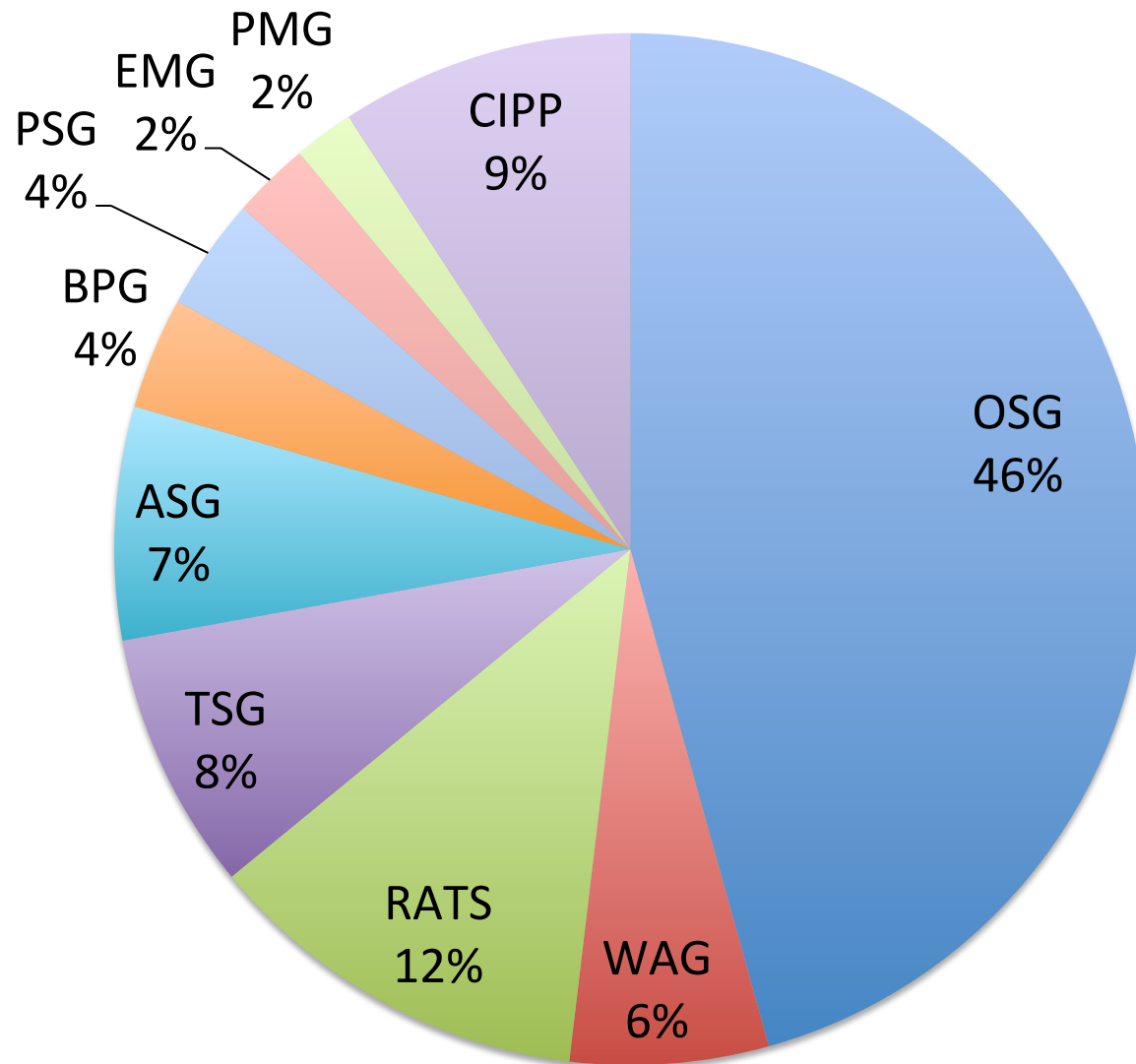


Archaeological Discussion Group Survey,
April-May 2014

- The survey was a result of a request by attendees at the May 2013 meeting to better define those AIC members interested in archaeological materials/sites.
- The survey was designed and analyzed by Molly Gleeson, Ainslie Harrison, Emily Williams, and Sanchita Balachandran.
- 225 respondents completed the survey over a period of three weeks.
- The survey resulted in a list of 169 individuals who expressed interested in being on an ADG email list.
- The following slides discuss the responses and comments to each survey question, with brief mention of comments made by respondents.



