

# British Columbia Audiovisual Inventory Initiative

A joint project of the UBC Library & the Audio-Visual Heritage Association of British Columbia (AVBC)

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a place of mind

## Introduction

Currently in British Columbia, thousands of audiovisual items are at increasing risk of permanent loss as a result of deterioration of the tapes or film on which the recordings are stored. Many of these sound and moving image materials are valuable historical and cultural artifacts and once they are degraded beyond the point of playback, they will be lost forever.

This study represents a first step in creating an overview of the current state of AV materials and their associated playback machines in the province. Specifically, whether or not memory institutions are actively seeking out new materials for acquisition, holding a backlog, digitizing, and/or preserving them in optimal storage conditions. If not, what are the perceived barriers or obstacles preventing these initiatives? How may they be addressed?

## Purpose

Get a snapshot of the status of AV in BC as of Nov. 2015:

- Quantity and condition of materials at risk
- Attitudes towards preservation
- Perceived barriers and obstacles

## Coverage

- AV that is non-commercial and of historical and/or cultural value to the province
- Physical formats only, not digital or born-digital
- Sound and moving image only: audio, video, film, not still photography or microfilm
- Associated playback machines
- Must be geographically located within BC
- Physical objects only, not titles

## Method

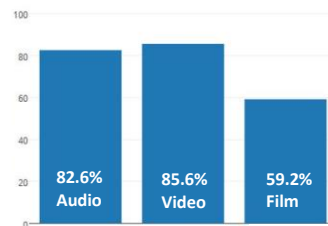
- Designed online survey
- Contacted 1300+ memory institutions by email/mail
- Answered queries by email and phone
- Designed BC AVID database (Access) to house data
- Analysed data using Excel and BC AVID
- Visualized data using Tableau and wrote report

## Results

### Response

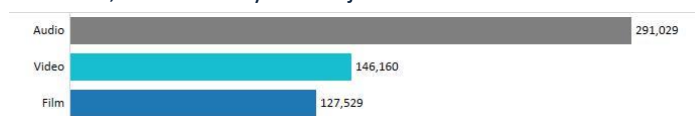
- 1,162 attempted contacts
- 252 counted responses
- 21.7% response rate
- 65.9% identified as Libraries, Archives, Museums or Historical Societies
- 27.8% would not or could not provide inventory data

### Distribution



### Inventory Quantities

564,718 Total Physical Objects



2,130 Total Playback Machines



### Inventory Conditions

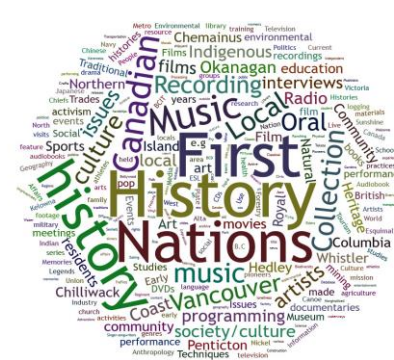
Physical Object Conditions



Playback Machine Conditions



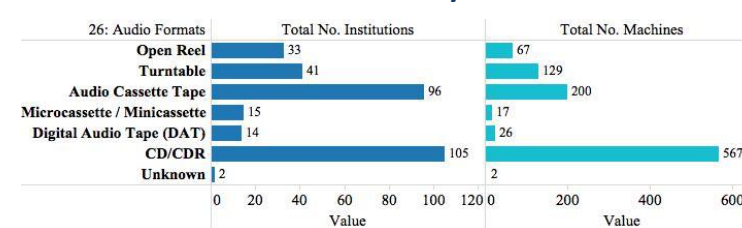
### Collection Themes



### Cycle of Degradation



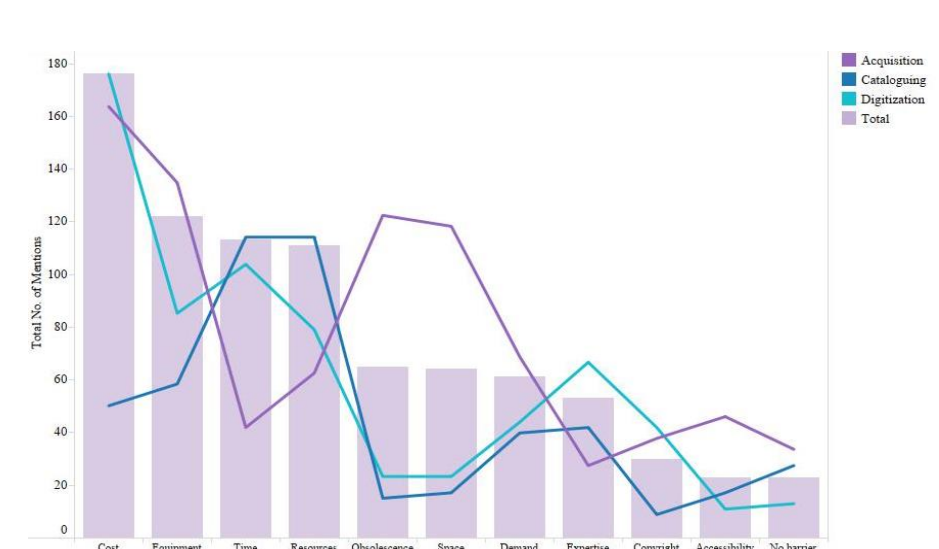
### Media vs. Machine Availability



### Media and Machine Condition Status



### Perceived Barriers



## Limitations

- Respondent subjectivity
- Self-identification
- Survey question format
- Lack of expertise or awareness

## Recommendations

- Task force and detailed strategy
- A centralized provincial response
- An online community of support
- Training workshops

## Conclusion

AV is dependent on technological intervention and routine transfer to updated formats for future access. The archival community needs to band together to develop solutions that will withstand a lack of resources.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** Thanks to Chris Hives - UBC University Archivist, Colin Preston - AVBC Co-chair, AVBC Survey Committee, VIVO, SFU Rare Books and Special Collections, CBC, UBCIC, UBC Rare Books and Special Collections, UBC Library Development Office, UBC Arts Co-op, and the iSchool@UBC (SLAIS) for their invaluable support during this research project.