

# 2006 Utah Museums Survey

## **Conducted by**

Dan Jones and Associates

## **Sponsored by**

The Utah Office of Museum Services

The Utah Museums Association

The International Society of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers

# 2006 Utah Museums Survey

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Utah's 255 museums are protectors of our artistic, historic, scientific, and cultural heritage.



A historic store exhibition  
Great Basin Museum, Delta

## Museums Matter!

Museums play important roles in our communities by improving the quality of life and providing beneficial services. Museums are protectors of our artistic, historic, scientific, and cultural heritage. Authentic artifacts in history museums are very significant in creating a strong connection to the past.

Museums provide experiences that families share across generations and that create lasting memories. In museums, grandparents, parents, and children together see history come alive, learn about scientific discoveries, and wonder at works of art.

Museums are centers of learning; the focal point of their service to the public is their educational role. People of all ages and backgrounds come to learn from museum collections, exhibits, and programs. Museums also offer educational programs to school children that help fulfill state curriculum standards.

Museums enhance economic development. Being significant tourist destinations, they are major partners in travel and tourism. Museums are key elements in attracting and retaining business activity. When businesses are planning to relocate, access to museums and other cultural resources are top priorities.

## Why Utah Museums are Important

Utah museums perform a unique service to the state and its citizens by preserving its history. Their importance is illustrated by the fact that within years of settling the valley in 1847, plans were discussed for the establishment of a museum.

- Utah's 255 museums are located in every county.
- Utah museums are the state's greatest educational resource outside public education.
- Museums are an important part of cultural tourism, thus generating economic development.
- Utah museums host over 6 million visitors a year.
- More than 1½ million Utah school children in over 25,000 school groups visit museums as part of their formal education each year.

## 2006 Utah Museums Survey

This Survey of Utah museums was commissioned by three organizations: the Utah Office of Museum Services (OMS), the Utah Museums Association (UMA) and the International Society of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers (DUP). The goal was to assess the needs of Utah museums.

Questions were concentrated in the area of collections care and preservation. Future surveys will focus on various museum operations such as education and exhibits. This series of surveys, to be conducted over the next several years, will build a complete picture of the condition and needs of Utah museums.

The survey was administered by the firm of Dan Jones & Associates to ensure a professional and accurate result. They sent out forms to 253 museums and received completed surveys from 153 museums providing a 60% response rate.

The results reflect a healthy museum community, but one that has a great many needs.

*"Utah holds a unique position within the context of national history. As a pre-planned settlement of sturdy pioneers, as an entrepreneurial stop on the Gold Rush of '47, as the meeting place of the trans-continental railroad, as the ancient home of culturally rich indigenous people, Utah contains within her borders numerous invaluable national treasures, central to the American story of settling an untamed West and surviving against the odds in rugged conditions. It is our job, today, to ensure that the artifacts that remain to tell this story also survive."*  
Kari M. Main, Pioneer Memorial Museum.

The Office of Museum Services, with the support of the International Society of Daughters of Utah Pioneers and the Utah Museums Association, is launching a statewide **Preservation Initiative** to preserve museum collections.



Unique macaw feather apron  
Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum



# Museum Highlights

Utah has 255 museums;  
they are located  
in every county

As educational institutions, museums provide opportunities for people of all ages and persuasions to learn, to explore new interests, and to discover more about the world in which they live.

The great variety of Utah museums assures that there is something of interest for everyone. Museums range from one-room log cabins to large modern, climate-controlled buildings. Fine art, trains, dinosaurs, historic and prehistoric sites, and cultural artifacts are available for Utah museum visitors.

Utah museums annually  
host more than  
6 million visitors

While museums are a major draw for tourists, most museum visitors are members of the local community, with school groups accounting for 25% of the visits.

More than half of the  
museums have an annual  
budget less than \$25,000

Most museums tap many sources in order to raise enough money to survive. Because budgets tend to be tight, even small amounts received through grants and donations are important and allow museums to carry out projects and events.

Utah museums could not  
survive without volunteers

Volunteers spent more than 370,000 hours in 118 museums last year, an average of 3,140 volunteer hours per museum. These volunteer hours are equal to 177 full-time staff positions.



A database workshop conducted by the  
Office of Museum Services.  
Juab County DUP museum

Computerized databases  
make it easier to catalog  
collections

In addition to record keeping, museums use computers to share information about their collections on their websites and to offer virtual exhibits to web browsers.