Question 1: What AIC Specialty Groups do you belong to?

- N.B. More than one SG could be checked

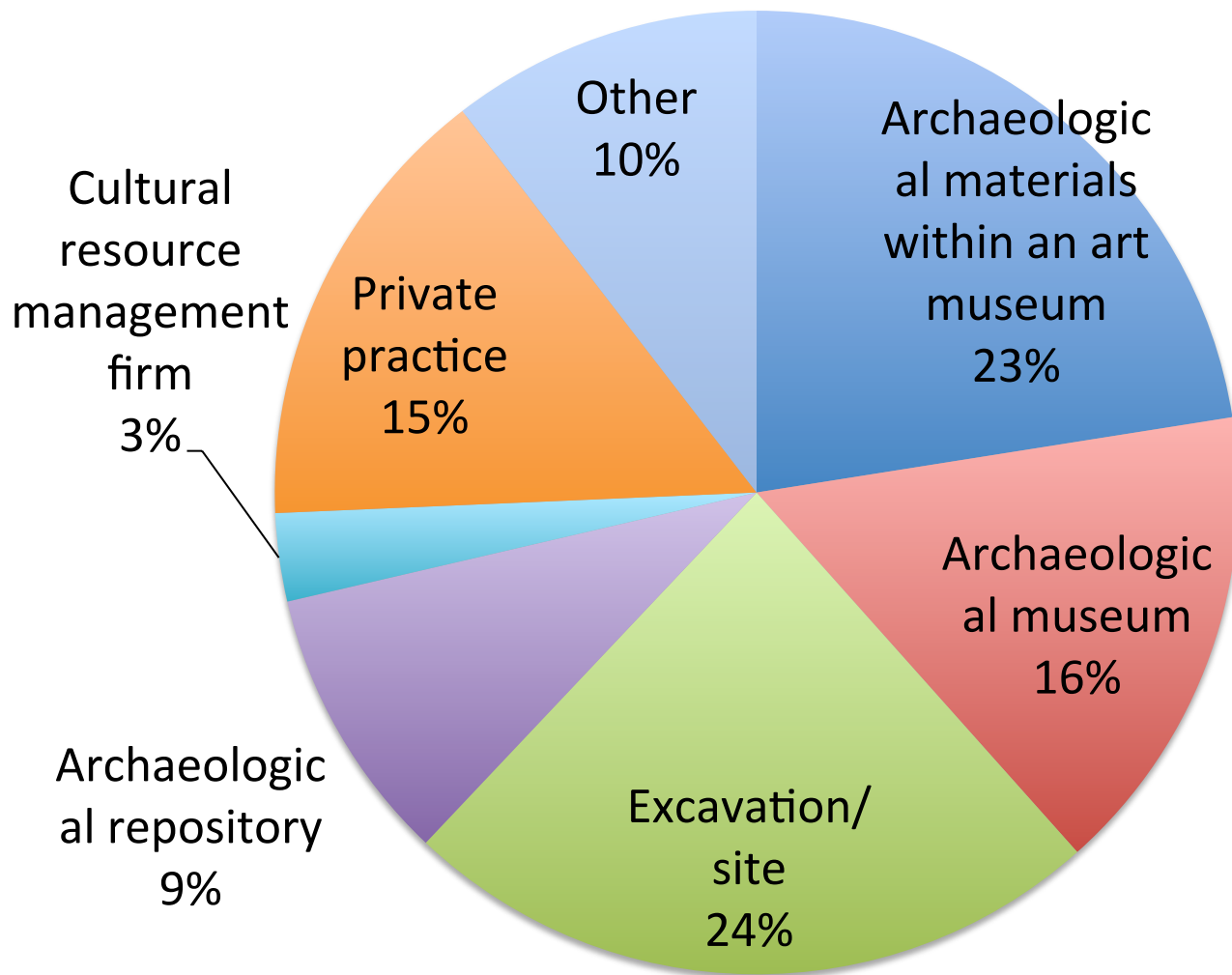
Question 2: Do you work on archaeological materials or sites?

