



Policies to support sustainable preservation, UNESCO and beyond

An update from the PERSIST Policy Working Group

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Topics



1. Aim of the PERSIST Policy Working Group
2. Some intermediate results of the PERSIST Policy Survey
3. Assessment of intermediate results
4. Discussion about follow-up to the survey

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Aim of Policy WG



To identify emerging and existing policies and strategies on digital preservation of documentary heritage at both Governments and Memory Institutions (defined as: libraries, archives, audio-visual archives, museums and other types of data managing institutions) and to promote the outcome and impact of these policies and strategies.

Policies and strategies



Policy refers to a set of rules made for decision making.

Strategy is a plan or method to reach specific goals.

Both are prerequisites for effective digital preservation, as they provide:

- A framework for the planning of a coherent digital preservation program (including intentions, goals, principles, values, procedures, responsibilities and ways of monitoring)
- Public proof that digital preservation is handled in a professional way.

"It is Unesco's duty to help and crystallize the views of its member states and formulate appropriate policies."

WG Activities (I)



1. Survey of existing national policies and strategies

Set up and coordinate a survey among policy makers and memory institutions to map countries and institutions where digital preservation policies are emerging or already in place.

2. Guidelines for the implementation of the MoW

Recommendation from the 2015 General Conference

Support the Unesco MoW Secretariat to create Guidelines that Unesco Member States can use to put the *Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including digital form* (as published in November 2015) into practice.

3. The Do's, Don'ts and Why's of Digital Preservation

Create communication materials about digital preservation for world-wide use among policy makers in order to encourage them to create and sustain policies for digital preservation.

4. Model National Digital Preservation Strategy

Develop a model that policy makers can use to conceive and implement their own policy frameworks.

- Robert Buckley (United Arab Emirates National Archives) (chair)
- Iskra Panevska (UNESCO)
- Julia Brungs (IFLA)
- Marco de Niet (Digital Heritage Netherlands)
- Maureen Pennock (British Library)
- Stein van Oosteren (Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- Ulla Bøgvad Kejser (Danish National Library)
- Vincent Wintermans (Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO)

PERSIST Policy Survey



Aim

Identify and assess national (or federal) policies and strategies on the preservation of digital heritage.

Specifically interested in the involvement and the role of governments / national policy makers in formulating national (or federal) policies and strategies for the preservation of digital heritage.

PERSIST Policy Survey

PERSIST

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Published Preservation Policies' page of the SCAPE project. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://wiki.opf-labs.org/display/SP/Published+Preservation+Policies>. The page has a blue header with navigation links: 'Dashboard', 'SCAPE', 'Home', and 'Published Preservation Policies'. On the right of the header are links for 'Browse', 'Log In', 'Sign Up', and a 'Search Confluence' box. A left sidebar contains a search bar and a list of navigation items: 'Technical Coordinator', 'Events', 'SCAPE Developer's Guide', 'SCAPE Members Area', 'Examples of working and best practice', 'SCAPE Platform', 'SCAPE Stories', 'Catalogue of Preservation Policy Elements', and 'Published Preservation Policies'. The main content area features the SCAPE logo, the title 'Published Preservation Policies', and metadata: 'Added by [Carl Wilson](#), last edited by [Barbara Sierman](#) on Feb 03, 2016 (view change)'. Below this is an 'Introduction' section with a paragraph about the project's goal to collect real-life policies, a link to a blog post, and a list of categories: Libraries, Archives, Data Centers, and Miscellaneous. A red text block asks users to email barbara.sierman@kb.nl if their policy is not listed. The 'Libraries' section lists the 'Bavarian State Library'. The footer states: 'Powered by a free Atlassian Confluence Community License granted to open planets foundation. Evaluate Confluence today.'

Published Preservation Policies

Added by [Carl Wilson](#), last edited by [Barbara Sierman](#) on Feb 03, 2016 (view change)

Introduction

During our activities in the SCAPE project concerning the creation of the Policy Framework, we collected several real life policies. Some other sources, like the report in the Signal by M. Sheldon <http://blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/2013/08/analysis-of-current-digital-preservation-policies-archives-libraries-and-museums/> were also of help in creating this overview of published preservation policies.

The policies are showed in alphabetical order and divided by

- Libraries
- Archives
- Data Centers
- Miscellaneous

In practice policies are published under different headings and sometimes not all policies are also "preservation policies". Categorizing the policies to Libraries or for example Data Centers is not always as straightforward, so please look under the different headings.

Is your digital preservation policy not mentioned in this list and are you willing to share it with your colleagues, please send an email to barbara.sierman@kb.nl and we will add yours to this list.

