

Museum Storage around the World

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with the collaboration of Marine Thébault

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Photo page 52: CLE Reserva Contemporânea, Brazil

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ICOM Working Group on Collections in Storage

At the ICOM General Conference in Milan in July 2016, an initiative was launched to propose an ICOM recommendation on 'collections in storage'. Representatives from the ICOM International Committees COMCOL, ICAMT, ICFA and ICOM-CC collaborated on a document. The draft was presented at the ICOM-CC Triennial Conference in Copenhagen in 2017 and developed into a proposal for a resolution to be presented at the General Conference in Kyoto 2019.

A recommendation by ICOM Italy on 'Deposits of museums for the Cultural Heritage' was also proposed for consideration in Kyoto 2019. Two proposals were combined at the General Conference in Kyoto to form one resolution on Storage. The joint resolution 'Measures to safeguard and enhance collections in storage throughout the world' was presented. Many committees expressed their support for the resolution, including ICOM-CC, ICAMT, COMCOL, ICMS and endorsed by ICOM Azerbaijan, ICOM Belgium, ICOM Denmark, ICOM Estonia, ICOM Finland, ICOM France, ICOM Greece, ICOM Latvia, ICOM Lebanon, ICOM Norway, ICOM Romania, ICOM Serbia, ICOM Slovenia, ICOM Sweden, ICOM SEE, ICFA, CIPEG, CAMOC, CECA, ICOFOM, COSTUME and UMAC.

At the 158th Session of 2-3 December 2022, the Executive Board approved the mandate for the Working Group on Collections in Storage. The purpose of this Working Group is to analyse the situation for storage collections in museums around the world, in cooperation with National and International Committees.

The Working Group is composed of the following members:

François Mairesse, as Chair of the Working Group on Collections in Storage

Sanfo Moctar, (ICOM Burkina Faso & CIMCIM)

Ambika Patel (ICOM India & ASPAC)

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Introduction

Context and objectives of the study

On September 7, 2019, during its 34th General Assembly, ICOM adopted a resolution concerning 'Measures to safeguard and enhance collections in storage throughout the world'¹. The General Assembly called for measures to be taken to reduce risks for collections in storage throughout the world. This includes allocating funds and making use of all available tools and methodologies at their disposal, ensuring museums' mission for research, education, and enjoyment by present and future generations'. It also reaffirmed the role of museums, libraries and archives as guardians of heritage, emphasising that preserving collections contributes to the development of knowledge and the advancement of human rights. ICOM then entrusted a 'Standing Committee to analyse the storage situation in museums around the world, in cooperation with National and International Committees'. This recommendation, drawn up on the basis of two drafts submitted by several International Committees (Conservation (ICOM-CC), Architecture and Museography (ICAMT), Collections (COMCOL), Security (ICMS), and approved by seven other International Committees, two Regional Alliances and seventeen National Committees, was however largely overshadowed by the debates about the proposed new museum definition, which seemed to be far removed from storage-related issues.

The operational aspect of museums, as they have evolved since the 18th century, is largely based on collections of material objects. The principle of accumulation², on which this logic is based, presupposes the creation of databases, both tangible and intangible, to enable the knowledge development. For a long time, museum operations were based on the object as information bearer, and the associated functional model of preservation, research and communication³. This model, on which the vast majority of institutions throughout the world are based, presupposes the creation of storage to house collections that would never have been publicly exhibited – and sometimes never will be, since a significant proportion has been assembled for the purpose of study. It is with this in mind, of course, that a considerable percentage – sometimes as much as 99%⁴ – of collections are housed in dedicated spaces.

Since the 1960s, changes in the museum world have led to rethinking the museum in terms of its social role, a key principle of museologist Duncan Cameron's famous article, 'The museum: a temple or a forum', which was at the heart of discussions during ICOM's 25th General Conference in Kyoto

¹ Available on the ICOM website : https://icom.museum/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Resolutions_2019_EN.pdf

² Mairesse François, « Le principe d'accumulation », in Le Marec Joëlle, Schiele Bernard et Luckerhoff Jason, (dir.), *Musées, Mutations...*, Dijon, OCIM, 2019, pp. 203-216.

³ Mensch Peter van, *Towards a Methodology of Museology*, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Philosophy, Doctor's Thesis, 1992.

⁴ Lord Barry, Lord Gail Dexter, Nicks John, *The Cost of Collecting*, London, HMSO, 1989.

when the new museum definition was debated⁵. Today, for many institutions, collections no longer appear to be the central or unifying element of the museum. A lot of museums no longer define themselves primarily by their collections, but as spaces for discussion and reflection on identity, heritage and memory, rather than as places for preserving objects, even if many are still exhibited (sometimes borrowed from other institutions)⁶. At the same time – in the mid-1970s – spaces devoted to the management of certain collections, particularly larger ones, were already showing signs of congestion and overflow. Gaël de Guichen, a leading figure in the world of preventive conservation and storage, emphasises the founding role of the 1977 International Conference on Museums held at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington⁷. The problematic state of this institution's storage spaces prompted its Secretary General, Paul Perrot, to launch a new process of reflection, which led to the creation of the Museum Support Center at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. Gradually, new infrastructures were designed, sometimes physically quite distant from the museum, with greater autonomy and spaces that are more suitable for collection management. This latter trend has recently gained considerable momentum, with many institutions finding themselves obliged to find new spaces to accommodate their growing collections. Sometimes shared between several institutions, but also with other organisations (libraries or archive centres), or even with private collectors, these new spaces are gradually becoming more autonomous, as demonstrated by the Depot at the Boijmans van Beunigen Museum in Rotterdam, or the Conservation and Resource Centre at the MuCEM in Marseille. In 2021, ICOM devoted a special issue of its journal *Museum International* to these new storage spaces⁸.

Already in 2011, an ICCROM survey highlighted the many problems associated with managing museum collections, in particular the lack of space and funding⁹. According to that international study, one in two museums had completely overcrowded storage spaces, and two in three museums reported a shortage of available space. It was in response to this study that the RE-ORG program was set up, aimed at reorganising museum storage spaces around the world, and reported on in several articles in the '[Museum Collection Storage](#)' issue published by *Museum International*.

⁵ Cameron Duncan, 'Museum, a temple or a forum', *Curator*, 1971, 14, pp. 11-24; Sandahl Jette (ed.), The museum Definition. The Backbone of Museums. *Museum International*, 2019, 71, 281-282, pp. 1-169.

⁶ Mairesse François, « La collection a-t-elle un avenir au sein du musée ? », *Culture et Musées*, Daniel Jacobi dir., 2021, n°37, p. 31-52.

⁷ Guichen G. de, 'Collection Storage: a Window into the Richness of Culotural Heritage', *Museum international*, 73, pp. 226-235.

⁸ Kreplak Yaël, Mairesse François (dir.), 'Museum collection storage', *Museum International*, 73, 2021, 289-290, 237 p.

⁹ Voir : https://www.iccrom.org/sites/default/files/ICCROM-UNESCO%20International%20Storage%20Survey%202011_en.pdf

As numerous books and articles attest¹⁰, the technology devoted to the development of storage and the preservation of collections has continued to develop, both in terms of the architecture of these spaces and innovations in preventive conservation, particularly in terms of adapting to climate change. It is in this context that, following the resolution made at the 34th General Assembly, ICOM set up a Working Group on Collections in Storage, which was launched in March 2022, and is made up of members from various ICOM National and International Committees: Maria Lucia Ferruzza (NC, ITALY); Gaël de Guichen (IC, ICOM-CC); Alessandra Labate Rosso (IC, ICAMT); Alba Letts (NC, NEW ZEALAND). Christoph Lind (IC, ICFA); François Mairesse, (Chair) (IC, ICOFOM); Sanfo Moctar (NC, BURKINA FASO & IC, CIMCIM) and Ambika Patel (RA, ICOM ASPAC). The working group also benefited from the ex officio participation of the ICOM President, Executive Board representative, Feng Zhao (China) and the Director General, while Jennifer Keane, Marta Cagnin and Valentina Giacchi, from of the ICOM Secretariat, acted as contact persons between the Secretariat and the Working Group. The Working Group set itself three objectives: to draw up a preliminary report on the main issues relating to the development of storage; to launch an international survey in order to gain a better understanding of the situation of storage worldwide; and to organise an international conference on this issue, in order to debate the challenges associated with this field. The preliminary report, drawn up by the Working Group, was presented at a special session during the 26th ICOM General Conference in Prague the same year. The main issues raised by the Working Group were structured in four parts: new types of storage built over the last ten years, storage that is open and accessible to visitors, storage shared by several institutions, and the reorganisation and updating of existing storage through the RE-ORG program. The international survey project was launched in 2023, and in this context the working group obtained the support of the UNESCO Chair for the study of museum diversity and its evolution at the Sorbonne Nouvelle University, and that of the ICCA (Cultural Industries & Artistic Creation) a laboratory of excellence, which allowed us to hire a researcher, Marine Thébault, to monitor the survey, carry out a first basic analysis, cross-sort the data collected, and present a first report on these analyses.

¹⁰ See also Brusius Mirjam et Singh Kavita ed., *Museum Storage and Meaning. Tales from the Crypt*, Abingdon, London, Routledge, 2018; Jacobi Daniel (dir.), *Les collections patrimoniales ont-elles un avenir?*, *Culture et Musées*, 2021, n°37 ; Tiziana N. Beltrame et Yaël Kreplak (dir.), *Les Réserves des musées. Écologies des collections*, Dijon, les Presses du réel, collection "Oeuvres en société", to be published in 2024.

Method

An online questionnaire¹¹ was drawn up by the working group, tested with museum professionals and shared with the entire ICOM community¹². The questionnaire was launched by ICOM President Emma Nardi on 4 April 2023 and closed on 18 July of the same year. It was structured along four main topics, which are reflected in the structure of this report: the first axis (point 1) describes the main characteristics of the participating museums (date of creation, location, surface area, attendance, types of collections, number of objects, percentage of collections on display, staff); a second axis (point 2) concerns the type of storage facilities available to the institution (on-site or off-site, number of rooms, surface area, location, accessibility, availability), as well as the system used for documenting objects in storage (manual and/or digital, percentage of objects in inventory, marking, time required to find an object in storage, date of last inventory). A third axis (point 3), seeks to identify the state of the storage spaces, their use and the development of the situation over the last ten years; the last axis (point 4) aims to understand contemporary management problems (personnel, infrastructure, risk, evolution) faced by institutions and the way in which museum professionals foresee the development of the operation of the storage in the coming years.

A total of 1 132 responses to the questionnaire were received by July 18, 2023. 580, or 51% of respondents chose to remain anonymous. The museum professionals who volunteered to answer the questionnaire were mainly collection managers (34%), directors (23%), conservators (17%) and curators (16%) (Fig 1).

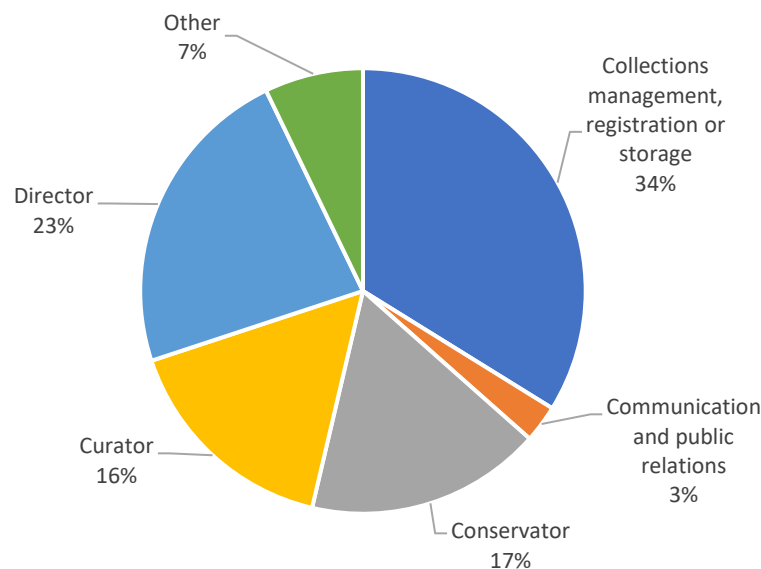


Fig. 1. Occupation of the persons completing the survey¹³

¹¹ The questionnaire was created with the Formstack software.

¹² Around 45,000 members, according to the membership report published by ICOM in 2022.

¹³ The 'other' category includes technical assistants, coordinators, educators, researchers, etc.

12 semi-structured interviews were conducted with museum professionals who are familiar with storage issues - some of whom had requested to be contacted following the survey. These included directors of institutions, storage managers, consultants and researchers from Italy, Greece, France, China, Japan, Singapore, Brazil, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso. Their comments, as well as the comments that respondents left on each section of the survey, helped to underpin the quantitative analysis of the questionnaire - we would like to thank them for their contribution.



1. Main characteristics of the museums surveyed

The international nature of the survey enabled us to gather information on a wide variety of museums. While the sample obtained does not guarantee a completely accurate or perfectly representative portrait of the situation of the more than 100,000 museums worldwide, the survey nevertheless provides an overview of very different kinds of institutions, in terms of their geographical distribution, size, age and type of collections held.

1.1. Geographical distribution of the survey

Responses to the survey came from 98 countries. The distribution by region (according to UNESCO's regional classification¹⁴) of all museums responding to the survey fairly closely reflects that of ICOM's membership (2021) (Table 1 and Appendix 1): the largest number of responses came from Western Europe (although this is less than the actual representation of ICOM's European members), with the most active countries in the survey being Italy, France and Spain. The North American region's response rate to the survey reflects its participation in ICOM - but differs from the region's actual museum density, which is one of the highest in the world according to UNESCO statistics. On the other hand, the proportion of responses from Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific reflects the proportion of museums worldwide.

Tab. 1. Geographical distribution of the museums participating in the survey

UNESCO Region	Number of responses	Percentage of responses by region (%)	Proportion of museums by region (List UNESCO, 2021) (%)	Proportion of ICOM members by region in 2021 (%)
I a. North America	68	6,01	34,03	5,91
I b. Western Europe and others	663	58,75	26,86	74,37
II. Eastern Europe	105	9,28	10,49	9,01
III. Latin America and the Caribbean	81	7,16	7,73	3,15
IV. Asia and Pacific	139	12,28	16,49	4,50
V a. Africa	55	4,86	0,50	0,62
V b. Arab States	21	1,86	0,29	0,41
TOTAL	1132			

¹⁴ However, here we have distinguished the countries of North America from Western Europe, which form only one region within the UNESCO Assembly of States.

1.2. Museums' location

The museum phenomenon is largely city-based: a third of the institutions that responded are located in capitals – this is particularly the case for all Arab, African and Latin American museums – 54% are located in small or medium-sized cities – particularly in North America, Europe and Asia. Only 16% are located in rural areas or on islands (Fig. 2 and Appendix 1). This distribution largely reflects the findings of UNESCO's surveys, with the majority of institutions being managed at national (in the capital) or city level¹⁵.

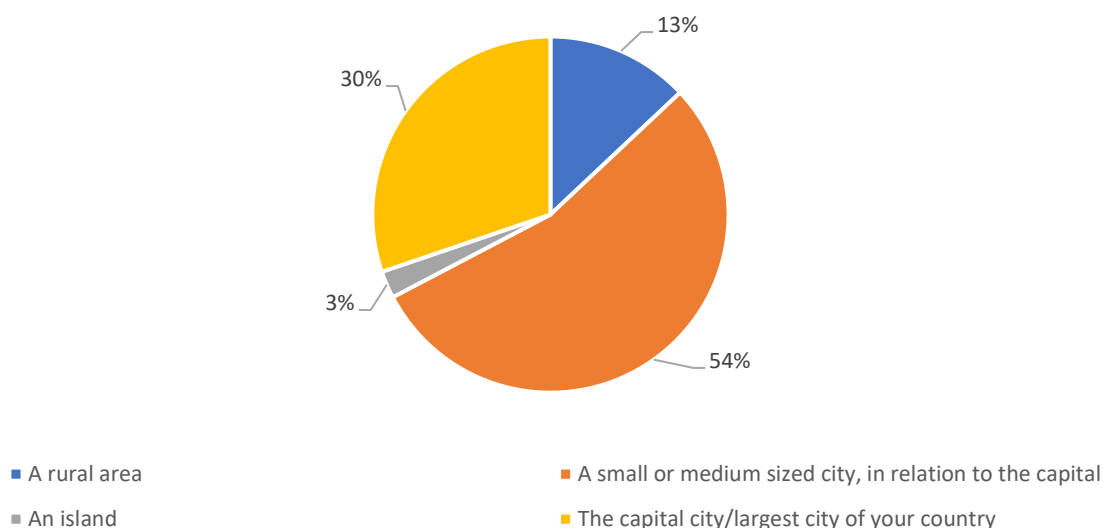


Fig. 2. Location of the participating museums

1.3. Collection themes and museum age

The distribution of institutions responding to the survey illustrates the diversity of museum collections around the world (Fig. 3). The type of collections held by museums (several answers were possible) also appears to be relatively consistent with the data listed by UNESCO¹⁶. Thus, the types of collections most frequently mentioned by museums are history (19%) and fine arts (22%), the largest percentages at the international level. The other two main categories are ethnography (13%) and archaeology (14%); the share of science collections appears to be broadly similar to that of UNESCO statistics (8%), which does not, however, reflect the number of objects held in these collections, which are far greater than those of other types of institutions¹⁷.

¹⁵ Mairesse François, UNESCO, *Report on the Implementation of the UNESCO 2015 Recommendation on Museums & Collections*, Paris, UNESCO, 2019.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ See Johnson Kirk, Owens Ian, A global approach for natural history museum collections, *Science*, vol. 379, Issue 6638, 24 March 2023, p. 1192-1194.

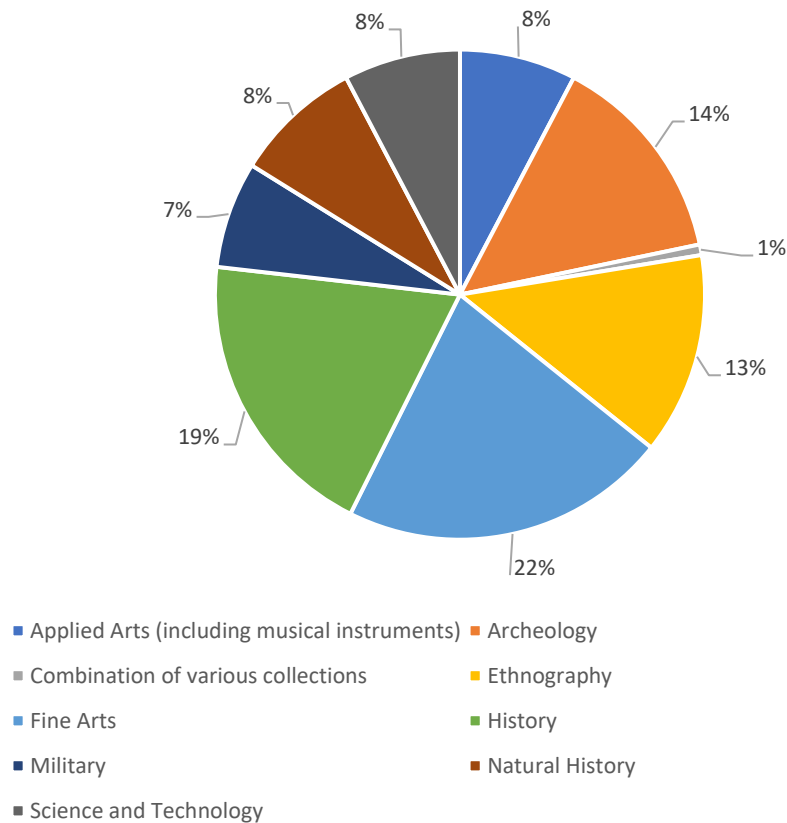


Fig. 3. Typology of collections of the participating museums

The museums that responded to the survey also show great diversity in terms of age (Fig. 4). Overall, just under 20% of institutions have been in existence for less than twenty years; just under 30% are between twenty and fifty years old, a quarter between fifty and a century old, and a quarter are over a century old. This distribution differs somewhat from the development of museums worldwide, which appears to double every quarter of a century (globally: 6,000 in 1937, 22,000 in 1975, 50,000 in 2004, 100,000 today¹⁸). The number of older museums responding to the survey appears to be significantly higher, which seems fairly consistent, given the nature of the survey's theme. Indeed, it may be hypothesised that many more recently established institutions consider the issue of storage to be of secondary importance, as they are not directly confronted with the problems associated with storage management (overcrowding, obsolescence, etc.), but also that the paradigm on which certain recently built museums are based only integrates the question of collections and storage to a more limited extent¹⁹.

¹⁸ See the article « musée » of the *Dictionnaire encyclopédique de muséologie*, Paris, Armand Colin, 2011 and UNESCO, *Museums around the World in the Face of Covid-19 - April 2021*, Paris, UNESCO (UNESCO Report), 2021.

¹⁹ Morishita Masaaki, *The Empty Museum. Western Cultures and the Artistic Field in Modern Japan*, Farnham, Ashgate, 2010.