Yes 86%

No 14%

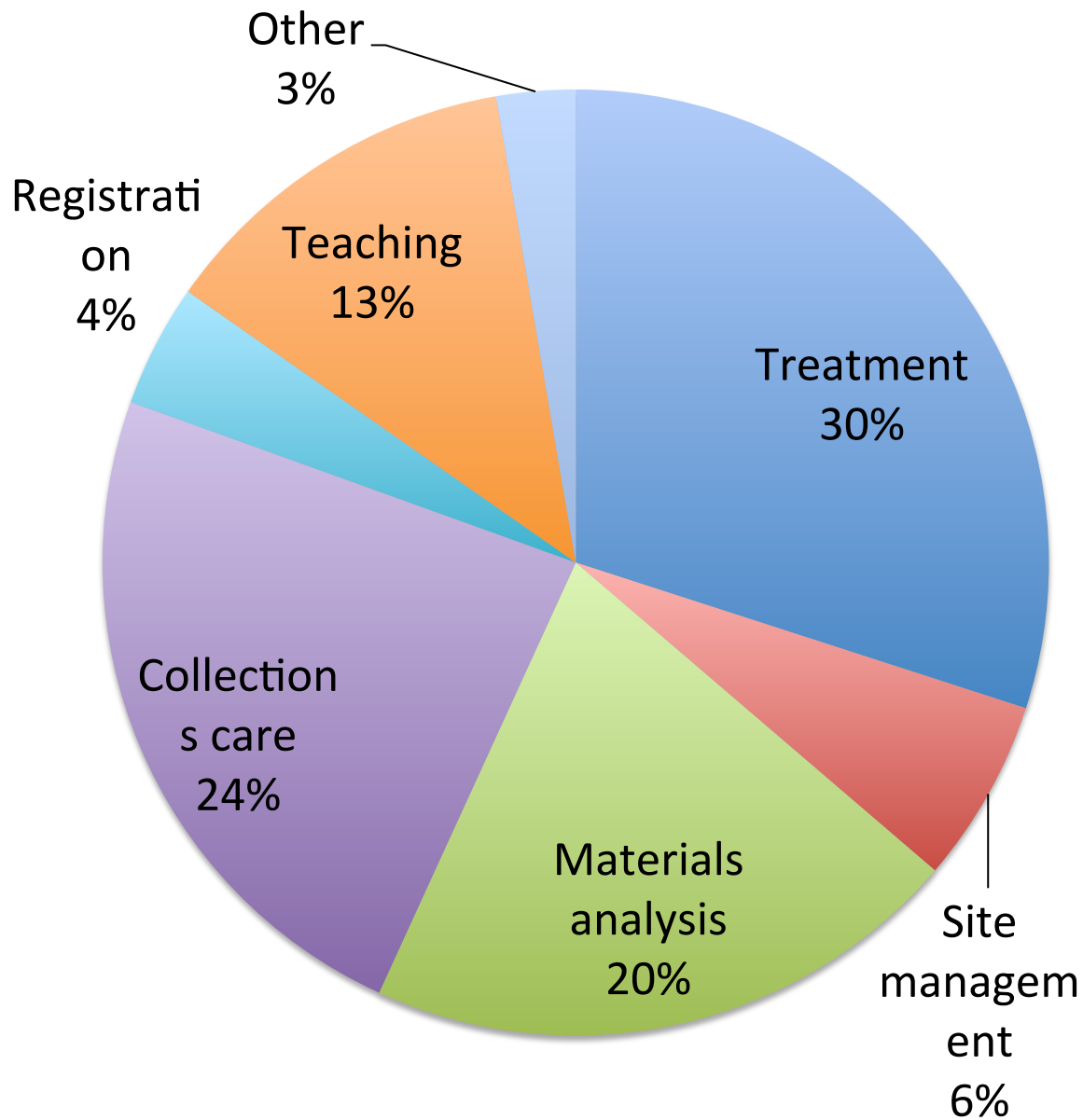
Question 3: If you do not work on archaeological materials or sites, what is your primary interest in ADG?