Libraries

- Bavarian State Library

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PERSIST Policy Survey



Downloads

Publications

[Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation Proceedings](#)

Presentations

Grant Deliverables

Under Review

Part of

[Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation](#)

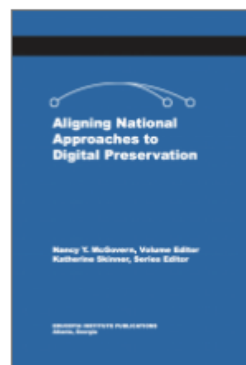
Providing a forum for preservation programs from different national contexts to build strategic international collaborations.

Related Events

[ANADP II](#)

[Downloads](#) | [Publications](#) | [Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation Proceedings](#)

Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation Proceedings



Published:
August 2012

Download(s):

[Aligning_National_Approaches_to_Digital_Preservation.pdf](#)

On May 23-25, more than 125 delegates from more than 20 countries gathered in Tallinn, Estonia, for the "Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation" conference. At the National Library of Estonia, this group explored how to create and sustain international collaborations to support the preservation of our digital cultural memory. This publication contains a collection of peer-reviewed essays that were developed by conference panels and attendees in the months following ANADP. Rather than simply chronicling the event, the volume intends to broaden and deepen its impact by reflecting on the ANADP presentations and conversations and establishing a set of starting points for building a greater alignment across digital preservation initiatives. Above all, it highlights the need for strategic international collaborations to support the preservation of our collective cultural memory.

Educopia is proud to receive the 2013 Preservation Publication Award given by the Society of American Archivists (SAA) for the volume *Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation*. According to the nominator, the publication

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PERSIST Policy Survey



The online survey is available at

<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2900854/UNESCO-PERSIST-Policy-Survey>

Deadline: 15 September 2016

First results (11 August 2016): 22 respondents

PERSIST Policy Survey



So far 22 respondents (and 110 more logins):

from 18 countries:

Australia (2x) | Belgium | Bulgaria | Burundi | Canada (3x) | France |
Germany | Iran | Netherlands | New Zealand (2x) | Nigeria |
Pakistan | Philippines | Portugal | Serbia | Solomon Islands | Uganda
| United States of America

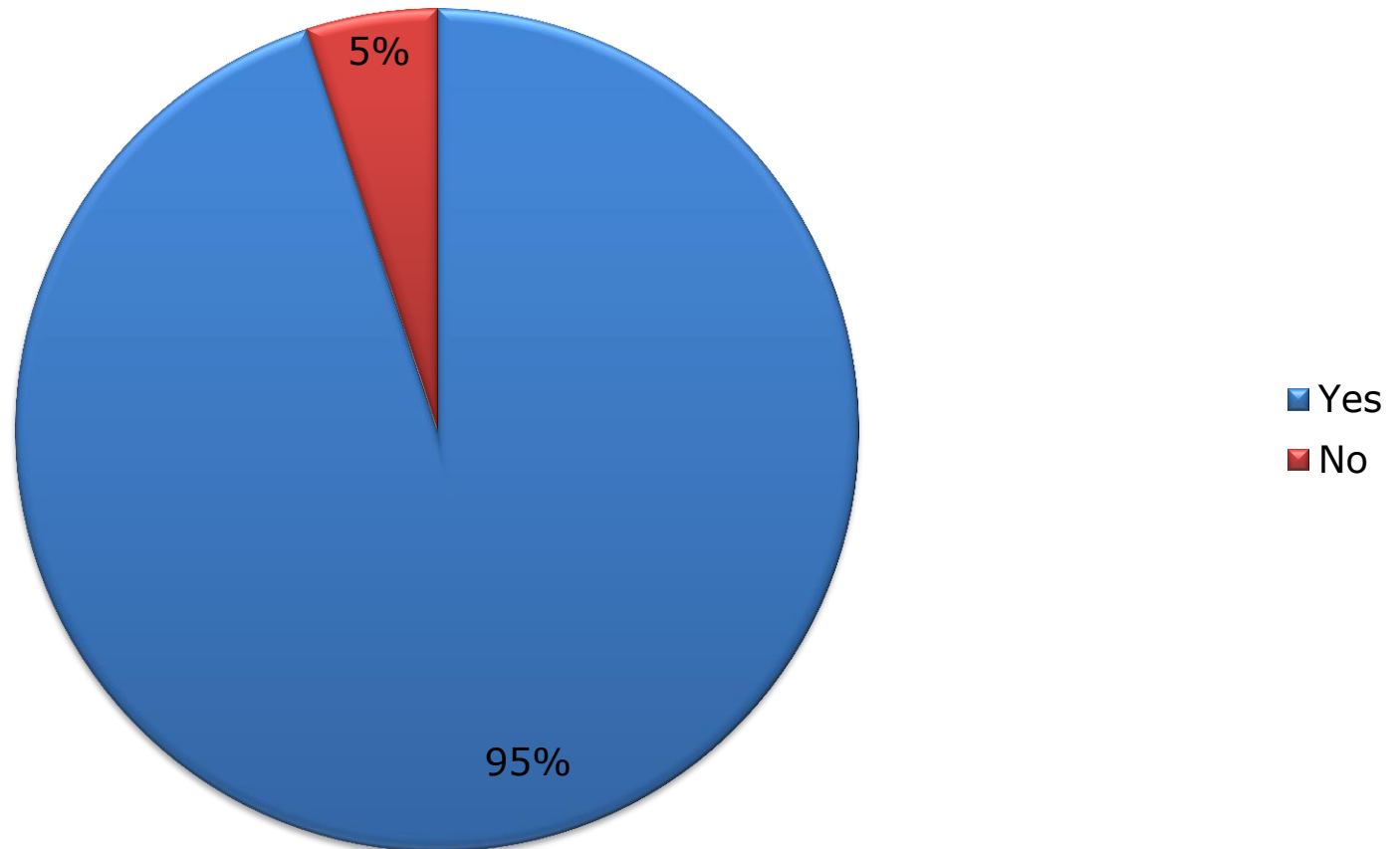
7 professions:

