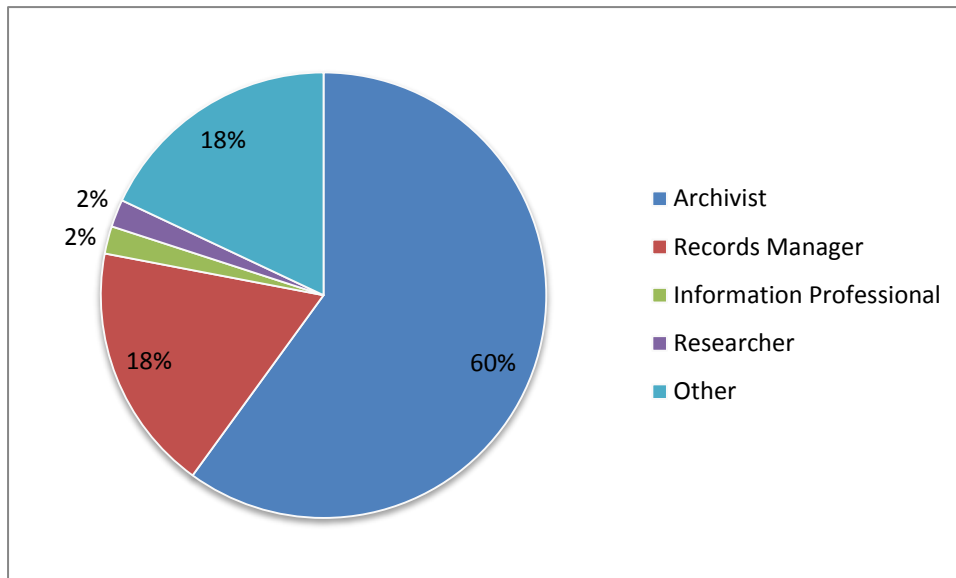# Health Archives and Records Group Membership Survey

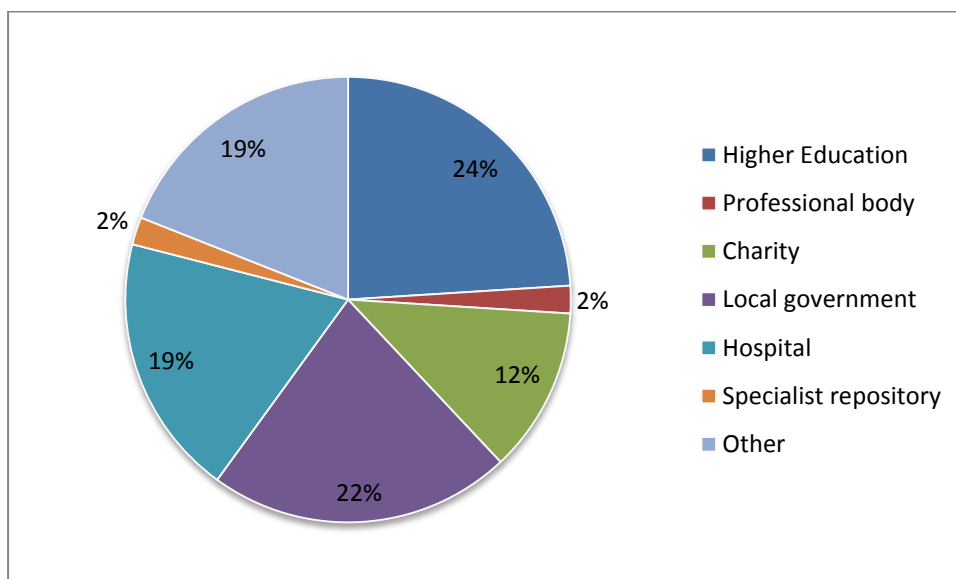Thank you to everyone who responded to the Health Archives and Records Group Membership Survey which ran from to 8th July-15th August. It was circulated on the HARG mailing list and the jiscmail archives mailing list. 36 responses were received in total.
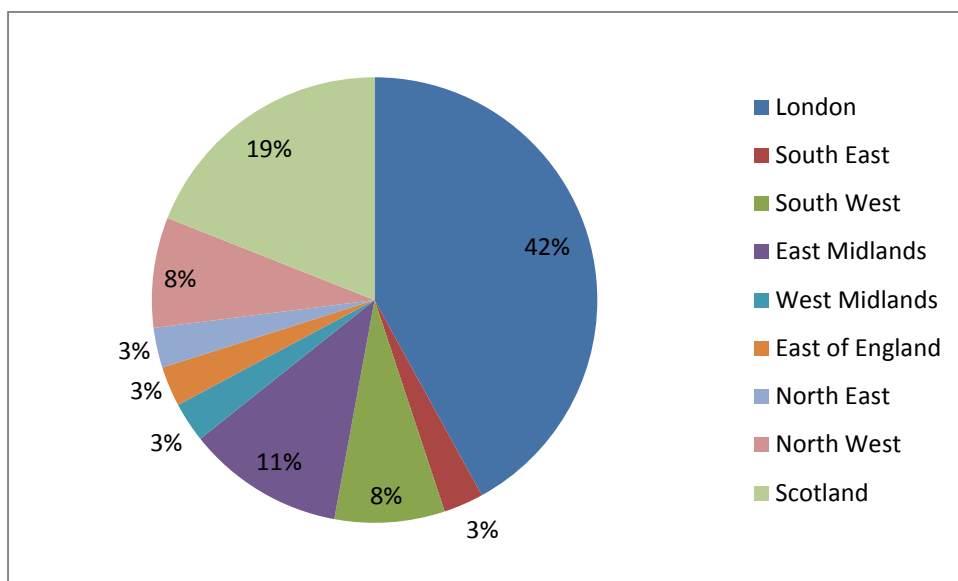
What is your job role?

