



CANADIAN
WAR
MUSEUM
-
MUSÉE
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DE LA GUERRE

Digital Heirlooms at CWM

Paul Durand

Supervisor, Military History Research Centre
Canadian War Museum

*Superviseur, Centre de recherche sur l'histoire militaire
Musée canadien de la guerre*

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heirloom:

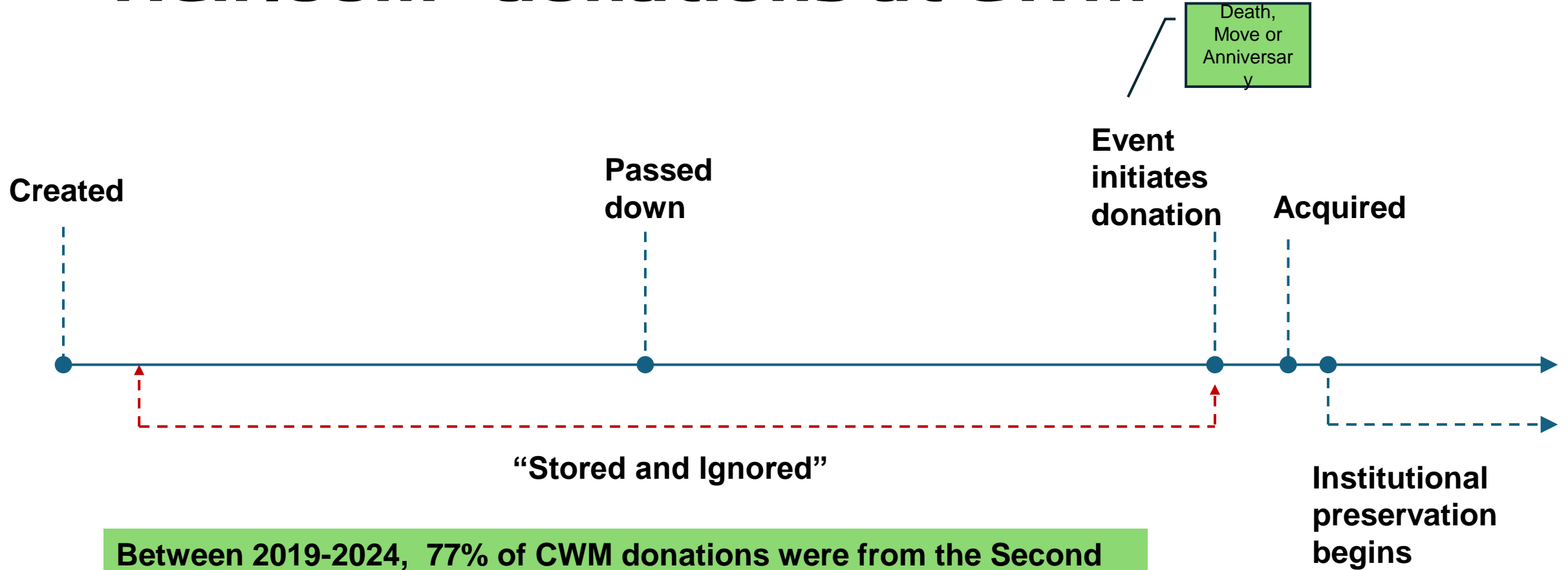
something of special value handed down from
one generation to another

([Merriam-Webster](#))

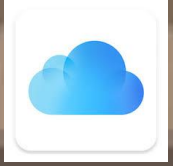
a valuable object that has been given by older
members of a family to younger members of the
same family over many years

([Cambridge Dictionary](#))

“Heirloom” donations at CWM



Between 2019-2024, 77% of CWM donations were from the Second World War, predominantly from descendants of veterans. First World War donations follow a similar pattern with high donation rates in the 1990s.



Digital heirlooms?