A Utah State  
University student  
prepares a condition  
report for a tapa  
cloth dress.  
USU Museum of  
Anthropology

## Museums are educational institutions first and foremost

Museum objects tell the stories of our past, of our world, and of our great cultural achievements. Museum education is informal and available to everyone. Family outings to museums provide learning in a fun, exciting, and interactive setting.



During a workshop, wood conservator Ronald Sheetz discusses cleaning and waxing furniture with Bessie Jones, director of the Juab County DUP Museum. Iron Mission State Park Museum

## Collections are the core of the museum

Collections must be stored and exhibited under proper conditions, handled with care, and be accurately documented.

All Utah museums care deeply about preserving their collections. Much work remains to be done, however, to raise the quality of care to a level that will assure the collections' survival.



Washing and drying historic lace and clothing requires special techniques. Mt. Pleasant Pioneer Museum and Relic Home

## Preserving museum collections must become a top priority

To help meet the needs indicated by the survey results, the Office of Museum Services, with the support of the Utah Museums Association and the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, is launching a statewide Preservation Initiative in which special technical assistance and funding will be provided to protect and ensure the safe keeping of Utah's cultural, natural, and historical treasures.



Cleaning a basket is intricate and exacting work. Mt. Pleasant Pioneer Museum and Relic Home



# Participating Museums

Alf Engen Ski Museum, Park City  
 Alliance for the Varied Arts, Logan  
 Anasazi State Park Museum, Boulder  
 Art Access, Salt Lake City  
 Bear River Pioneer Museum, Brigham City  
 Benson Grist Mill Historic Site, Stansbury Park  
 Blanding Pioneer Museum  
 Bountiful/Davis Art Center  
 Bountiful Historical Museum  
 Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Southern Utah  
 University (SUU), Cedar City  
 Brigham Young University Museum of Art, Provo  
 Brigham City Museum-Gallery  
 Camp Floyd State Park, Fairfield  
 College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum, Price  
 Chase Home Museum of Utah Folk Arts,  
 Salt Lake City  
 Clark Planetarium, Salt Lake City  
 Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry, Price  
 Crandall Historical Printing Museum, Provo  
 Dan O'Laurie Museum of Moab  
 Discovery Gateway, Salt Lake City  
 Dixie State College Sears Museum/Gallery,  
 St. George  
 Draper Historical Museum  
 Eccles Community Art Center, Ogden  
 Eccles Dinosaur Park, Ogden  
 Echo Church & Museum  
 Farmington Historical Museum  
 Fielding Garr Ranch/Antelope Island State Park,  
 Syracuse  
 Finch Lane Gallery, Salt Lake City  
 Ft. Douglas Military Museum, Salt Lake City  
 Gale Center of History & Culture, South Jordan Girl  
 Scouts of Utah Heritage Museum,  
 Salt Lake City  
 Great Basin Historical Society & Museum, Delta  
 Hatch Museum  
 Heber Valley Aero Museum  
 Hellenic Cultural Association, Salt Lake City  
 Heritage Museum of Layton  
 Historic Peteetneet Cultural Arts Center & Museum,  
 Payson  
 Historic Pioneer Museum, Castle Dale  
 Historic Wendover Airfield  
 Hurricane Valley Heritage Park Museum  
 Iron Mission State Park Museum, Cedar City  
 John Hutchings Museum of Natural History, Lehi  
 John Jarvie Ranch, Dutch John



Iron Mission State Park



Springville Museum of Art

John Wesley Powell River History Museum,  
 Green River  
 Kanab Heritage House  
 Kanab Heritage Museum  
 Kane County DUP Museum, Kanab  
 Kimball Art Center, Park City  
 Manti Historic City Hall  
 Mary Elizabeth Dee Shaw Gallery, Weber State  
 University (WSU), Ogden  
 Maynard Dixon Summer Home & Studio, Mt. Carmel  
 Midvale Historical Society & Museum  
 Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum, Brigham Young  
 University (BYU), Provo  
 Mt. Pleasant Pioneer Museum and Relic Home  
 Murray City Museum  
 Museum of Ancient Life, Lehi  
 Museum of Peoples and Cultures, BYU, Provo  
 Museum of the San Rafael, Castle Dale  
 Museum of Utah Art and History, Salt Lake City  
 Myton Memories Museum  
 Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Utah State  
 University (USU), Logan  
 Ogden Nature Center  
 Ogden Union Station Foundation  
 Orem Heritage Museum  
 Ott Planetarium, WSU, Ogden  
 Park City Historical Society and Museum  
 Patten House Museum, Manti  
 Pope House Museum, Duchesne  
 Red Butte Garden, University of Utah (U of U),  
 Salt Lake City  
 Roy Historical Museum  
 Salt Lake Art Center  
 Sandy Museum  
 Santaquin Chieftain Museum  
 Silver Reef Museum, Leeds  
 Smithfield Historical Society Museum  
 Sorensen Home Museum, Draper  
 Springville Museum of Art  
 St. George Art Museum  
 Stokes Nature Center, Logan  
 Summit County Historical Society Museum, Coalville  
 Syracuse Museum & Cultural Center