Archivist (x3) | Heritage professional (x2) | Librarian (x8) |
Librarian/Archivist | Library Association employee (x3) | LIS Professor
| Programme manager (x3) | (*no government officials!*)

PERSIST Policy Survey



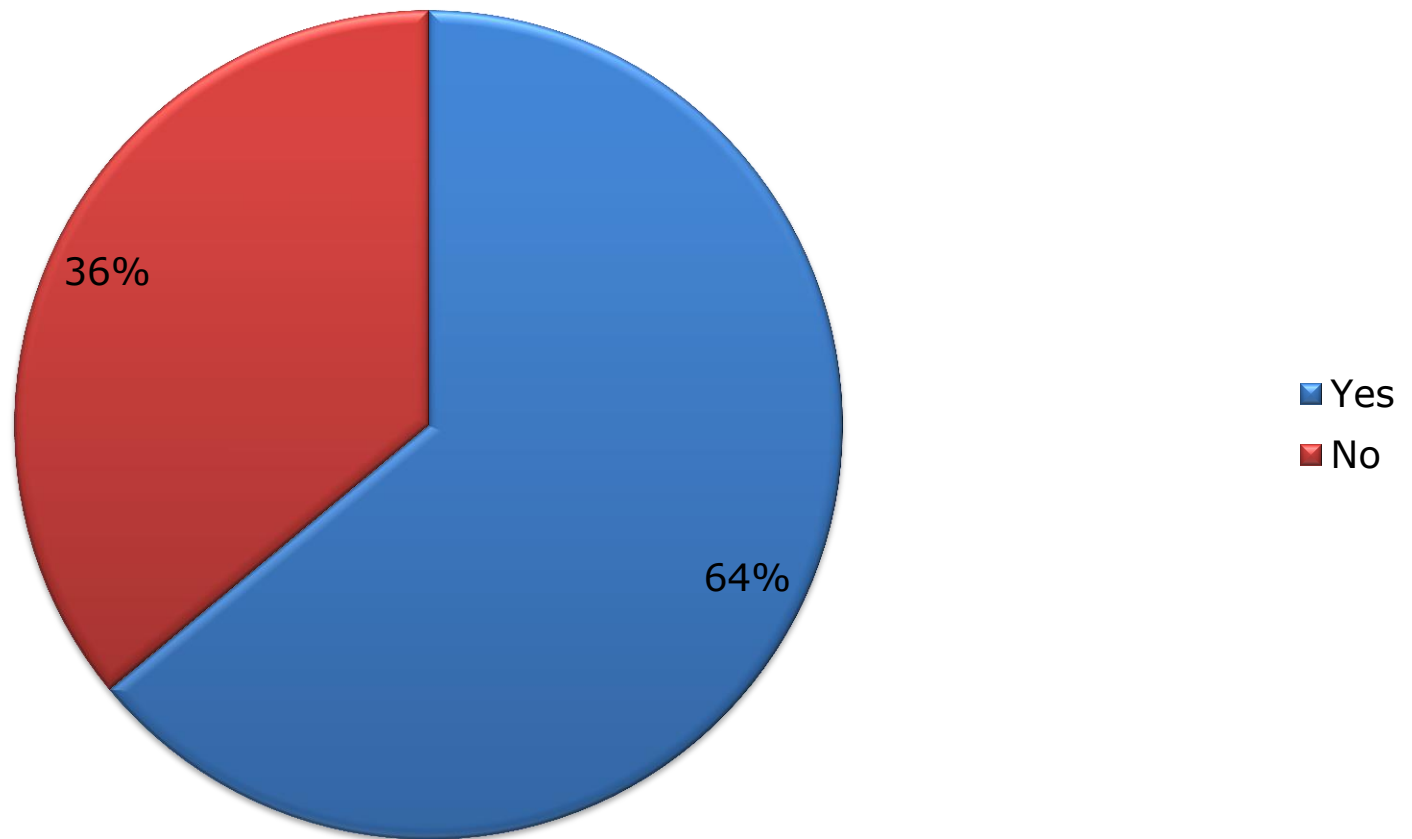
Do you consider digital preservation strategies and policies to be an intrinsic task of the national (or federal) government? (n=21)



