



Coalition for Canadian
Digital Heritage

Coalition pour
la numérisation
du patrimoine canadien

Early Findings from the CCDH Canadian GLAM Digitization Capacity Survey

*2026 CRKN Virtual Conference:
Creative Collaborations, Collective Momentum*

Introduction



Emma Wright
*Chair of the CCDH
Executive Committee*



Kathryn Ruddock
*Chair of the CCDH
Advisory Committee*

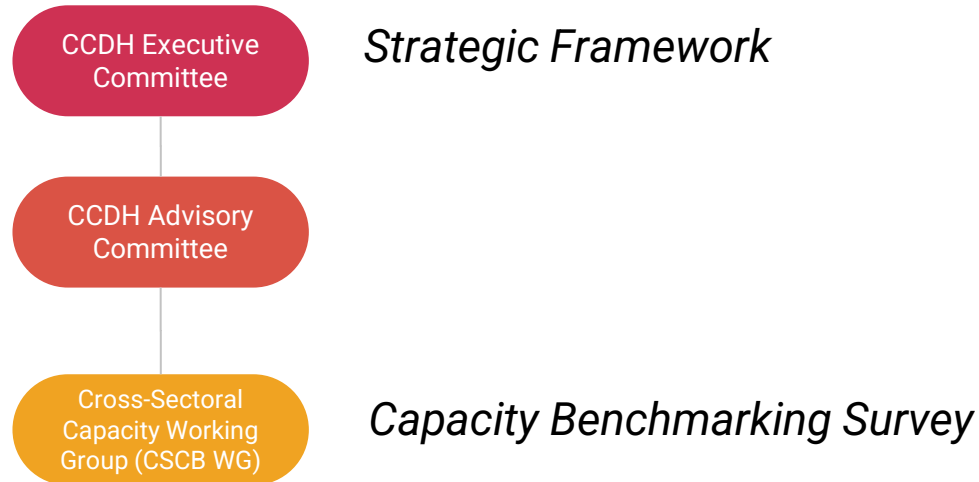


Ern Bieman
*Chair of the CCDH
Cross Sectoral
Capacity Building
Working Group*

CCDH: Who are We?



The Coalition for Canadian Digital Heritage (CCDH) is a cross-sector coalition of GLAM partners



Why This Survey, Why Now?

What We Found

- No current cross-sector dataset on digitization capacity in Canada
- Existing information was uneven, sector-specific, and not easily comparable
- Without shared evidence, national planning is difficult

What This Survey Was Designed to Do

- Identify strengths, needs, and gaps in digitization capacity
- Support advocacy for funding, infrastructure, and training
- Highlight examples of collaboration across the sector
- Establish a baseline for future longitudinal studies

Survey design

Overall Design

- **Total Questions:** 34
- **Estimated Completion Time:** 20-25 minutes
- **Survey Flow:** Descriptive > Operational > Strategic.
- **Optional Questions:** All but the consent question were optional.
- **Survey Format:** Primarily radio buttons and checkboxes with limited open-text responses.
- **Core vs. Focus Questions:**
 - Some questions were designed as core indicators that could be repeated in future surveys.
 - Others reflect current strategic priorities and emerging themes, including AI adoption and infrastructure capacity.

Peer Review

- CSCB WG, CCDH Executive Committee, Canadian Council of Archives, Department of Canadian Heritage Policy Analyst, CARL Digital Preservation Visiting Program Officer, North/Nord Network Coordinator

Data cleaning and analysis workflow

Export and prepare

Export data; de-identify and assign institution IDs

Deduplicate

Reconcile multiple responses into a single institutional record

Standardize and recode

Normalize variables and interpret “Other” responses

Analyze

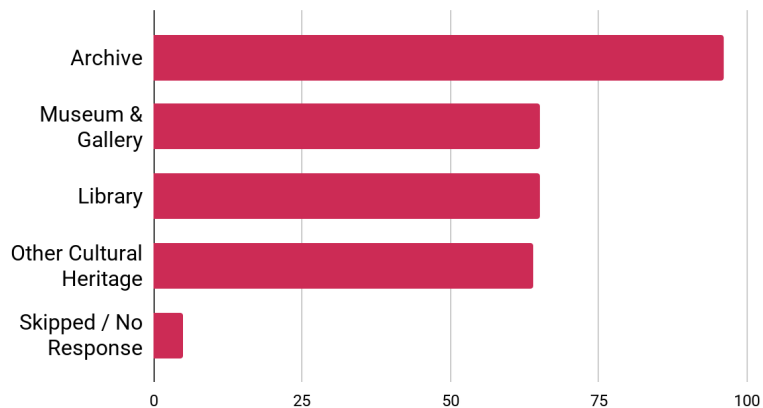
Quantitative (descriptive, comparative) and qualitative (coding)