Of those who described themselves as 'other' professions and roles included Head of Library and Archive Service, FOI Lead, Librarian, Collection Manager, Library Service Manager, Archives and Heritage Collections Consultant and Academic.

What type of institution do you work for?

Institutions described as 'other' included a Royal College and Union, The National Archives, an NHS Trust and an NHS mental health trust.

Where are you located?

There were no respondents from Wales or Northern Ireland.

Meetings

58% of respondents had previously attended a HARG meeting and 42% had not.

69% of people favoured meeting twice a year with 17% of people opting for 2 meetings a year and 14% opting for meeting 3 times a year.

Summary of issues and developments within the health sector that respondents would like to be included in future meetings:

- Managing archive access requests when ownership of records is with an external NHS Trust or other organisation.
- Updates on impact of legislation (especially Data Protection, FOI, General Data Protection Regulation) and TNA guidance.
- Promotion of wider research value of health archives including the broader non-NHS context of health records and their use by a medical humanities community.
- Learning more about research trends relating to health archives.
- NHS Records code.
- The Hospital Records Database (Hosprec).
- Public engagement, access and innovative use of health archives.
- Digital continuity in an NHS context, preservation of electronic health records.
- Developing guidelines on sensitivity in health records.
- Public awareness and trust in recordkeeping in terms of healthcare records.
- Mental health archives.
- Funding sources
- Cataloguing sensitive health records (how to create meaningful records while maintaining a duty of care to the individuals concerned).
- Challenges of off-site storage and retrieval of records.

- Working alongside Information Governance professionals.
- Session on the state of hospital archives (especially those outside of London).
- Records management of heath records and retention schedules.

Aims of HARG

HARG'S previous aims were to:

• facilitate the networking, collaborating and sharing of information between those responsible for health records and archives;
• raise the profile of records and archival issues within the health sector;
• contribute to the development of standards and best practice;
• promote best practice in the creation and management of records documenting the work of organisations and individuals in the health sector, throughout their lifecycle;
• promote the use and value of health archives both within and outside the health sector; and
• liaise and collaborate with related professional bodies on issues of shared concern.

We asked respondents if these thought these aims accurately summarised what HARG should be doing and whether they would add anything to these aims.

The majority of respondents were happy with the aims, however, some comments were received.

One respondent suggested we introduce practical targets to sit alongside the aims and another that the aims should be more active. Other comments included that there should be aims associated with public access and audience engagement with health archives, running training events, developing close relationships with Higher Education users and also that liaison and collaboration should be broadened to include academics, researchers and members of the general public (rather than just professional bodies). It was also suggested that the aims are too focused on the NHS sector and should include non-corporate health archives and diverse users.

Summary of comments on the HARG website and the use of social media

Types of content members would like to see featured on the website included:

- Content on research potential of health archives and research activity
- Digital continuity
- Public health and primary health care
- Best practice guidelines on areas such as sensitivity review
- Links to NHS Information Governance reviews and documentation
- Case studies
- Coverage of new projects and new initiatives
- Minutes of meetings
- Profiles of record creating bodies for health records
- Latest updates from the Information Commissioner's Office
- Overview of types of health records and research uses
- Register of health archives (including non-member archives)

60% of respondents would be interested in following HARG on Twitter whereas 40% would not.

Emma Hancox, September 2016.