PERSIST Policy Survey



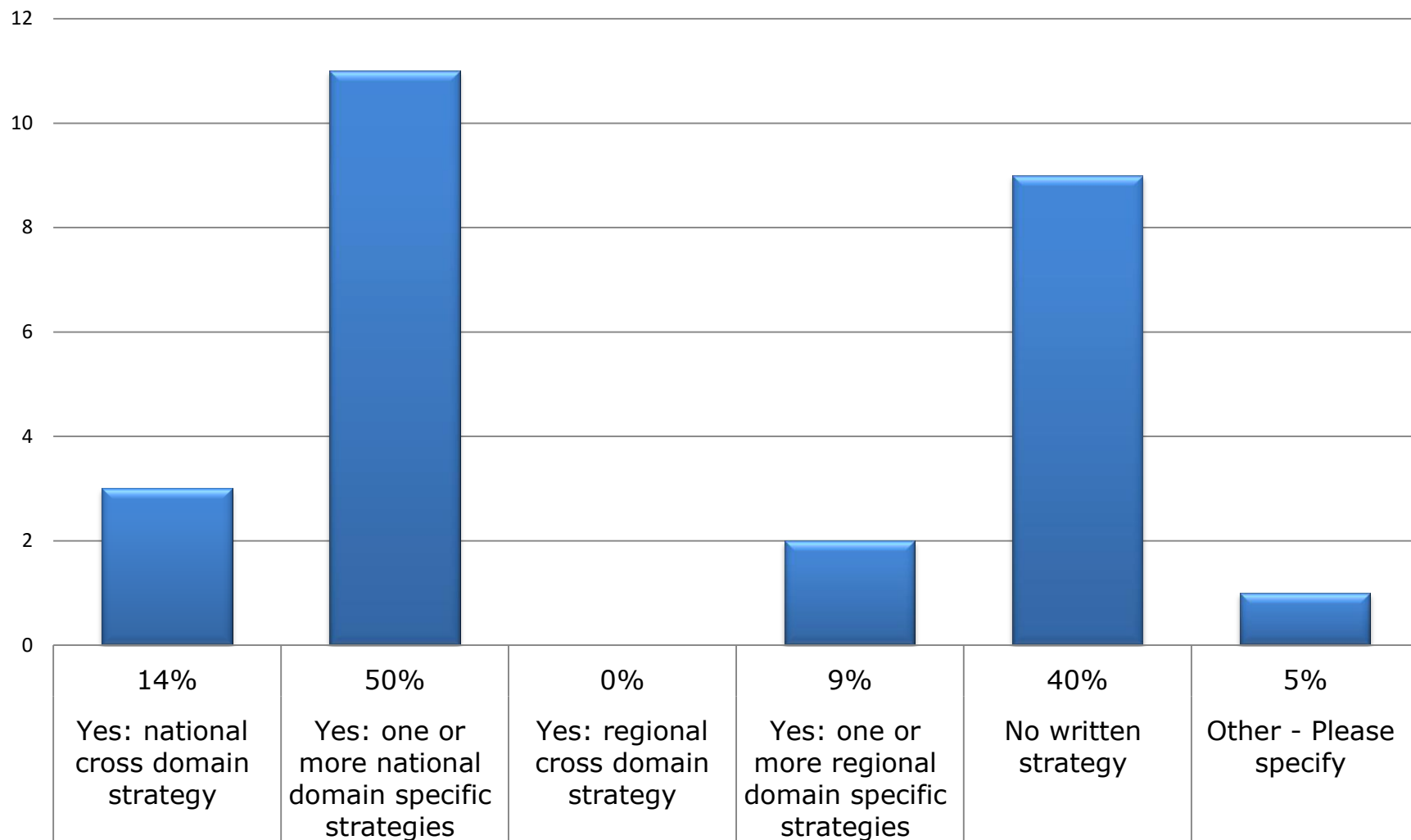
Is there in your country a law in place which relates to digital preservation, such as a deposit law or a law relating to the national archive? (n=22)



