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Collecting Local Music in Canadian Libraries: A National Survey

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Canadian Association of Music Libraries

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Collecting Local Music in Canadian Libraries: A National Survey

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Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

Outline

- Background
- Method: survey research
- Results
- Discussion
- Next steps

Our Project

Sounds of Home

Explores the connection between **music** and **place** as it relates to the practices of local music collectors in cultural heritage institutions in Canada

Why Study Local Music?

- Reflects broader artistic and social developments
- Part of local history
- Can represent diversity of communities
- Growing interest from cultural heritage institutions
- Often overlooked as area of study

Research Objectives

1. Identify locations of local music collections and their characteristics
2. Understand how collectors perceive the value of collecting local music
3. Document local music collection management practices and identify areas where practices may be improved

Theoretical Frameworks

“Music Scenes”

Popular music studies approach which considers local music as documentary evidence of broader cultural formations

Special Collections

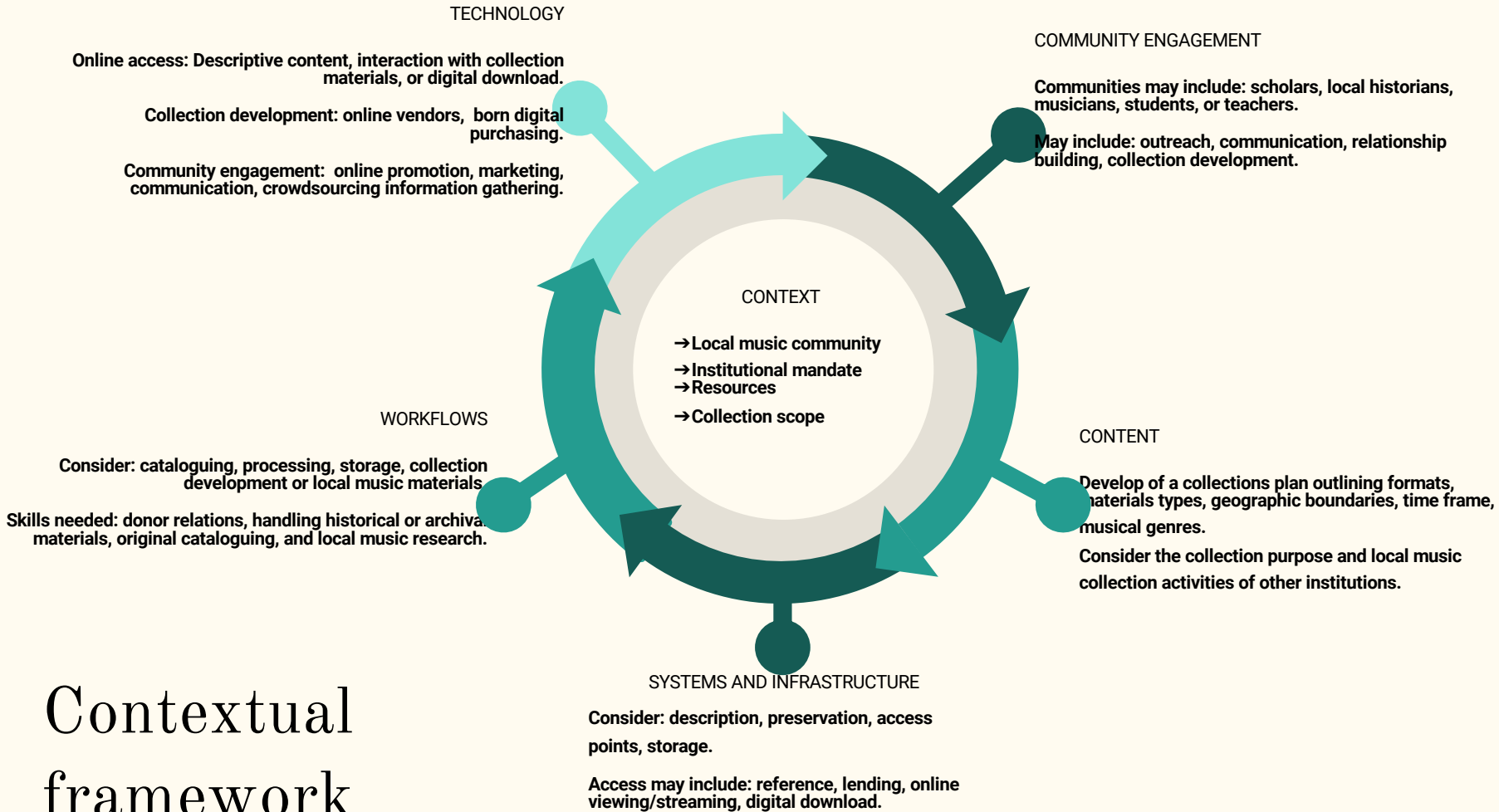
Scholarship in library and information/archival sciences, which speaks to the value of collecting and documenting rare or unique artifacts