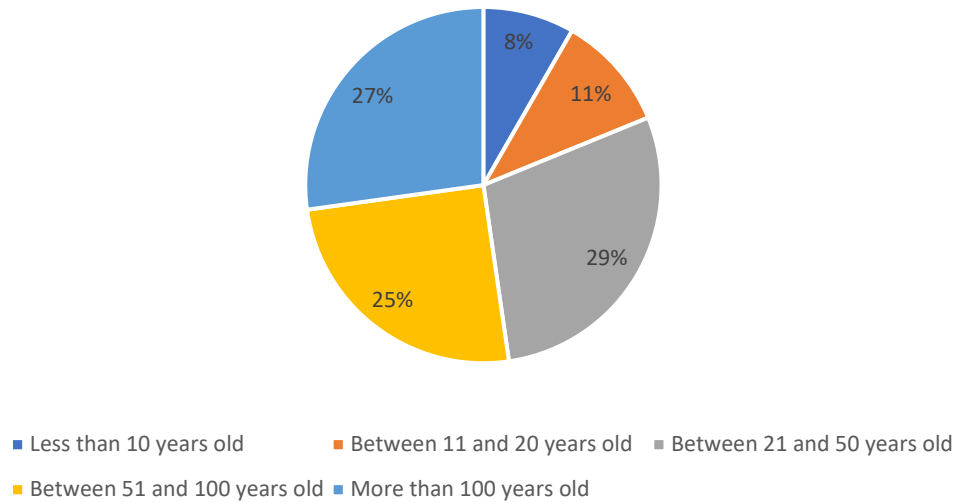


Fig. 4. Age of the participating museums

1.4. Range of museums present in the sample

Several museum-related characteristics are correlated, as earlier studies have shown: institutions with the highest visitor numbers are generally also the biggest, with the largest staff and budgets²⁰. For this reason, the questions on the number of staff and annual attendance were only asked in order to assess the size of the institution without making the questionnaire too complex (Fig. 5 and 6).

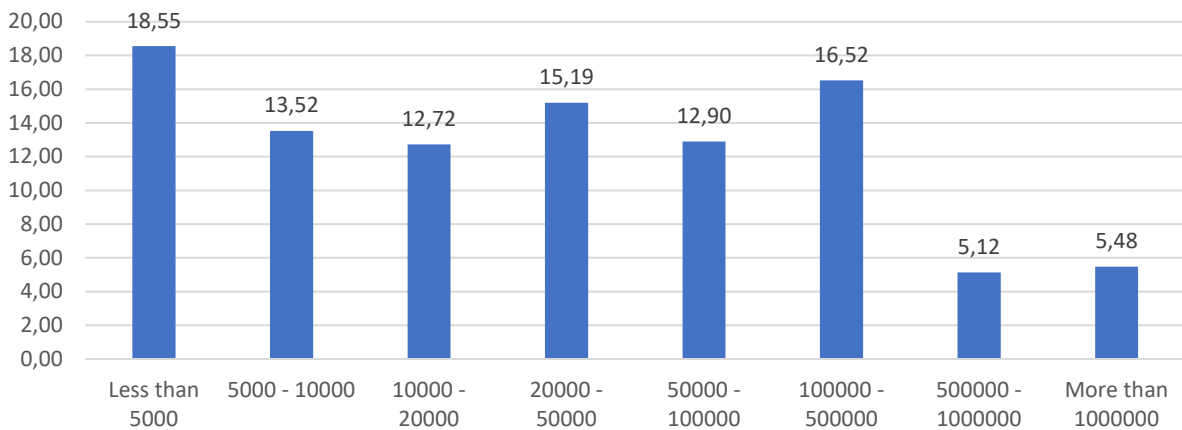


Fig. 5. Annual number of visitors (% of the sample)

It is hardly surprising to find that almost 45% of the museums in the sample welcome fewer than 20,000 visitors per year (with almost 20% welcoming fewer than 5,000). The number of very small institutions remains the vast majority around the world. Conversely, just over 10% of the sample receive more than 500,000 visitors, with just over 5% welcoming more than a million. The latter

²⁰ Ginsburgh Victor, Mairesse François, 'Defining a museum: suggestions for an alternative approach', *Museum Management and Curatorship*, 16, 1, 1997, pp. 15-33.

category, referred to as 'millionaire' or 'superstar' museums²¹ (particularly represented in Europe, North America and Asia), appears somewhat over-represented when compared with international statistics. We can assume that, as in the case of the oldest museums, larger museums felt more concerned by the issue of storage than many of the smaller ones.

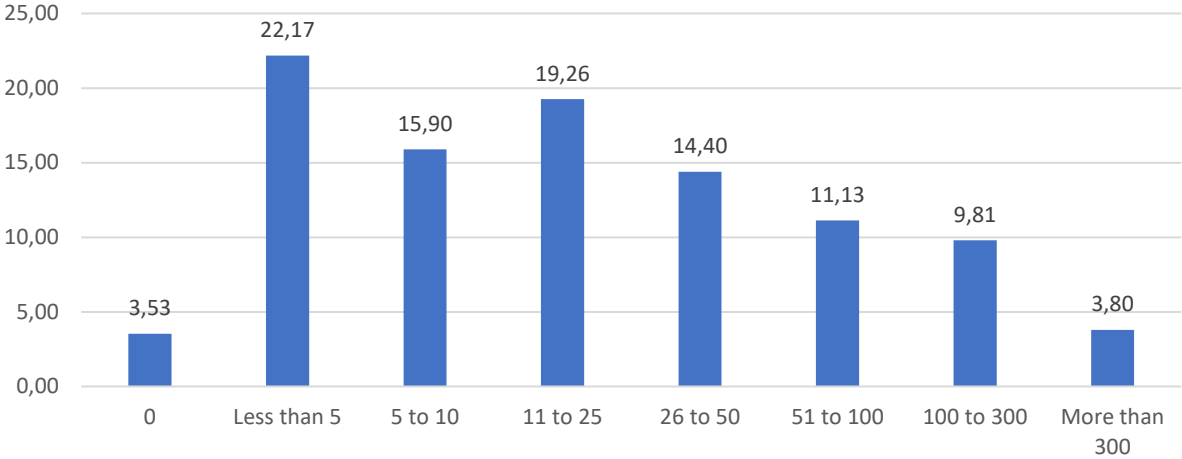


Fig. 6. Number of full-time equivalent staff (% of the sample)

Similarly, just over 40% of respondents have fewer than 10 full-time equivalent staff, while around 13% have more than 100 staff members. Cross-referencing data (attendance and number of staff) gives a fairly good idea of the correlations between the two series, although these are not always obvious: 60% of very small institutions (less than 10,000 visits per year) have few staff (less than 5 full-time equivalents), while almost three-quarters (72%) of large institutions (more than 500,000 visits per year) employ more than 100 full-time employees or the equivalent; this does not differ greatly between regions or the types of collections in question²².

The distribution of museums according to the number of objects in their collections is broadly similar (Fig. 7 and Tab. 2).

²¹ Frey Bruno, Meier Stephan, 'The Economics of Museums', in Ginsburgh Victor, Throsby David, *Handbook of the Economics of Art and Culture*, Amsterdam, Elsevier, Vol. 1, 2006, pp. 1017-1050.

²² Spearman's coefficient (rho) shows a significant relationship (greater than 0.5) for studying the correlation between the number of staff members and the number of employees for inventory, as well as the number of employees responsible for the storage, the number of staff and the number of objects in the collections.

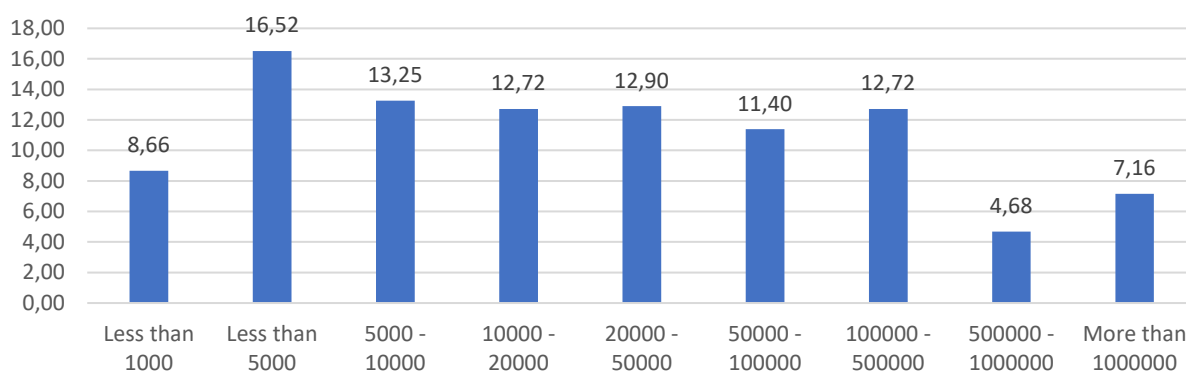


Fig. 7. Number of objects in the collection (% of the sample)

Tab. 2. Number of objects per region										
REGION	Less than 1000	Less than 5000	5000-10000	10000-20000	20000-50000	50000-100000	100000-500000	500000-1000000	More than 1000000	Total (%)
Africa	12,73	41,82	10,91	10,91	10,91	1,82	5,45	1,82	3,64	100,00
Arab States	33,33	19,05	0,00	0,00	19,05	9,52	9,52	0,00	9,52	100,00
Asia and Pacific	7,64	10,42	12,50	16,67	11,11	13,89	18,06	1,39	8,33	100,00
Eastern Europe	5,71	9,52	13,33	15,24	11,43	16,19	19,05	5,71	3,81	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	9,88	29,63	20,99	11,11	12,35	11,11	3,70	0,00	1,23	100,00
North America	5,88	8,82	17,65	11,76	26,47	10,29	10,29	2,94	5,88	100,00
Western Europe and others	8,36	15,96	12,61	12,31	12,16	11,09	12,61	6,38	8,51	100,00

Around a quarter of museums have collections of less than 5,000 objects, and just under a tenth of the sample have collections of less than 1,000 objects. At the same time, just over 10% have collections of over 500,000 objects. This statistic is broadly similar if we look at the type of collections held (see Appendix 2). Very small museums are proportionally more represented in Africa and Latin America, while the largest collections in the sample (over 500,000 objects) are found, again proportionally, in Western Europe (nearly 15%).

The size of collections is largely influenced by their subject matter: as Soichiro Tsuruta suggested, the number of specimens in a natural history museum is 200 times greater than the number of objects held by a fine arts museum²³. A breakdown of the size of collections by type of museum, across all institutions, however, reveals relatively mixed results, as many institutions reported very heterogeneous collections. On the other hand, extraction from the database of only those museums that indicated that they kept one type of collection (i.e. 446 institutions), reveals notable differences in this respect (Tab. 3). There are few fine arts or history collections with more than 100,000 objects. In contrast, more than one in ten museums in the fields of archaeology (11%), military history (12.5%) or natural sciences (16%) contain more than one million objects.

**Tab. 3. Number of objects per collection type
(for the 446 monothematic museums)**

Number of objects	Archaeology	Ethnography	Fine Arts	History	Military	Natural History
Less than 1000	7,22	9,38	9,09	5,56	0,00	6,00
Less than 5000	19,59	21,88	20,32	13,89	25,00	12,00
5000 - 10000	12,37	12,50	13,90	18,06	0,00	6,00
10000 - 20000	7,22	12,50	12,83	11,11	37,50	2,00
20000 - 50000	13,40	15,63	12,30	20,83	0,00	24,00
50000 - 100000	9,28	18,75	9,09	12,50	0,00	8,00
100000 - 500000	12,37	6,25	11,76	11,11	25,00	14,00
500000 - 1000000	7,22	0,00	4,81	1,39	0,00	12,00
More than 1000000	11,34	3,13	5,88	5,56	12,50	16,00
Total (%)	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00
Number of museums (total : 446)	97	32	187	72	8	50

²³ Tsuruta Soichiro, "Proposal for the Museum Material -Environment system", *ICOFOM Study Series*, 6, 1984, p. 29-39. Tsuruta thus estimates a coefficient to establish the importance of a museum based on its collections. Based on art museums as a unit (1): 1/10 for a local general museum (whose collections are overall ten times larger), 1/20 for a history museum, 1/100 for a archeology museum, 1/200 for a natural history museum, etc.

The size of the collections inevitably influences the storage size and the proportion of collections presented in permanent exhibitions, a phenomenon that has been observed for many years²⁴. In this respect, there are few notable differences between museums in different regions (Fig 8, Tab. 4 and Appendix 2).

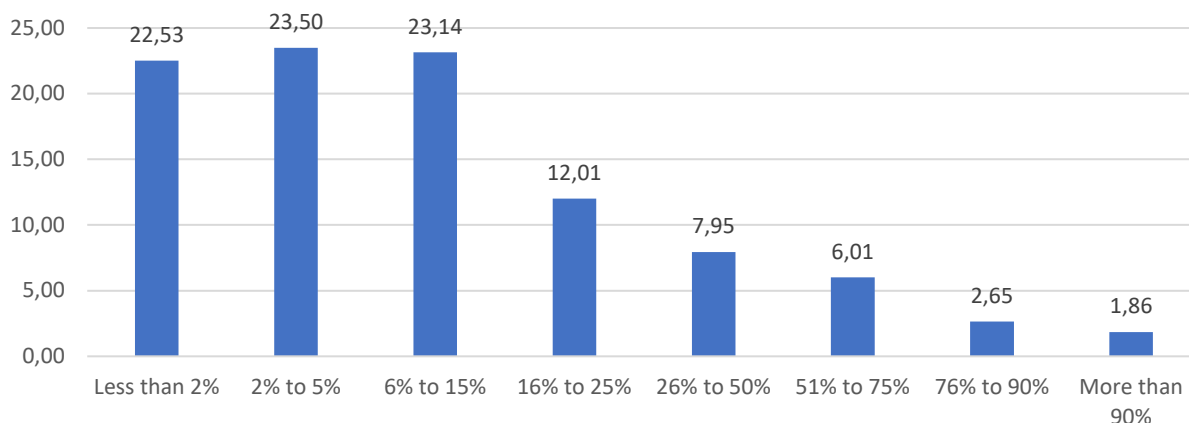


Fig. 8. Proportion of the collection exhibited to the public (% of the sample)

Tab. 4. Distribution of visible collection by museum location (%)									
	Less than 2%	2% to 5%	6% to 15%	16% to 25%	26% to 50%	51% to 75%	76% to 90%	More than 90%	Total (%)
A rural area	14,97	23,81	20,41	16,33	8,84	5,44	5,44	4,76	100,00
A small or medium sized city, compared to the capital	23,20	23,04	24,02	12,58	8,01	6,05	1,96	1,14	100,00
An island	21,43	10,71	21,43	0,00	17,86	17,86	3,57	7,14	100,00
The capital city/largest city of your country	24,93	25,51	23,17	10,26	6,74	5,28	2,64	1,47	100,00

Nearly 70% of the museums that responded to the survey exhibit less than 15% of their collections, and only a very small percentage present almost their entire collection to the public, demonstrating the importance of storage within the museum system. It is mainly in Western Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific that a small percentage of collections are on display to the public, and conversely, in Africa and Arab countries most of the collection is presented (Cf. Appendix 2). The same differences can be observed if we take into account the distribution of museums according to their location: city museums, and *a fortiori* those in capital cities, have the largest collections and exhibit them the least,

²⁴ Lord, Lord & Nicks, *Op. cit.*

while we find more museums exhibiting almost all their objects to the public in rural areas or islands. This phenomenon differs relatively little according to collection type (remembering that that museums hold different types of collections).

Although storage is an integral part of the museum system, the number of specifically dedicated staff remains relatively small (Figs. 9, 10 and Appendix 2).

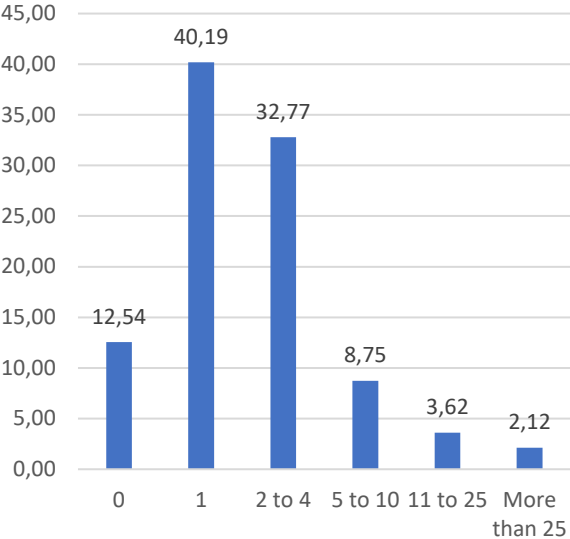


Fig.9. Number of staff dedicated to registration (%)

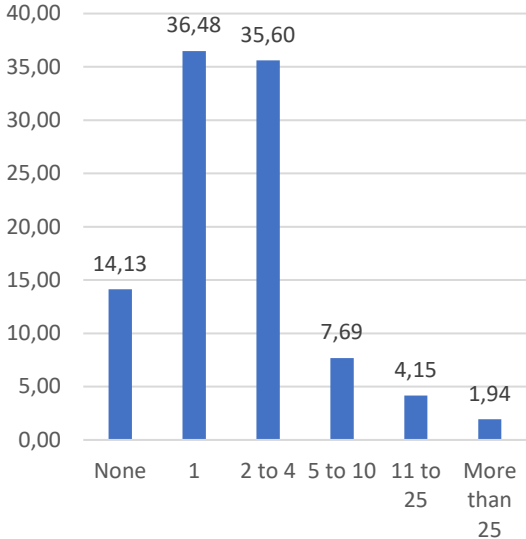


Fig. 10. Number of staff officially responsible for storage (%)

In two out of five museums (40%), regardless of region or collection type, only one person is in charge of collection inventory, while over 12% of institutions have not appointed anyone to this task. The situation is broadly similar for those assigned to the storage spaces. Barely 5% of institutions have more than ten members in charge of collections. We can assume that the same people are in charge of inventory and storage. For the majority of them (59%), this mission is part of their job description (Fig. 11).

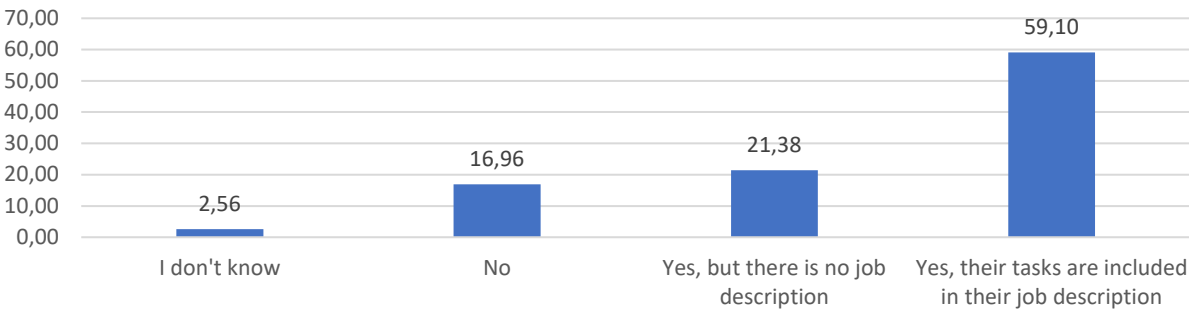


Fig. 11. Staff officially responsible for storage

It is important to note, however, that almost 17% of museums have not designated anyone to be in charge of storage, and that this responsibility, when it exists, is not included in the job description of the person in charge in over 20% of cases; so for almost four out of ten museums, the responsibility for storage management is not clearly established.

2. Types of storage space

Almost all the museums in the sample consider storage space as a real issue, especially as many of them were set up in buildings that were only later converted into museums (castles, convents, temples, industrial buildings, dwellings, etc.).

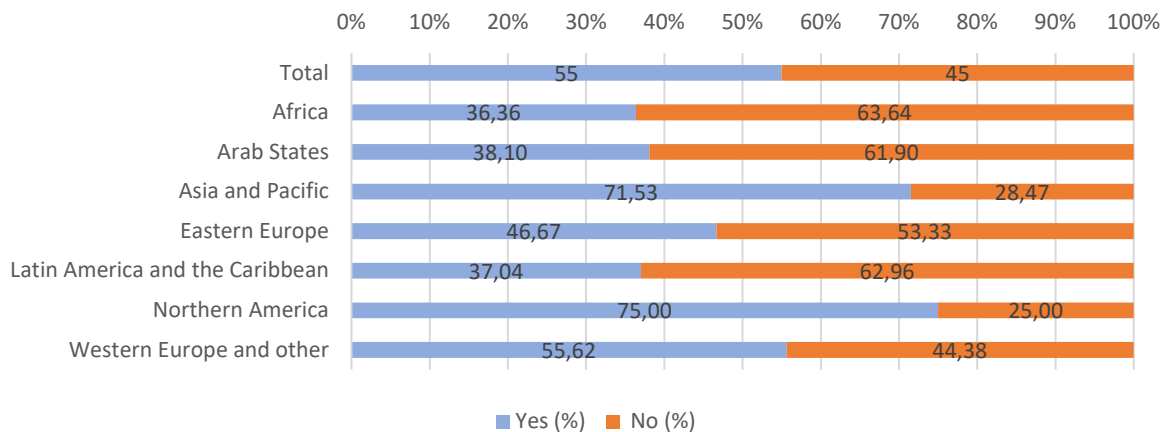


Fig. 12. Storage specially designed to house the collection

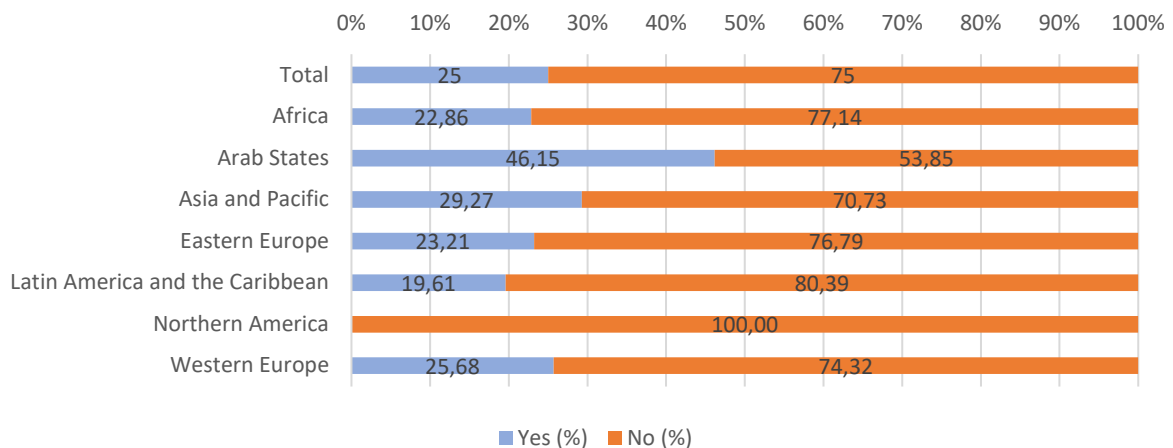


Fig. 13. Storage spaces meet the needs of the museum collections

Overall, 55% of storage spaces have been specifically designed to house collections (Fig 12). This ratio is even higher in Asia and North America. On the other hand, this ratio is much less favourable in Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa and Arab States. Spaces fitted out as storage spaces, but not designed as such, do not seem to fulfil the needs of collections in all regions - for 75% of museums responding to the survey (Fig. 13). Comments made during the survey reveal the variety of spaces 'converted' into storage spaces: offices, closets, corridors, hotels, hospitals, etc. Part of the collection may also be stored outside the building, in conservation conditions defined as poor or non-existent.