PERSIST Policy Survey



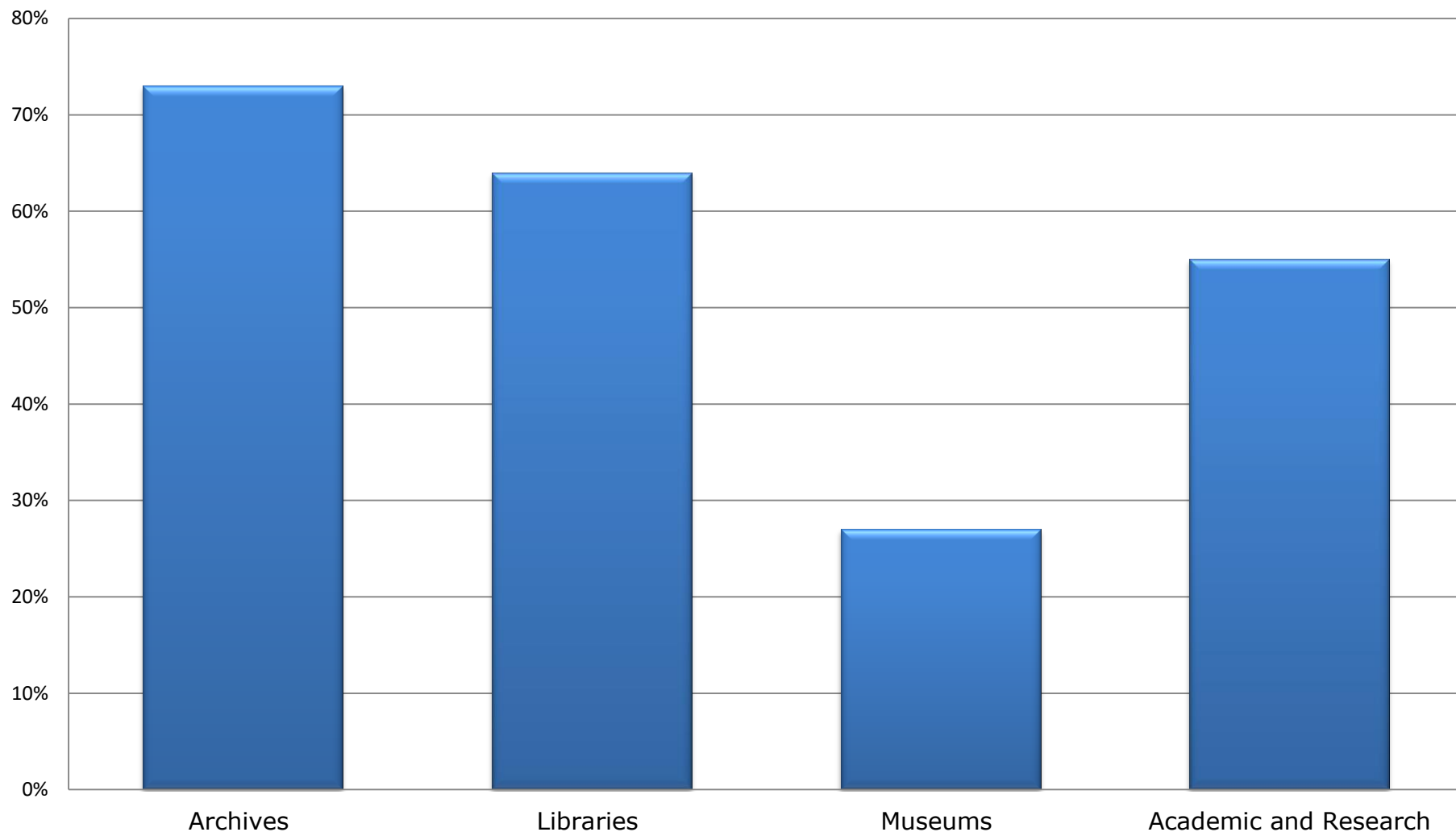
Is there in your country a written national strategy for the long term preservation of digital heritage? (n=22)