Report

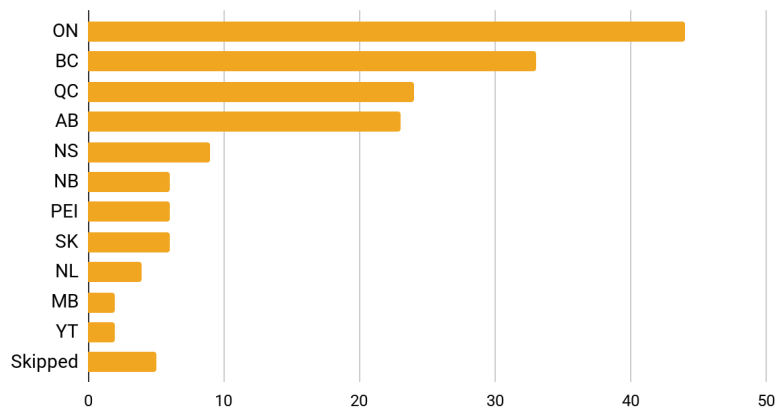
Visualizations, outputs, and documentation

Who Responded?

Organization Type (Clustered)



Location Distribution

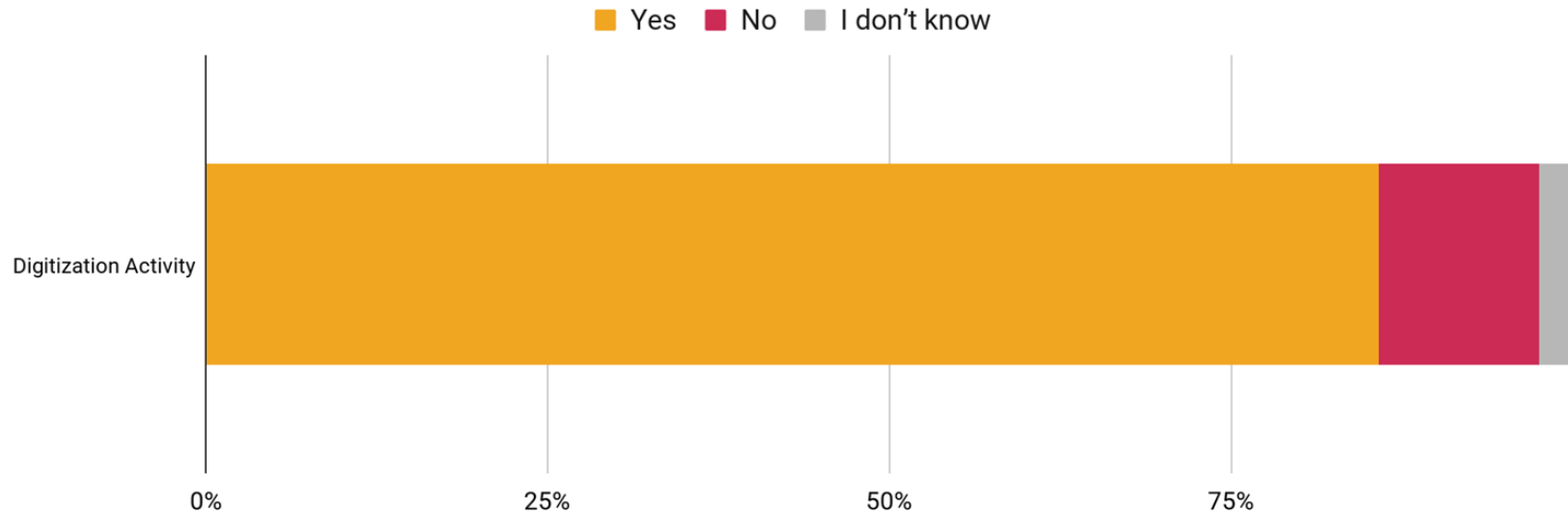


Organizations may identify across multiple categories

288 responses → 180 valid → 167 unique institutions

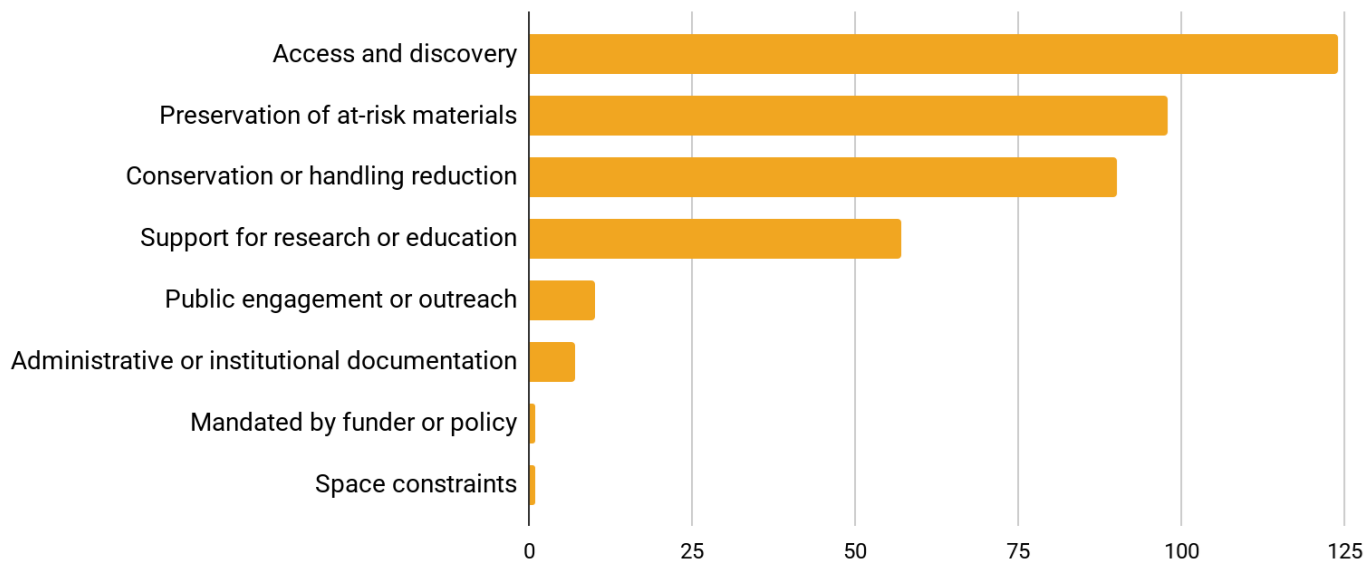
Finding 1: Digitization Activity is Widespread, But Uneven

Has your organization undertaken at least one digitization project in the past five years?