Taylorsville Bennion Heritage Center, Taylorsville  
 Thanksgiving Point Gardens, Lehi  
 This Is The Place Heritage Park, Salt Lake City  
 Thomas Whitaker Home, Centerville  
 Tintic Mining Museum, Eureka  
 Tooele Valley Railroad Museum  
 Topaz Museum, Delta  
 Tracy Aviary, Salt Lake City  
 Treehouse Children's Museum, Ogden  
 Uintah County Western Heritage Museum, Vernal  
 Utah Arts Council/Alice Gallery, Salt Lake City  
 Utah Field House of Natural History State Park  
 Museum, Vernal  
 Utah Firefighters Memorial Museum, Grantsville  
 Utah House, USU, Kaysville  
 Utah Museum of Fine Arts, U of U, Salt Lake City  
 Utah Museum of Natural History, U of U, Salt Lake City  
 Utah State Historical Society Museum, Salt Lake City  
 USU Museum of Anthropology, Logan  
 Utah Windmill Exhibit and Interpretive Center,  
 St. George  
 Utah Wing - Commemorative Air Force, Salt Lake City  
 Utah's Hogle Zoo, Salt Lake City  
 Wasatch Mountain State Park, Midway  
 West Jordan Historical Museum  
 Western Mining & Railroad Museum, Helper  
 Willow Park Zoo, Logan  
 Woodbury Art Museum, Utah Valley State College,  
 Orem  
 WSU Museum of Natural Science, Ogden



Treehouse Childrens Museum, Ogden

### Daughters of Utah Pioneers (DUP) Museums

Alpine Historic Pioneer Relic Hall  
 American Fork DUP Relic Hall  
 Beaver DUP Court House Museum  
 Box Elder South DUP Museum, Brigham City  
 Camp Belknap DUP Museum, Elsinore  
 Camp Christine DUP Cabin, Redmond  
 Camp Sally DUP Museum, Kanosh  
 Cedar City DUP Museum  
 Centerville Cabin DUP Museum  
 Charles W. Penrose Cabin DUP Museum, Farmington  
 Coalville DUP Museum  
 Ephraim DUP Museum  
 Escalante DUP Museum  
 Fanny Powell Cropper DUP Museum, Delta  
 Francis DUP Museum



McQuarrie Memorial Pioneer Museum

Fremont DUP Museum  
 Gowans Log Cabin, Tooele  
 Henefer DUP Museum  
 Jeremiah Willey Cabin Museum, Bountiful  
 John Carver Cabin/Plain City DUP Museum  
 Juab County DUP Museum, Nephi  
 Laketown DUP Relic Hall  
 Lewiston - Wheeler Log Cabin  
 McQuarrie Memorial Pioneer Museum, St. George  
 Miles Goodyear Cabin/Weber County Pioneer  
 Museum, Ogden  
 Moab DUP Museum  
 Monroe DUP Museum  
 Morgan County DUP Museum  
 Mt. Nebo Pioneer Memorial Relic Home, Mona  
 Old Bell School/DUP Museum and Log Cabin,  
 Pleasant Grove  
 Orderville Kane County DUP Museum  
 Panguitch DUP Museum  
 Parowan Old Rock Church Museum  
 Pilot Peak DUP Museum, Enterprise  
 Pioneer Memorial Museum, Salt Lake City  
 Provo Pioneer Museum  
 Richfield Pioneer Relic Hall  
 Sagwich Camp DUP Museum, Paradise  
 Spanish Fork DUP Museum  
 Spring City/Canal Creek DUP Museum  
 Springville/Mapleton DUP Museum, Springville  
 Stockton DUP Museum  
 Wellington Pioneer Log Cabin  
 Wellsville Tabernacle DUP Museum  
 Woods Cross-Hogan Cabin