Two types of storage spaces can be distinguished: those present on site, within the museum building itself (which represents the majority of cases), and those outside the museum, that are not accessible directly from the museum.

2.1. On-site storage

Most of the participating museums (79%) have on-site storage facilities. Generally speaking, these can be located in different areas of the museum. Overall, just under half of the museums in the sample have fewer than 6 areas or rooms dedicated to collection storage. The space occupied by the collections differs significantly from region to region: it appears to be larger in Asia, and considerably smaller in Africa and in Arab countries (Fig. 14-16 and Appendix 3.1).

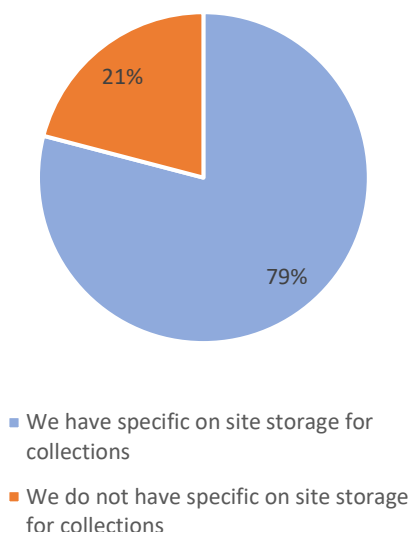


Fig. 14. On-site storage

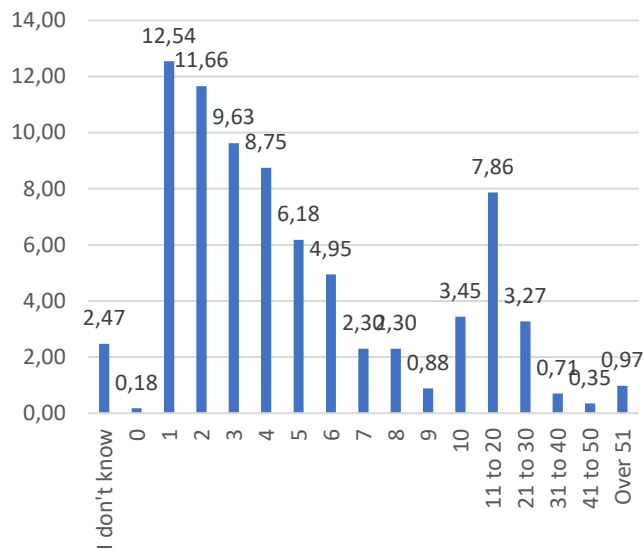


Fig. 15. Number of on-site rooms (%)

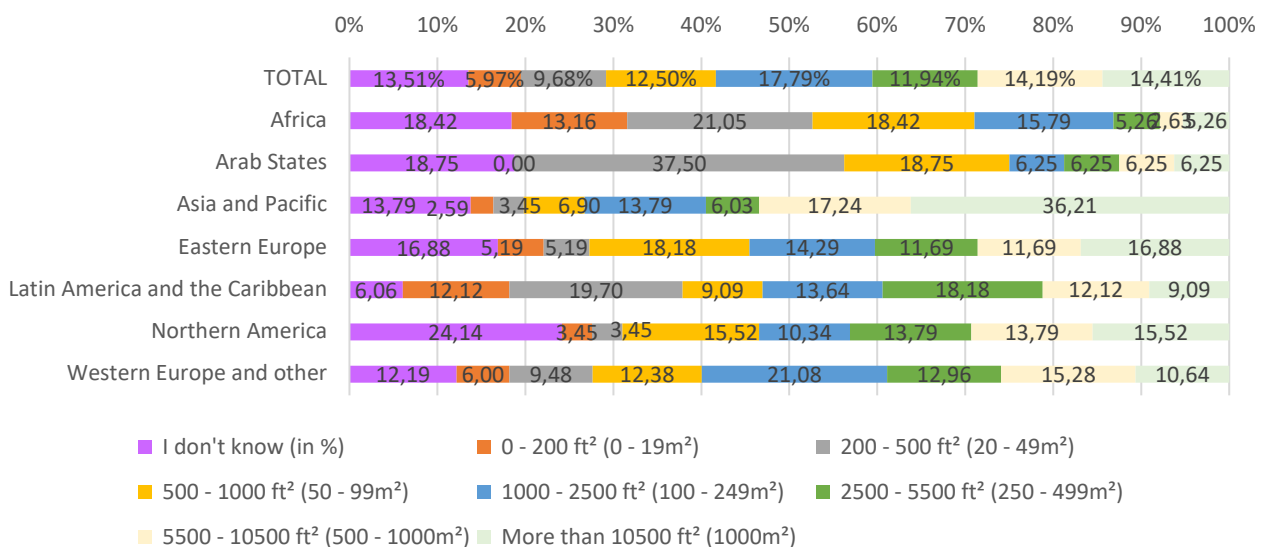


Fig. 16. Total on-site storage surface

These storage spaces are located mostly on the ground floor (36%) and in basements (31%). However, there are also spaces on upper floors (21%) and in attics (12%).

Overall, almost all museums report difficulties developing their storage facilities: almost a third say they have run out of space, while almost 45% believe they have a remaining capacity of around 15% of their space. Inevitably, only the most recent institutions (less than 10 years old) mention that they have significant storage capacities, and logically, the older the museum, the more problems with storage it seems to experience (all regions taken together) (Fig. 17 and appendix 3.1).

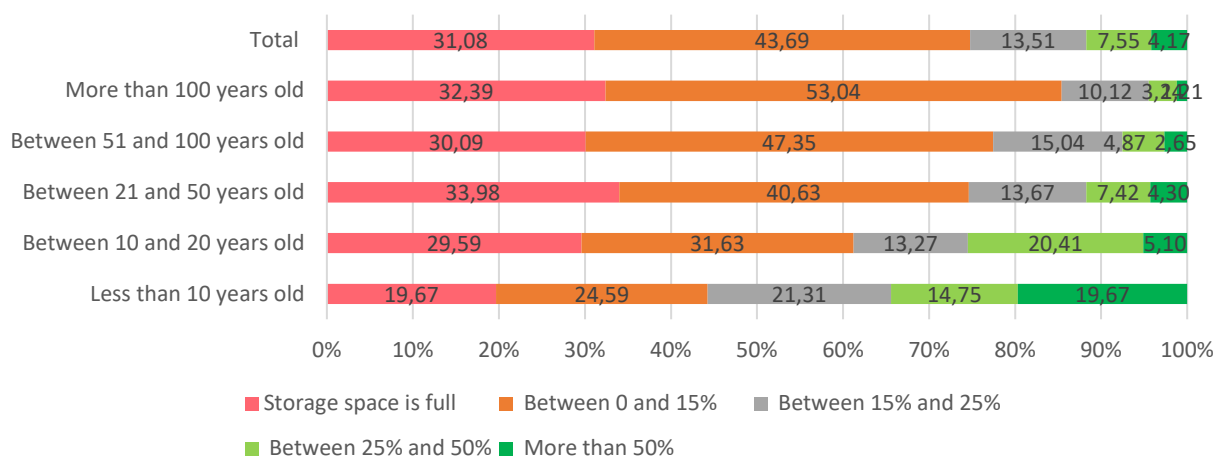


Fig. 17. On-site storage capacity compared to the age of the museum

2.2. Off-site storage

The issue of lack of space is a long-standing one and has led many museum managers, particularly those with the largest collections, to consider the construction of special buildings to compensate for the lack of space. As most major institutions are located in city centres, since the late 1970s many have opted to build specific structures in the suburbs, sometimes several dozen kilometres away from the museums²⁵. This type of solution has become increasingly popular in recent years, as demonstrated by the various experiments described in the above-mentioned issue of *Museum International*. Nevertheless, the present survey reveals the extent of this phenomenon: 44% of museums responding to the survey declared having a special building constructed off-site (Figs. 18 and 19). This does not mean, however, that these buildings have been designed as storage spaces or benefit from all the latest technologies in collections management and preventive conservation. This situation can be observed throughout the world, but is most common in Arab, Asian, European and North American countries. A significant proportion of these buildings are quite distant from the main institution: only 17% can be reached in less than 10 minutes on foot, a quarter can be reached in less than fifteen minutes by car (24%), while others are considerably further away: 30% are up to

²⁵ Mairesse François, « La collection a-t-elle un avenir au sein du musée ? », *Culture & Musées*, 2021, 37, pp. 31-52. <https://doi.org/10.4000/culturemusees.6124>

30 minutes away, and almost a third are 30 minutes by car (29%), particularly for museums in large cities (almost 50% of this type of storage, see Appendix 3.2).

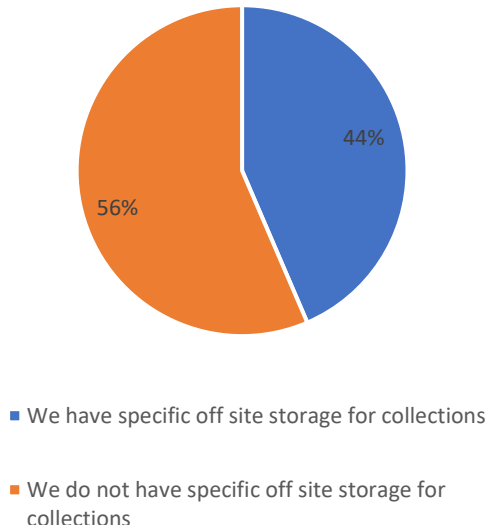


Fig. 18. Off-site storage

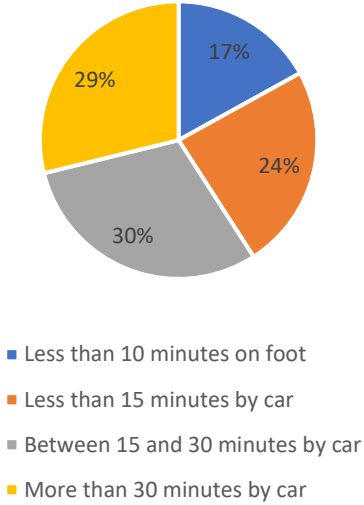


Fig. 19. Access time from the museum

Overall, off-site storage facilities are considerably larger than on-site ones: almost a quarter of museums with such facilities reported they were over 10,500 ft² or 1,000 m² (Fig. 20). Most of these buildings (for more than half of museums with such facilities) are reserved exclusively for the use of museums that responded to the survey. The remaining spaces are shared, almost equally, either with other museums, or with other public institutions such as archives or libraries, or sometimes with private institutions or collectors (Appendix 3.2).

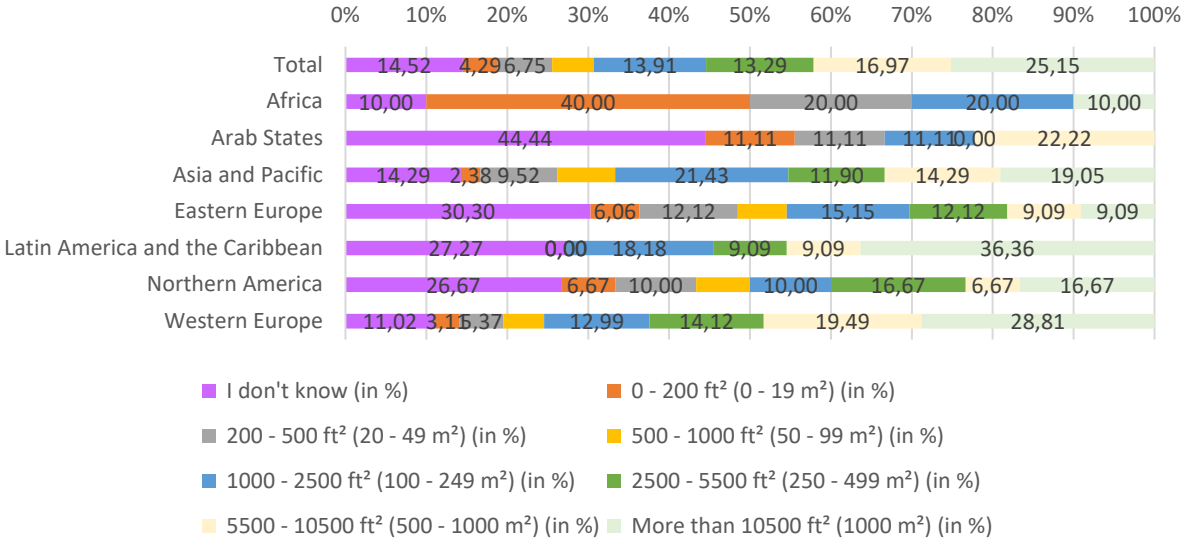


Fig. 20. Total surface of off-site storage (%)

The relocation of some or all of the collections from the main museum building to allocated space in off-site storage is intended to free up space for other activities, such as enlarging exhibition galleries,

educational services or visitor reception areas (welcome desk, bookshops, cafeteria, etc.). At the same time, the construction of off-site storage, particularly those built recently, has led some institutions to equip them with areas designed to be accessible to the general public (see below).

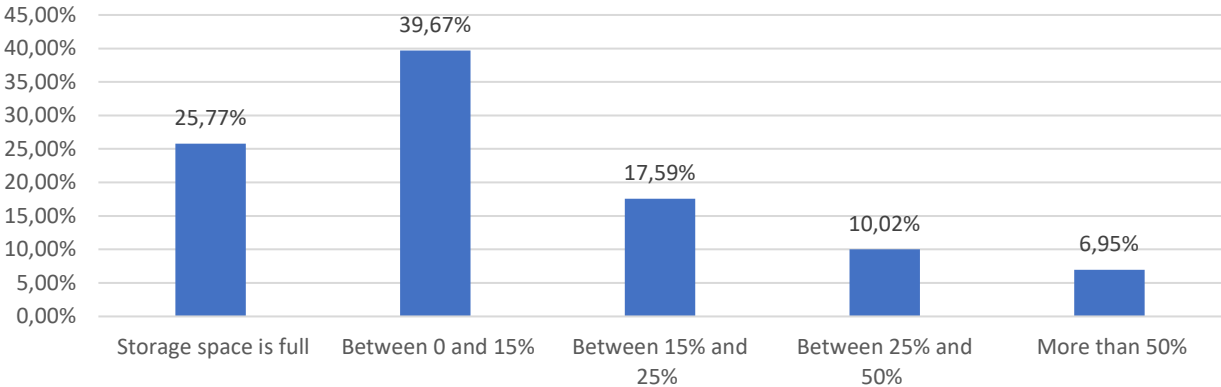


Fig. 21. Off-site storage capacity

The capacity of these storage rooms/facilities, generally built to solve space shortage problems, has certainly improved the situation, but has not completely resolved it. A quarter of the museums that have opted for this solution (compared with almost 40% of all institutions) still report a lack of space, while around 40% (compared with almost 50%) have less than 15% space to house new acquisitions.

2.3. Collection documentation

Storage areas are, as such, only a more or less sophisticated part of the building: the quality of their operations depends on the quality of the inventory and documentation system put in place to manage the collections, and in particular to identify and locate objects in storage. For a long time, this system remained strictly manual; developments in information technology in the 1960s led to the first experiments with databases and collection management²⁶, and then to increasingly systematic development in the 1990s. Today, only a small number of institutions have a purely manual documentation system (7%), mainly in Africa and in Arab countries (Fig. 22 and Appendix 3.3).

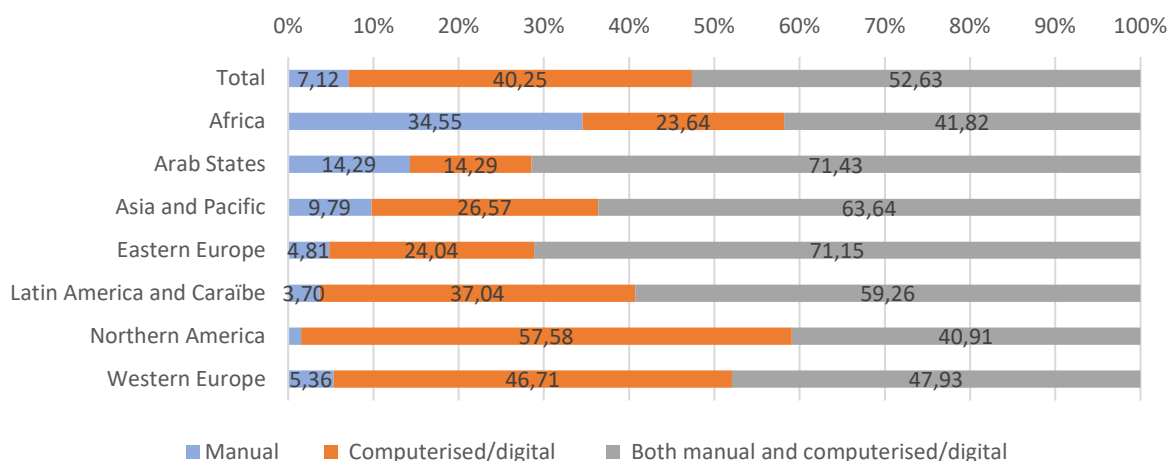


Fig. 22. Type of documentation system (1123 answers)

While more than half of museums claim to have both paper and digital inventories (53%), it is interesting to note a trend towards 'all-digital'. While museums in Eastern Europe, Asia-Pacific and Arab States still maintain a dual system, more and more museums in North America and Western Europe seem to be going purely digital. The move to all-digital is also being considered for communication reasons, as mentioned by professionals during our interviews. Museums with larger collections are making slightly more use of digital documentation systems (Appendix 3.3).

A. Museums with manual and computerised inventories

In the case of museums equipped with both paper and digital documentation systems, the vast majority (87%) - whatever the size of the collection - have a physical register or inventory book, a copy that is kept in a safe place (64%) (Appendix 3.3).

²⁶ Metropolitan Museum of Art, *Computers and their potential applications in museums*, New York, Arno Press, 1968.

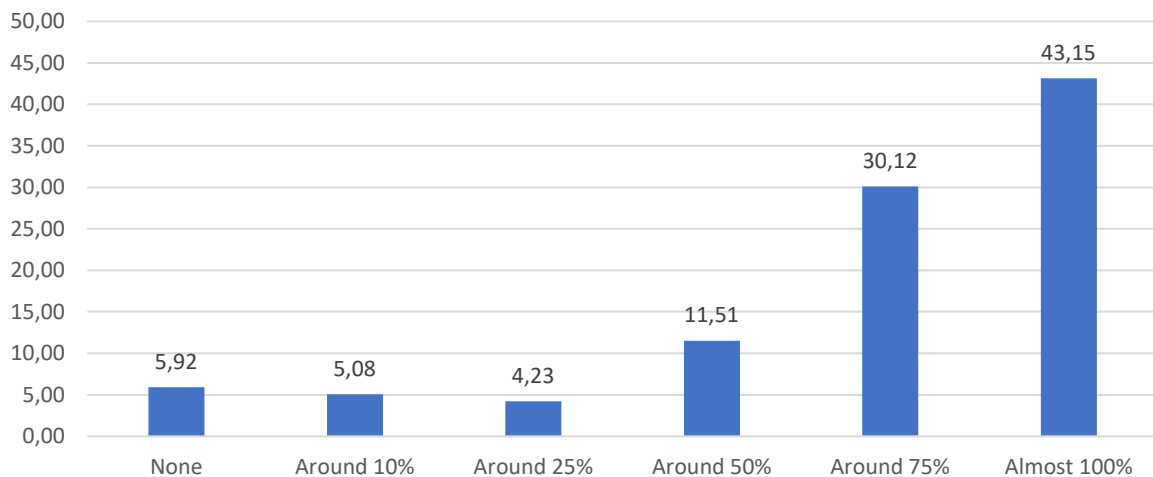


Fig. 23. Proportion of objects in the inventory (%)

The percentage of inventoried objects includes almost all of the collection in over 40% of cases, and around 75% of objects in 30% of cases. This still means that just under 30% of museums worldwide have a largely incomplete inventory (Fig. 23). Unsurprisingly, institutions with the largest collections (over 500,000 objects) rarely declare their collections as being fully documented, or at least much less than other museums (around 20 to 25% of the collection, compared with an average of 45% for the others). This percentage differs quite significantly according to the type of collection (as long as we only consider museums that have indicated holding only one type of collection): more than half of Fine Arts and History museums (but also Military History museums) have a complete inventory, compared to less than 30% of objects inventoried for Natural History collections, and 40% for Archaeology museums (Tab. 5). The proportion of objects benefiting from a specific marking (inventory number) largely follows that of inventoried objects; certain differences appear according to collection types, the digitisation of inventory of fine art museums appears to be significantly more advanced than that of natural history museums (Appendix 3.3). Generally speaking, the computerised inventory shows similar differences in terms of proportion of inventoried objects as the manual inventory, but appears more incomplete: only 37% of museums have their inventory fully computerised, while more than 10% have 10% of their inventory computerised, 10% of museums have around 25% of their inventory computerised and 14% of museums around 50% (Appendix 3.3). Here too, the size of the collection appears to be a determining factor: the most comprehensively inventoried collections are small (less than 5000 objects).

