It is useful to keep the results of the Heritage Health Index in mind when considering environmentally sensitive preservation practices.

In particular, federal agencies, national collections, and larger institutions have an opportunity to model green and cost effective solutions that could be replicated at smaller institutions. This would have broad impact on the care of U.S. collections as well as the environment.
Heritage Health Index Facts

- Coordinated by Heritage Preservation in partnership with the Institute for Museum and Library Services with funding from the Getty Foundation and other private foundations.
- Developed with the input of 35 national associations and federal agencies that represent collecting institutions and in consultation with more than 100 leading collections and preservation professionals.
- Surveyed archives, historical societies, libraries, museums, archaeological repositories, and scientific research organizations, of all sizes, and from every U.S. state and territory.
- Gathered data on the condition and preservation needs of a full range of collections from art to vertebrate paleontology.
- Conducted from August-December 2004.
- Had an overall response rate of 24% with 3,370 surveys returned.
- Had a 90% response rate from a targeted group of 500 of the nation’s largest and most significant collections that included all NARA units and state archives.
Based on Heritage Health Index data, Heritage Preservation projects that there are 30,827 collecting institutions in the U.S.

Of these, 1,033 collecting institutions cited their primary function was as an archive. **Data from this group is reported in this presentation.**

In addition, 13,407 collecting institutions (or 44%) cite having archives as an additional function. These include libraries and historical societies.

Since the number of archives in the Heritage Health Index survey population was small, it was sampled at 100%. (Record centers, private, or corporate archives were not included in the sample.) In total, 206 archives participated in the survey. Archives responded at a slightly higher rate than other institutions (35%) and the data from archives has a margin of error of ±5.5%.
Representation by Type of Institution

- Public Libraries 27%
- Historic Houses/Sites, History Museums, General Museums, Specialized Museums, Children's Museums 30%
- Special Libraries 7%
- Academic Libraries 9%
- Historical Societies 11%
- Art Museums 5%
- Independent Research Libraries <1%
- Archives 3%
- Scientific Research Collections & Archaeological Repositories 4%
- Natural History Museums, Science/Technology Museums, Nature Centers, Planetaria, Arboreta, Botanical Gardens, Aquaria, Zoos 5%

Heritage Health Index data © Heritage Preservation, Inc. 2005
4.8 Billion Collections Items Held by U.S. Institutions

- Libraries: 63%
- Museums: 20%
- Archives: 7%
- Scientific Collections & Archaeological Repositories: 8%
- Historical Societies: 2%

Heritage Health Index data © Heritage Preservation, Inc. 2005
360 Million Collections Items Are Held by U.S. Archives

- Large (86%): 5,000 linear feet or more of unbound sheets
- Medium (7%): 1,000-4,999 linear feet of unbound sheets
- Small (6%): 1,000 linear feet or less of unbound sheets

One linear foot of materials = one collection item.
Most Archives Care for More Than Six Types of Collections

Collections types:
• Books and bound volumes
• Unbound sheets
• Photographic collections
• Moving image collections
• Recorded sound collections
• Digital material collections
• Art objects
• Historic and ethnographic objects
• Archaeological collections
• Natural science specimens

Heritage Health Index data © Heritage Preservation, Inc. 2005
Archives Care for 24% of the Nation’s 44 Million Linear Feet of Unbound Sheets

- Unknown Condition: 30% at archives, 32% at all institutions
- No need: 29% at archives, 43% at all institutions
- Need: 19% at archives, 16% at all institutions
- Urgent need: 22% at archives, 8% at all institutions

Heritage Health Index data © Heritage Preservation, Inc. 2005
Archives Care for 41% of the Nation’s 727 Million Photographic Items

Heritage Health Index data © Heritage Preservation, Inc. 2005
Archives Care for 6% of the Nation’s 40 Million Moving Image Items

- **Unknown Condition**
  - At archives: 21%
  - At all institutions: 43%

- **No need**
  - At archives: 59%
  - At all institutions: 46%

- **Need**
  - At archives: 16%
  - At all institutions: 9%

- **Urgent need**
  - At archives: 4%
  - At all institutions: 3%

Heritage Health Index data © Heritage Preservation, Inc. 2005
Archives Care for 6% of the Nation’s 46 Million Recorded Sound Items

Heritage Health Index data © Heritage Preservation, Inc. 2005
Use of Temperature Controls for the Preservation of Collections

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

All areas

Some areas

In no areas

Don't Know

Archives
Libraries
Historical Societies
Museums
Archaeological/Scientific Collections

Heritage Health Index data © Heritage Preservation, Inc. 2005
Use of Light of Level Controls for the Preservation of Collections

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

- **All areas**
  - Archives
  - Libraries
  - Historical Societies
  - Museums
  - Archaeological/Scientific Collections

- **Some areas**
  - Archives
  - Libraries
  - Historical Societies
  - Museums
  - Archaeological/Scientific Collections

- **In no areas**
  - Archives
  - Libraries
  - Historical Societies
  - Museums
  - Archaeological/Scientific Collections

- **Don't Know**
  - Archives
  - Libraries
  - Historical Societies
  - Museums
  - Archaeological/Scientific Collections

Heritage Health Index data © Heritage Preservation, Inc. 2005
Archives’ Use of Environmental Controls for the Preservation of Collections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Relative Humidity</th>
<th>Light</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All areas</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some areas</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Know</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Heritage Health Index data © Heritage Preservation, Inc. 2005
Institutions Using No Environmental Controls* for the Preservation of Collections

*Including temperature, relative humidity, and light

- Archives: 9%
- Libraries: 40%
- Historical Societies: 16%
- Museums: 14%
- Scientific/Archaeological Collections: 28%
# Most Common Causes of Damage or Loss to Collections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>At archives</th>
<th>At all institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improper storage or enclosure</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handling</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water or moisture</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obsolescence of playback equipment</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Combines some damage/loss and significant damage/loss for collections that currently are in need of treatment.

Heritage Health Index data © Heritage Preservation, Inc. 2005
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation/Preservation Needs</th>
<th>At archives</th>
<th>At all institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Condition surveys/assessments</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff training</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding aids/cataloging collections</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation treatment</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preservation of digital collections</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental controls</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce exposure to light</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated pest management</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Staffing for Conservation/Preservation

- Dedicated paid staff
- Various staff as needed
- Volunteers
- External provider
- No staff person

Multiple responses allowed

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How Funds Are Allocated for Conservation/Preservation in Annual Budget

At archives:
- No allocated funds: 19%
- Have allocated funds: 35%
- No specific line item but other budgeted funds available: 45%
- Don't know: 1%

At all institutions:
- No allocated funds: 23%
- Have allocated funds: 40%
- No specific line item but other budgeted funds available: 36%
- Don't know: 2%

Heritage Health Index data © Heritage Preservation, Inc. 2005
Archives by Annual Operating Budget

- >$4,000,000: 4%
- <$15,000: 16%
- $1M-4M: 14%
- <$15,000-1M: 6%
- $100,000-500,000: 30%
- $15,000-100,000: 31%

Heritage Health Index data © Heritage Preservation, Inc. 2005
Annual Budget for Conservation/Preservation

At archives
- <$3,000
- $3,000-$50,000
- >$50,000

At all Institutions
- <$3,000
- $3,000-$50,000
- >$50,000

Includes funds for staffing, supplies, equipment, surveys, treatment, preservation reformatting, commercial binding, consultants, contractors, and other preservation costs.

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For more information, contact Kristen Laise at Heritage Preservation (202-233-0800 or survey@heritagepreservation.org).

Full Heritage Health Index report available at www.heritagehealthindex.org