PERSIST Policy Survey



**If you have domain specific strategies, please specify the domain(s)
(n=11)**

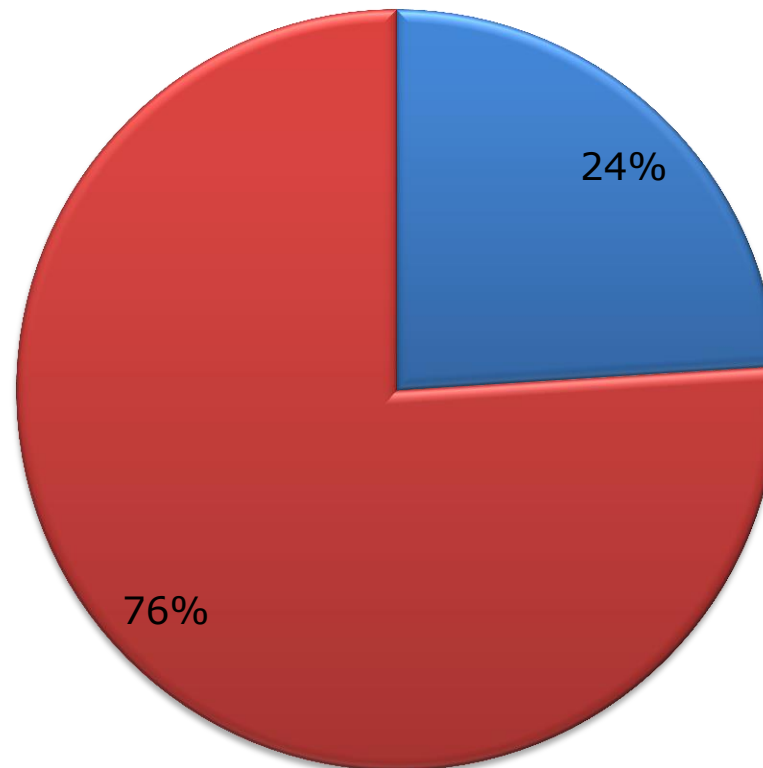


PERSIST Policy Survey



Do you have mechanisms at the national (federal) level for monitoring implementation of a national strategy and policies on digital preservation in heritage (n=21)

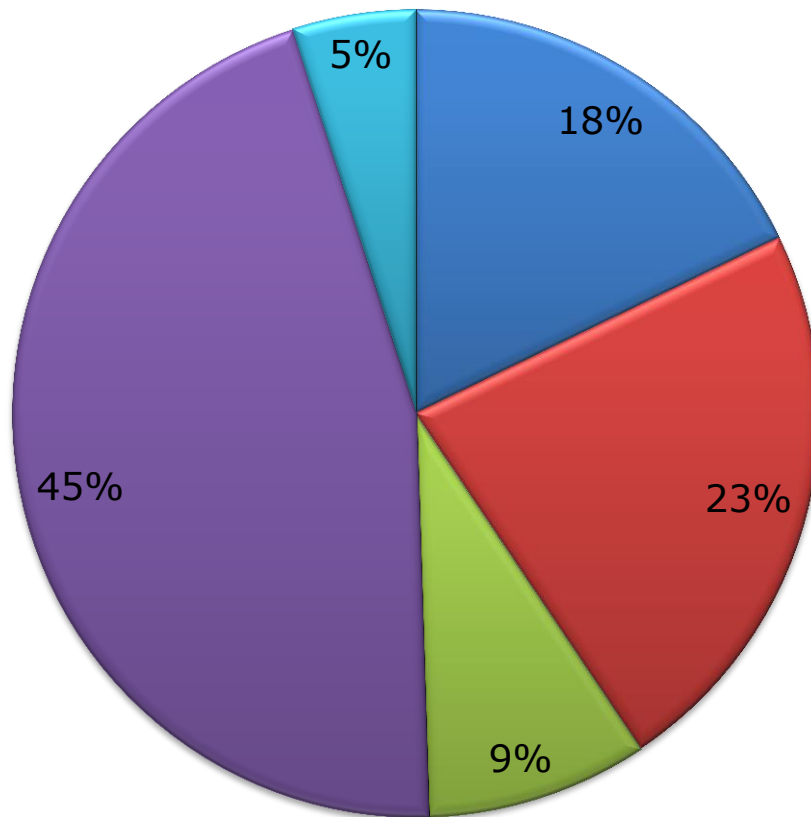
■ Yes ■ No



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Is your government promoting the importance of digital preservation policies and strategies for the digital heritage at a national (federal) level? (n=22)



■ Yes, on a national (federal) level across various cultural domains

■ Yes, domain specific (e.g. specifically for libraries, archives, museums or archeology)

