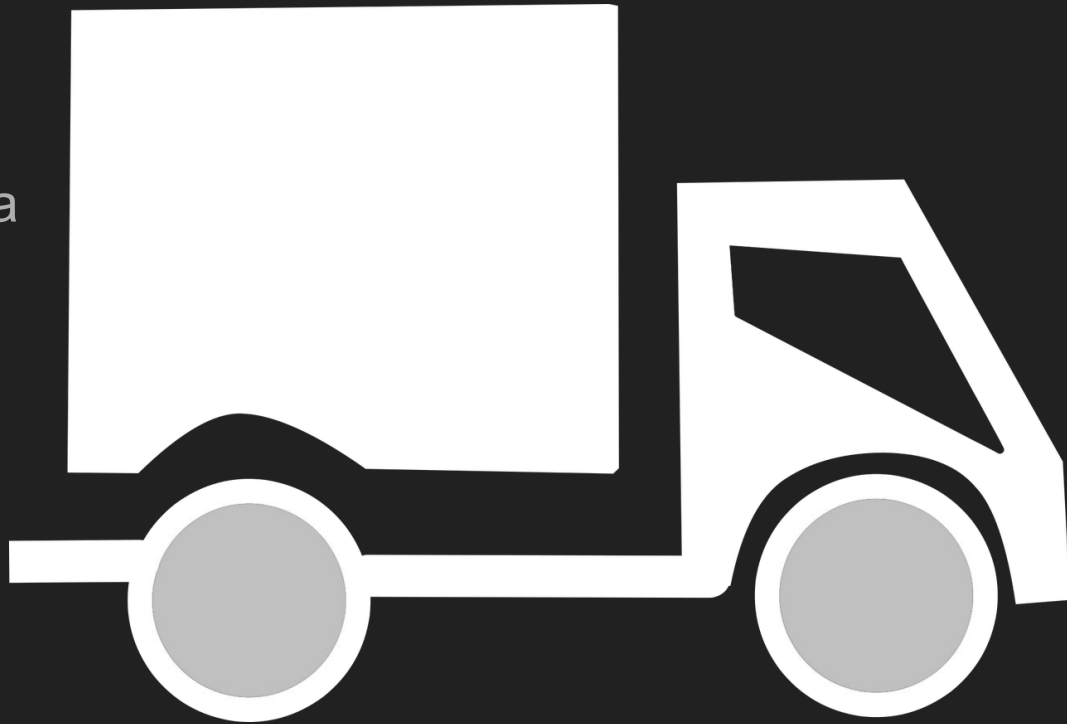
Let's Discover Louisiana Together.



The Louisiana Digital Library (LDL) is an online library of more than 400,000 digital items from Louisiana archives, libraries, museums, and other repositories, making unique historical treasures accessible to students, researchers, and the general public in Louisiana and across the globe. The items in the Louisiana Digital Library are as diverse and interesting as the people and places in Louisiana, with photographs, maps, manuscript materials, books, oral histories, and more documenting the state's history and culture.

# Background - Deliverables

- Intro Survey
- Kickoff meeting
- Sample Collections as Data
- Guest speakers
- LDL Institute
- Technical deliverables
- Outro Survey



# Survey - Methodology

## Logistics

- Administered through Qualtrics
- Sent individualized invites to 27 content admin at 27 institutions
- Received 22 responses (74%)

## Survey Sections

- About your institution
- Digitization selection
- Content and Scope Assessment
- Usage and Assessment

