

Local Music in Cultural Heritage Institutions: Research from the Sounds of Home Project

Open Ideas Symposium, April 2019

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Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

Outline

1. Project background
2. Survey
3. Interviews

*Also part of this project not discussed today - geovisualization of local music collections

1. Project Background



Music and Place

Local Music in Cultural Heritage Institutions

- Local music **artifacts**:
 - tangible representations of the connection between music and space/place
- Local music **collectors**:
 - help build and promote music communities
- Local music **culture**:
 - connects people and places

Research Model

Theoretical Frameworks



Methods



Theoretical Frameworks

Music Scenes

- Sociology of music/cultural production
- Considers various aspects of a music scene as related to broader cultural forms, including the network of people involved in creating and maintaining it

Special Collections

- LIS/archival sciences
- Focus on the value collecting of rare/unique artifacts
- Examines the history of the transmission, use, and reception of texts



Local Music Collectors

“ the network of people whose cooperative activity, organized via their joint knowledge of conventional means of doing things, produce(s) the kind of art works that art world is noted for

(Becker, *Art Worlds*, 1982: x)

2. Survey

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

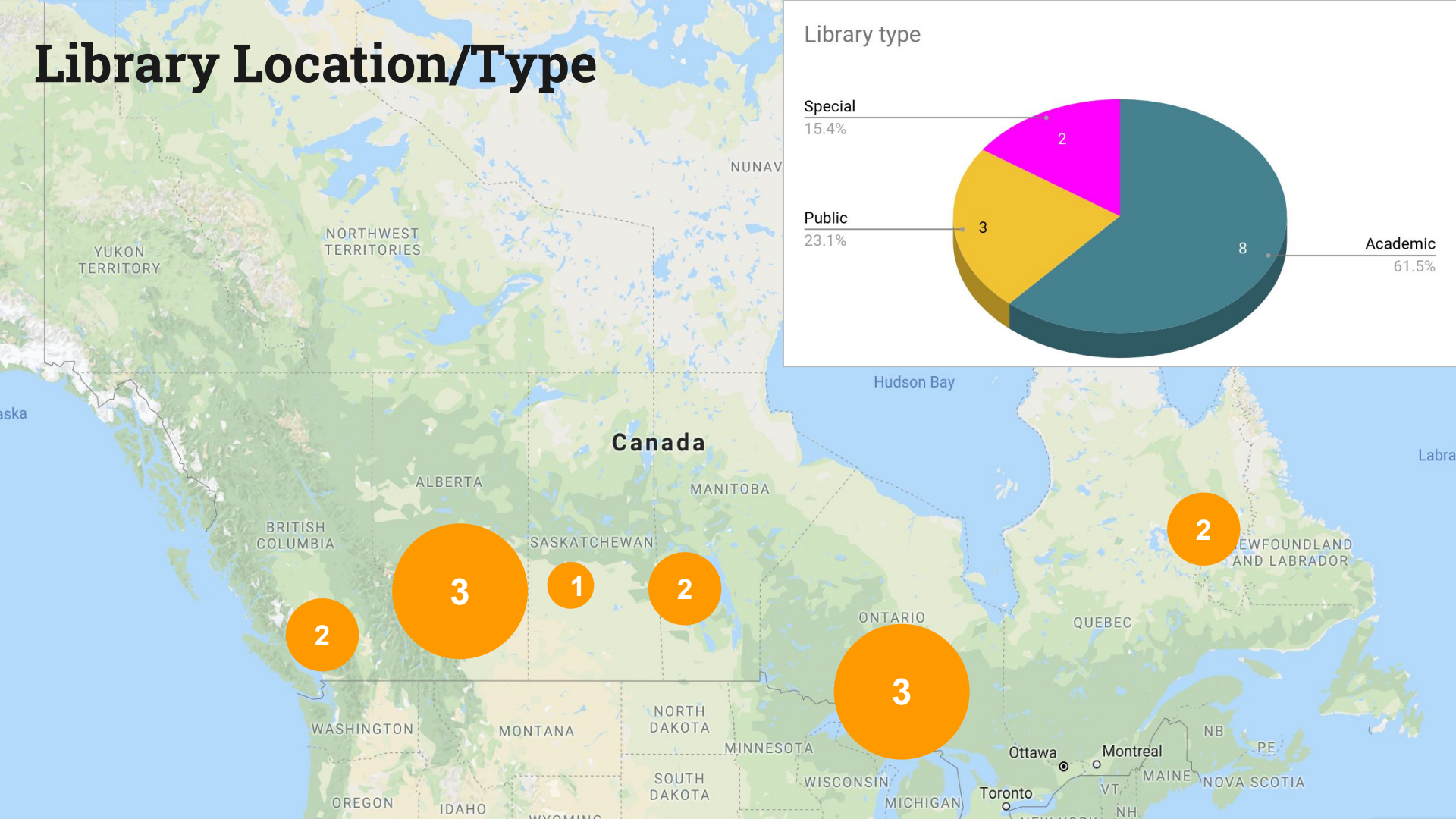
- Electronic questionnaire in English/French
- 20 questions (18 closed/4 open ended): demographics, collection scope, collection development, promotion, access, preservation
- Follow up questions: identifying collections, follow up interviews
- Participants from Canadian libraries (105 selected)
- Open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