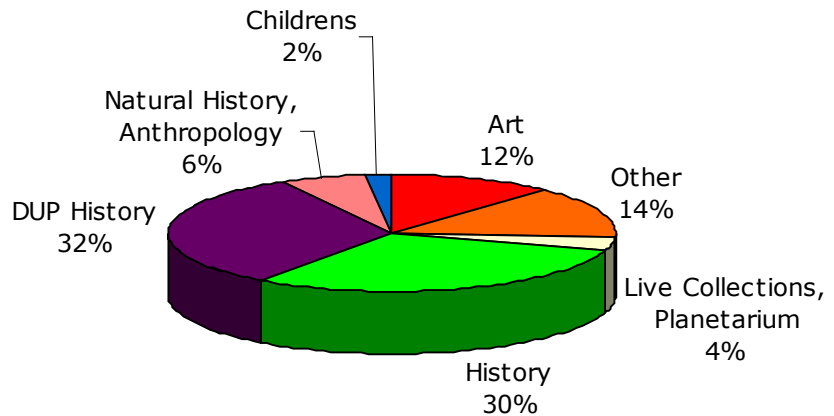


Canal Creek DUP Museum, Spring City



The diversity of Utah museums offers something for everyone.

## Types of Museums



## Museum Activities

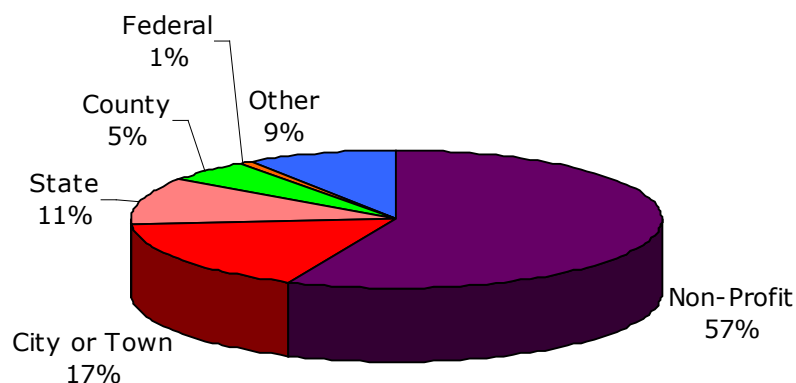
Museums present a wide variety of educational programs aimed at children and adults.

### Educational Activities

### Percent of Museums providing this Activity

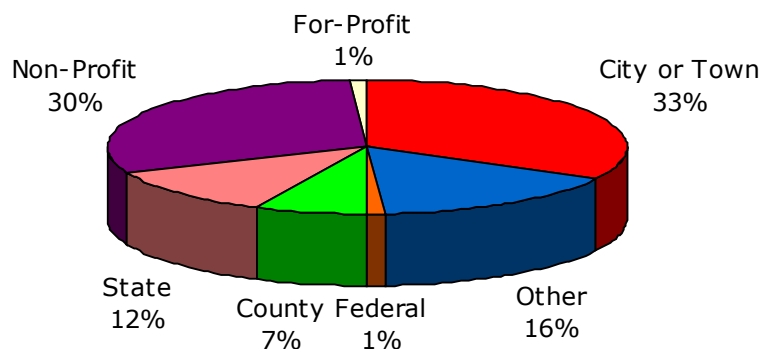
School tours	87%
Public tours	85%
Receptions/Open houses	77%
Children's activities/Events	67%
Permanent exhibitions	63%
Lectures/Gallery talks	63%
Changing exhibitions	59%
Family days	53%
Off-site school activities	49%
Demonstrations	49%
Classes or workshops	47%
Storytellers	32%
Musical performances	28%
Teacher workshops	24%
Films	24%
Genealogy or library research	23%
Panel discussions/Symposia	23%
Literary events	22%
Plays/Dramatic readings	14%
Other	44%

## Who Governs the Museum?



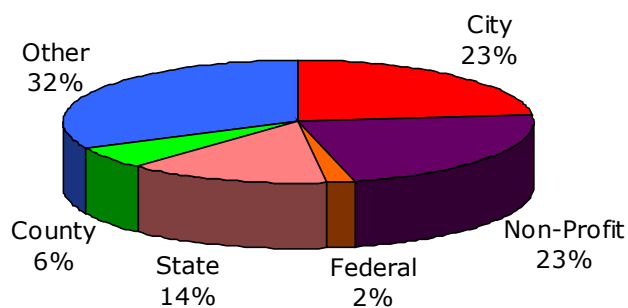
More than half of Utah museums are governed by a private non-profit board of directors or board of trustees. The remaining museums are public non-profit.

## Who Maintains the Building?



Local governments provide an important service by contributing to utility expenses, repair and maintenance of buildings, and landscaping.

