

# CHALLENGES FACING RAIL ARCHIVES

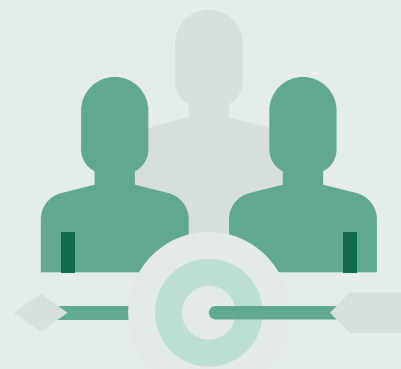
In a survey of 52 rail-related memory institutions, participants were asked, "What are the main challenges you face in managing and promoting your archives?"



## STAFF CAPACITY

60%

did not feel they had the staff capacity needed to manage and promote their archives effectively.



## AUDIENCE AWARENESS

44% struggled to reach their target audiences.

## INTERNAL PROFILE

31% felt that their archives' perceived lack of importance within their organisation was holding them back.

33% of respondents had **NO DESIGNATED ARCHIVIST**



## DIMINISHING RESOURCES

35% of respondents didn't have access to the resources they need – such as technology or appropriate accommodation.



36.2% of survey respondents had **NO FORMAL ARCHIVAL POLICIES**

**10% OR MORE REPORTED...**

- lack of evidence of archival value
- lack capacity to collaborate
- low awareness by external bodies and decision makers
- geographical isolation
- lack of management skills within archives management staff
- lack of space for donations

Less common problems (less than 10% of respondents) included a lack of opportunities to collaborate, prioritisation of other areas, an inappropriate parent body, an aging volunteer cohort and government policies.

## RESEARCH IN FULL:

Challenges Facing the Management and Promotion of Archives in Rail-Related Memory Institutions

Read in full:  
[www.tobybuckley.com/rail](http://www.tobybuckley.com/rail)