Results Highlights

*Dataset available at: <https://doi.org/10.7939/DVN/WAJ9UG>

*Paper coming out this month in *CAML Review*

Library Location/Type



Survey Conclusions

1. Local music work falls outside of traditional professional competencies
2. May intersect more with archival practices
3. Preservation and online access are facilitated primarily through digitization and online hosting
4. Potential challenges: donor relations, community outreach, working outside skillset

3. Interviews

Purpose

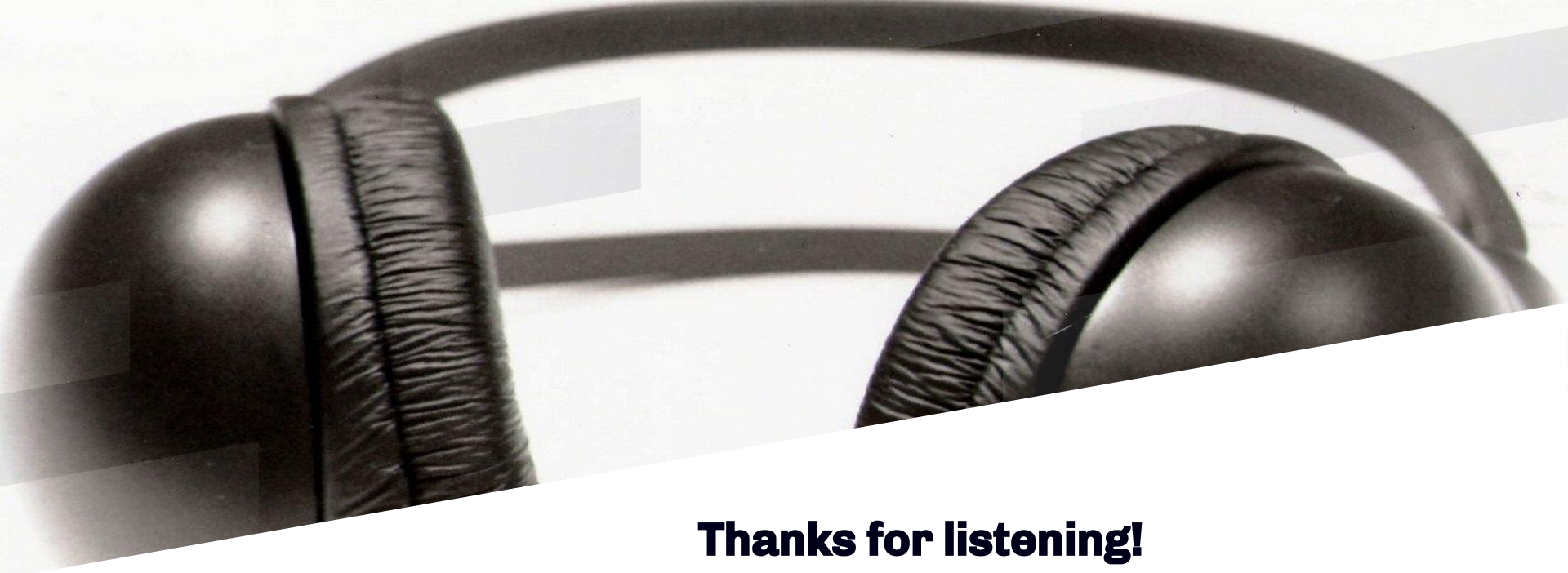
1. Understand the values, lived experiences, and perceptions of local music collection managers in Canadian cultural heritage organizations
2. Gather diverse perspectives on local music collecting, collections, and their impact on communities

Method

- Aiming for 30 participants (2/3 complete)
- Qualitative research interviews
- Semi-structured interview guide approach
- Questions focus is on value and significance of collecting local music from their perspective
- Photo documentation and site visits

Initial Findings

1. Local music is collected in a wide variety of cultural heritage organizations and often considered rare or on the verge of being lost
2. Collectors consider local music to be underrepresented in academic conversations
3. Collection managers work closely with or as a part of the local music community
4. Challenges include: funding, infrastructure, time, interest



Thanks for listening!

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<https://research-groups.usask.ca/soundsofhome/>