- Only 16% of the respondents answered this question.
- Respondents who did not regularly work on such materials/sites were interested for the following reasons:
 1. Interest in future work in this area of conservation.
 2. Manage or teach professionals and students who do work on sites
 3. Work with allied professionals including archaeologists, structural engineers, etc.
 4. Work in repositories and/or environments where they may encounter archaeological material. (See question 4).



Question 4: Where do you work on archaeological materials or sites?

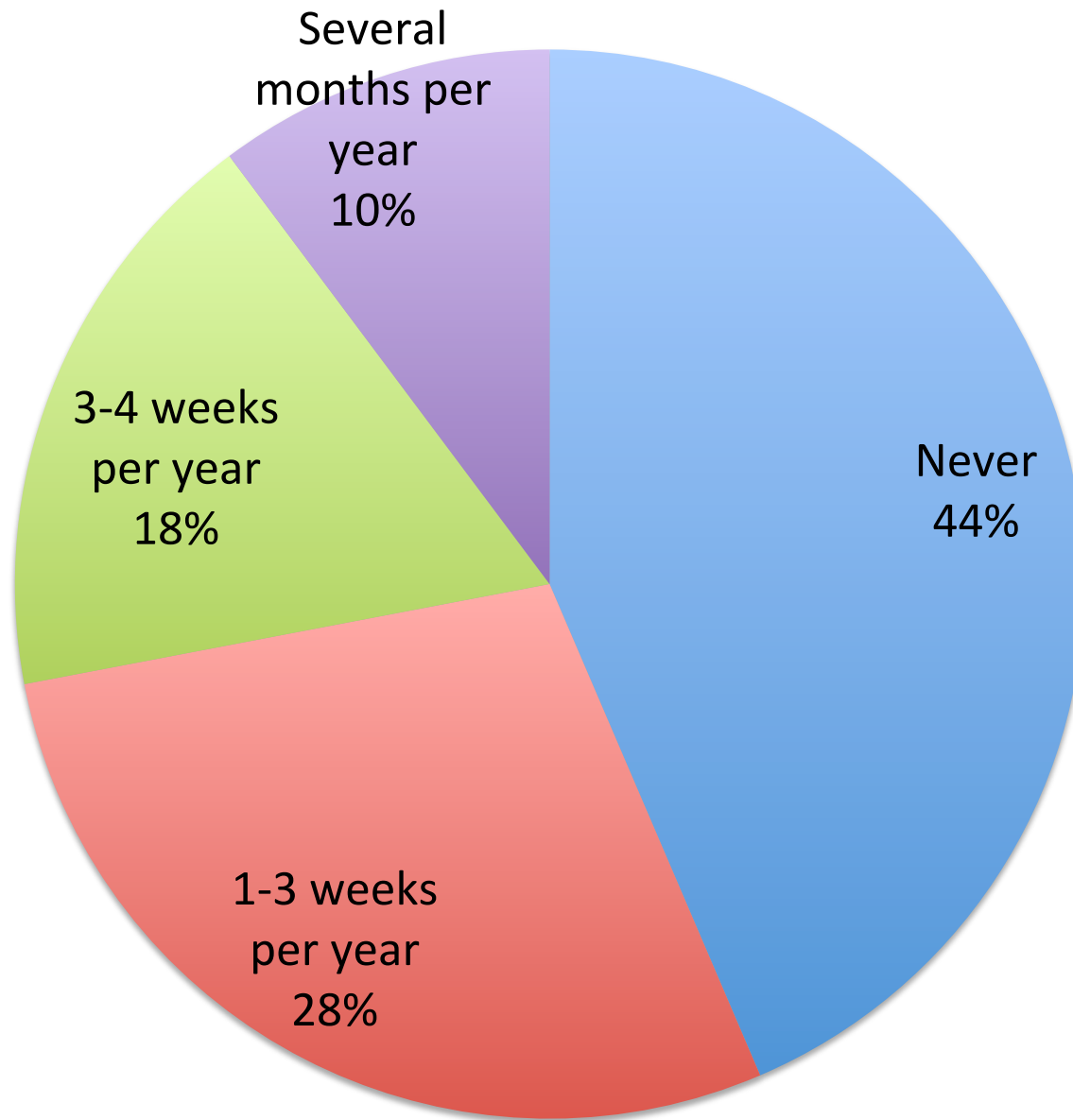
- “Other” includes those who work in repositories and/or environments where they may encounter archaeological material, for ex., libraries, cemeteries, regional laboratories, research institutes, underwater sites and the National Park Service.



