

WHRAB Planning Surveys

The Context for our Work Today

Introduction

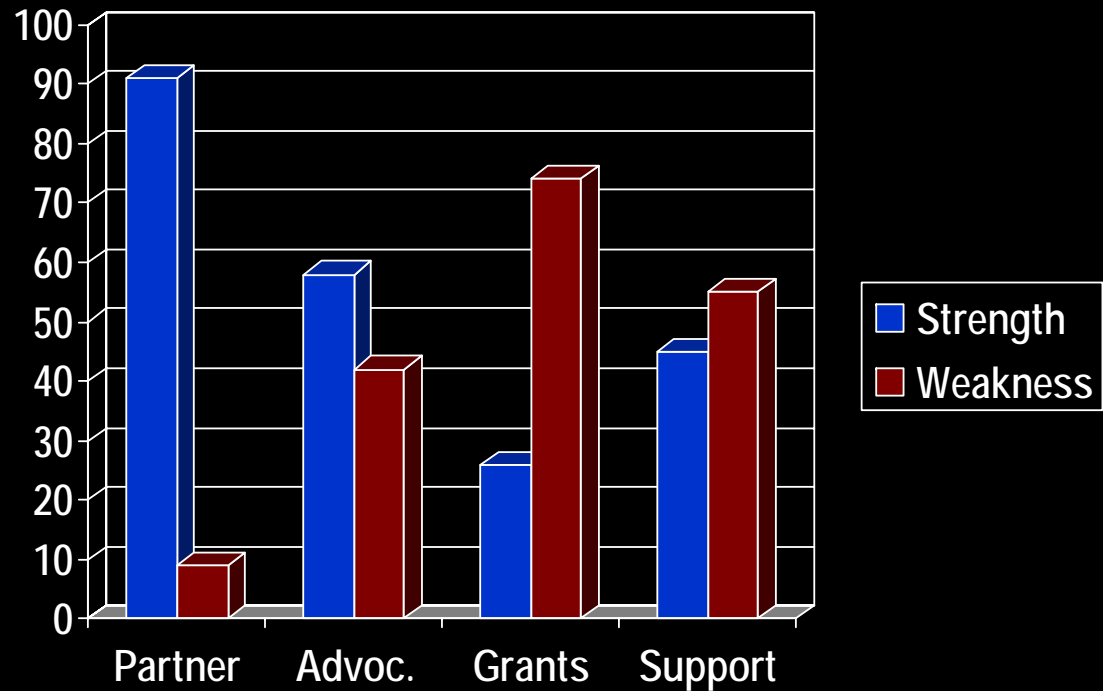
- Peter Gottlieb
 - ◆ Wisconsin State Archivist
 - ◆ Director, WHS Library & Archives Division
- Provide the context for the work
 - ◆ Review key findings from surveys
 - ◆ Present critical strategic issues

Surveys

- WHRAB Assessment Survey Results
- Repositories Survey Results
- A-Census Survey Results for WI
- Key Informant Survey Results
- SAA Student Focus Group Results

WHRAB Assessment Survey (n=28)

Internal Strengths/Weaknesses:



WHRAB Assessment Survey

External Changes/Trends:

Records and many other kinds of documents are increasingly created and kept only in electronic formats.

- Develop standards/guidelines and conduct workshops to help others become proficient.

Concerns about information security and privacy are leading to restrictions on access to information, including records with historical value.

- Become more active in advocating and promoting access to information with key legislators; develop partnerships.

WHRAB Assessment Survey

External Changes/Trends:

Government funding for historic records is being cut, at the same time as demand for access to historic records is increasing.

- Advocate for and help develop alternative revenue sources

Users increasingly expect 24/7 access to all sorts of information. Become more active in advocating and promoting access to information with key legislators; develop partnerships.

- Support others in providing Internet access; encourage digitization.

WHRAB Assessment Survey

External Changes/Trends:

Two University of Wisconsin campuses have recently strengthened and expanded graduate programs in archives administration

- Develop a program to involve graduate students with the WHRAB.

Repositories Survey

Electronic Records:

- 53% are acquiring electronic records.
- 81% do not have defined procedures for managing & preserving formats and making them public.

Repositories Survey

Education/Training/Skills:

- 50% of respondents have a desire to learn more about electronic records.
- Most preferred method of training was the tried and true workshop method.

Repositories Survey

Collecting:

- Most respondents now have a written collecting policy, so this is no longer a concern as it was with last plan.
- Two most common gaps were underrepresented groups and region/local history.

Repositories Survey

Digital Collections:

- 46% say digitizing is on the rise.
- Training is needed to develop a level of comfort with digitizing and converting records.

Repositories Survey

Users:

- Use of archives is increasing – the trend is for people who write to use email.
- Family history is most common use of historical records.

Repositories Survey

Publicity:

- Most respondents use printed publicity to spread the word about their collections and services.
- The web is not being used as frequently.

A-Census Survey on WI Archivists (n=136)

- ⑩ Most employed by academic institutions.
- ⑩ Quite senior in their current positions.
- ⑩ Will be undergoing a significant turnover in the next ten years.
- ⑩ In Wisconsin, predominantly female.
- ⑩ 0% Latino/Hispanic & African-American.
- Education wanted in electronic records management.

Key Informant Survey (n=6)

Trends of high importance:

- Electronic Records.
- Reduced government funding.

Trends of lesser importance:

- Users going to the Internet as a primary source of information.

SAA Student Group Survey (n=14)

- Graduate students tend to look to their studies to provide them with practical knowledge – don't expect graduate studies to make them good theoreticians.
- Students felt they would need ongoing training to keep up with technology & to develop skills in grant writing.

List of Critical Issues/Challenges

(descending order of importance)

1. Electronic records

What role should the Board play in addressing major preservation challenges posed by the emergence of electronic records?

List of Critical Issues/Challenges

(descending order of importance)

2. Funding/resources

How can the Board assist records creators & keepers in retaining existing resources and finding alternative funding sources?

List of Critical Issues/Challenges

(descending order of importance)

3. Archivists – the next generation

What role can the Board play in strengthening the WI archival profession during this period of generational transition?

List of Critical Issues/Challenges

(descending order of importance)

4. Training/education

In an era of rapid change, how can the Board help records creators/keepers become proficient in core competencies?

List of Critical Issues/Challenges

(descending order of importance)

5. Gaps in the documentary record

What needs to be collected in order to adequately document contemporary WI history?

List of Critical Issues/Challenges

(descending order of importance)

6. Internet and digital access to historical records

Does the Board have a role in fostering Internet access to historical records?

Final List of Critical Issues/Challenges

(descending order of importance)

1. Electronic records – What role should Board play in addressing major preservation challenges posed by emergence of electronic records?
2. Funding/resources – How can Board assist records creators & keepers in retaining existing resources and finding alternative funding sources?
3. Archivists – the next generation – What role can Board play in strengthening WI archival profession during this period of generational transition?
4. Training/education – In an era of rapid change, how can Board help records creators/keepers become proficient in core competencies?
5. Gaps in the documentary record – What needs to be collected in order to adequately document contemporary WI history?
6. Internet & digital access to historical records – Does the Board have a role in fostering Internet access to historical records?

The End

Thank you for your attention!