Tab. 5. Proportion of the objects in the inventory by collection type						
	Archeology	Ethnography	Fine Arts	History	Military	Natural History
None	3.33	4.76	8.75	8.70	0.00	7.14
Around 10%	6.67	4.76	3.75	2.17	0.00	10.71
Around 25%	8.33	0.00	2.50	6.52	0.00	7.14
Around 50%	11.67	19.05	6.25	6.52	16.67	7.14
Around 75%	30.00	28.57	27.50	19.57	0.00	39.29
Almost 100%	40.00	42.86	51.25	56.52	83.33	28.57
Total	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

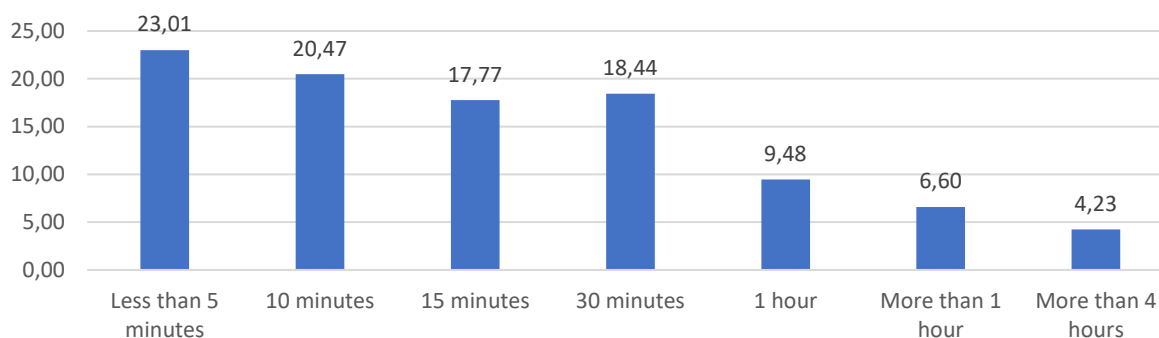


Fig. 24. Average time to retrieve an object in storage (%)

The average time needed to find an object depends, as several managers commented, on the nature of the request, the quality of the inventory (whether the card is fully documented and enables the object to be located), the person available to retrieve it, the size and weight of the object (small objects are more difficult to find), the condition of the object (packed or unpacked), etc. The average time it takes to find an object in a storage space is reported to be relatively short: a maximum of 30 minutes in 80% of cases, and less than five minutes in almost a quarter of cases.

The question of the condition of the storage also requires an assessment of how the inventory relates to the actual state of the objects in the storage. The resulting principle of collection survey can be considered through regular or random audits, and sometimes more systematically (particularly in France, where legislation requires an inventory every ten years). Nearly 20% of institutions report that this type of assessment was carried out around two years ago, but over 10% admit that they have never conducted it: more than half of institutions note that this task is 'in progress', an answer that may be open to many interpretations (Fig. 25).

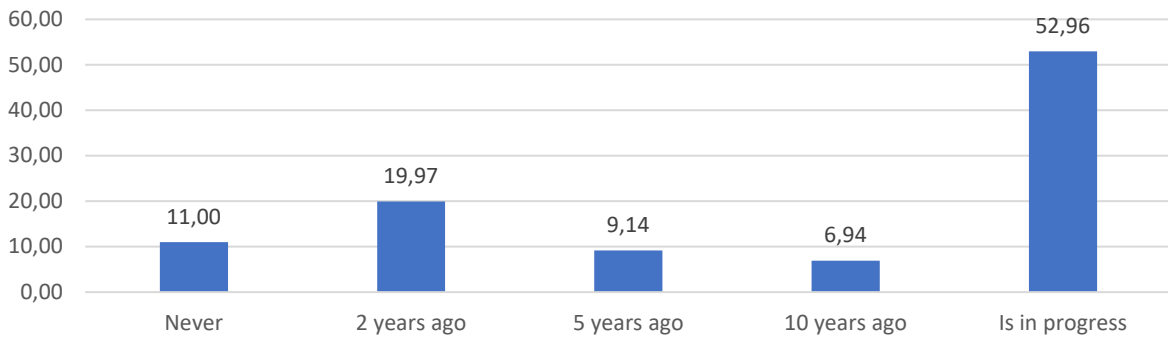


Fig. 25. Date of the last collection survey (%)

B. Museums with computerised inventories

As mentioned above, almost 40% of museums have taken the 'all-digital' route, and now carry out their inventories exclusively on a computer, despite the fragility of digital media and data conservation issues. Responses concerning the proportion of collections inventoried online are almost identical to those of museums using the dual system (Fig. 26).

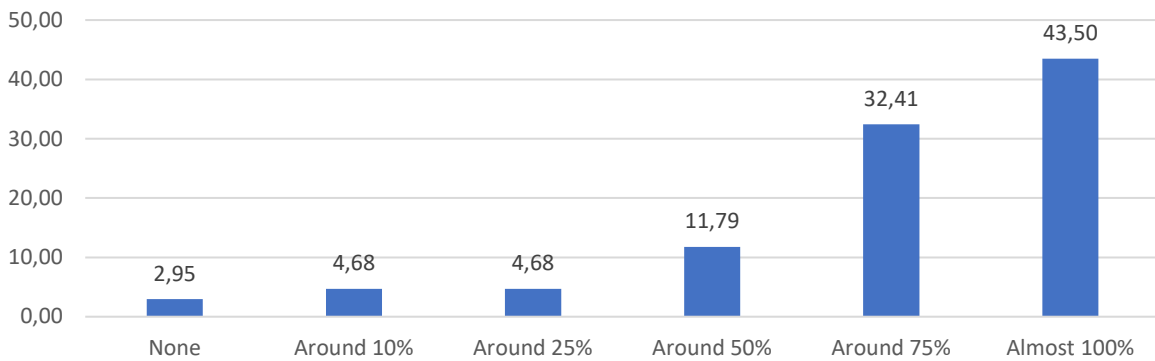


Fig. 26. Proportion of objects in the digital inventory (%)

According to the comments, some participants lament that the computer software used is not sufficiently maintained and updated, and state that the equipment is obsolete. While, overall, inventory levels appear identical for museums that have retained the dual system and those with a computerised inventory, computer-only museums are slightly less likely to integrate an inventory number or a mark with the objects in their collection (Fig. 27). Around 38% of the museums to have opted for this system have integrated physical marking into almost 100% of their collections, compared with just over 43% of the collections inventoried using the dual procedure. On the other hand, in contrast to the latter, there are almost no museums that inventory only digitally and have not developed a marking policy.

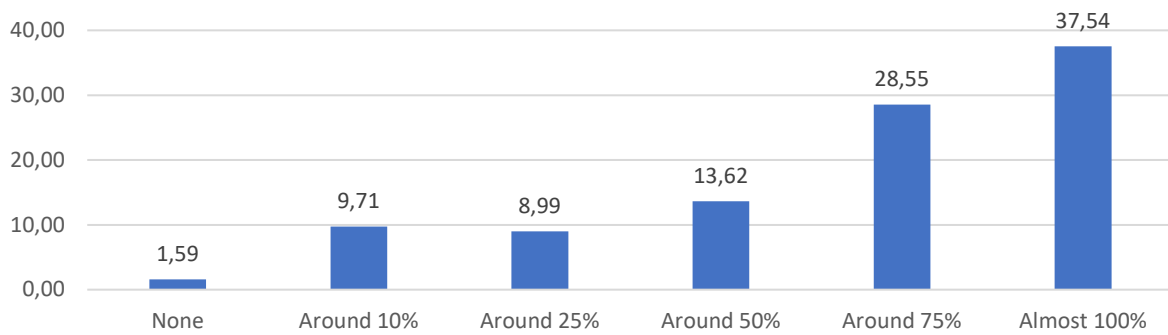


Fig. 27. Proportion of marked objects (inventory number) (%)

Despite the method of marking objects being seldom used by museums with computerised inventories, it does not hinder the search for objects in storage spaces. According to the answers, they are more likely to find objects in their collections quickly (almost 27% in less than five minutes, compared to 23% for those who do not use markings), while lengthy searches are also less frequent (Fig. 28). On the other hand, the answers given about collection survey are relatively similar to those of institutions with a dual inventory system (see Appendix 3.3).

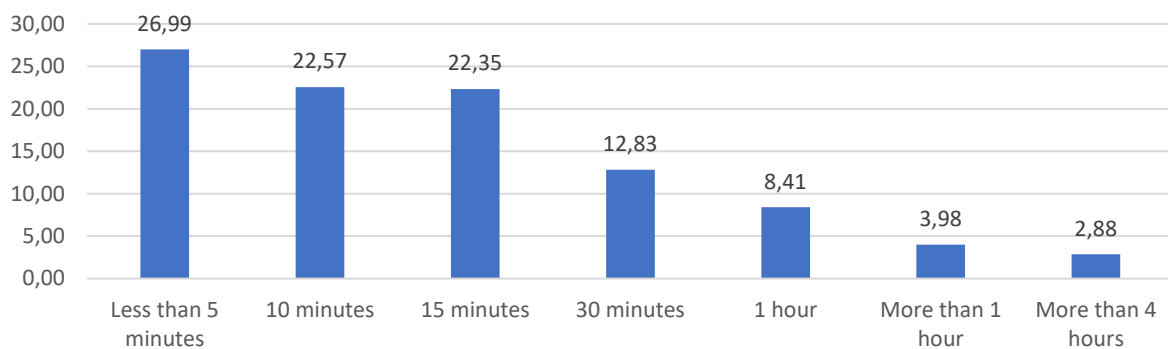


Fig. 28. Average time to retrieve an object in storage (%)

3. Storage units

3.1. Physical condition of storages

Overall, the condition of storage spaces is judged to be rather unfavourable by the majority of museums, particularly with regard to the lack of equipment (Fig. 29). Most types of furniture are widely considered to be in short supply. Nearly 60% of museums report a lack of mobile shelving, pallets, racks, cabinets and so on. Slightly more than 40% also admit that not all objects are kept in adequate storage furniture. This finding echoes that of ICCROM's survey in 2011, which lamented that one museum in two suffered from a lack of storage units, two museums in three suffered from a lack of space, and two museums in five had storage units that were not suitable for that type of collection. This situation does not differ much between regions, with the areas experiencing the most difficulties tending to be those where museums have been developing for the longest time: Europe and North America. With the exception of large museums (more than 500,000 visitors per year) that are over 20 years old, or those with the largest collections, objects are in fact, according to the responses, not sufficiently stored in purpose-built storage units (shelves or cupboards), with some of these being recycled storage units not designed for museums (Appendix 4).

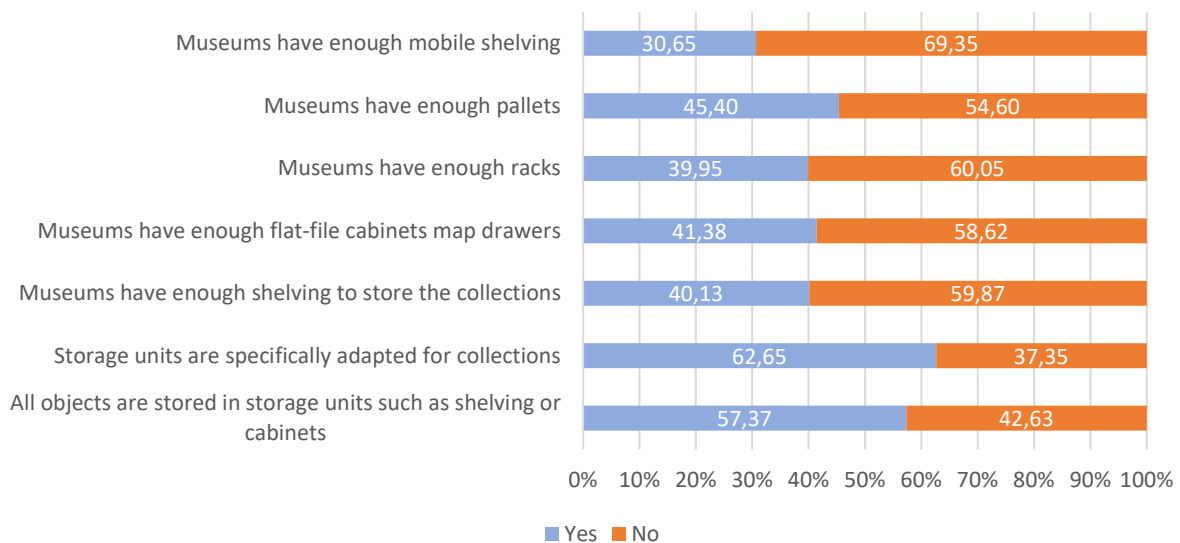


Fig. 29. State of the storage space (%)

Museums, especially those with small collections (less than 20,000 objects), seem to be the most affected in this respect, lacking adequate equipment to store specific collections.

As mentioned again in the comments, many heavy and bulky objects occupy considerable floor space and are stored in unsuitable areas, putting them at risk of damage.

3.2. Use of collections in storage

The use of collections in storage, as reported by participating museums, remains largely reserved for specialists, for research purposes or loans for exhibitions. Museums give priority to using collections for internal research purposes, then for loans to other institutions (mainly institutions, very rarely cultural groups), and finally for digitisation, to make unexhibited objects accessible (Fig. 30). This last activity was probably reinforced following the Covid-19 pandemic, demonstrating the importance of digitisation to enable visitors to access museums remotely. Each of these activities is organised by almost 50% of the museums in the sample. However, only over 10% of the institutions in the sample have gone further in communicating about their collections, setting up visible (if not visitable) storage spaces, while almost 20% organise tours for the general public. There is little disparity in these activities between regions of the globe.

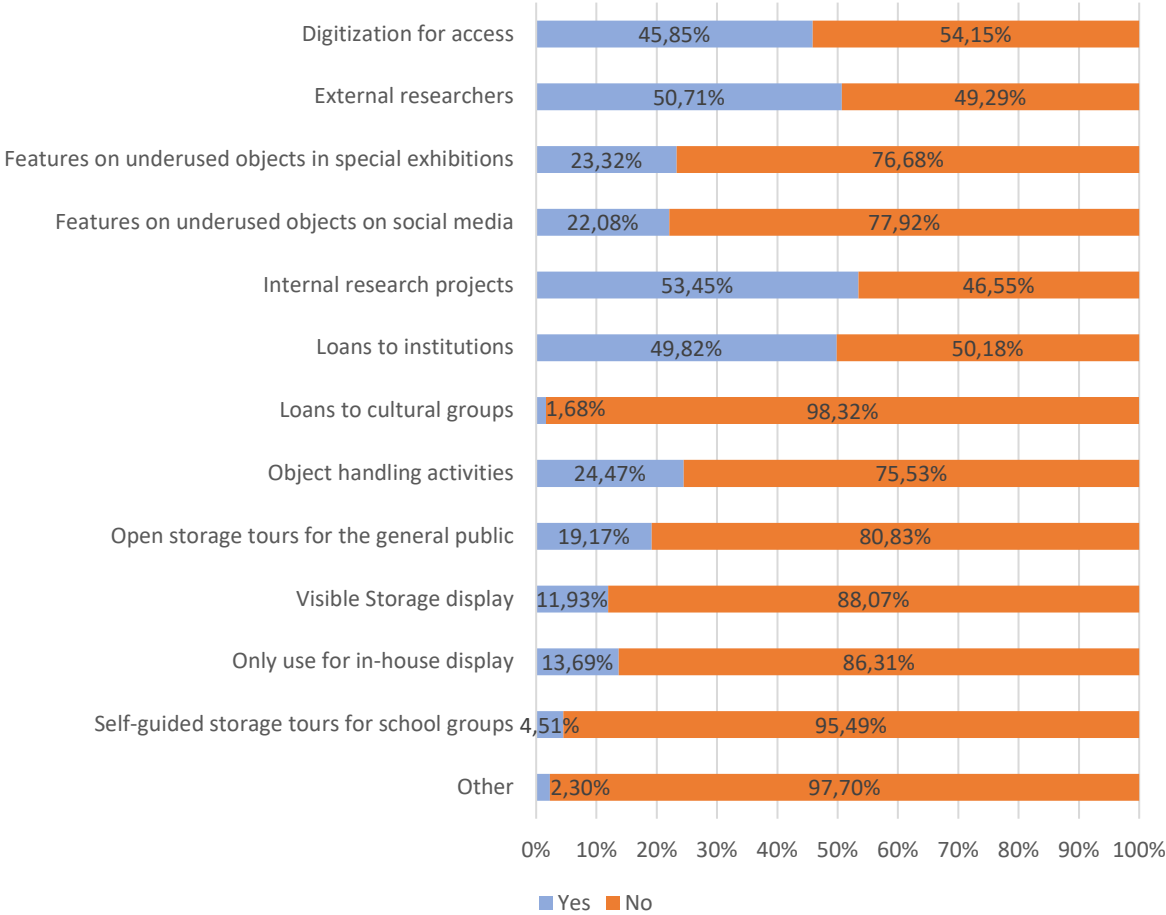


Fig. 30. Use of collections in storage

3.3. Storage development over the 10 last years

Over the last ten years, museum collections have, on average (58%), increased by between 5% and 10%, according to the professionals who responded to the survey. A few potentially more recent museums report greater increases: 15% report increases of 50%, and almost 9% have even seen the number of objects more than double. Very few institutions reported a reduction in collections (Fig. 31).

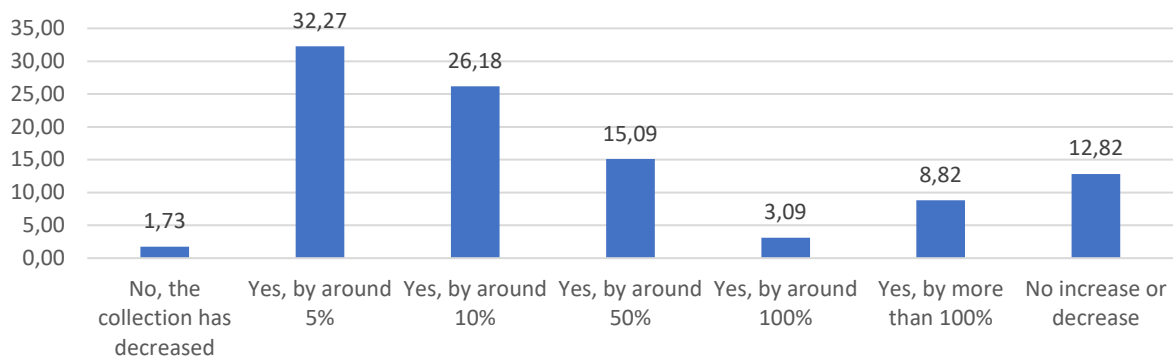


Fig. 31. Increase of the collection (%)

Despite this steady increase, most of the professionals who responded to the survey rate the development of storage relatively positively, with the majority considering that the situation has improved over the last ten years (i.e., probably partly during the time that they have been involved). Only a small number (less than 15%) think that the situation has deteriorated, to a greater or lesser extent (Fig. 32).

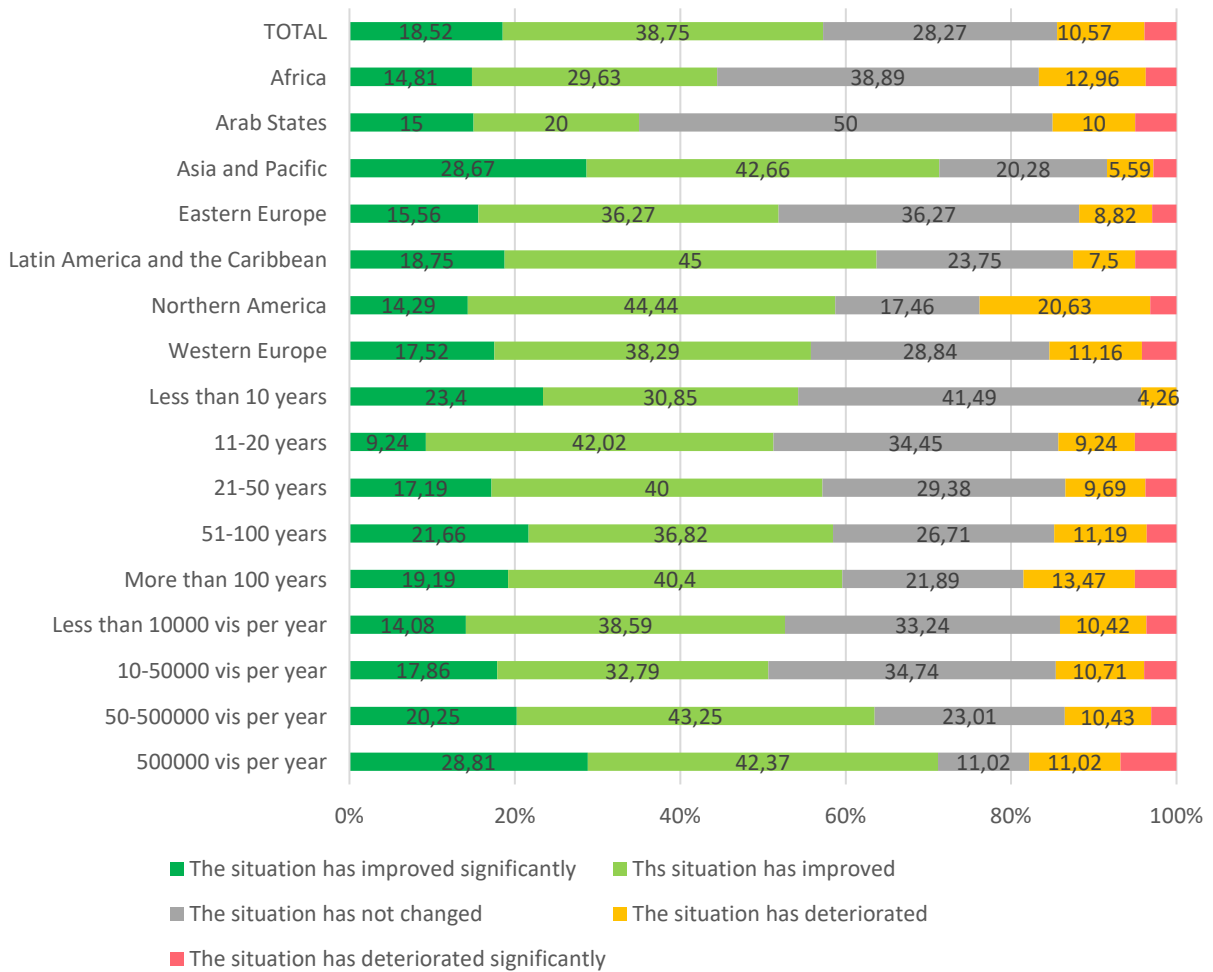


Fig. 32. Development over the last 10 years

The observation that the situation of collection storages has improved is shared in all regions of the world. There are, however, some regional differences: while North America takes a more negative view, museums in Asia and the Pacific, which have benefited from a great deal of investment in recent years, appear to be much more optimistic. The length of time a museum has been in operation seems to have a fairly strong influence on its attitude: the most recent museums are the most optimistic, while the oldest institutions consider the situation to have changed for the worse. This is also the case for museums with the highest visitor numbers, which paradoxically have both the most optimistic and the most negative views.