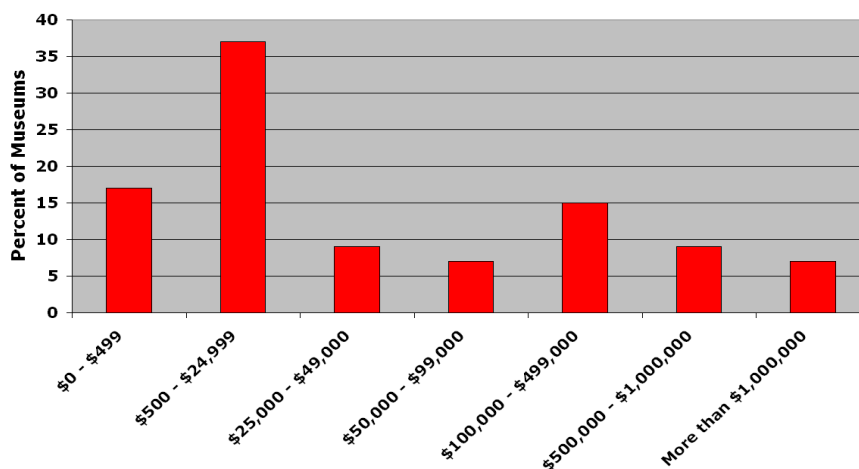
## Who Pays Staff Salaries?



Government agencies are the primary source for staff salaries. Staff are dedicated, enthusiastic, and committed to their museums.

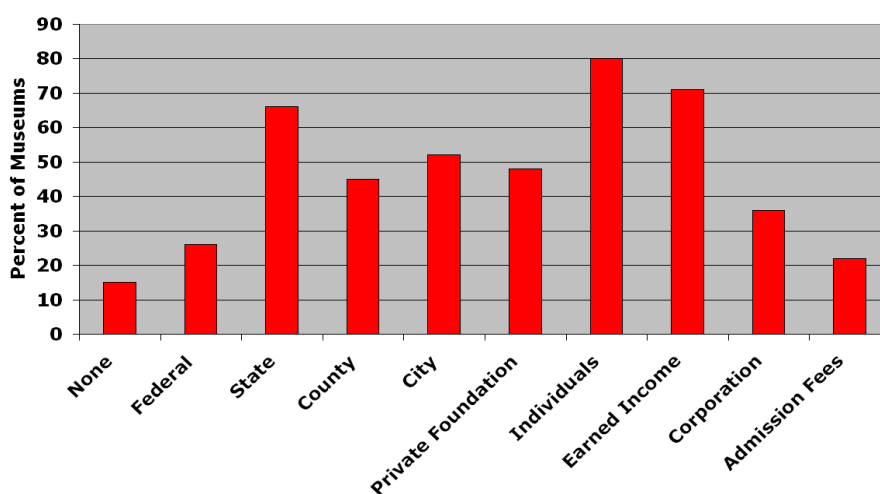
Museums do amazing things with little money, but they need help to carry out special projects that will ensure the preservation of their collections.

## Annual Operating Budget



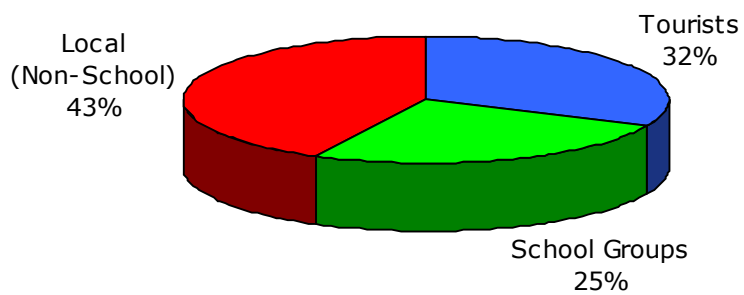
Even small amounts of money received through grants and donations are vital; they allow museums to carry out programs and events.