Question 5: What kinds of activities do you carry out?

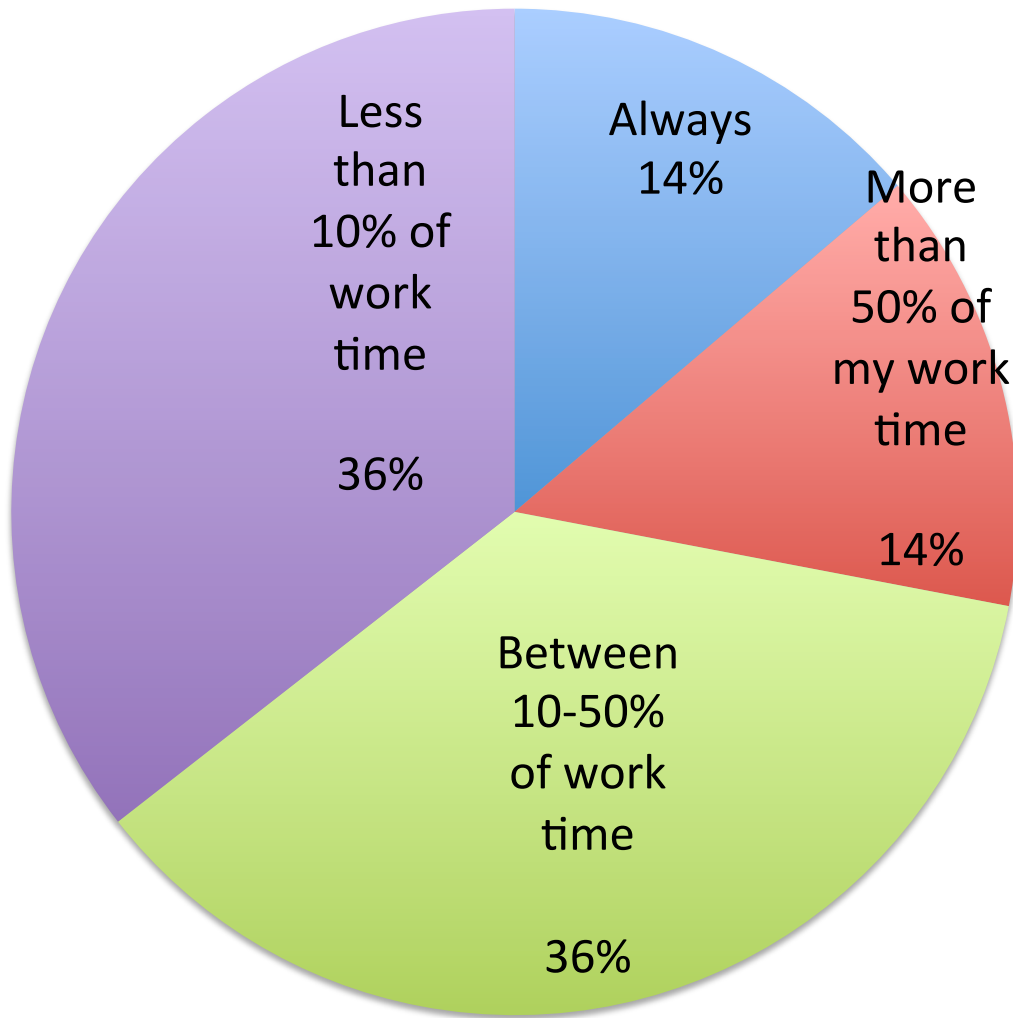
- N.B. More than one choice could be selected.
- “Other” included:
 1. Working with students
 2. Managing other conservation professionals
 3. Working with archaeologists
 4. Project planning and grant writing
 5. Outreach/public activities

- **Question 6: How often do you work in a field/site setting?**



Question 7: If you work in a museum setting, how often do you work on archaeological materials?