“...the importance of locality, and local structures of feeling, in revealing the significance of musical life—and the connectedness of music to other aspects of local history, heritage and culture.”

(Bennett, 2015: 24)

“...we must not only help our collections speak to the needs of our communities, but to use our collections to help build community. Our access points and our technologies should allow members ... to converse with each other and in their own minds, with artifacts that house ideas, expressions, and emotions from all times and places.”

(Wasner, 2014: 333)



Contextual framework

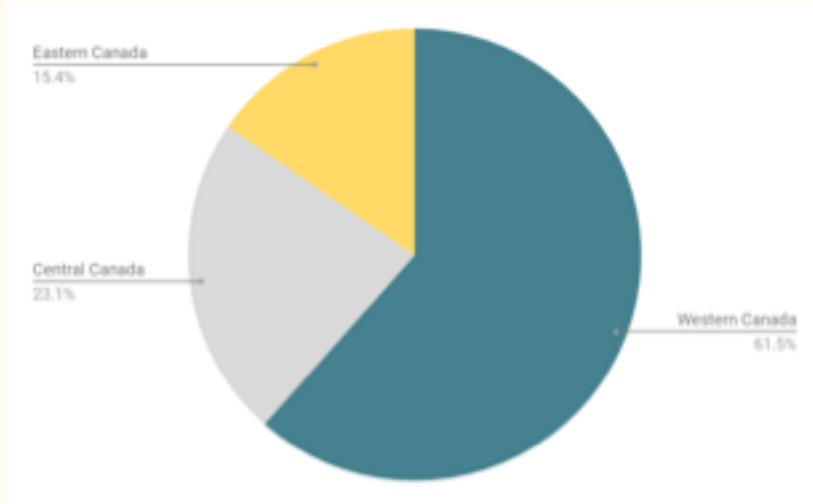
Research questions

1. What are the local music collection management practices in Canadian libraries?
2. Where may practices for collecting local music be improved?

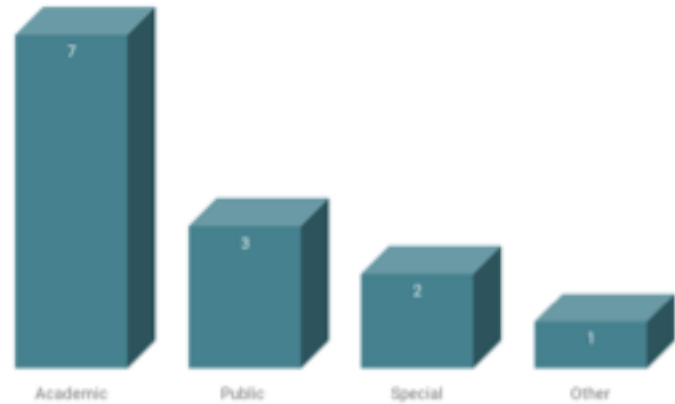
Method: survey research

- Electronic questionnaire in English or French
- 20 questions (18 closed/4 open ended): demographics, collection scope, collection development, promotion, access, preservation
- Follow up questions: identifying collections, follow up interviews
- Participants from Canadian libraries (105 distributed)
- Distributed via email
- Open for 3 weeks

