

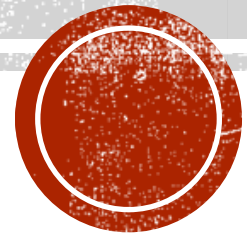
BETTER STEWARDSHIP THROUGH REAPPRAISAL AND DEACCESSIONING

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Society of American Archivists

Research Forum 2025



BACKGROUND

- Huggard and Uglean Jackson (2019) previously measured acceptance of reappraisal and deaccessioning
- Increasing focus on balancing resources
 - OCLC Total Cost of Stewardship
 - *Journal of Western Archives* special issue
- Lifecycle approach to archival management
 - Periodic review of collections to ensure continuing alignment



SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- Questions/scope
 - Separate sections on demographics, practices, and context
 - Based on Huggard and Uglean Jackson survey (2019)
- Audience (how different from 2017 version)
 - 102 ARL libraries located in the United States
 - Distributed to university archivists or division heads
- Participation
 - Survey available for four weeks between April and May 2025
 - 31 responses



RESULTS: REAPPRAISAL AND DEACCESSIONING UPTAKE

Performed reappraisal, by age of repository (H&UJ, 2019)

	0-25 years	26-75 years	76-150 years	More than 150 years	Total
Yes	22	142	66	24	254
No	20	27	12	6	65

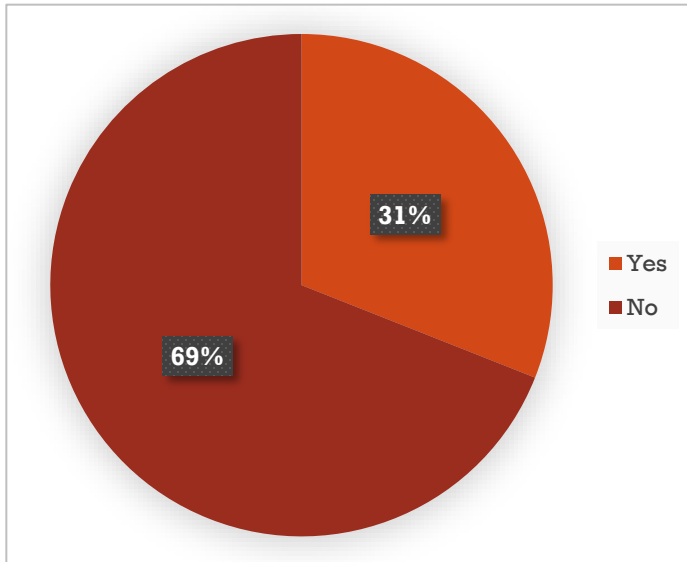
Systematic reappraisal, by age of repository

	0-25 years	26-75 years	76-150 years	More than 150 years	Total
Yes	0	4	3	1	8
No	1	5	7	5	18