## Sources of Income



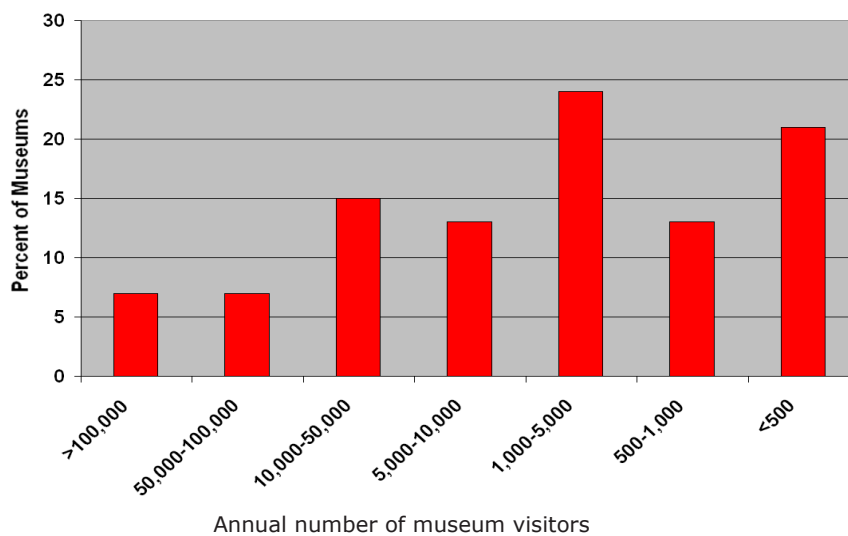


## Types of Museum Visitors



While museums are a major draw for tourists, local citizens make most of the visits to Utah museums.

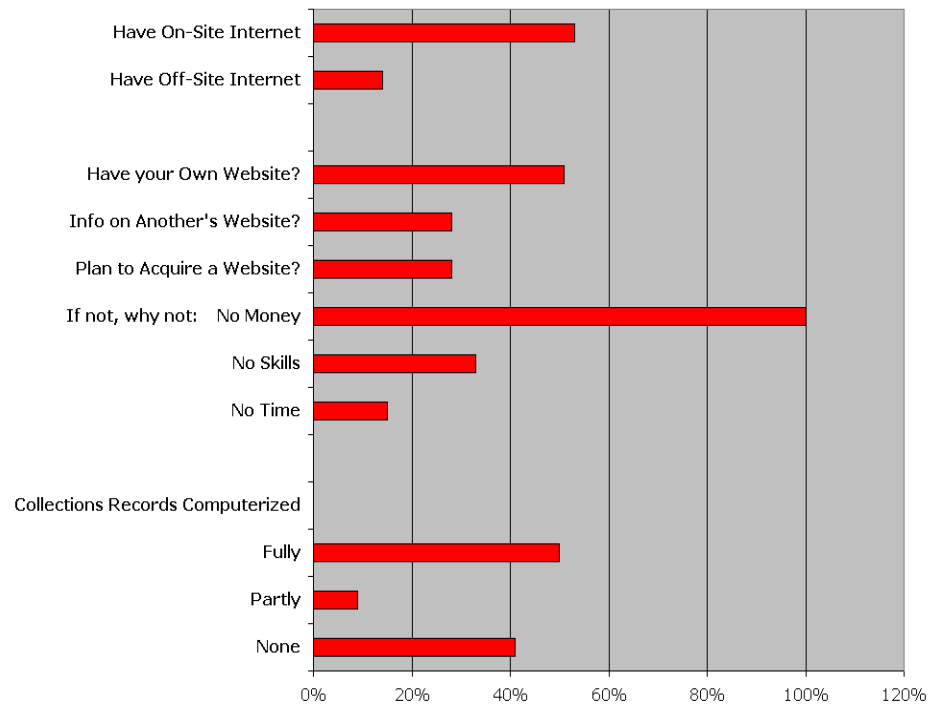
## Annual Number of Museum Visitors



More than six million people annually visit Utah museums.