3.4. Contemporary issues: storage staff

The management of human resources is at the heart of the problem facing storage, both in terms of the traceability of collections via tools and databases, and the availability of sufficiently trained staff

for this purpose²⁷. In ICCROM's 2011 survey, nearly two in five museums noted that their staff were insufficiently trained to manage collections, and pointed to the absence of full-time managers, while one in three admitted that they could not identify the person in charge of storage in their museum, and that there were unclear collection management procedures.

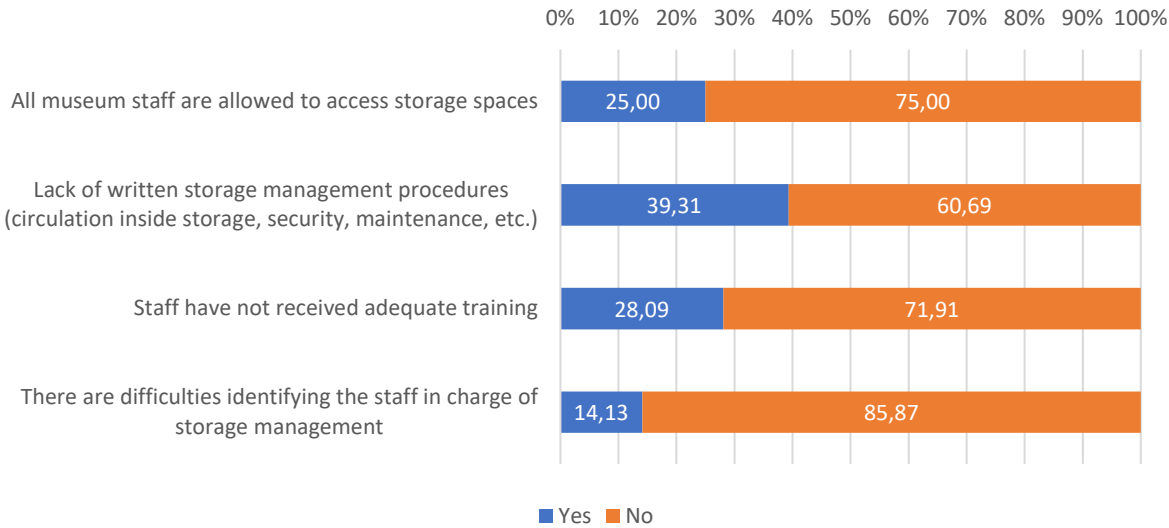


Fig. 33. Storage staff

The responses to the present survey point to the same direction (Fig. 33). While the situation seems more consistent in terms of identifying the person responsible for the storage (just under 15% admit to difficulties), we find the same concerns in terms of training (almost 30%), the level of staff accessibility to the storage (25% report that anyone can enter the storage) and procedures concerning storage management (almost 40% underline shortcomings in this area). Overall, small museums have far more difficulties in this respect (between a third to half of responses mention difficulties) than larger museums which receive the most visitors (usually less than 10%). On the other hand, it is not always the oldest institutions, but rather those between 20 and 50 years old (i.e. designed more than a generation ago), that report the greatest difficulties (Appendix 4). In their comments, participants stressed the need to implement rules concerning the use of storage spaces to avoid clutter. For example, it was felt that too many museum staff, and even unauthorised external people, could access the storage spaces, since access is not restricted to those in charge, or subject to reporting procedures.

²⁷ One museum in four reports the absence of an 'object movement register' in the ICCROM-UNESCO international survey on storage (2011).

3.5. Infrastructure and documentation

Professionals’ observations on storage infrastructure largely confirm those of the ICCROM survey carried out a few years ago. According to the latter, two in three museums lamented a lack of space, and one in two complained of a lack of storage units. One in three museums felt that their storage spaces were inadequately cleaned, as was the maintenance of their buildings. Finally, for one museum in four, objects remained on the floor in the storage spaces, and the location of collections remained problematic. Current results confirm this trend (Fig. 34).

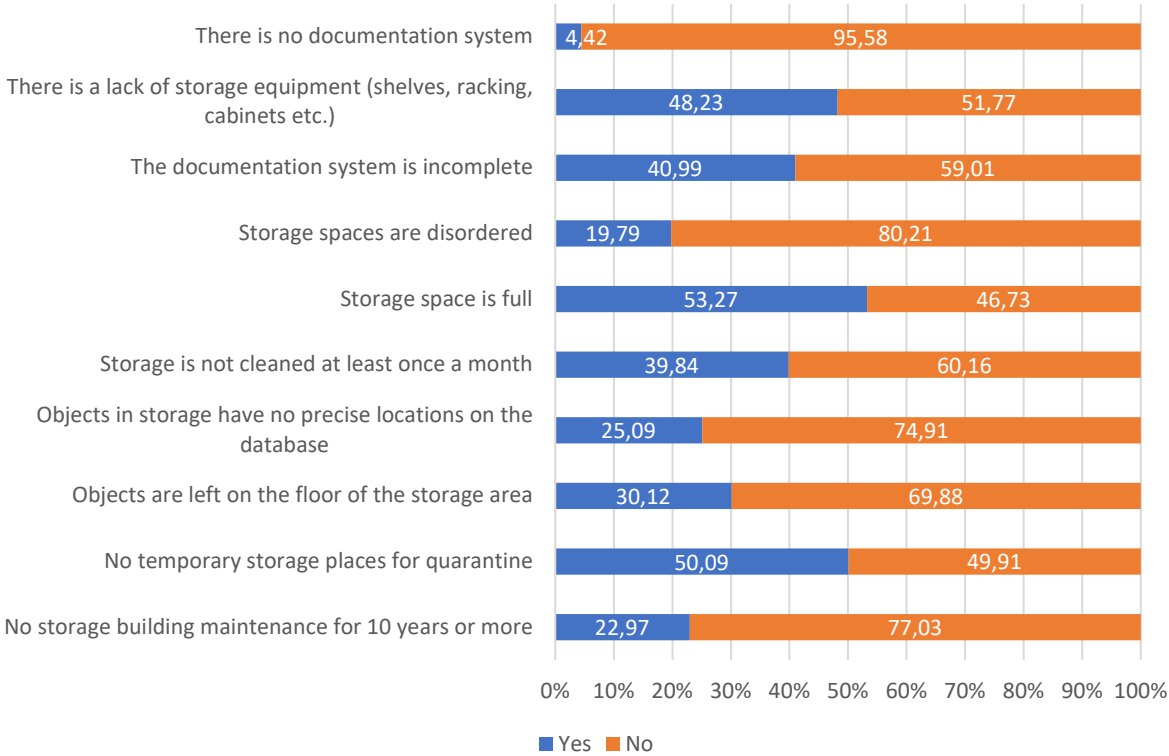


Fig. 34. Infrastructure and Documentation (%)

Lack of space is mentioned by over 53% of all institutions, and lack of storage units by 48%. Insufficient cleaning was mentioned by almost 40% of museums, while lack of maintenance was highlighted by almost 23%. Although almost all museums have a system for documenting their collections, this is reported as incomplete in over 40% of cases, while location problems are mentioned in one in four cases. However, there are significant regional differences in these results (Tab. 6).

Tab. 6. Conservation issues by region

	No storage building maintenance for 10 years or more	No temporary storage places for quarantine	Objects are left on the floor of the storage space	Objects have no precise locations on the database	Storage is not cleaned at least once a month	Storage space is full	Storage spaces are disordered	The doc. system is incomplete	Lack of storage equipment	There is no doc. system
Africa	45,45%	65,45%	36,36%	34,55%	25,45%	50,91%	16,36%	58,18%	69,09%	7,27%
Arab States	38,10%	52,38%	42,86%	57,14%	47,62%	61,90%	33,33%	57,14%	57,14%	19,05%
Asia and Pacific	21,58%	39,57%	30,22%	23,02%	31,65%	45,32%	18,71%	35,25%	38,13%	6,47%
Eastern Europe	25,71%	57,14%	40,00%	22,86%	25,71%	54,29%	14,29%	26,67%	56,19%	4,76%
Latin America and the Caribbean	32,10%	56,79%	29,63%	32,10%	22,22%	54,32%	23,46%	51,85%	62,96%	9,88%
North America	10,29%	51,47%	30,88%	22,06%	52,94%	42,65%	20,59%	33,82%	33,82%	1,47%
Western Europe and others	20,66%	48,87%	27,60%	23,53%	45,55%	55,66%	20,21%	41,93%	46,76%	2,87%
Objects										
Less than 1000	24,49	56,12	25,51	33,67	47,96	50,00	20,41	38,78	52,04	11,22
Less than 5000	25,67	58,29	32,62	30,48	32,62	54,55	19,79	43,32	52,41	6,42
5000 - 10000	18,67	49,33	24,00	18,00	32,67	47,33	14,00	44,00	46,00	2,67
10000 - 20000	29,86	56,25	32,64	26,39	45,14	51,39	21,53	44,44	48,61	6,94
20000 - 50000	19,86	47,95	34,93	25,34	40,41	58,22	17,81	41,10	47,95	1,37
50000 - 100000	25,58	52,71	34,88	27,91	42,64	55,81	24,03	37,21	49,61	3,88
100000 - 500000	18,75	44,44	25,00	20,14	32,64	47,92	20,83	38,89	43,75	2,78
500000 - 1000000	15,09	30,19	24,53	18,87	50,94	71,70	22,64	39,62	52,83	1,89
More than 1000000	24,69	37,04	33,33	20,99	50,62	53,09	19,75	37,04	40,74	1,23

While the issue of collection documentation does not appear to be a problem for North American and European museums, those in Latin America, Africa and Arab States still regard it as relatively important. Overall, similarities can be observed when it comes to the lack of equipment, the location of objects, maintenance issues and the lack of quarantine facilities. On the other hand, there are fewer differences when it comes to disorder in storage spaces or the presence of objects on the floor. These regional differences are, however, relatively limited, as are those relating more generally to the size of the institutions (categorised on the basis of the number of objects in the collection). In their responses, the larger institutions sometimes report a much more positive situation with regard to certain aspects (notably the presence of a documentation system or the existence of a quarantine area), but in a large number of cases, their situation is quite similar to that of museums with smaller collections.

3.6. Preventive conservation and risk management

The ICCROM survey reported a number of difficulties related to security and preventive conservation, noting that one museum in five had experienced infestation problems (rodents, insects, etc.), and one museum in ten mentioned object theft. The findings of the present survey reveal similar, though potentially more limited, difficulties (Fig. 35).

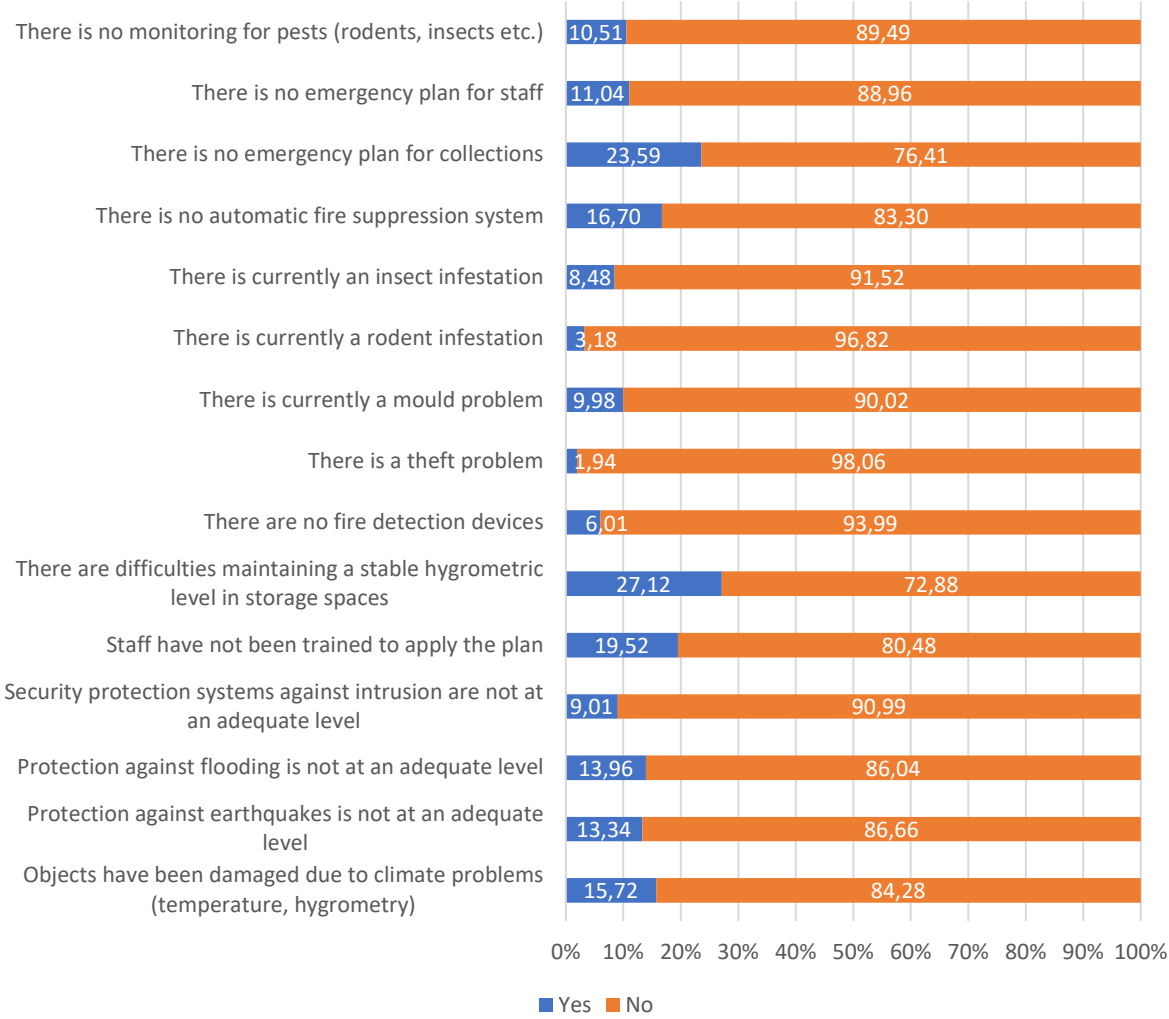


Fig. 35. Preventive conservation and risk management (%)

Overall, museums are still highlighting major difficulties in terms of preventive conservation, in particular the maintenance of a stable hygrometric climate, highlighted by more than one museum in four (27%). Infestation issues are present in just under 10% of institutions (insects: 8.5%, mould: 10%, rodents, 0.2%). The problem of theft, on the other hand, is virtually non-existent (less than 1%), but security issues to prevent intrusion remain a problem for around 10% of institutions.

The regional breakdown of museums reveals some significant disparities between responses (Tab. 7 and 8). Museums are not all equal when it comes to climate-related problems, and certain regions of

the globe are clearly more affected than others in this respect. For example, responses concerning difficulties in maintaining a stable hygrometric system are almost three times higher, depending on whether the museum is located in Eastern Europe (over 60%) or in Western Europe (around 20% of museums have problems) while almost four in ten museums located in Asia-Pacific, the Arab countries or Africa mention difficulties. Infestation issues show similar disparities, while security problems are also reported to be four times greater in some regions than in others.

Tab. 7. Preventive conservation and risk management by regions

	Objects damaged due to climate problems	Protection against earthquakes not at an adequate level	Protection against flooding not at an adequate level	Security protection systems not at an adequate level	Staff have not been trained to apply the plan	Difficulties maintaining a stable hygrometric level	No fire detection devices	Theft problem
Africa	27,27%	27,27%	40,00%	23,64%	36,36%	38,18%	27,27%	3,64%
Arab States	33,33%	28,57%	14,29%	23,81%	38,10%	42,86%	28,57%	19,05%
Asia and Pacific	26,62%	23,74%	17,99%	12,23%	31,65%	38,13%	4,32%	2,88%
Eastern Europe	26,67%	30,48%	24,76%	12,38%	27,62%	62,86%	9,52%	2,86%
Latin America and the Caribbean	4,94%	4,94%	9,88%	8,64%	9,88%	11,11%	6,17%	1,23%
North America	19,12%	7,35%	13,24%	11,76%	20,59%	25,00%	2,94%	0,00%
Western Europe and others	11,16%	8,45%	9,80%	5,88%	14,78%	19,91%	3,62%	1,21%
Global	15,72%	13,34%	13,96%	9,01%	19,52%	27,12%	6,01%	1,94%

Tab. 8. Preventive conservation and risk management by region (following)

	Mould problem	Rodent infestation	Insect infestation	No automatic fire suppression system	No emergency plan for collections	No emergency plan for staff	No monitoring for pests
Africa	12,73%	7,27%	12,73%	43,64%	52,73%	27,27%	14,55%
Arab States	19,05%	19,05%	23,81%	28,57%	57,14%	38,10%	28,57%
Asia and Pacific	17,99%	5,76%	17,99%	12,23%	26,62%	15,11%	22,30%
Eastern Europe	20,00%	3,81%	11,43%	36,19%	20,95%	10,48%	16,19%
Latin America and the Caribbean	4,94%	0,00%	1,23%	9,88%	11,11%	9,88%	0,00%
North America	4,41%	1,47%	2,94%	11,76%	19,12%	8,82%	8,82%
Western Europe and others	7,39%	2,26%	6,64%	13,27%	21,87%	8,45%	7,69%
Global	9,98%	3,18%	8,48%	16,70%	23,59%	11,04%	10,51%

Once again, the size of the institution seems to influence a number of responses, but not all: the museums that most often mention problems in terms of protection against earthquakes, floods or security (theft or fire) are generally smaller in size (with few visitors), but preventive conservation risks seem to affect both large and small institutions in most cases, for example when it comes to questions of infestation (insects, mould, etc.). Similarly, collection size does not appear to be a significant factor in relation to responses (Appendix 4).

4. Funding, communication and the future of storage

The final part of the survey focused on managers' position with regard to storage financing, management and development. They were asked to position themselves about several statements linked to this theme (Fig. 36 to 38). They were then asked to make statements about the future of the storage (Fig. 39). Here, the question of the financing and organisation of the storage, their value and their potential evolution in the coming years will be addressed in turn.

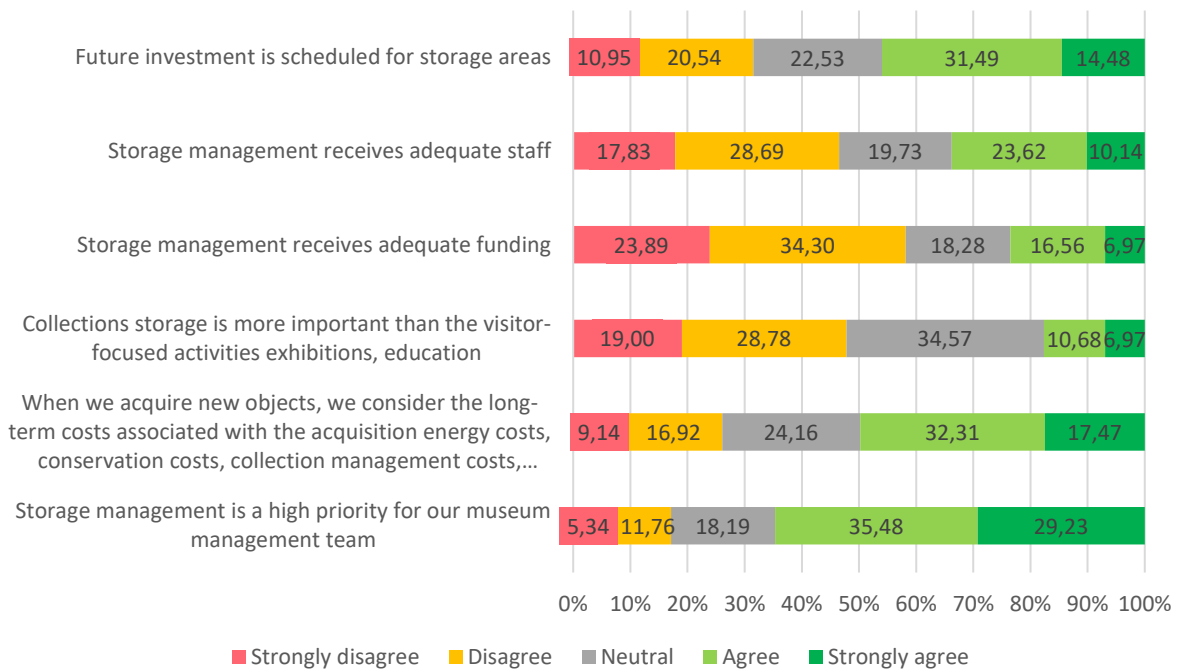


Fig. 36. Professionals' attitude towards storage funding

4.1. Funding and storage management

The majority of museums responding to our survey regret report they do not receive adequate funding for storage management. Overall, only 24%, or one in four institutions, consider that they receive sufficient funding for storage operations. The regions in which museums disagree most strongly to this statement are Africa (almost 70% object more or less strongly) and Latin America (71%) (Fig. 37). It is generally the largest institutions (which receive the most visitors) that consider themselves the best funded (Appendix 5). The situation is slightly better when it comes to staffing: one museum in three considers that it has enough staff to manage its storage.