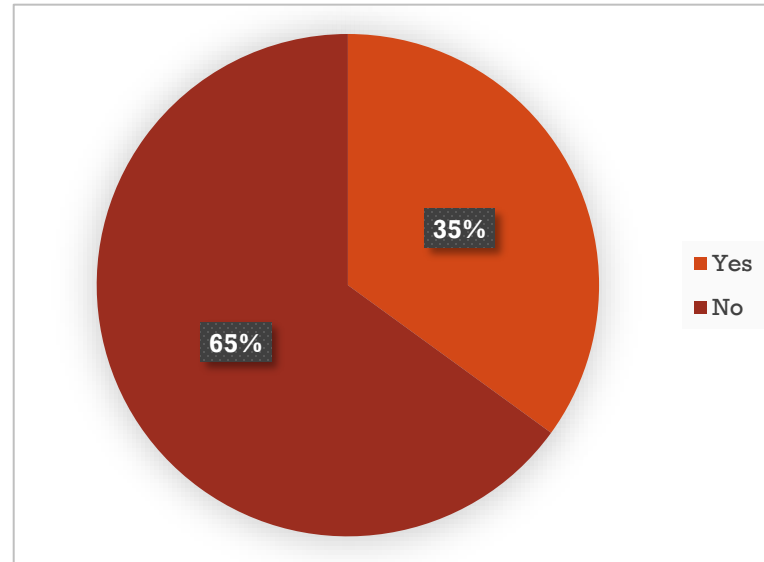


RESULTS: REAPPRAISAL AND DEACCESSIONING UPTAKE

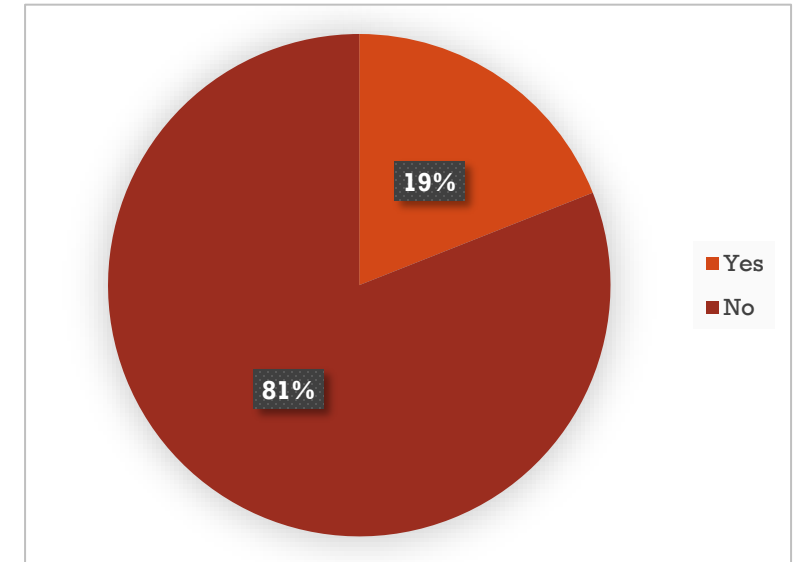
Deaccessioning Policy



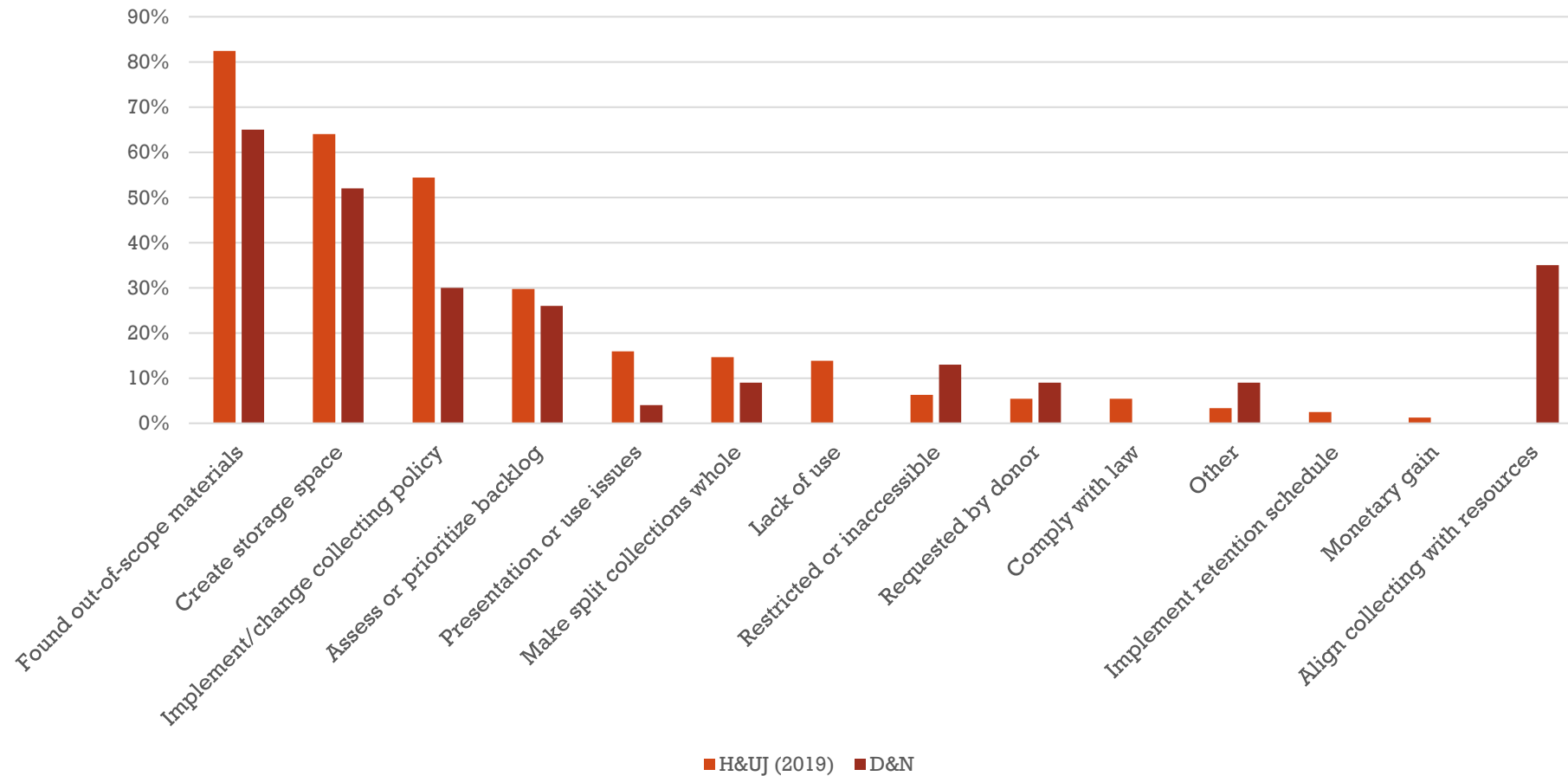
Deaccessioning Procedures



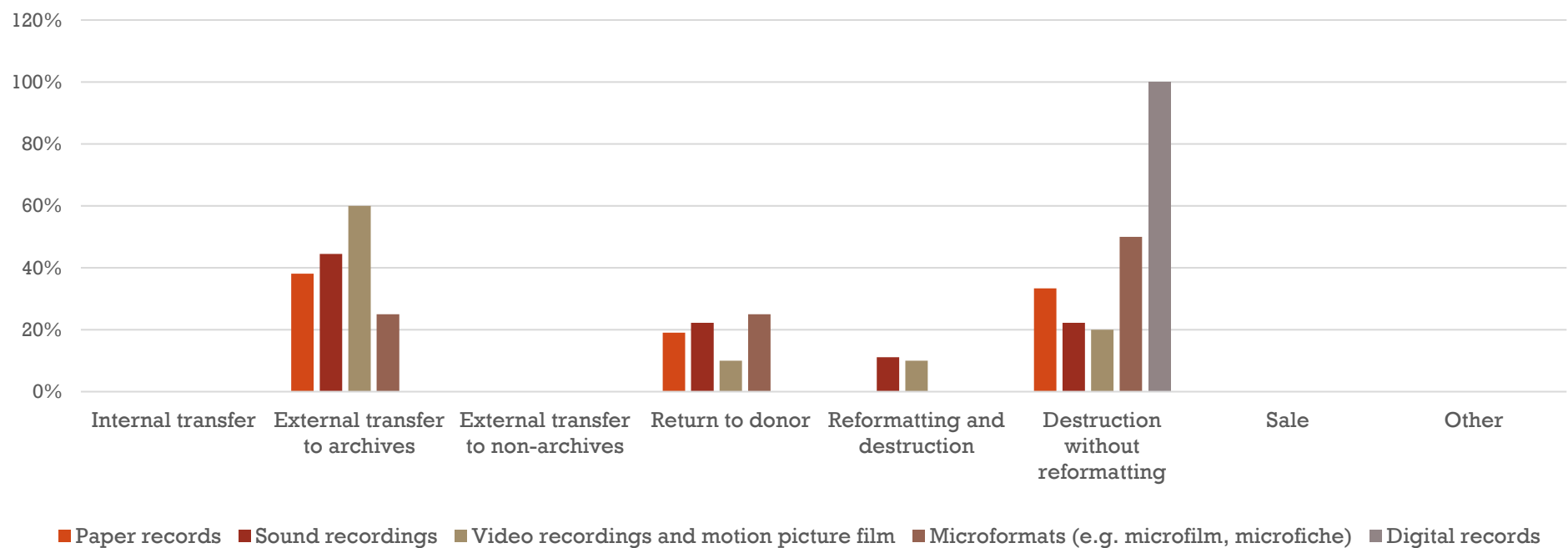
Assigned Staff



RESULTS: JUSTIFICATION FOR REAPPRAISAL AND DEACCESSIONING



RESULTS: FORMAT-BASED VARIATIONS



Preferred Deaccession Method by Format (percentage)



CONCLUSIONS

- Significant differences in responses
 - Lower rate of systemic approaches than general reappraisal
 - Minority of respondents had established policies and procedures
 - Fewer institutions had formally assigned staff to conduct reappraisal
 - Differences in disposal methods based on format
- Additional research needed
 - Larger sample needed for comparison



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