- N.B. The option “I do not work in a museum setting” was unfortunately omitted from the survey. As respondents could not submit the survey without choosing an option here, the results may be somewhat inaccurate. However, based on comments, only 11 out of 225 respondents listed this as an issue, though this does not account for those who did not point out this problem in the comments.



Question 8: Before this survey, were you aware that the ADG existed?

Yes 58%

No 42%

Question 9: Are you interested in joining a group focused on archaeological conservation?

Yes 80%

No 8%

Maybe 12%

Respondents who said “maybe” were concerned about:

1. Possible costs associated with joining the group
2. Time commitment involved
3. Depended on emphasis of the group—field vs. museum setting.
4. Depended on ability of the group to be focused and to deliver on its goals and initiatives.

Question 10: How many times have you attended the ADG meeting at AIC?

Never	58%
Once	19%
2-4 times	19%
5-10 times	9%

Question 11: If you have never attended the ADG meeting, what is the reason?

Skipped question	30%
Do not regularly attend AIC	28%
Did not know about ADG	21%
Too busy at AIC	7%
Other	7%

(N.B. most of the “other” responses fit in with the other categories listed)

Did not know could attend	4%
Not relevant	3%

Question 12: Do you agree with the current goals of the group (see below)?

Yes 97%

No 3%

- Promote communications between conservators within AIC
- Facilitate interdisciplinary relationships/communication between the AIC and archaeological organizations
- Provide input towards AIC objectives from an archaeological perspective
- Represent the interests of the archaeological conservation profession
- Uphold standards for professional and ethical practices

Those who disagreed with the goals suggested that:

1. There be more emphasis on working with allied professionals other than archaeologists, for ex., engineers
2. The group educate and inform conservators who do not work on sites about the important concerns of site/field conservators
3. The goals be defined more narrowly so as to be achievable.

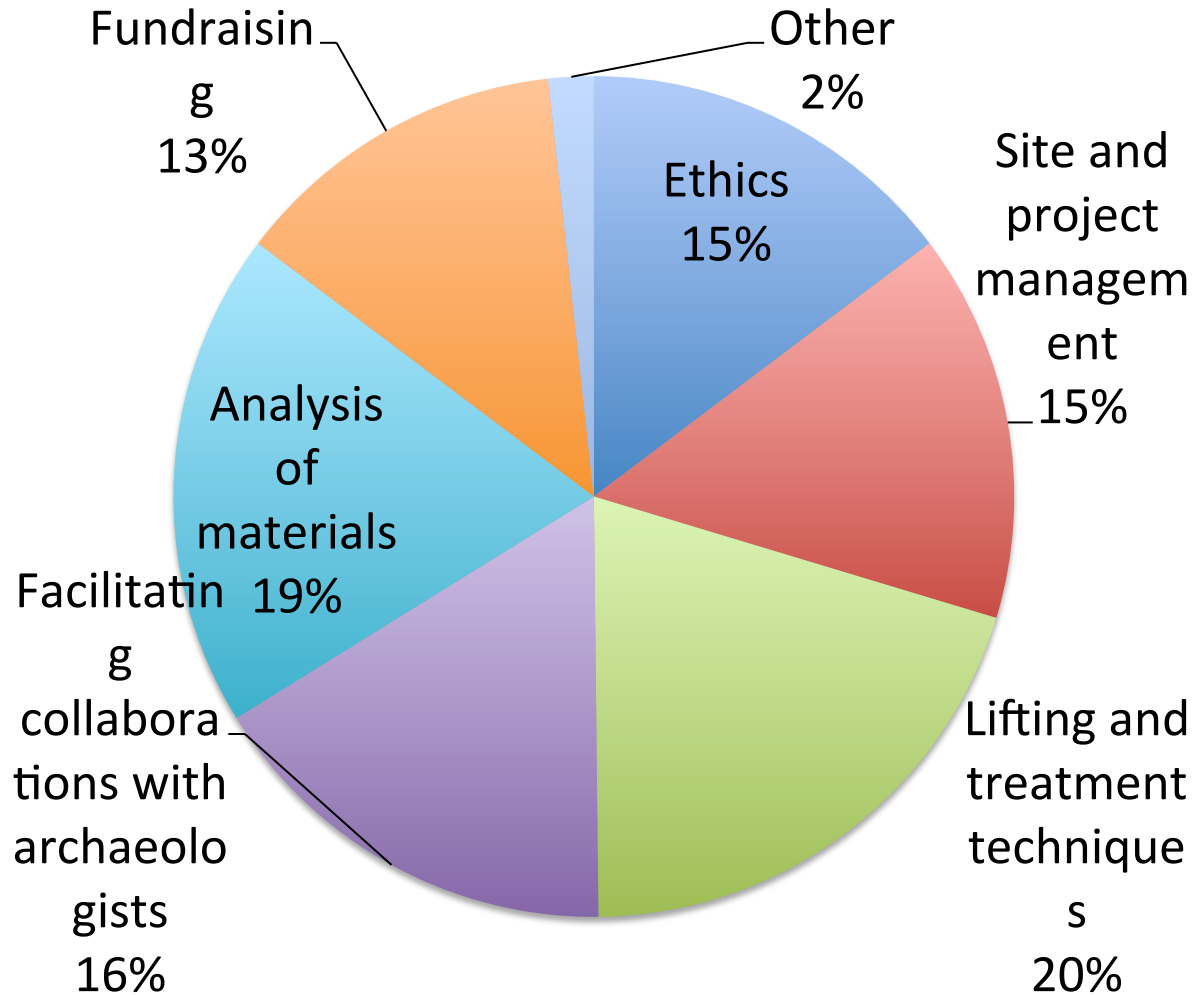
**Question 13: Please rank the goals in order of importance to you.
Responses listed in order of importance based on survey results:**