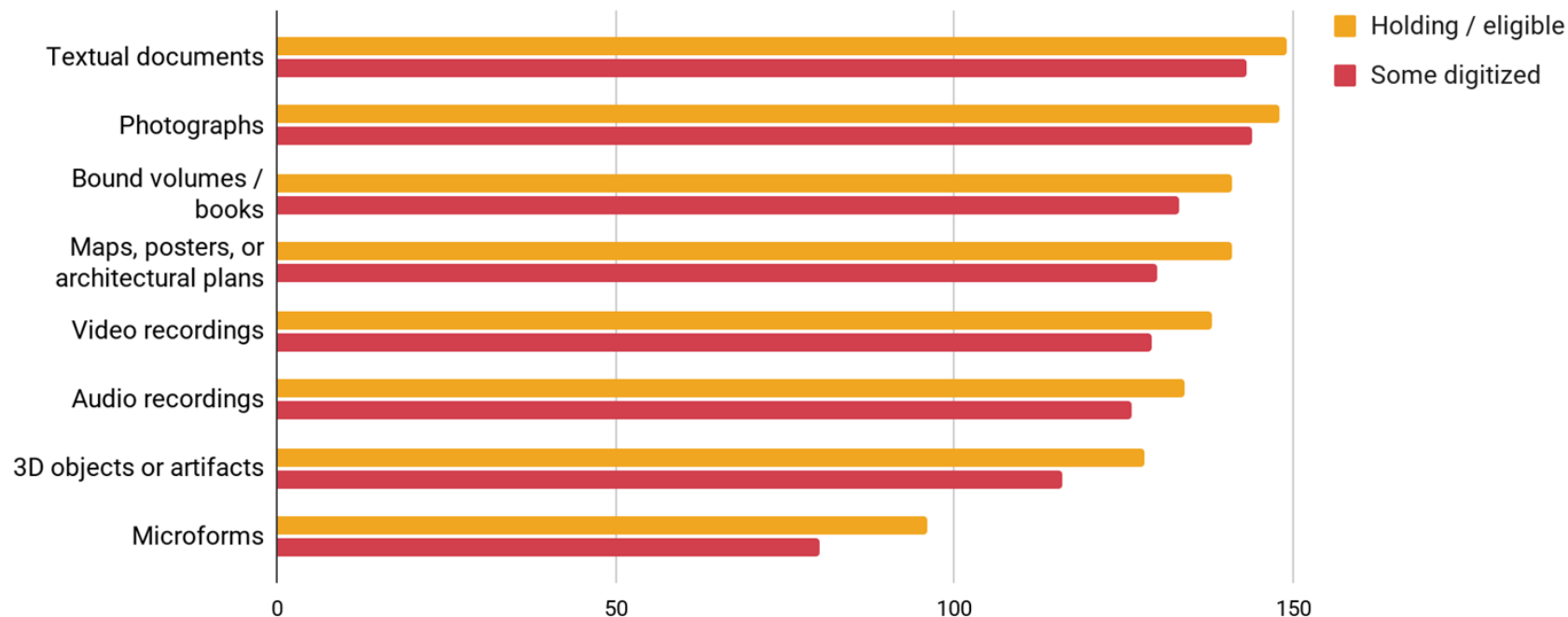
86% of respondents who answered this question reported undertaking at least one digitization project in the past five years.

Primary reasons organizations digitize



Multi-select question; counts exceed number of respondents.