While the situation remains problematic for a majority of museums, storage is considered a high priority by museum management by almost 65% of institutions, or two in three museums. This represents a slight improvement compared to the situation described in the 2011 ICCROM survey, where two in five museums complained of lack of support from their management.

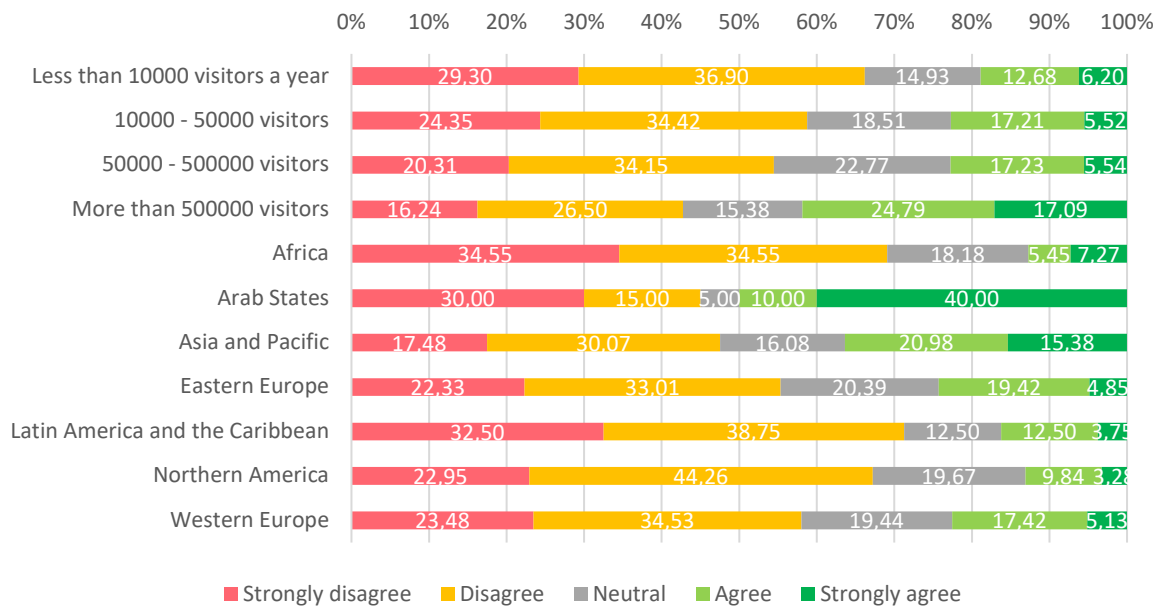


Fig. 37. Storage management receives adequate funding

Perhaps this assertion needs to be put into perspective, since almost a quarter of managers who completed the questionnaire are museum directors (Fig. 1); therefore, there is significantly higher agreement (almost 80%) for the responses from directors. Storage managers are less clear-cut in their opinion, but more than two-thirds of them agree with this statement (Appendix 5.1). The same is generally true of the work that could be carried out in the storage spaces: just over 45% of facilities agree that future investment is planned, to solve the problems mentioned above. This statement received a similar response across all regions, although it was more widely accepted (over 60%) in the museums with the highest visitor numbers.

In terms of management, almost half of the museums that responded cited the consideration of acquisitions in terms of the related costs for energy, conservation, collection management or space, as part of the procedures in place. Once again, it is the directors and heads of communications and public relations who favour this statement, while storage professionals are much more reserved in this respect (12% disagree with this statement, compared with 4% the directors). The same distribution is found between small and large institutions, with the latter clearly having further integrated this evaluation practice (see appendix 5.1). Overall, at museum level, collection management issues are seen as less important than visitor-focused issues (exhibition and education), although the situation is somewhat unclear in this respect: almost half of all institutions (48%) consider visitors to be the main focus, while fewer than one in five (17%) prioritise storage, and more than one in three (35%) take a neutral stance. This neutral attitude, favoured by the directors and communications managers (46%) who responded to the survey, implies that the two activities are equally prioritised, something that collection managers and conservators seem to share to a lesser extent.

4.2. Access and communication around storage

According to the museums that responded, more than half (55%) have made their storage spaces accessible to researchers and the public – provided they follow a written procedure. Nearly 30%, however, i.e. almost a third of institutions (especially the larger ones), do not guarantee access (Fig. 38). Accessibility for the general public remains much more limited: more than 87% of institutions – all regions and sizes combined – consider that public access during museum opening hours is not possible, while barely 5% of museums state that they can offer this service. Some museums have resolved the question of access to storage by integrating part of it into permanent exhibitions. This type of solution, which is much talked about today, is still rarely used by museums: just over 12% of them have partly opted for this solution – including 2% to a greater extent. This option is more regularly found in the newest museums (the oldest ones are the least likely to opt for these solutions), particularly in Asia-Pacific countries (see appendix 5.2).

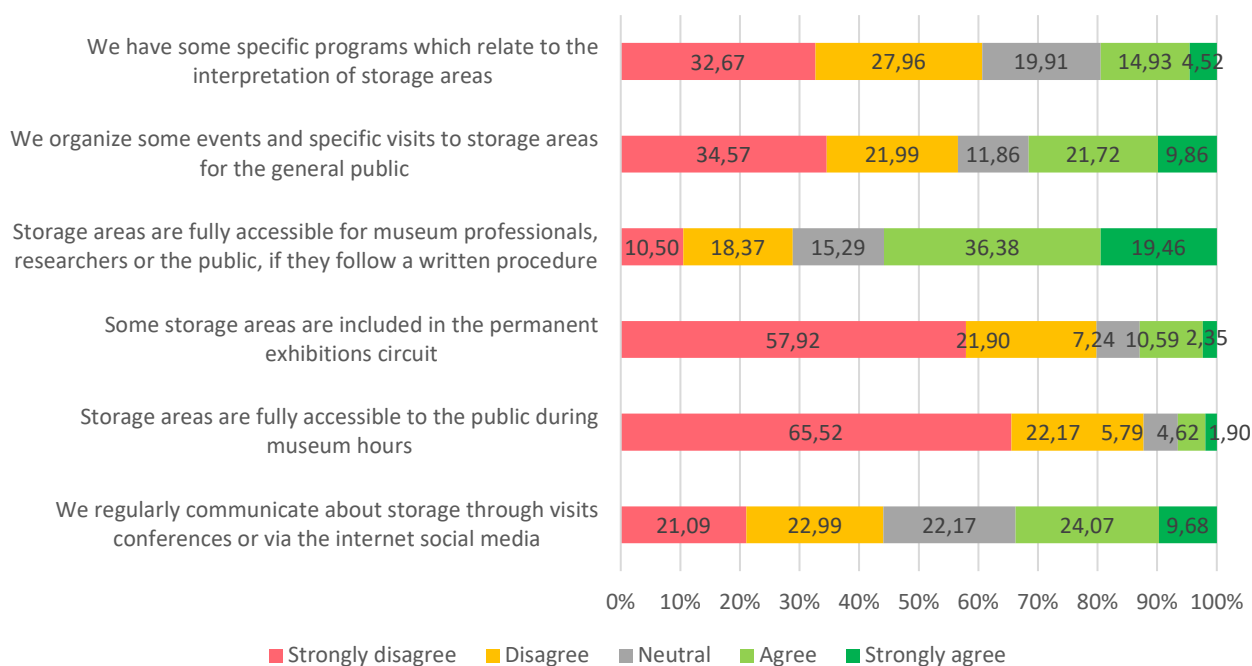


Fig. 38. Professionals' attitude towards storage communication

During the Covid-19 pandemic, when museums were closed, the question of communication about storage was the subject of numerous experiments²⁸. A third of the museums that responded said they regularly communicated about their storages through conferences or social media. The museums that were the most active on this topic, regionally speaking, tend to be located in Asia-Pacific and Latin America; the most enthusiastic are the newest, but above all the largest – a view

²⁸ UNESCO, *Museums around the World in the Face of Covid-19 – May 2020*, Paris, UNESCO (UNESCO Report).

particularly supported by the communications and public relations managers who completed the questionnaire. (Tab. 9 and Appendix 5.2).

Tab. 9 «We regularly communicate about storage through visits, conferences or via the internet social media»						
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Africa	21,82	27,22	23,64	16,36	10,91	100,00
Arab States	35,00	15,00	10,00	15,00	25,00	100,00
Asia and Pacific	11,19	15,38	27,27	28,67	17,48	100,00
Eastern Europe	13,59	29,13	28,16	22,33	6,80	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	13,75	21,25	25,00	22,50	17,50	100,00
North America	21,31	31,15	21,31	19,67	6,56	100,00
Western Europe and other	24,88	23,02	20,06	24,88	7,15	100,00
Less than 10 years old	22,34	12,77	22,34	26,60	15,96	100,00
Between 11 and 20 years old	21,85	24,37	24,37	19,33	10,08	100,00
Between 21 and 50 years old	19,12	23,20	24,45	22,88	10,34	100,00
Between 51 and 100 years old	18,84	25,00	22,46	23,91	9,78	100,00
More than 100 years old	24,58	23,57	18,52	26,60	6,73	100,00
Less than 10000 visitors per year	25,07	19,44	25,35	21,41	8,73	100,00
10000 - 50000 visitors per year	20,13	27,27	21,43	22,40	8,77	100,00
50000 - 500000 visitors per year	18,46	24,92	20,00	26,46	10,15	100,00
More than 500000 visitors per year	18,80	17,09	20,51	29,91	13,68	100,00

Following the same logic, it is the largest and newest museums that tend to organise special events and tours of their storage spaces for the public (Fig. 39), as well as offering specific interpretation programs (on average, almost one museum in five offers such programs, and one in three of those with more than 500,000 visitors).

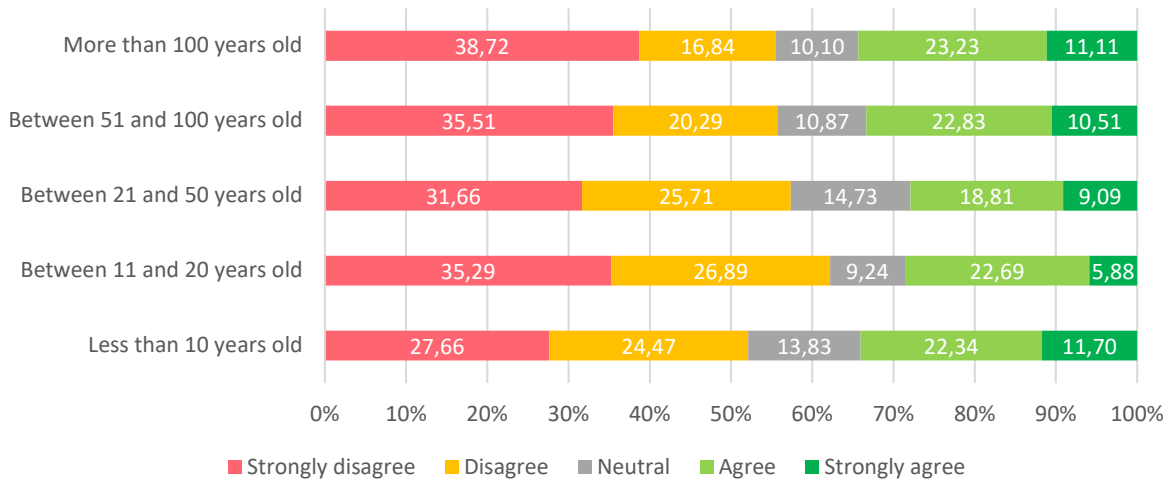


Fig. 39. «We organise some events and specific visits to storage areas for the general public» (%)

4.3. Storage development in the next 10 to 15 years

Finally, some final statements were presented to museum professionals concerning the possible development of storage in the coming years. These focused on two types of subject: how the general situation might evolve and how climate change might affect it, on one hand; the development of storage space infrastructure within museums (or externally) on the other (Fig. 40).

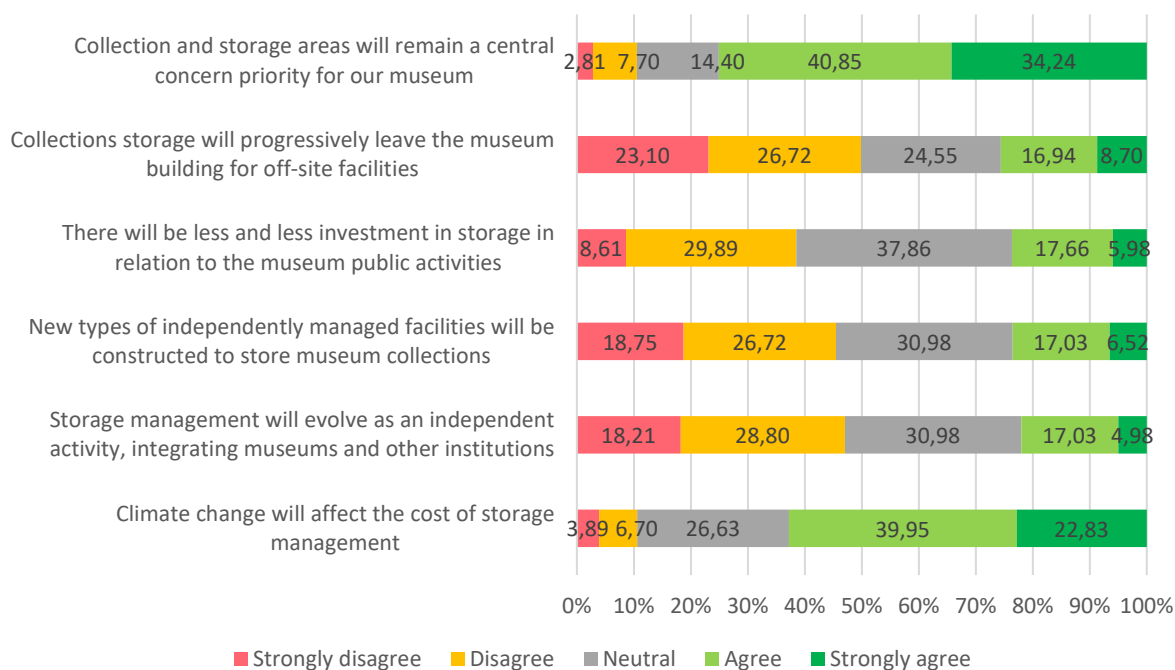


Fig. 40. Storage development within the next 10 to 15 years

On the whole, museums seem fairly optimistic about the place and importance of storage: almost three in four consider that storage will remain a central concern for their institution (even if the curators and conservator-restorers who completed the questionnaire are a little more sceptical in this respect) (Appendix 5.3). On a more practical level, museums seem more hesitant about the financial resources that will be invested in this area: while a third think that there will be just as much investment in the coming years (the most optimistic seem to be the oldest museums), around a quarter assume that activities geared towards the public will be given priority over storage. The vast majority of institutions (62%), on the other hand, assume that climate change will affect storage management. Museums in Asian and Arab countries are the most engaged in this respect (Fig. 41).

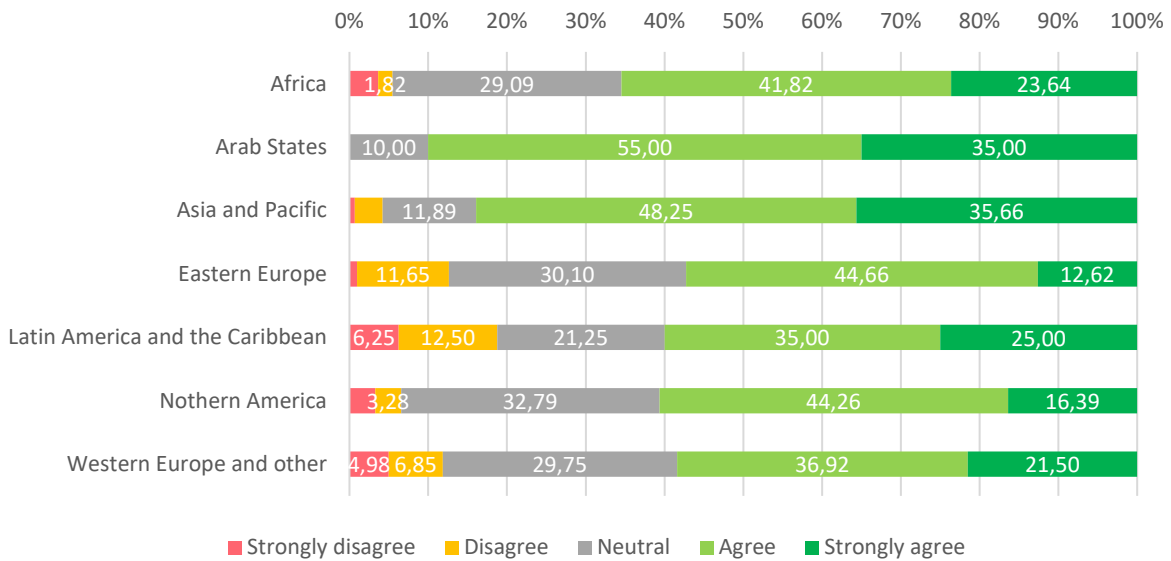


Fig. 41. Climate change will affect the cost of storage management

However, most institutions do not plan on major changes in storage management such as the ones mentioned in *Museum International* (autonomous storage, shared storage, public-private partnerships, etc.). One museum in two does not think that storage spaces will gradually be moved from main buildings to off-site facilities, despite the current situation in which 44% of institutions already have space outside their main buildings (Fig. 18). Nearly half of all museums (46%) do not believe that new types of independent infrastructure can be created in the coming years either, but another quarter do think that this could be the case. This situation differs significantly between regions (Fig. 42).

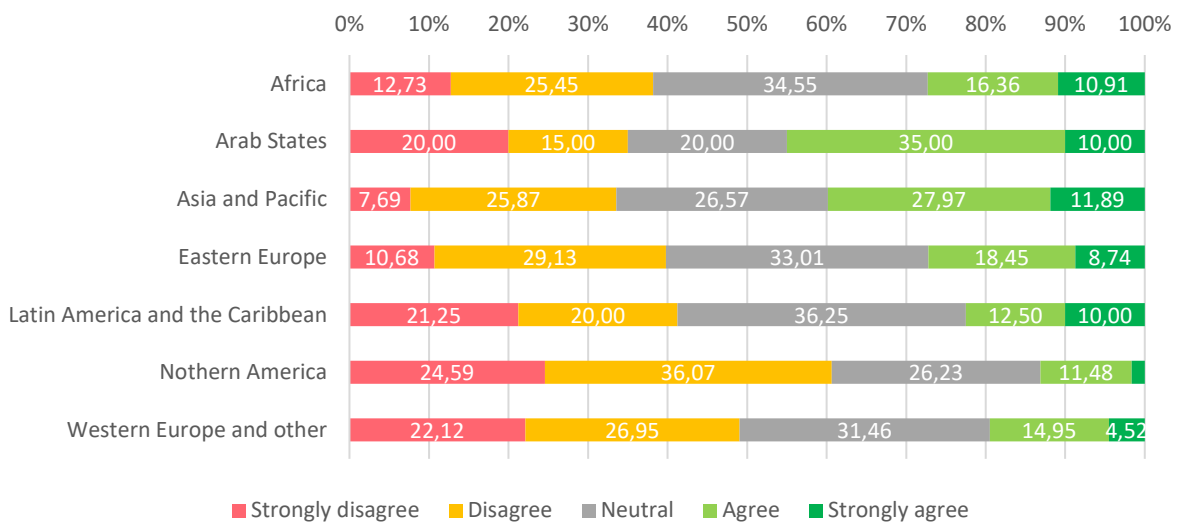


Fig. 42. New types of independently managed facilities will be constructed to store museum collections

The museums expecting such changes are located in Asia-Pacific and Arab countries, i.e. in regions that have seen significant museum development in recent years (Appendix 5.3). In the same way, the idea that collections management could evolve independently, integrating not only museums but also the management of other types of collections (archives, libraries, private collections) is subject to similar scepticism.

Conclusion

The panorama of museum collections in storage shown by this report raises questions about their place within the institution. The resulting picture, sketched out by museum professionals, appears ambiguous: while storage still occupies an important place in museum infrastructure, and most museums (nearly 80%) have on-site facilities, the lack of space and resources is reported by the majority of responses.

More than half of museums (55%) have spaces specifically designed to house collections (those not designed as such do not seem to meet needs in 75% of cases), and 44% also claim to have off-site storage spaces (sometimes quite far from the museum). However, almost all institutions mention difficulties in terms of capacity: almost two museums in five report that they no longer have enough space, while almost one museum in two believes that they have a storage capacity of approximately 15% of their space. The proportion of inventoried objects covers almost all of the collection in over 40% of cases, and around 75% in 30% of cases. Slightly less than one museum in three worldwide would therefore have a largely incomplete inventory, and even fewer mention the absence of documentation systems. Over the last ten years, museum collections have grown by an average of 5-10%, according to the estimates of the professionals who responded to the survey. A number of probably newer institutions report even greater increases: 15% report increases of 50%, and almost 9% have even seen their collections more than double. Despite this steady increase, most of the professionals who responded to the survey are relatively positive about the development of storage, with the majority considering that the situation has improved over the last ten years; only a small number (less than 15%) consider that the situation has deteriorated. The use of collections in storage, as reported by museums, remains largely reserved for research purposes or for exhibition loans. Just over 10% of the institutions in the sample seek to showcase more widely their collections to the general public, setting up visible (if not visitable) storage spaces, while almost 20% organize tours or events. More than half (55%) guarantee access to their storage for researchers and the public – provided they follow a written procedure. However, almost one museum in three (particularly the larger ones) cannot guarantee such access.

