

## 1 in 4 museums

### Circulation in storage: difficult or impossible

The following problems were identified by survey respondents as “major” or “drastic”<sup>i</sup>

#### 2 in 3 museums<sup>ii</sup>

- Lack of space

#### 1 in 2 museums

- Lack of storage units
- Overcrowded storage units

#### 2 in 5 museums

- Lack of management support for storage - related activities
- Lack of trained staff
- Large backlog of objects to be accessioned
- Storage units not adapted to the types of objects

#### 1 in 3 museums

- Unclear responsibility of storage
- Unclear procedures for storage management
- Lack of regular cleaning
- Building in a poor state of repair

#### 1 in 4 museums

- No object movement register
- No accession register (or not up to date)
- No location codes for storage units or aisles
- No main catalogue (paper or computerized)
- Objects directly on the floor

#### 1 in 5 museums

- Unsecured doors and windows
- Recorded damage due to flooding, earthquakes, hurricanes or fires
- Large amounts of non-collection items in storage (rubbish, exhibition panels, packing materials, display showcases, personal effects of staff, etc.)
- Many objects stored outside designated storage areas (hallways, offices, etc.)
- Active pest infestation

#### 1 in 10 museums

- Object theft

1490 responses  
136 countries  
3 months

**Survey dates:** June-September 2011

**Selection criteria:** anyone who works within a museum was invited to answer the survey. Invitations were sent through ICCROM and UNESCO networks and by personal contact to ICOM National Committee chairs. The survey was also publicized on the websites of national and international conservation or museum-related associations.

**Note:** This survey provides a snapshot of the situation in 1490 museums worldwide. As a little over 25% of the replies came from North America, these results were analyzed individually and compared to the rest of the world. There was found to be no significant difference in the numbers. This confirms that the results shown here represent the situation of the museums surveyed in all countries.

<sup>i</sup> In the survey, “major” was described as requiring several months’ work, while “drastic” was used to indicate extreme cases.

<sup>ii</sup> Actual percentages were rounded off to the closest group.