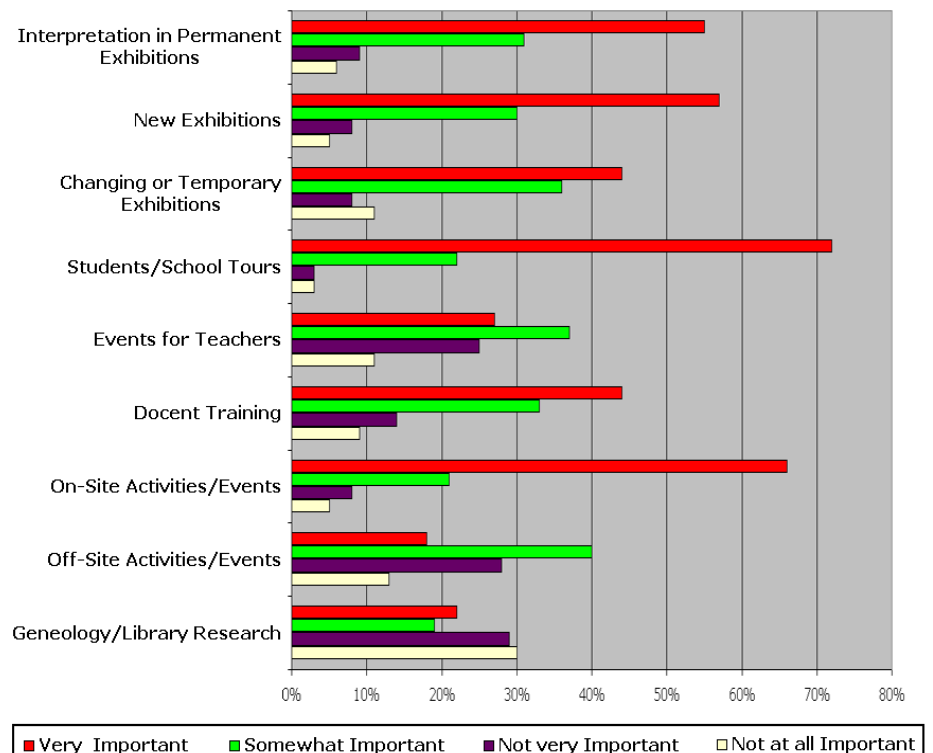
## Information Technology

Computerized databases make it easier to keep and access up-to-date collections' records.

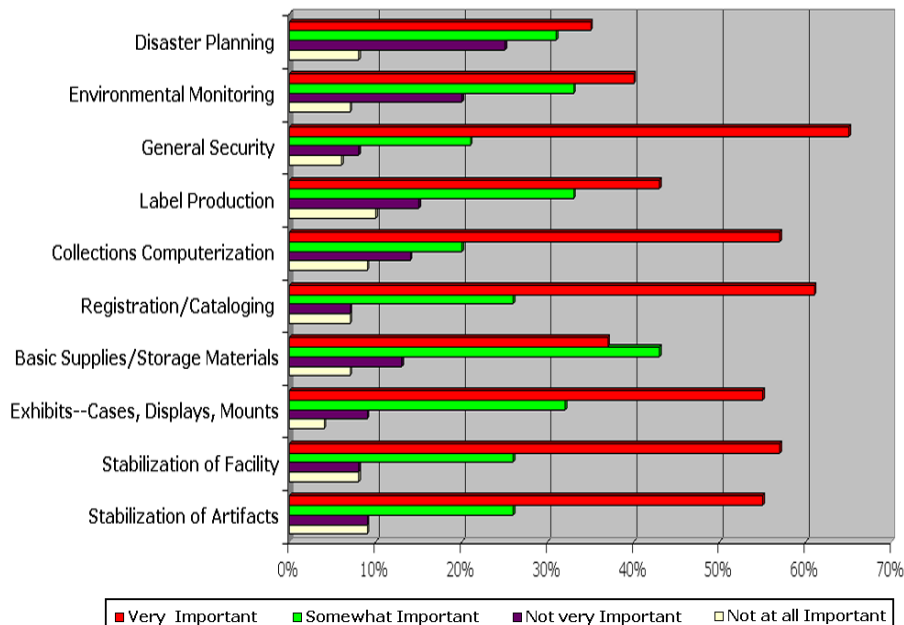


## Educational Priorities

Museums are educational institutions first and foremost.



# Collections Priorities



Collections are the core of the museum.

## Examples of Collections Needs

### Records

- 82% have objects that are not insured
- 49% have not inventoried paper/photograph collections
- 43% do not have all objects labeled
- 38% have not inventoried the condition of objects
- 20% of museums do not have all objects inventoried

### Storage/Exhibit Environment

- 80% do not have humidity controls
- 70% do not have UV film on windows/fluorescent lights
- 65% do not monitor light levels
- 49% do not have temperature controls
- 43% do not monitor for pests
- 41% do not have fire detection systems

### Objects Are Not Stored Properly

- 61% lack proper exhibit stands/materials
- 57% have objects on the floor
- 57% have objects in non-archival containers
- 38% have objects on open shelves

### Policies and Procedures

- 82% do not have a written disaster plan
- 49% do not have a security policy or plan
- 48% do not have a written collections policy