Demographics

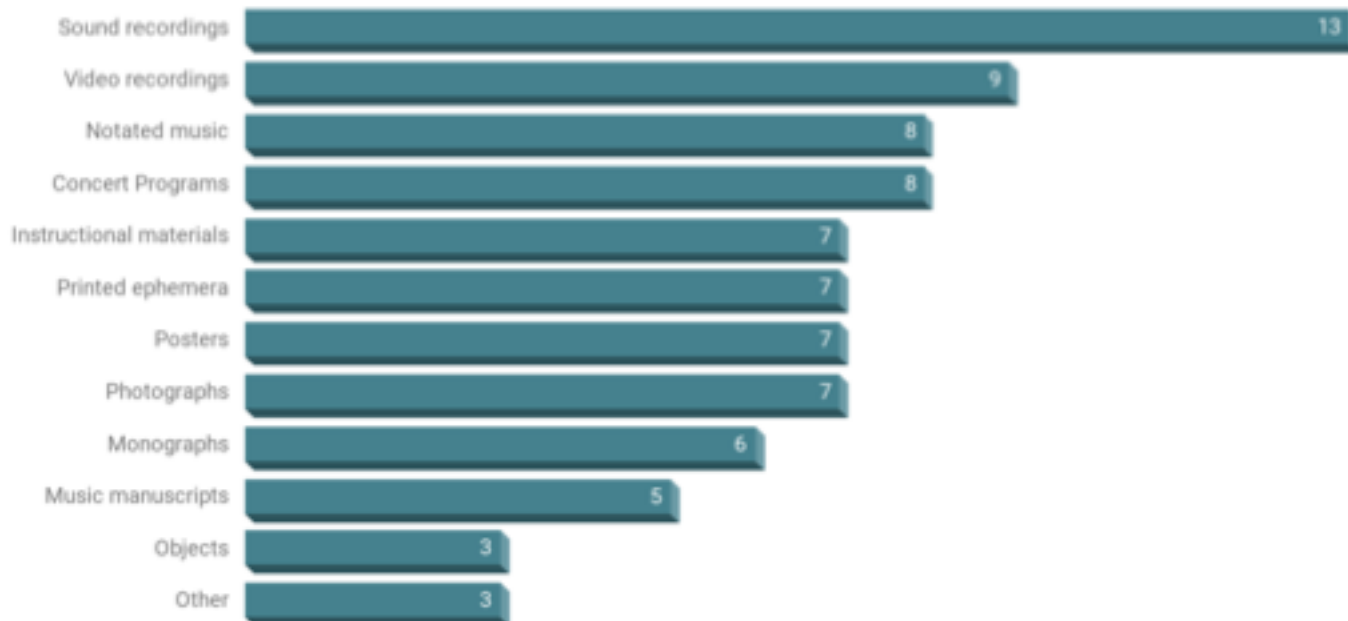


Q3 What type of library do you work in?



Collection Scope

Q5 What formats are included in your local music collection(s)?