Overall, the condition of storage facilities around the world is assessed rather unfavourably by a majority of museums, particularly with regard to the lack of equipment. This observation echoes that made by ICCROM in 2011, which highlighted the fact that one museum in two does not have sufficient storage units, that two museums in three lack space, and that two museums out of five had storage units that were not suitable for their collections. With regard to the management of storage spaces, the responses to the present survey are in line with those of the previous one, mentioning the same problems of staff training (almost 30%), the fact that storage spaces are accessible to all staff (one museum in four reports that anyone can enter the storage spaces) and storage

management procedures (almost 40% underline inadequacies in this respect). On the whole, small museums have far more difficulties in this respect (between a third and half of responses) than larger museums (usually less than 10%), which receive the most visitors. The lack of storage space is noted by more than half of all institutions, as is the lack of storage units. The issue of inadequate cleaning was raised by almost 40% of respondents, while infrastructure maintenance problems were highlighted by almost one museum in four. In terms of security, museums overall note major difficulties in terms of preventive conservation, and in particular the maintenance of a stable hygrometric climate, highlighted by more than one museum in four (27%). Infestation issues (rodents, mould, etc.) are present in just under 10% of institutions. The problem of theft appears to be limited, but security issues to prevent intrusions remain a problem for around 10% of institutions. In this respect, the size of the facilities seems to influence some of the findings.

With regard to the management and funding of storage, the majority of the museums that responded complain that they do not have sufficient resources for storage management. Overall, only one museum in four considers that it receives sufficient funding to run its storage spaces. Museums seem to be fairly optimistic about the importance of storage within museums: almost three in four consider that collections and storage will remain a central concern for their institution, but around a quarter think that activities aimed at the public will be given priority over storage. The vast majority of institutions (62%), on the other hand, assume that climate change will affect storage management.

The vision that emerges from this survey reflects a fairly classic view of the museum, upheld by the vast majority of institutions (although it is possible to speculate that it was precisely those types of museums that responded to the questionnaire). It is interesting to note the extent to which the problems raised in this report appear to be shared – even if there are differences – by all types of museums, whatever their collections and size, and in all regions of the world. The objectives of the professionals in charge of them remain first and foremost focused on heritage preservation, still present in ICOM's new museum definition, and it is in this context that they consider the development of the museum, certainly influenced by the move towards more environmentally friendly practices, but still centred on museum collections. The particularly lively debates surrounding the museum definition at the ICOM General Conference in Kyoto in 2019 revealed other visions of the museum, more or less entirely devoted to its role within society and towards communities. The resulting social actions linked to inclusion and accessibility, shared by a large number of professionals, were not mentioned often in the responses gathered through this survey. In that sense, while the report provides a more objective overview of the current state of affairs, and some of the main characteristics of the current museum storage landscape, it does not constitute the entire museum landscape as it exists and is shared through ICOM and its national or international committees. In this sense, it requires a reading that takes into account the diversity of the institution's functions, and their development over the decades.

In this first quarter of the 21st century, the future we are building appears uncertain, to say the least, both politically and in terms of our environment. However, it is clear from this report that a considerable number of museum professionals will devote themselves body and soul to ensuring the best possible preservation of the tangible and intangible heritage on which our humanity is founded.



APPENDICES

1. Museum participation in the survey

Distribution of responses				
	Total of answers	Percentage by country (%)	Distribution of museums by country (UNESCO list of 2021) (%)	Distribution of ICOM Membership (%)
North America	68	6,01	34,03	5,91
Canada	27	2,39	2,16	1,00
United States	41	3,62	31,86	4,91
Western Europe and other	663	58,75	26,86	74,37
Austria	9	0,80	0,75	4,51
Belgium	44	3,89	0,88	3,67
Denmark	15	1,33	0,35	3,90
Finland	8	0,71	0,31	2,05
France	119	10,69	4,63	9,83
Germany	44	3,89	6,49	13,58
Greece	5	0,44	0,47	0,61
Iceland	3	0,27	0,05	0,30
Ireland	4	0,35	0,31	0,13
Israel ²⁹	3	0,27	0,22	1,69
Italy	158	13,96	3,08	5,09
Luxembourg	6	0,53	0,04	0,38
Netherlands	26	2,30	0,66	14,07
Norway	4	0,35	0,59	1,29
Portugal	15	1,33	0,64	0,68
Spain	114	10,07	1,67	3,03
Switzerland	39	3,45	1,09	3,94
United Kingdom	27	2,39	3,07	3,78
Sweden	17	1,50	1,09	1,53
Turkey	3	0,27	0,50	0,30
Eastern Europe	105	9,28	10,49	9,01
Azerbaijan	0	0,00	0,21	0,43
Bulgaria	1	0,09	0,22	0,22
Croatia	5	0,44	0,16	0,30

Czech Republic	3	0,27	0,46	1,01
Estonia	7	0,62	0,17	0,51
Georgia	2	0,18	0,31	0,92
Hungary	1	0,09	0,78	0,62
Latvia	21	1,86	0,15	0,25
Lithuania	5	0,44	0,10	0,22
Montenegro	1	0,09	0,02	0,04
Poland	12	1,06	1,19	0,91
Russian Federation	4	0,35	5,22	2,03
Romania	3	0,27	0,42	N/A
Serbia	9	0,80	0,14	0,48
Slovakia	28	2,47	0,21	0,41
Slovenia	2	0,18	0,09	0,34
Ukraine	1	0,09	0,62	0,31
Latin America	81	7,16	7,73	3,15
Antigua and Barbuda	0	0,00	0,00	N/A
Argentina	8	0,71	1,14	0,33
Brazil	25	2,21	3,76	1,48
Chile	7	0,62	0,31	0,18
Colombia	6	0,53	0,45	0,16
Ecuador	5	0,44	0,18	0,11
El Salvador	2	0,18	0,01	0,03
Guatemala	2	0,18	0,02	0,06
Mexico	13	1,15	1,27	0,49
Panama	4	0,35	0,02	0,06
Paraguay	6	0,53	0,14	0,03
Peru	1	0,09	0,22	0,12
Uruguay	2	0,18	0,21	0,10
Asia and Pacific	139	12,28	16,49	4,50
Australia	17	1,50	0,89	1,20
Bangladesh	3	0,27	0,02	0,07
Bhutan	1	0,09	0,00	N/A
China	63	5,57	5,33	0,40
India	3	0,27	0,48	0,24
Indonesia	1	0,09	0,16	N/A
Iran, Islamic Republic of	2	0,18	0,60	0,25
Japan	16	1,41	5,53	1,42
Korea, Republic of	2	0,18	1,06	0,19

²⁹ UNESCO includes Israel, the United States and Canada in the Western Europe group. For the purposes of this survey, a separation has been made between Europe and North America.

Kyrgyzstan	1	0,09	0,06	N/A
Macao	1	0,09	N/A	N/A
Malaysia	1	0,09	0,23	0,04
Myanmar	1	0,09	0,10	0,05
Nepal	1	0,09	0,03	0,11
New Zealand	14	1,24	0,23	0,11
Pakistan	2	0,18	0,04	0,05
Philippines	5	0,44	0,18	0,14
Singapore	2	0,18	0,06	0,11
Taiwan, China	2	0,18	N/A	0,12
Thailand	1	0,09	1,47	N/A
Africa	55	4,86	0,50	0,62
Benin	3	0,27	0,01	0,02
Burkina Faso	3	0,27	0,03	0,10
Cameroon	1	0,09	0,06	0,03
Côte d'Ivoire	3	0,27	0,01	0,09
Ghana	2	0,18	0,01	0,04
Guinea	1	0,09	0,01	N/A
Madagascar	1	0,09	0,03	0,03
Mozambique	1	0,09	0,02	0,00
Nigeria	3	0,27	0,05	0,02
Senegal	4	0,35	0,03	0,06
Seychelles	1	0,09	0,00	0,02
South Africa	25	2,21	0,22	0,10
Tanzania, United Republic of	2	0,18	0,01	N/A
Togo	2	0,18	0,01	N/A
Uganda	1	0,09	0,01	0,01
Zambia	2	0,18	0,00	0,11
Arab States	21	1,86	0,29	0,41
Egypt	5	0,44	0,08	0,06
Iraq	2	0,18	0,02	0,01
Kuwait	1	0,09	0,00	0,00
Lebanon	2	0,18	0,02	0,11
Morocco	1	0,09	0,04	0,07
Oman	1	0,09	0,01	0,02
Sudan	2	0,18	0,02	N/A
Tunisia	3	0,27	0,08	N/A
United Arab Emirates	2	0,18	0,01	0,14
Yemen	2	0,18	0,01	0,01
TOTAL	1132			

Location of the participating museums by region

Region	The capital city/largest city of your country		An island		A small or medium sized city, in relation to the capital		A rural area		Total	
		%		%		%		%		%
Africa	22	40,00	3	5,45	22	40,00	8	14,55	55	100,00
Arab States	11	52,38	0	0,00	7	33,33	3	14,29	21	100,00
Asia and Pacific	58	40,28	2	1,39	71	49,31	13	9,03	144	100,00
Eastern Europe	42	40,00	0	0,00	53	50,48	10	9,52	105	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	42	51,85	1	1,23	36	44,44	2	2,47	81	100,00
North America	14	20,59	1	1,47	41	60,29	12	17,65	68	100,00
Western Europe and others	153	23,25	21	3,19	385	58,51	99	15,05	658	100,00
Total	342		28		615		147		1132	

Distribution of responses by region and museum size (Nb of visitors)

Region	Less than 10000 visitors per year		10000 - 50000 visitors per year		50000 - 500000 visitors per year		More than 500000 visitors per year		Total	
		%		%		%		%		%
Africa	30	54,55	17	30,91	8	14,55	0	0,00	55	100,00
Arab States	13	61,90	5	23,81	1	4,76	2	9,52	21	100,00
Asia and Pacific	29	20,14	25	17,36	45	31,25	45	31,25	144	100,00
Eastern Europe	35	33,33	35	33,33	27	25,71	8	7,62	105	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	37	45,68	22	27,16	19	23,46	3	3,70	81	100,00
North America	22	32,35	10	14,71	23	33,82	13	19,12	68	100,00
Western Europe and others	197	29,94	202	30,70	210	31,91	49	7,45	658	100,00
Total	363		316		333		120		1132	

Distribution of responses by region and number of objects

Region	Less than 1000	Less than 5000	5000 - 10000	10000 - 20000	20000 - 50000	50000 - 100000	100000 - 500000	500000 - 1000000	More than 1000000	Total
	Africa	7	23	6	6	6	1	3	1	
Arab States	7	4	0	0	4	2	2	0	2	21
Asia and Pacific	11	15	18	24	16	20	26	2	12	144
Eastern Europe	6	10	14	16	12	17	20	6	4	105
Latin America and the Caribbean	8	24	17	9	10	9	3	0	1	81
North America	4	6	12	8	18	7	7	2	4	68
Western Europe and others	55	105	83	81	80	73	83	42	56	658
Total	98	187	150	144	146	129	144	53	81	1132

2. Characteristics of the museums participating in the survey

2.1. Study of staff distribution

Number of staff Full-time Equivalent per annual number of visitors (1132 responses)

	0	Less than 5	5 to 10	11 to 25	26 to 50	51 to 100	100 to 300	More than 300	Total (%)
Less than 10000 visitors per year	10,47	49,04	21,49	12,40	3,58	1,65	0,83	0,55	100,00
10000 - 50000 visitors per year	0,63	18,35	24,05	31,96	15,51	6,96	1,90	0,63	100,00
50000 - 500000 visitors per year	0,00	3,90	7,21	20,12	28,83	23,72	15,02	1,20	100,00
More than 500000 visitors per year	0,00	1,67	1,67	4,17	4,17	15,83	43,33	29,17	100,00

Number of staff full-time equivalent per region (1132 responses)

Region	0	Less than 5	5 to 10	11 to 25	26 to 50	51 to 100	100 to 300	More than 300	Total (%)
Africa	1,82	29,09	41,82	7,27	10,91	3,64	3,64	1,82	100,00
Arab States	4,76	19,05	14,29	19,05	28,57	4,76	4,76	4,76	100,00
Asia and Pacific	2,78	12,50	11,11	16,67	8,33	19,44	23,61	5,56	100,00
Eastern Europe	0,95	13,33	19,05	19,05	18,10	15,24	8,57	5,71	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	3,70	28,40	7,41	24,69	16,05	12,35	7,41	0,00	100,00
North America	1,47	23,53	17,65	11,76	14,71	10,29	16,18	4,41	100,00
Western Europe and others	4,41	24,32	15,20	20,97	14,74	9,42	7,29	3,65	100,00

Number of staff full-time equivalent per type of collection (2717 answers)

Nb of staff FTE	Applied Arts (including musical instruments)	Archaeology	Combination of various collections	Ethnography	Fine Arts	History	Military	Natural History	Science and Technology
0	4,31	3,15	5,26	3,04	3,23	3,60	3,66	3,48	4,31
Less than 5	19,62	23,10	31,58	22,38	18,71	21,02	19,37	28,70	19,62
5 to 10	13,88	15,49	31,58	13,26	17,52	15,53	15,18	13,48	13,88
11 to 25	22,01	21,78	10,53	20,17	21,94	19,70	21,47	22,17	22,01
26 to 50	14,35	13,39	10,53	14,64	12,93	14,39	14,66	9,57	14,35
51 to 100	11,96	11,81	0,00	13,81	10,20	12,12	15,18	10,43	11,96
100 to 300	9,09	7,87	5,26	8,56	10,54	9,47	5,24	8,26	9,09
More than 300	4,78	3,41	5,26	4,14	4,93	4,17	5,24	3,91	4,78
Total (%)	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

Number of objects per type of collection (multiples responses 2717)

Nb of objects	Applied Arts (including musical instruments)	Archaeology	Combination of various collections	Ethnography	Fine Arts	History	Military	Natural History	Science and Technology
Less than 1000	10,05	8,40	5,26	7,73	8,50	9,47	9,42	11,74	10,05

Less than 5000	14,83	16,54	26,32	16,30	16,16	17,05	14,66	15,22	14,83
5000 - 10000	11,00	15,49	10,53	14,36	12,07	12,69	13,09	14,78	11,00
10000 - 20000	12,92	13,39	10,53	10,77	11,56	11,74	12,04	13,04	12,92
20000 - 50000	15,79	12,07	26,32	14,64	12,76	12,69	14,14	17,39	15,79
50000 - 100000	10,05	8,66	10,53	11,88	10,88	11,17	12,04	6,09	10,05
100000 - 500000	15,31	14,17	0,00	13,81	16,33	12,69	14,66	13,04	15,31
500000	-								
1000000	3,35	4,99	0,00	4,14	4,76	5,87	4,71	4,35	3,35
More than 1000000	6,70	6,30	10,53	6,35	6,97	6,63	5,24	4,35	6,70

Total (%)	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00
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Percentage of the collection displayed to the public per region (1128 answers)

Region	Less than 2%	2% to 5%	6% to 15%	16% to 25%	26% to 50%	51% to 75%	76% to 90%	More than 90%	Total (%)
Africa	10,91	25,45	10,91	20,00	10,91	10,91	5,45	5,45	100,00
Arab States	14,29	4,76	38,10	0,00	23,81	0,00	14,29	4,76	100,00
Asia and Pacific	27,08	25,69	19,44	8,33	9,03	4,86	3,47	2,08	100,00
Eastern Europe	15,24	27,62	26,67	16,19	8,57	4,76	0,00	0,95	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	20,25	26,58	24,05	13,92	5,06	7,59	1,27	1,27	100,00
North America	26,47	42,65	19,12	7,35	2,94	1,47	0,00	0,00	100,00
Western Europe and others	23,93	20,58	24,39	12,20	7,77	6,55	2,74	1,83	100,00

Number of staff dedicated to registration per region (1132 responses)

Region	0	1	2 to 4	5 to 10	11 to 25	More than 25	Total (%)
Africa	12,73	34,55	38,18	7,27	3,64	3,64	100,00
Arab States	9,52	28,57	38,10	4,76	19,05	0,00	100,00
Asia and Pacific	10,42	32,64	31,25	13,19	6,25	6,25	100,00
Eastern Europe	4,76	30,48	32,38	18,10	9,52	4,76	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	9,88	39,51	44,44	6,17	0,00	0,00	100,00
North America	17,65	39,71	25,00	14,71	1,47	1,47	100,00
Western Europe and others	14,13	44,38	31,91	6,23	2,28	1,06	100,00

Number of staff officially responsible for storage per region (1132 responses)

Region	None	1	2 to 4	5 to 10	11 to 25	More than 25	Total (%)
Africa	12,73	34,55	43,64	3,64	3,64	1,82	100,00
Arab States	19,05	38,10	14,29	14,29	9,52	4,76	100,00
Asia and Pacific	12,50	20,83	32,64	19,44	11,81	2,78	100,00
Eastern Europe	4,76	30,48	40,00	12,38	7,62	4,76	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	9,88	34,57	50,62	3,70	0,00	1,23	100,00
North America	13,24	39,71	32,35	7,35	5,88	1,47	100,00
Western Europe and others	16,57	40,88	34,04	5,02	2,13	1,37	100,00

3. Type of storage space

3.1. On-site storage

On-site storage total surface area per region (888 responses)

Region	I don't know	0 - 200 ft ² (0 - 19m ²)	200 - 500 ft ² (20 - 49m ²)	500 - 1000 ft ² (50 - 99m ²)	1000 - 2500 ft ² (100 - 249m ²)	2500 - 5500 ft ² (250 - 499m ²)	5500 - 10500 ft ² (500 - 1000m ²)	More than 10500 ft ² (1000m ²)	Total
Africa	7	5	8	7	6	2	1	2	38
Arab States	3	0	6	3	1	1	1	1	16
Asia and Pacific	16	3	4	8	16	7	20	42	116
Eastern Europe	13	4	4	14	11	9	9	13	77
Latin America and the Caribbean	4	8	13	6	9	12	8	6	66
North America	14	2	2	9	6	8	8	9	58
Western Europe and others	63	31	49	64	109	67	79	55	517
Total	120	53	86	111	158	106	126	128	888

Capacity of on-site storage spaces per region (1027 responses)

Region	Our storage space is full	Between 0 and 15%	Between 15% and 25%	Between 25% and 50%	More than 50%	Total (%)
Africa	39,22	33,33	7,84	9,80	9,80	100,00
Arab States	36,84	21,05	31,58	10,53	0,00	100,00
Asia and Pacific	21,43	42,14	13,57	14,29	8,57	100,00
Eastern Europe	29,81	45,19	12,50	7,69	4,81	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	47,14	32,86	10,00	5,71	4,29	100,00
North America	23,44	54,69	18,75	3,13	0,00	100,00
Western Europe and others	37,82	42,49	11,92	5,18	2,59	100,00

3.2. Off-site storage

Specific off-site storage for collections per region (1123 responses)

Region	We have specific off-site storage for collections	We do not have specific off-site storage for collections	Total (%)
Africa	18,18	81,82	100,00
Arab States	42,86	57,14	100,00
Asia and Pacific	29,37	70,63	100,00
Eastern Europe	31,73	68,27	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	13,58	86,42	100,00
North America	45,45	54,55	100,00
Western Europe and other	54,21	45,79	100,00

Off-site storage spaces access time from the museum per location (449 responses)

	Less than 10 minutes on foot	Less than 15 minutes by car	Between 15 and 30 minutes by car	More than 30 minutes by car	Total
A rural area	34,78	28,26	19,57	17,39	100,00
A small or medium sized city, in relation to the capital	20,68	32,33	28,95	18,05	100,00
An island	50,00	25,00	25,00	0,00	100,00
The capital city/largest city of your country	5,78	9,83	35,26	49,13	100,00

Off-site storage spaces access authorisation per region (489 responses)

Region	Exclusively for our museum	Shared with other museums	Shared with other public institutions	Shared with public and private institutions or collectors	Total %)
Africa	90,00	0,00	10,00	0,00	100,00
Arab States	66,67	11,11	22,22	0,00	100,00
Asia and Pacific	78,57	4,76	2,38	14,29	100,00
Eastern Europe	81,82	9,09	9,09	0,00	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	72,73	9,09	9,09	9,09	100,00
North America	43,33	23,33	13,33	20,00	100,00
Western Europe and others	57,34	17,23	15,82	9,60	100,00
Total	61.14	15.33	11.45	9.60	100.00

3.3. Collections documentation

Type of documentation system per number of objects

	Manual	Computerised/digital	Both manual and computerised/digital	Total (%)
Less than 1000	14,29	35,71	50,00	100,00
Less than 5000	16,04	37,97	45,99	100,00
5000 - 10000	4,79	39,04	56,16	100,00
10000 - 20000	11,19	36,36	52,45	100,00
100000 - 500000	3,52	38,73	57,75	100,00
20000 - 50000	2,08	44,44	53,47	100,00
50000 - 100000	2,33	44,19	53,49	100,00
500000 - 1000000	1,89	52,83	45,28	100,00
More than 1000000	1,23	40,74	58,02	100,00

A. Museums with a manual and computerised documentation system

Region	Does the museum have a physical registry or inventory book? (591 responses)			A copy of the physical registry or inventory book is kept in a safe place (499 responses)		
	Yes	No	Total (%)	Yes	No	Total (%)
Africa	86,96	13,04	100,00	65,22	34,78	100,00
Arab States	80,00	20,00	100,00	33,33	66,67	100,00
Asia and Pacific	95,60	4,40	100,00	78,02	21,98	100,00
Eastern Europe	97,30	2,70	100,00	70,27	29,73	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	77,08	22,92	100,00	42,86	57,14	100,00
North America	51,85	48,15	100,00	48,15	51,85	100,00
Western Europe and others	86,26	13,74	100,00	61,07	38,93	100,00
Global	87,00	13,00	100,00	64,00	36,00	100,00