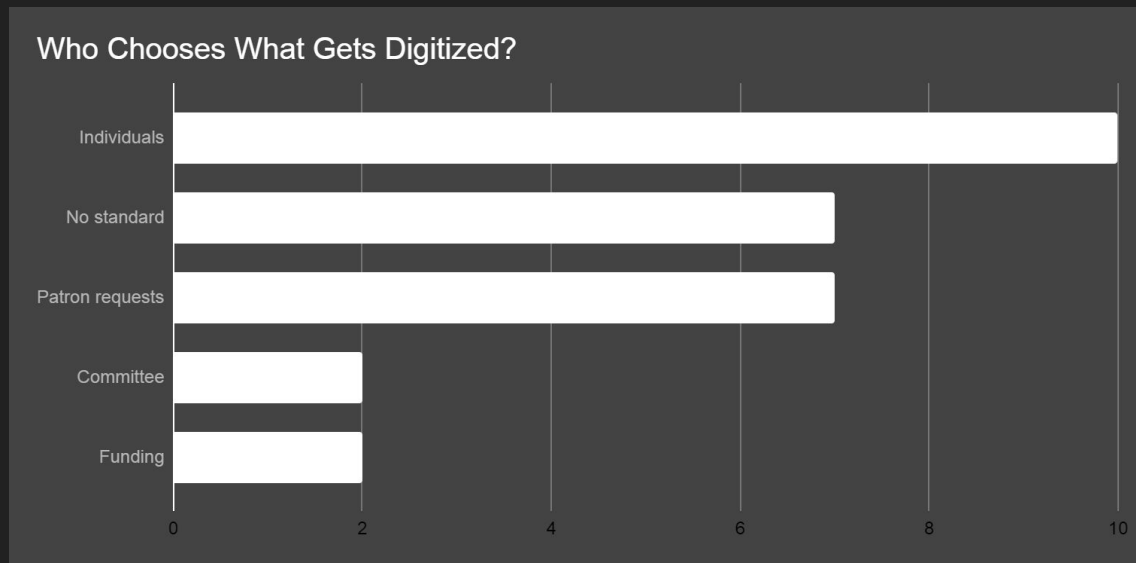


## Survey - Results - Selection

LDL institutions have minimal staffing dedicated to digital initiatives, but 90% still have active digitization programs.



# Survey - Results - Selection



65% of respondents generally thought that their current solution worked well for their institutions, but **61% are interested in developing or modifying their digitization selection strategy**

# Survey - Results - Content and Scope Assessment

**58% of respondents assess the content and scope of their collections.**

Methods include metadata assessment (62%) and user surveys (8%). The remainder mentioned assessing patron use, relevance to mission and collection scope, physical condition, and rarity.

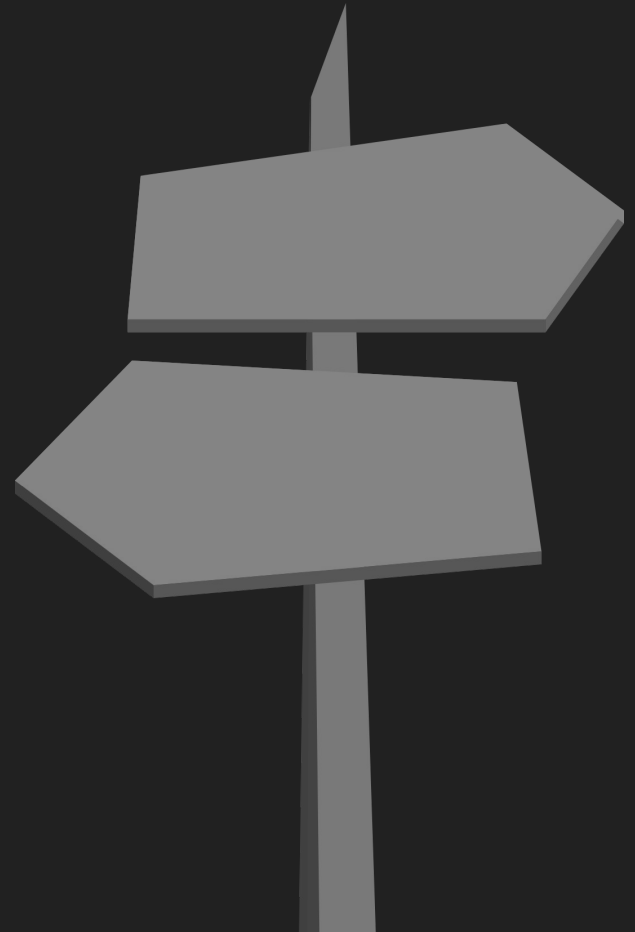
# Survey - Results - Content and Scope Assessment

## Why Don't You Assess Content and Scope?



# Survey - Results - Content and Scope Assessment

Collection development policies are “very” or “somewhat” influential (74%) on digitization decisions, though 11% of respondents did not have a collection development policy.