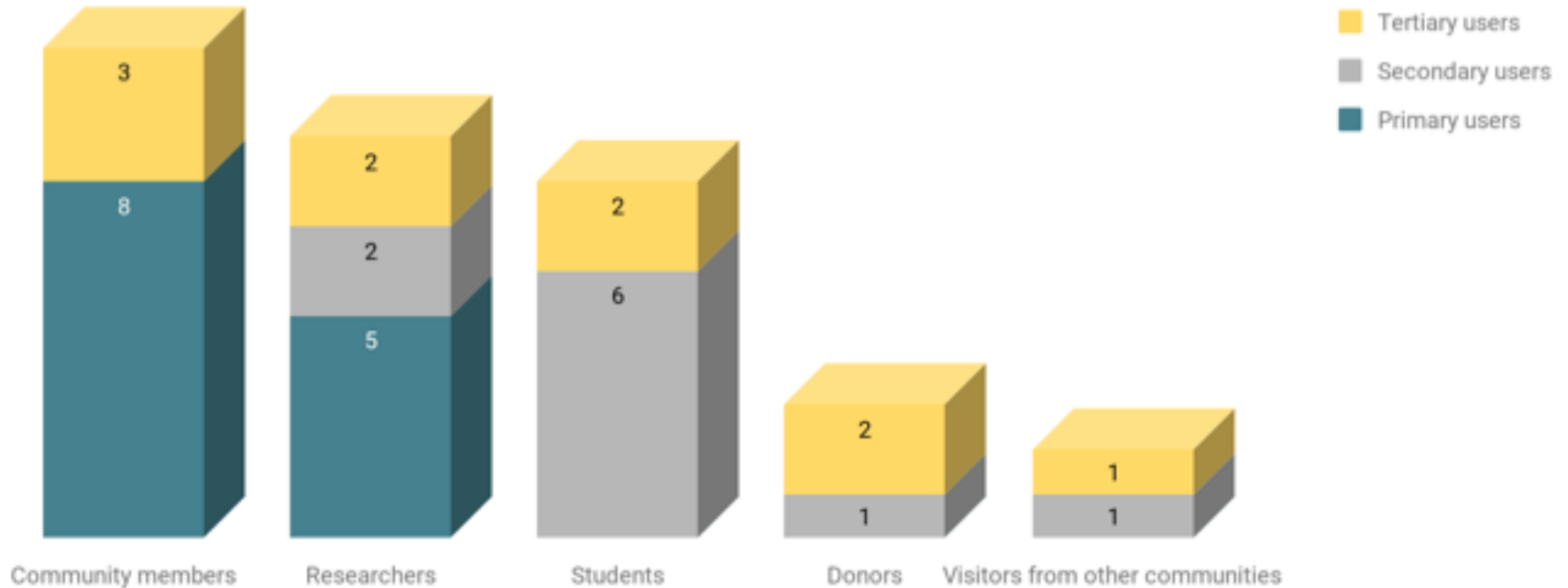
Collection Location Within Institution

Q16 Where is the physical location of the local music collection (s) within your institution?



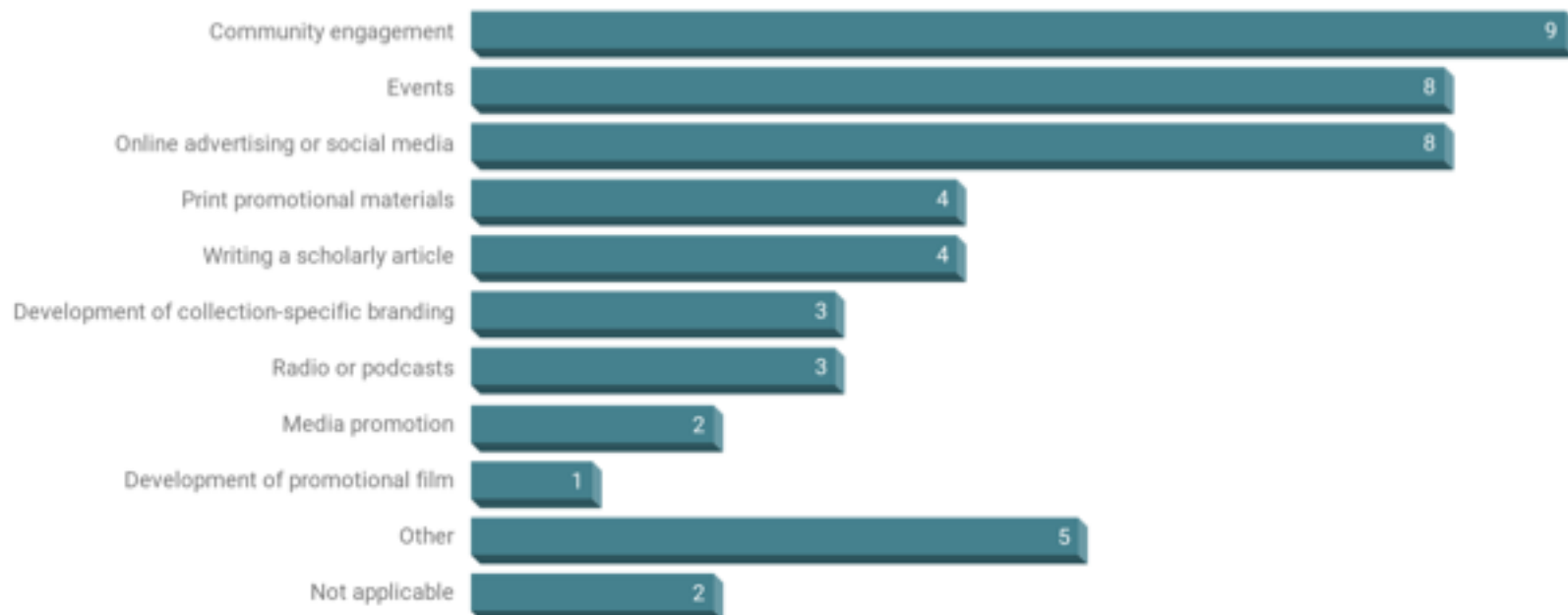
Collection Users

Q8 Who are the users of your local music collection(s)?