Collection formats held and digitized

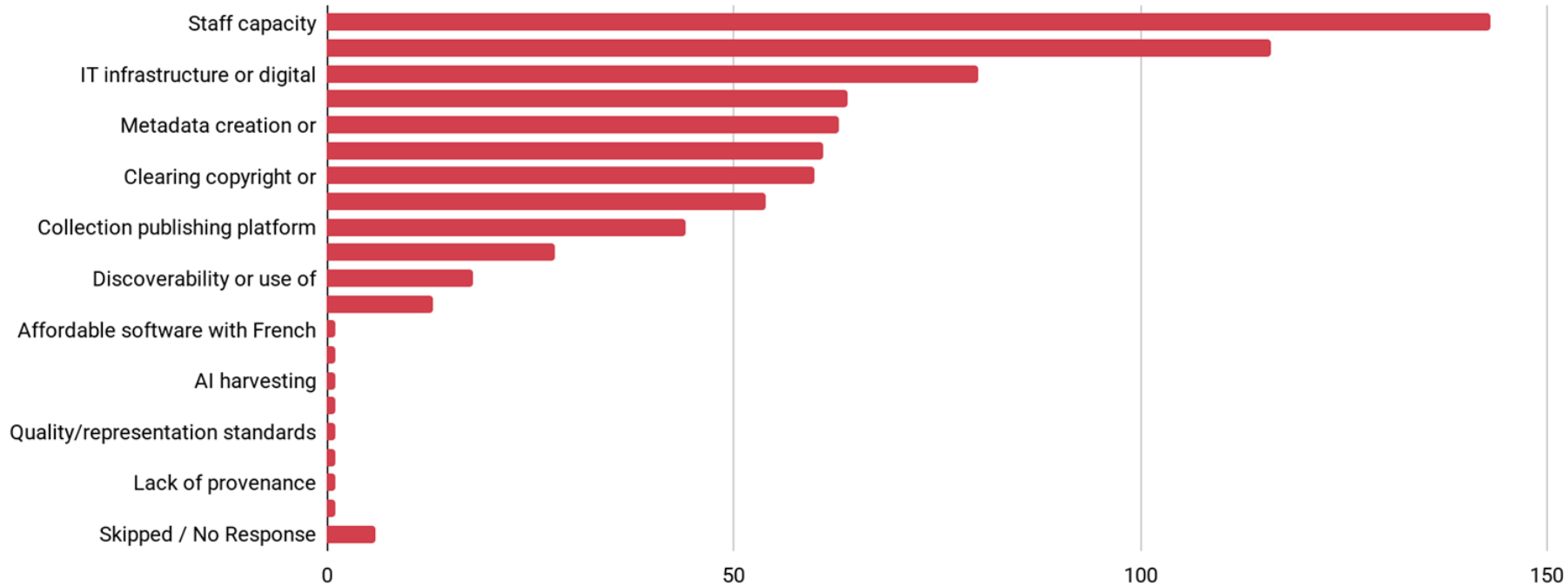


Institution counts by material type; “some digitized” includes any reported digitization percentage.

