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?

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Media Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audio</td>
<td>82.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video</td>
<td>85.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film</td>
<td>59.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Inventory Quantities**

- 564,718 Total Physical Objects
- 2,130 Total Playback Machines

**Inventory Conditions**

**Physical Object Conditions**

- Good: 53%
- Fair: 38%
- Poor: 8%
- Unknown: 1%

**Playback Machine Conditions**

- Good: 66%
- Fair: 29%
- Poor: 5%
- Unknown: 0%

**Perceived Barriers**

- Can't get required knowledge of content
- Can't get access to required technology
- Lack of expertise or awareness of problem
- Physical objects only, not titles

**Collection Themes**

- Music
- History
- Nations
- Film

**Media vs. Machine Availability**

**Media and Machine Condition Status**

**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.