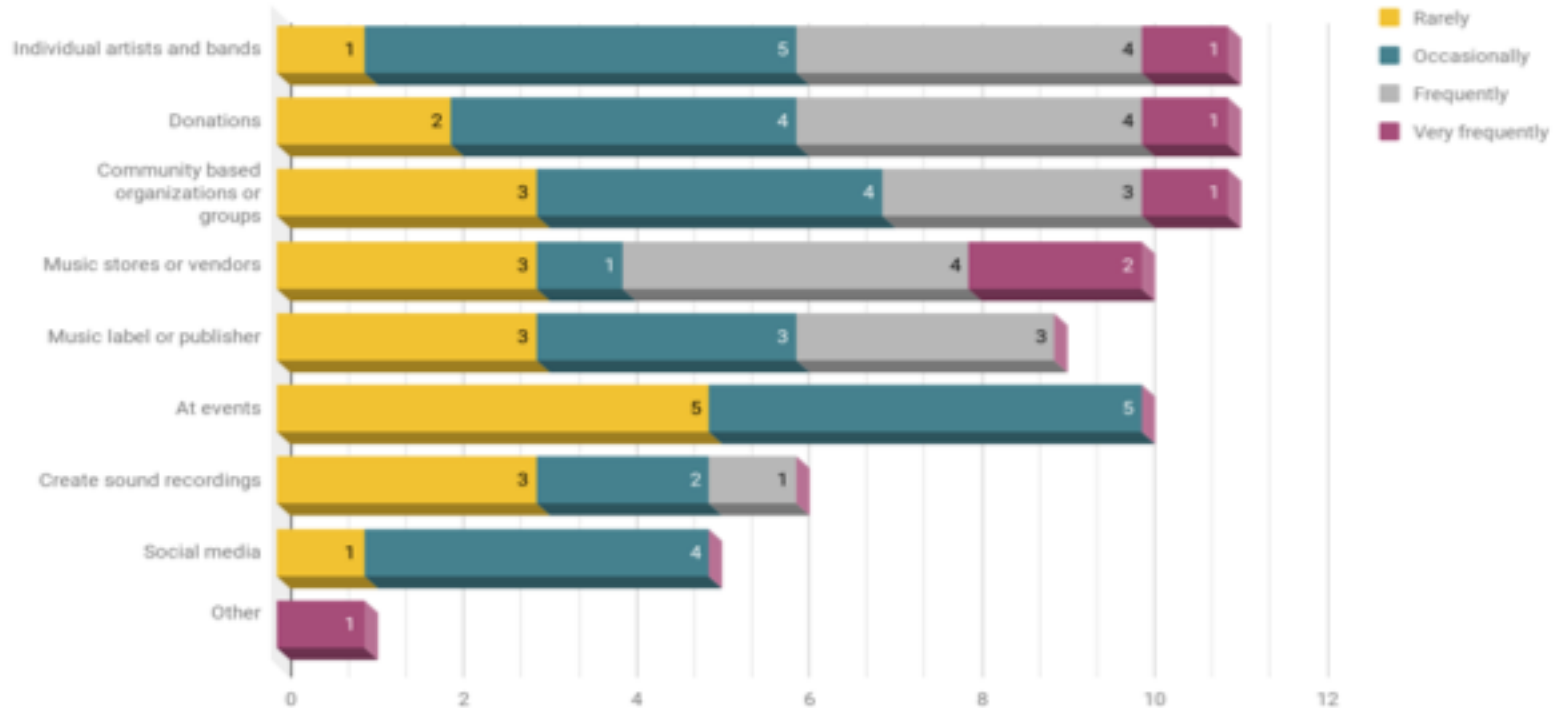
Promotion

Q10 How are the local music collection(s) promoted?



Sources of Acquisition

Q12 How often do you acquire local music materials from the following sources?



Discussion

- Local music collections are complex, diverse, and require unique strategies for management.
- Partnership may be a key aspect of local music collection work.
- Community impacts all aspects of local music collecting and collections



Next steps

Expand focus to include broader cultural heritage community, private collectors...

- Qualitative analysis of survey data
- Interviews and site visits
- Expand digital libraries focus
- Local music collecting symposium/edited collection [**Stay tuned!**]

Questions?

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