

Conservation Workflow Project

Exploring best-practice conservation workflow management systems for large organisations



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

24 September 2021 – Progress update 2
Grimwade Conservation Services

Ainslee Meredith, ainslee.meredith@unimelb.edu.au
University Collections Special Projects Conservator

Methodology

Stage 1

Background research was conducted to ascertain a baseline of knowledge in the area. Literature was compiled and assessed on the following topics identified as relevant to the research question:

- Conservation and collection management workflow
- Decision-making processes in conservation
- Strategies for prioritisation of conservation needs in large organisations
- Risk assessments
- Digital documentation for conservation
- Digital access to collections and project management

Stage 2

Surveys were sent to 16 respondents in the galleries, libraries, archives, museums and university collections sectors in Australia, New Zealand, the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore. Using a mixed-methods design, the survey comprised tick box and open-ended free answer questions. This strategy will allow the data to be analysed using both quantitative and qualitative methods.

The choice of respondents was based on the background research into workflow systems. To prioritise the collection of user experience data, users rather than decision makers or system specialists were targeted. Examples of users include conservators, collection and conservation managers, digitisation technicians and documentation coordinators.

Stage 3

Following data analysis, the best examples will be selected for a follow-up interview and case study.

Key progress updates

August 2021: Overview

September 2021: Methodology

October 2021: Research ethics

November 2021: Data and analytic pathways

December 2021: Preliminary results and findings