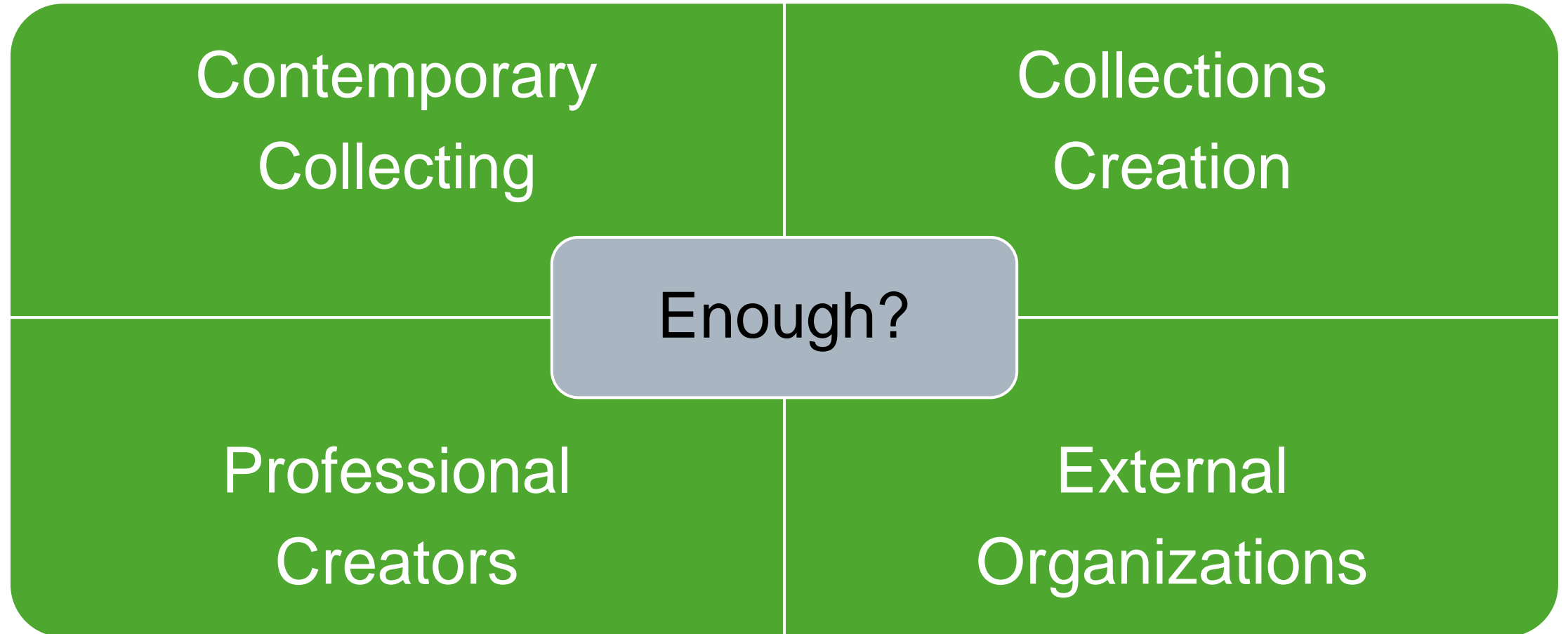
- Do they exist?
- Are they being handed down?
- Are accounts being maintained by family?
- Will they reach the age of recognized historical value?



Resources tend to be...

- “How do I archive...” (software specific functionality)
- “How do I preserve...” (analogue)
- “How do I preserve digital...” (digitization)
- “Personal digital curation...” or “Personal Information Management...” (jargon search, mixed results)

CWM's *initial* response



What can we do?

- More public resources
- More outreach
- Make resources more discoverable
- More centralized and connected resources
- More Canadian resources



More resources like:

Industry

- British Library Digital Lives
 - <https://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/files/digital-lives-synthesis02-1.pdf>
- Williams, Peter & John, Jeremy & Rowland, Ian. (2009). *The personal curation of digital objects: A lifecycle approach*. Aslib Proceedings. 61. 340-363.

Public

- LOC Personal Archiving page
 - <https://digitalpreservation.gov/personalarchiving/>
- Personal Digital Archiving – Gabriela Redwine (DPC Technology Watch)
 - <https://www.dpconline.org/docman/technology-watch-reports/1460-twr15-01/file>
- A Guide to Personal Digital Archiving – Cassandra Tavukciyan Zoryan Institute
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rF0uwh-ruqE>