**Finding 2: Barriers and capacity needs
are closely aligned**

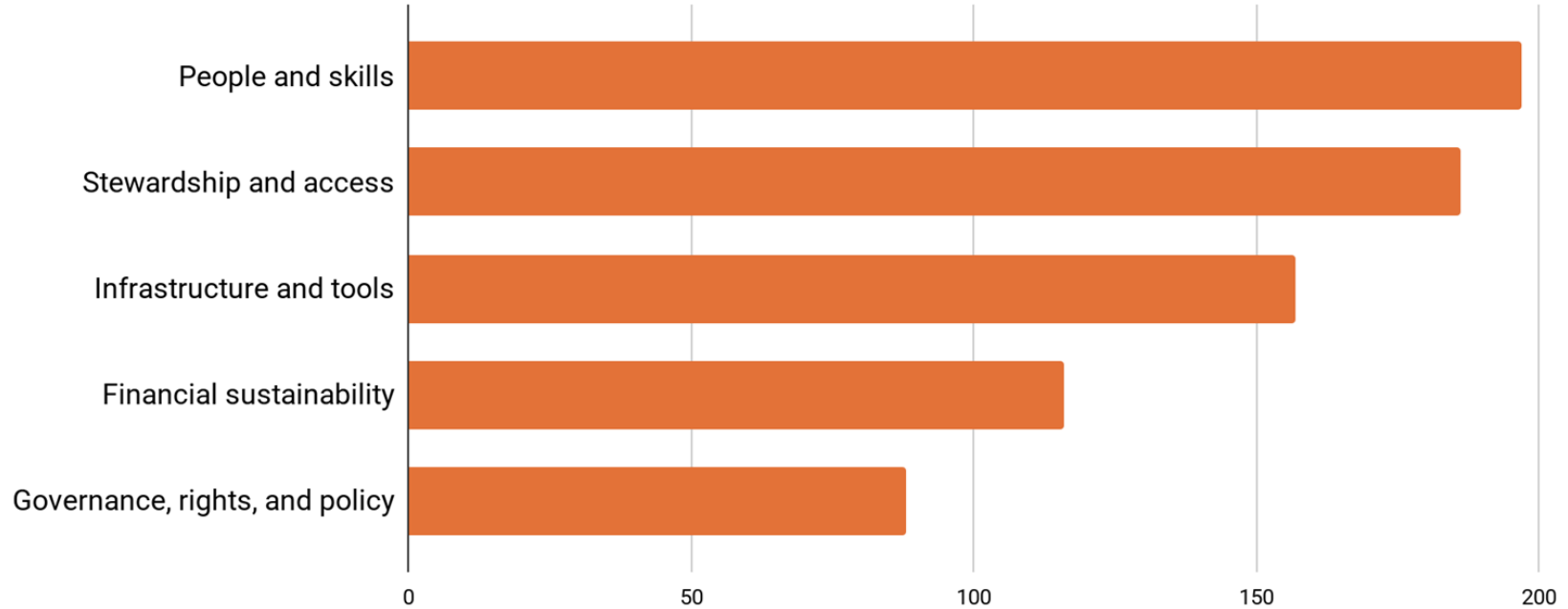


Top Barriers to Sustainable Digital Access

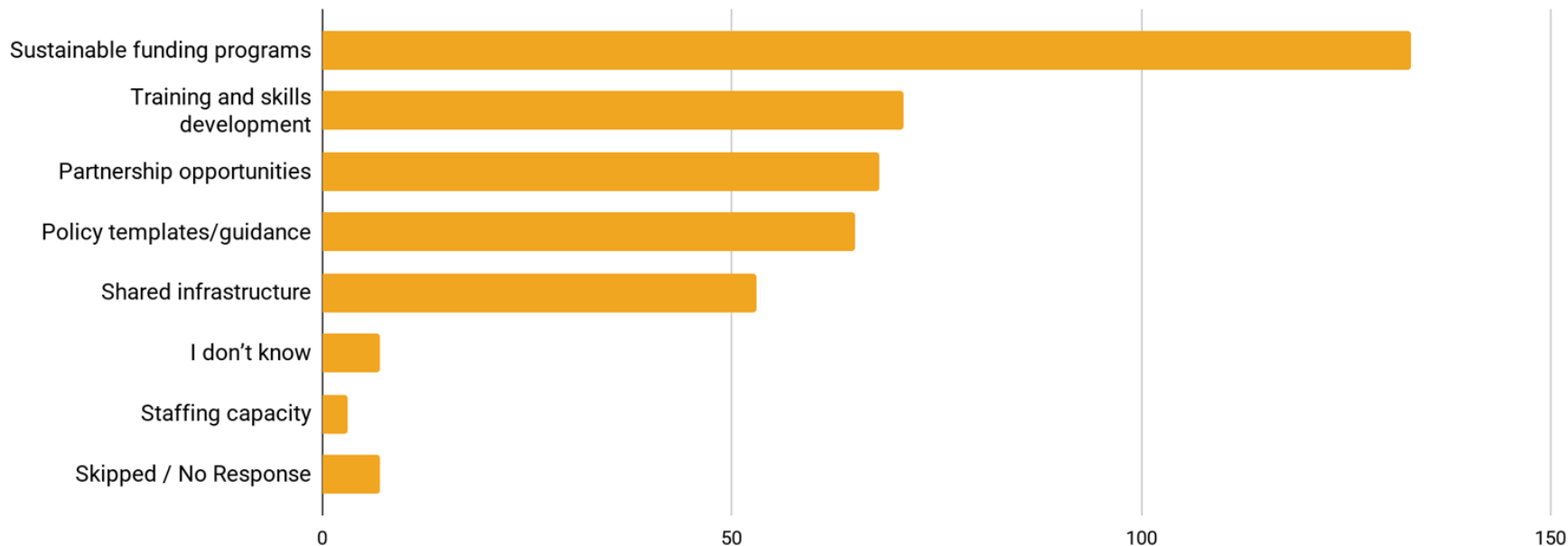


Multi-select question; counts exceed number of respondents.

Barrier Clusters



What capacity-building supports would be most valuable?



Multi-select question; counts exceed number of respondents.

Interpreting initial findings

- Digitization is widespread across responding institutions
- Barriers are consistent and concentrated around capacity, sustainability, infrastructure, and stewardship
- Capacity-building needs align closely with reported barriers
- These findings provide a national baseline, not a final diagnosis

Limitations and cautions: Results

- Strong cross-sector snapshot, not a statistically representative sample
- Likely self-selection from organizations already engaged in digitization
- Some findings are best treated as directional signals for further analysis
- Survey results identify patterns, but some questions need qualitative follow-up through interviews, focus groups, or forums

Limitations and cautions: Survey tool

- First full use of the survey instrument across sectors
- Some questions were interpreted inconsistently by respondents
- Conditional logic issue limited staffing and infrastructure analysis
- Write-in responses are helping identify missing categories and refine future iterations

What's Next?

Summer 2026

Fall 2026

December 2026

2027

Data Analysis

Initial Report
Dissemination

CCDH Advisory
Committee Online Forum

CCDH National Forum

Engage with us!

Email us at: secretariat@ccdh-cnpc.ca

News: (EN) ccdh-cnpc.ca | (FR) ccdh-cnpc.ca/fr/

Join our mailing list: <https://ccdh-cnpc.ca/get-involved/stay-updated/>



Coalition for Canadian
Digital Heritage

Coalition pour
la numérisation
du patrimoine canadien

Thank you!

CCDH Cross-Sectoral Capacity Working Group Members

Canadian Council of Archives

CCDH Executive Committee
