



## CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY ANNOUNCES EARLY FINDINGS FROM CULTURAL COLLECTIONS PROTECTION SURVEY

Findings show significant preservation needs and limited resources among cultural heritage community

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**[Sacramento, Calif.]** Many of California's archives, galleries, historical societies, libraries, museums and tribal nations lack disaster response plans and long-term protection strategies for the cultural keepsakes in their care, according to early findings from an ongoing, [comprehensive survey](#) being conducted by the California State Library and other cultural heritage partners.

The survey is an attempt to measure the preparedness of California's arts and cultural heritage entities and help prioritize investment in protecting these irreplaceable pieces of California's unique and diverse story.

Survey registration is open through February 21, and all collecting organizations are encouraged to register at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSLSurveyRegistration>.

Hundreds of organizations of varying sizes and areas of focus have completed the survey, helping build a database on the condition and preservation needs of California's culturally significant collections.

Among the emerging trends:

- A commonly voiced worry by respondents is the inability to properly protect the collections in their care. Of the many organizations that are unable to meet these protection needs, the top reason is budget constraints (60%).
- More than 80% of respondents do not have a long-term preservation plan. Almost half have never completed a general condition assessment of their collection.
- Approximately half of respondents do not have a written disaster plan, a significant need given the risks posed by fire, flood and earthquakes and threats from inadequate storage facilities and simple decay over time.
- Three in four of the collections surveyed have not been digitized, a crucial concern for those organizations holding works on paper and other fragile materials.

“What’s critical is getting even more input from more arts and cultural heritage institutions,” said Greg Lucas, California State Librarian. We can’t create smart strategies to properly address needs unless we understand what those needs are.”

The survey results will culminate in a final report to help educate both decisionmakers and the cultural heritage community on how to protect and preserve the state’s local and tribal history and art.

# End of Press Release #

**About the State Library:** Founded in 1850, the California State Library has an extensive collection of documents from and about the state’s rich history, ranging from books, maps, miners’ diaries, newspapers, and periodicals to photographs, paintings and posters. The State Library also holds federal and state publications, is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library and the Braille and Talking Book Library, and serves as the lead state agency for library-related services throughout California. [State Library website](#)