# Survey - Results - Usage Assessment

65% collect use statistics, primarily through Google Analytics but also view counts on other platforms and user-supplied information (reference consultations, requests for images).

The main reason some institutions did not collect statistics was lack of personnel.

# Survey - Results - Usage Assessment

29% collect reuse data including log information like requests for high resolution images.

Collected data includes citations, published or re-posted digital objects, and social media shares.

Lack of documented best practices was the biggest barrier, though training needs and lack of personnel were also frequently mentioned.

# Survey - Results - Collections As Data

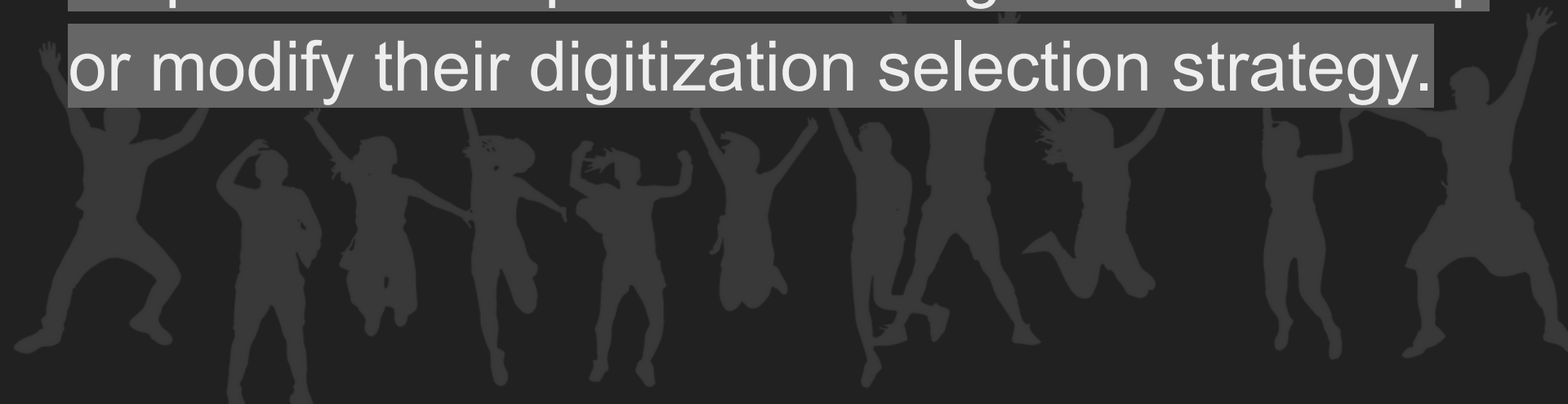
41% were familiar with the term  
“Collections As Data”

43% of those familiar with the term said that their institutions actively consider ways to make their collections accessible as data via metadata export, bulk downloads, and reuse of multimedia data.



## Survey - Takeaways

While participating institutions' engagement with digitization varies widely, over half of respondents expressed willingness to develop or modify their digitization selection strategy.





# Survey - Takeaways

Reuse assessment might increase with established best practices. Respondents also do not have data about who uses their collections;

knowing their users and their users' needs could help inform digitization priorities.



# Survey - Takeaways

Ongoing dialogue around digitization selection is needed, and one-size-fits-all decisions or workflows will not work for this diverse set of institutions.



## Survey - Takeaways

This survey fills a gap in current scholarly literature regarding the role of practitioners in determining what content gets published in digital libraries.

# Thank You!

“...And 25 of our closest friends:  
The Louisiana Digital Library as  
Community-Focused Data”

<https://www.louisianadigitallibrary.org>

<https://collectionsasdata.github.io>

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thank you by  
Gan Khoon  
Lay from the  
Noun Project