Percentage of registered objects included in the inventory book region (591 responses)							
	None	Around 10%	Around 25%	Around 50%	Around 75%	Almost 100%	Total (%)
Africa	8,70	4,35	4,35	17,39	47,83	17,39	100,00
Arab States	20,00	20,00	6,67	6,67	13,33	33,33	100,00
Asia and Pacific	1,10	2,20	1,10	7,69	21,98	65,93	100,00
Eastern Europe	1,35	0,00	4,05	4,05	21,62	68,92	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	4,17	8,33	6,25	14,58	35,42	31,25	100,00
North America	29,63	0,00	0,00	7,41	22,22	40,74	100,00
Western Europe and others	5,75	6,39	5,11	14,06	33,87	34,82	100,00
Objets	None	Around 10%	Around 25%	Around 50%	Around 75%	Almost 100%	Total (%)
Less than 1000	10,20	2,04	4,08	4,08	34,69	44,90	100,00
Less than 5000	8,14	4,65	2,33	5,81	29,07	50,00	100,00
5000 - 10000	4,88	7,32	1,22	14,63	26,83	45,12	100,00
10000 - 20000	6,67	1,33	5,33	10,67	22,67	53,33	100,00
20000 - 50000	7,79	3,90	2,60	7,79	32,47	45,45	100,00
50000 - 100000	1,45	5,80	5,80	14,49	27,54	44,93	100,00
100000 - 500000	3,66	3,66	8,54	9,76	35,37	39,02	100,00
500000 - 1000000	4,17	8,33	4,17	29,17	29,17	25,00	100,00
More than 1000000	6,38	12,77	4,26	21,28	36,17	19,15	100,00

Percentage of objects registered in the computer per unique typology of collections (446 responses)							
	Global	Archaeology	Ethnography	Fine Arts	History	Military	Natural History
None	1.69	33,33	0,00	33,33	0,00	0,00	33,33
Around 10%	10.66	32,14	3,57	32,14	17,86	3,57	10,71
Around 25%	9.64	40,91	9,09	4,55	18,18	4,55	22,73

Around 50%	13.71	41,38	17,24	13,79	10,34	0,00	17,24
Around 75%	27.75	18,52	7,41	38,89	18,52	1,85	14,81
Almost 100%	36.55	20,21	9,57	42,55	18,09	3,19	6,38

Average time need to retrieve a requested object from the storage space per region and objects (591 responses)

	Less than 5 minutes	10 minutes	15 minutes	30 minutes	1 hour	More than 1 hour	More than 4 hours	Total (%)
Africa	13,04	13,04	13,04	26,09	21,74	4,35	8,70	100,00
Arab States	20,00	6,67	33,33	6,67	0,00	0,00	33,33	100,00
Asia and Pacific	35,16	24,18	15,38	13,19	3,30	4,40	4,40	100,00
Eastern Europe	9,46	24,32	24,32	24,32	5,41	9,46	2,70	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	20,83	27,08	20,83	16,67	4,17	2,08	8,33	100,00
North America	29,63	14,81	18,52	14,81	11,11	7,41	3,70	100,00
Western Europe and others	23,32	19,17	15,97	19,17	12,46	7,67	2,24	100,00
Objets	Less than 5 minutes	10 minutes	15 minutes	30 minutes	1 hour	More than 1 hour	More than 4 hours	Total (%)
Less than 1000	2,65	18,37	20,41	12,24	10,20	2,04	4,08	100,00
Less than 5000	26,74	22,09	16,28	19,77	5,81	6,98	2,33	100,00
5000 - 10000	29,27	19,51	18,29	17,07	9,76	2,44	3,66	100,00
10000 - 20000	24,00	22,67	14,67	17,33	8,00	9,33	4,00	100,00
20000 - 50000	27,27	19,48	19,48	15,58	6,49	5,19	6,49	100,00
50000 - 100000	18,84	23,19	21,74	18,84	5,80	8,70	2,90	100,00
100000 - 500000	14,63	18,29	23,17	18,29	13,41	7,32	4,88	100,00
500000 - 1000000	4,17	16,67	8,33	33,33	12,50	25,00	0,00	100,00
More than 1000000	17,02	21,28	8,51	23,40	19,15	2,13	8,51	100,00

The last collection survey was carried out per region (591 responses)

	Never	2 years ago	5 years ago	10 years ago	Is in progress	Total (%)
Africa	4,35	30,43	8,70	13,04	43,48	100,00
Arab States	13,33	33,33	13,33	6,67	33,33	100,00
Asia and Pacific	6,59	38,46	8,79	7,69	38,46	100,00
Eastern Europe	4,05	24,32	12,16	4,05	55,41	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	16,67	22,92	2,08	0,00	58,33	100,00
North America	14,81	18,52	18,52	3,70	44,44	100,00
Western Europe and others	13,10	11,82	8,63	8,31	58,15	100,00

B. Fully computerised documentation system

Percentage of registered objects included in the inventory per region and number of objects (398 responses)

	None	Around 10%	Around 25%	Around 50%	Around 75%	Almost 100%	Total (%)
Africa	0,00	0,00	0,00	23,08	38,46	38,46	100,00
Arab States	0,00	0,00	25,00	0,00	50,00	25,00	100,00
Asia and Pacific	2,44	4,88	0,00	7,32	43,90	41,46	100,00

Eastern Europe	0,00	3,85	0,00	7,69	30,77	57,69	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	0,00	12,50	6,25	3,13	34,38	43,75	100,00
North America	2,86	0,00	0,00	14,29	14,29	68,57	100,00
Western Europe and others	1,62	4,86	5,26	12,15	32,79	43,32	100,00
Objets	None	Around 10%	Around 25%	Around 50%	Around 75%	Almost 100%	Total
Less than 1000	6,25	6,25	6,25	12,50	21,88	46,88	100,00
Less than 5000	1,61	8,06	1,61	6,45	27,42	54,84	100,00
5000 - 10000	2,22	6,67	2,22	6,67	33,33	48,89	100,00
10000 - 20000	0,00	0,00	2,22	20,00	31,11	46,67	100,00
20000 - 50000	0,00	1,85	3,70	16,67	37,04	40,74	100,00
50000 - 100000	0,00	0,00	4,17	10,42	37,50	47,92	100,00
100000 - 500000	1,82	3,64	3,64	9,09	30,91	50,91	100,00
500000 - 1000000	4,00	8,00	12,00	16,00	28,00	32,00	100,00
More than 1000000	0,00	12,50	6,25	3,13	46,88	31,25	100,00

Average time need to retrieve a requested object from the storage space per number of objects

	Less than 5 minutes	10 minutes	15 minutes	30 minutes	1 hour	More than 1 hour	More than 4 hours	Total (%)
Less than 1000	37,14	25,71	11,43	14,29	5,71	5,71	0,00	100,00
Less than 5000	43,66	21,13	15,49	5,63	5,63	5,63	2,82	100,00
5000 - 10000	36,84	24,56	26,32	7,02	3,51	1,75	0,00	100,00
10000 - 20000	19,23	30,77	26,92	9,62	7,69	5,77	0,00	100,00
20000 - 50000	21,88	23,44	25,00	15,63	12,50	1,56	0,00	100,00
50000 - 100000	29,82	19,30	21,05	14,04	3,51	3,51	8,77	100,00
100000 - 500000	12,73	12,73	27,27	20,00	16,36	5,45	5,45	100,00
500000 - 1000000	14,29	17,86	28,57	28,57	7,14	3,57	0,00	100,00
More than 1000000	15,15	30,30	18,18	9,09	15,15	3,03	9,09	100,00

The last collection survey was carried out per region (452 responses)

	Never	2 years ago	5 years ago	10 years ago	Is in progress	Total (%)
Global	11,73	16,59	8,85	9,51	53,32	100,00
Africa	0,00	7,69	23,08	7,69	61,54	100,00
Arab States	0,00	33,33	33,33	0,00	33,33	100,00
Asia and Pacific	5,26	21,05	21,05	2,63	50,00	100,00
Eastern Europe	0,00	52,00	0,00	0,00	48,00	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	10,00	16,67	10,00	6,67	56,67	100,00
North America	13,16	10,53	7,89	26,32	42,11	100,00
Western Europe and others	14,10	14,10	7,21	9,51	55,08	100,00

4. Storage units

(1119 responses)

	All objects are stored in storage units		Storage units adapted for collections		We have enough mobile shelving	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Africa	60,00	40,00	60,00	40,00	14,55	85,45
Arab States	76,19	23,81	76,19	23,81	42,86	57,14
Asia and Pacific	64,34	35,66	64,34	35,66	53,15	46,85
Eastern Europe	50,49	49,51	50,49	49,51	29,13	70,87
Latin America and the Caribbean	65,00	35,00	65,00	35,00	31,25	68,75
North America	52,31	47,69	52,31	47,69	47,69	52,31
Western Europe and others	55,67	44,33	55,67	44,33	41,10	58,90
	Yes	No				
Less than 10000 visitors	57,10	42,90			27,88	72,12
10000 - 50000 visitors	54,81	45,19			37,80	62,20
50000 - 500000 visitors	57,62	42,38			20,06	79,94
More than 500000 visitors	64,17	35,83			50,00	50,00
	Yes	No				
Less than 1000 objects			47,96	52,04	21,43	78,57
Less than 5000			52,41	47,59	24,06	75,94
5000 - 10000			58,22	41,78	27,40	72,60
10000 - 20000			60,14	39,86	35,66	64,34
20000 - 50000			65,97	34,03	34,72	65,28
50000 - 100000			64,34	35,66	28,68	71,32
100000 - 500000			76,26	23,74	39,57	60,43
500000 - 1000000			69,81	30,19	30,19	69,81
More than 1000000			80,00	20,00	35,00	65,00

Increasing of the collection per region and age

	The collection has decreased	around 5%	around 10%	around 50%	around 100%	more than 100%	No increase or decrease	Total (%)
Africa	3,70	24,07	31,48	14,81	5,56	5,56	14,81	100,00
Arab States	10,00	10,00	35,00	15,00	5,00	0,00	25,00	100,00
Asia and Pacific	0,70	33,80	28,17	14,79	4,23	7,75	10,56	100,00
Eastern Europe	0,00	36,89	29,13	17,48	5,83	8,74	1,94	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	6,25	18,75	18,75	23,75	7,50	6,25	18,75	100,00
North America	3,23	27,42	35,48	14,52	3,23	12,90	3,23	100,00
Western Europe and other	1,10	34,74	24,57	13,77	1,56	9,55	14,71	100,00
	The collection has decreased	around 5%	around 10%	around 50%	around 100%	more than 100%	No increase or decrease	Total (%)
Less than 10 years old	2,13	29,79	21,28	14,89	2,13	10,64	19,15	100,00
Between 11 and 20	1,71	19,66	26,50	20,51	3,42	11,11	17,09	100,00
Between 21 and 50	1,58	29,43	28,16	13,92	4,11	9,18	13,61	100,00
Between 51 and 100	1,45	32,25	27,54	16,67	2,54	6,52	13,04	100,00

More than 100 years old	2,02	41,08	24,24	12,79	2,69	9,09	8,08	100,00
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Infrastructure and documentation per number of visitors

	No storage building maintenance for 10 years or more	No temporary storage places for quarantine	Objects are left on the floor of the storage area	Objects in storage have no precise locations on the database	Storage is not cleaned at least once a month	Storage space is full	Storage spaces are disordered	The documentation system is incomplete	Lack of storage equipment (shelves, racking, cabinets etc.)	No documentation system
Less than 10000	35,77	35,27	34,60	40,49	33,48	30,85	35,71	37,93	36,26	48,00
10000 - 50000	32,31	28,75	28,45	29,58	26,61	30,18	28,13	28,66	30,95	26,00
50000 - 500000	24,23	28,92	27,27	22,54	31,71	29,02	28,57	27,37	26,01	22,00
More than 500000	7,69	7,05	9,68	7,39	8,20	9,95	7,59	6,03	6,78	4,00
Total (%)	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

Preventative conservation and risk management per number of visitors and number of objects

	Objects have been damaged due to climate problems (temperature, hygrometry)	Protection against earthquakes is not at an adequate level	Protection against flooding is not at an adequate level	Security protection systems against intrusion are not at an adequate level	Staff have not been trained to apply the plan	There are difficulties maintaining a stable hygrometric level in storage spaces	There are no fire detection devices	There is a theft problem	There is currently a mould problem	There is currently a rodent infestation	There is currently an insect infestation	There is no automatic fire suppression system	There is no emergency plan for collections
Less than 10000	26,97	34,44	32,91	38,24	33,03	30,94	50,00	36,36	22,12	38,89	17,71	40,21	38,58
10000 - 50000	25,28	27,15	24,68	24,51	24,43	26,71	25,00	22,73	24,78	25,00	29,17	23,81	28,46
50000 - 500000	30,34	28,48	31,01	27,45	28,05	30,94	23,53	27,27	33,63	25,00	34,38	30,16	25,84
More than 500000	17,42	9,93	11,39	9,80	14,48	11,40	1,47	13,64	19,47	11,11	18,75	5,82	7,12
Total (%)	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00
Less than 1000	5,06	8,61	6,33	8,82	9,95	8,47	17,65	13,64	5,31	16,67	7,29	10,05	10,49
Less than 5000	8,99	10,60	12,66	14,71	12,67	12,70	29,41	13,64	12,39	19,44	7,29	15,87	15,36
5000 - 10000	7,87	11,92	12,03	7,84	9,50	11,73	4,41	9,09	6,19	5,56	6,25	10,05	10,11
10000 - 20000	14,04	17,22	12,03	14,71	11,76	14,33	13,24	9,09	10,62	19,44	16,67	11,11	13,11
20000 - 50000	12,36	7,28	9,49	11,76	9,50	8,79	5,88	4,55	11,50	2,78	14,58	8,99	12,73
50000 - 100000	12,92	14,57	17,09	13,73	11,76	11,07	14,71	22,73	14,16	16,67	14,58	15,34	13,86
100000 - 500000	19,66	11,92	13,92	15,69	17,65	16,61	7,35	9,09	23,01	8,33	18,75	14,81	13,11
500000 - 1000000	7,87	7,95	7,59	3,92	5,43	6,51	4,41	0,00	6,19	2,78	2,08	8,47	4,49
More than 1000000	11,24	9,93	8,86	8,82	11,76	9,77	2,94	18,18	10,62	8,33	12,50	5,29	6,74
Total (%)	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

5. Contemporary Storage Management Issues

(1105 responses)

5.1. Funding and Management Issues

Storage management is a high priority for museum's management team, per region, museum age and respondent's role

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Africa	7,27	12,73	20,00	34,55	25,45	100,00
Arab States	5,00	20,00	15,00	20,00	40,00	100,00
Asia and Pacific	6,29	7,69	13,29	36,36	36,36	100,00
Eastern Europe	5,83	11,65	10,68	48,54	23,30	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	1,25	11,25	18,75	26,25	42,50	100,00
North America	3,28	21,31	21,31	36,07	18,03	100,00
Western Europe and others	5,60	11,51	20,06	34,84	27,99	100,00
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Less than 10 years old	5,32	8,51	17,02	32,98	36,17	100,00
Between 11 and 20 years old	5,04	9,24	21,85	37,82	26,05	100,00
Between 21 and 50 years old	5,02	9,40	20,38	36,05	29,15	100,00
Between 51 and 100 years old	6,52	13,04	13,77	35,87	30,80	100,00
More than 100 years old	4,71	15,15	18,86	34,34	26,94	100,00
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Collections management, registration or storage	6,37	13,26	17,51	39,52	23,34	100,00
Communication and public relations	7,14	7,14	10,71	39,29	35,71	100,00
Conservator	6,28	13,61	23,56	28,80	27,75	100,00
Curator	7,91	12,43	18,08	35,03	26,55	100,00
Director	0,40	6,43	14,06	37,75	41,37	100,00

Future investment is scheduled for storage areas per region and number of visitors per year

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Africa	23,64	16,36	16,36	25,45	18,18	100,00
Arab States	10,00	25,00	15,00	30,00	20,00	100,00
Asia and Pacific	9,09	21,68	16,08	38,46	14,69	100,00
Eastern Europe	5,83	21,36	30,10	26,21	16,50	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	13,75	16,25	25,00	28,75	16,25	100,00
North America	9,84	18,03	27,87	39,34	4,92	100,00
Western Europe and others	10,89	21,15	22,71	30,95	14,31	100,00
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Less than 10000 visitors	14,65	25,35	21,97	25,35	12,68	100,00
10000 - 50000 visitors	12,01	18,51	25,00	32,14	12,34	100,00
50000 - 500000 visitors	8,00	19,38	22,15	34,77	15,69	100,00
More than 500000 visitors	5,13	14,53	18,80	39,32	22,22	100,00

When we acquire new objects, we consider the long-term costs associated with the acquisition (energy costs, conservation costs, collection management costs, space, etc.); per region, respondent's role and number of visitors per year

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Africa	7,27	20,00	18,18	38,18	16,36	100,00
Arab States	25,00	20,00	25,00	15,00	15,00	100,00
Asia and Pacific	4,20	16,08	23,78	33,57	22,38	100,00
Eastern Europe	4,85	15,53	27,18	33,98	18,45	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	10,00	20,00	17,50	25,00	27,50	100,00
North America	11,48	16,39	11,48	40,98	19,67	100,00
Western Europe and others	10,26	16,64	26,28	31,88	14,93	100,00
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Collections management, registration or storage	11,67	18,57	21,49	32,36	15,92	100,00
Communication and public relations	3,57	14,29	21,43	35,71	25,00	100,00
Conservator	13,61	16,75	27,23	25,13	17,28	100,00
Curator	5,08	19,77	27,12	31,64	16,38	100,00
Director	4,42	12,85	22,89	39,76	20,08	100,00
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Less than 10000 visitors	11,55	14,08	24,79	31,83	17,75	100,00
10000 - 50000 visitors	9,42	17,53	22,08	32,47	18,51	100,00
50000 - 500000 visitors	7,08	18,46	24,92	34,77	14,77	100,00
More than 500000 visitors	6,84	19,66	25,64	26,50	21,37	100,00

Collections storage is more important than visitor-focused activities exhibitions and education; per region, museum age and role of the respondent

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Africa	12,73	20,00	34,55	20,00	12,73	100,00
Arab States	5,00	10,00	35,00	25,00	25,00	100,00
Asia and Pacific	11,89	19,58	36,36	18,18	13,99	100,00
Eastern Europe	11,65	25,24	38,83	11,65	12,62	100,00
Latin America and the Caribbean	15,00	32,50	31,25	15,00	6,25	100,00
North America	29,51	29,51	29,51	9,84	1,64	100,00
Western Europe and others	22,24	32,19	34,37	7,15	4,04	100,00
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Less than 10 years old	12,77	32,98	32,98	12,77	8,51	100,00
Between 11 and 20 years old	18,49	21,01	43,70	10,92	5,88	100,00
Between 21 and 50 years old	20,69	28,21	34,80	9,72	6,58	100,00
Between 51 and 100 years old	17,03	28,99	31,16	13,04	9,78	100,00
More than 100 years old	21,21	30,98	34,34	8,75	4,71	100,00

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Collections management, registration or storage	24,14	29,44	28,65	9,28	8,49	100,00
Communication and public relations	3,57	25,00	46,43	14,29	10,71	100,00
Conservator	26,18	28,80	29,84	8,90	6,28	100,00
Curator	16,38	28,25	41,24	10,17	3,95	100,00
Director	8,84	27,71	42,97	13,25	7,23	100,00

5.2. Access and Storage Interpretation Issues

We regularly communicate about storage through visits, conferences or via the internet and social media per the role of the respondent and number of objects

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Collections management, registration or storage	20,95	25,99	18,83	24,14	10,08	100,00
Communication and public relations	10,71	21,43	21,43	32,14	14,29	100,00
Conservator	28,80	22,51	21,99	19,37	7,33	100,00
Curator	20,90	24,86	22,03	25,42	6,78	100,00
Director	16,06	18,88	25,70	27,31	12,05	100,00

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Less than 1000	31,63	19,39	25,51	12,24	11,22	100,00
Less than 5000	25,00	25,00	20,11	18,48	11,41	100,00
5000 - 10000	19,86	17,12	32,88	22,60	7,53	100,00
10000 - 20000	18,57	26,43	22,86	23,57	8,57	100,00
20000 - 50000	19,58	20,28	21,68	27,27	11,19	100,00
50000 - 100000	20,16	25,58	17,05	30,23	6,98	100,00
100000 - 500000	17,78	27,41	16,30	28,15	10,37	100,00
500000 - 1000000	17,65	27,45	17,65	25,49	11,76	100,00
More than 1000000	17,72	17,72	24,05	31,65	8,86	100,00

We organise some events and specific visits to storage areas for the general public

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Less than 10000 visitors	36,34	24,23	12,11	19,72	7,61	100,00
10000 - 50000 visitors	36,04	24,68	11,36	15,91	12,01	100,00
50000 - 500000 visitors	32,62	19,38	10,77	27,08	10,15	100,00
More than 500000 visitors	30,77	15,38	15,38	28,21	10,26	100,00

We have some specific programs which relate to the interpretation of storage areas

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Less than 10000 visitors	34,08	29,30	19,72	13,52	3,38	100,00
10000 - 50000 visitors	33,44	30,52	19,48	12,01	4,55	100,00
50000 - 500000 visitors	30,46	28,62	20,92	16,31	3,69	100,00
More than 500000 visitors	32,48	15,38	18,80	23,08	10,26	100,00

5.3. Storage development within the next 10 to 15 years

Collection and storage areas will remain a central concern for our museum

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Collections management, registration or storage	2,39	8,22	15,92	43,24	30,24	100,00
Communication and public relations	0,00	3,57	10,71	50,00	35,71	100,00
Conservator	4,74	12,63	15,79	37,89	28,95	100,00
Curator	3,39	10,73	17,51	36,72	31,64	100,00
Director	2,01	2,81	9,64	37,75	47,79	100,00

Collections storage will progressively leave the museum building for off-site facilities

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Collections management, registration or storage	20,16	30,24	22,81	16,18	10,61	100,00
Communication and public relations	25,00	39,29	17,86	14,29	3,57	100,00
Conservator	24,21	20,53	30,53	17,89	6,84	100,00
Curator	21,47	28,81	27,12	16,38	6,21	100,00
Director	28,11	24,10	21,29	17,27	9,24	100,00