### Additional Training Needs

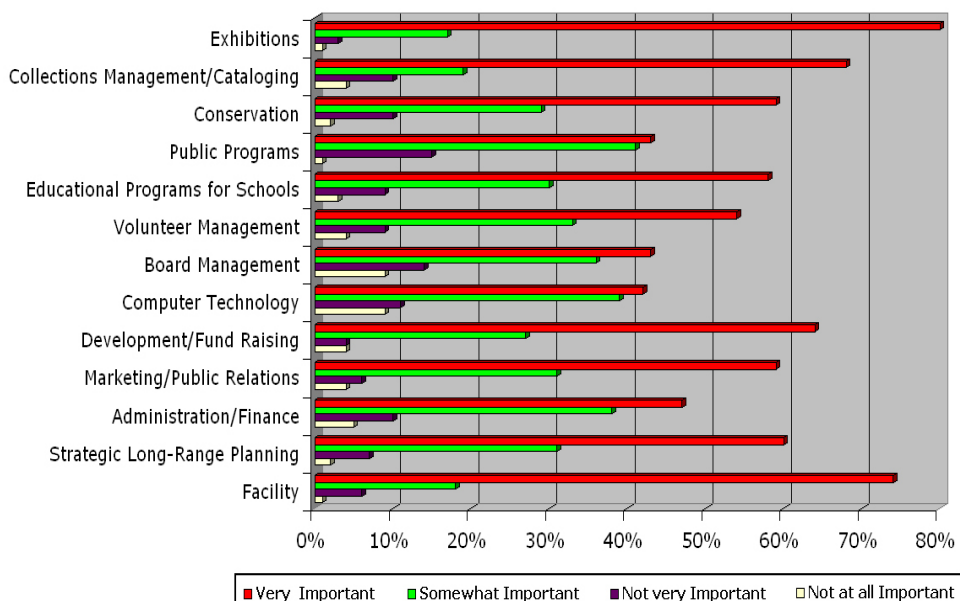
- 63% collections management (preventive conservation)
- 44% cataloging objects
- 35% labeling objects
- 35% how to handle objects

Preserving artifacts and the stories they tell is critical in safeguarding the history of our state.



Museum programs and projects are based on the objects in the museums' collections.

## Overall Priorities



This silk and tafetta flag was presented to Briant Wells on his return from the Spanish American War by his brother, Heber M. Wells, who was then governor of Utah. The deteriorated material needs conservation work to preserve it.  
Pioneer Memorial Museum

# The Utah Museums Preservation Initiative

Utah museums care for millions of objects that represent our artistic and historic heritage and scientific specimens that reflect our natural surroundings and the world's past. To preserve these objects museums need to store and exhibit them in proper environments, including stable temperatures and low light conditions. Objects need to be handled carefully and be kept in a place that is secure and safe. Museums need to keep meticulous records of what the objects are, where they came from, and the stories that are associated with them. If these measures are taken, the cost of caring for the state's treasures will be much lower without the additional financial burden of repairing deteriorated objects.

At present, many of the state's most valued collections are already at serious risk. These treasures will be lost if action is not taken to preserve them. To address this threat, the Office of Museum Services, with support from the International Society of Daughters of Utah Pioneers and the Utah Museums Association, are launching a special Preservation Initiative. This initiative will provide both financial resources and expanded technical assistance to Utah museums to ensure that our collections are preserved for future generations.



This stage coach was owned by Heber C. Kimball's Freight Company. Careful inspection shows it to be at grave risk. The axles are very weak and about to fail. In addition, the leather is cracked and the wood is split. This coach needs to be conserved and stabilized to prevent collapse.  
Pioneer Memorial Museum

# Survey Sponsors

This survey was sponsored by the Utah Office of Museum Services, the Utah Museums Association, and the International Society of Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museums



## Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museums

The mission of all Daughters of Utah Pioneers museums is to collect, preserve, and display the artifacts belonging to the Utah Pioneers who settled the Territory of Deseret from 1847 to May 10, 1869, and additionally those artifacts which represent the local community. Our open storage policy and donor-based evaluation of artifacts establish collections that represent the entire pioneer community and serve as easily accessible educational/research facilities for both descendants and the greater community.

[www.dupinternational.org](http://www.dupinternational.org)  
801-532-6479  
[pioneerememorialmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:pioneerememorialmuseum@gmail.com)



## Utah Museums Association

Founded in 1972, the Utah Museums Association is a non-profit, professional membership organization for museums and individuals associated with museums and serves institutions of all sizes and disciplines. UMA provides professional development and networking opportunities to build the capacity of Utah's museums; connects museums to information, resources, and best practice; and serves as an advocate to governmental authorities.

[www.utahmuseums.org](http://www.utahmuseums.org)  
435-503-2631  
[info@utahmuseums.org](mailto:info@utahmuseums.org)



## Utah Office of Museum Services

OMS is a state agency that promotes Utah museums and the essential role they play in our state as sources of community pride, centers of public education, and institutions that encourage economic development and tourism. The Office assists Utah museums in improving their ability to:

- care for and manage collections
- develop quality educational resources
- provide access to collections for research
- identify and successfully compete for financial resources.

[www.museums.utah.gov](http://www.museums.utah.gov)  
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