■ No, this is a responsibility at the regional level

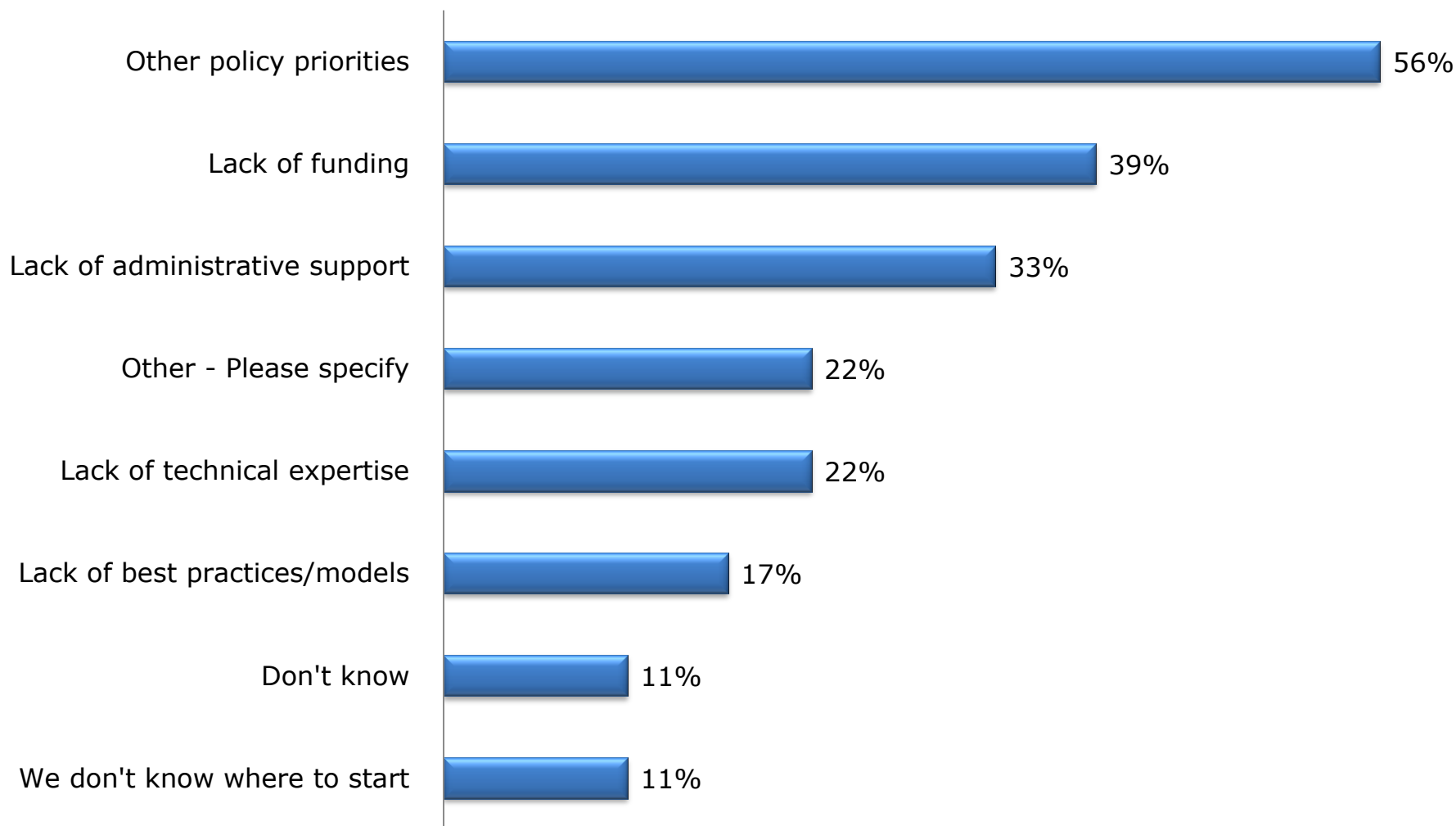
■ No

■ Other - Please specify

PERSIST Policy Survey



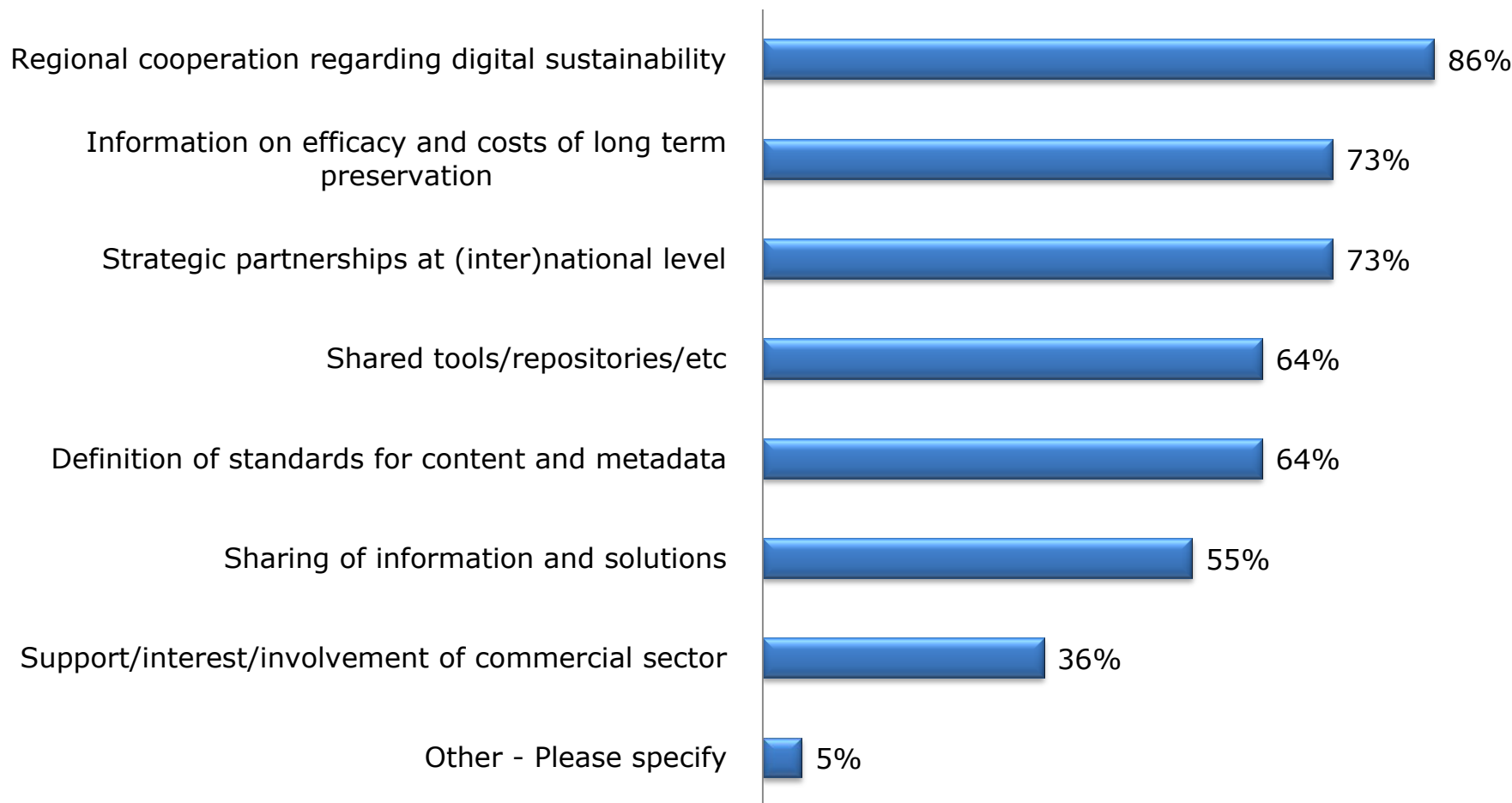
If there is no national digital preservation policy or strategy, what is preventing your government from implementing it?



PERSIST Policy Survey



Is there anything which would help your government to implement a strategy for the long term preservation of digital heritage at a national (federal) level? (n=22)



PERSIST Policy Survey



If you have a national strategy in your country on preservation of digital heritage, what were the main drivers for arriving there?

Societal drivers

- Achieving economies of scale
- Lack of financial/personnel resources to run multiple programmes
- The wider context of the digital transformation of society in general and the cultural heritage sector in particular
- The threat to digital materials not being collected by core cultural heritage institutions

Professional drivers

- Collaboration work between archivists and informatics, archival world and university.
- The Association of Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists in collaboration with National Archives Service
- The National Archives / A strong archives community
- Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture and National Library
- The obviousness of the National Library as a central point for a national programme

Discussion



Do you think that this snapshot (based on 22 respondents) gives a fair impression?

Are there issues in your country related to national policies and/or strategies that have not been addressed by the respondents yet?

Next steps



Do you think Unesco/PERSIST is a good platform for your government to get more aware about policies and strategies for digital preservation?

What methods or tools should Unesco/PERSIST pursue to raise more awareness among governments and other policy makers?

In what ways can you help Unesco/PERSIST to achieve its goals?



Digital amnesia is everyone's concern!

Please contribute to the survey at:

[https://www.surveymoz.com/s3/2900854/
UNESCO-PERSIST-Policy-Survey](https://www.surveymoz.com/s3/2900854/UNESCO-PERSIST-Policy-Survey)