1. Facilitate interdisciplinary relationships/communication between the AIC and archaeological organizations
2. Promote communications between conservators within AIC
3. Provide input towards AIC objectives from an archaeological perspective
4. Represent the interests of the archaeological conservation profession
5. Uphold standards for professional and ethical practices

Question 15: What activities would you like to see ADG more involved with? Responses listed in order of importance based on survey results:

1. Development of guidelines, codes of practice/ethics and position papers regarding the ethics and practice of archaeological conservation
2. Outreach to the archaeological community
3. Workshops for conservators
4. Facilitating professional connections between archaeological conservators and archaeological projects
5. Providing web resources to AIC members on archaeological conservation topics
6. Stand-alone conferences
7. Joint, lunch or other sessions at AIC

N.B. At least 11 respondents mentioned that there were problems in ranking these activities in the survey due to a malfunction of the site. It is unclear whether others had this problem but did not mention it in the comments. It may be important to poll the membership again in a more focused way regarding future ADG activities.



Question 16: What themes would you be interested in learning about?

Under "Other":

1. Tools for teaching students
2. Discussion of databases, site reports, treatment reports, supply lists
3. Storage post-treatment
4. Site risk management and sustainability

Question 14: Are there additional goals you would like ADG to focus on?

No	81%
Yes	19%

Question 17: Are there additional activities you would like ADG to focus on?

No	92%
Yes	8%

Question 18: Other comments/feedback

A full list of suggestions that combines comments from Questions 14, 17 and 18 is given at the end of this document.

Combined Comments from Questions 14, 17 and 18:

Address ADG structural and logistical problems:

- More equity, collaboration and exchange between those working on materials within museum setting vs. in a site setting. Include North American Archaeology and Maritime materials more explicitly in discussions.
- ADG needs a more formalized structure
- ADG needs more exposure on the AIC website
- Archaeological conservators are nearly impossible to find on “Find a Conservator”
- Find ways to share experience, tips, procedures and facilitate discussion. Possibly collaborate on an “Angels” project related to an archaeological site at an annual AIC meeting.

Develop resources and professional development opportunities for archaeological conservators:

- Develop workshops on site preservation and interpretation; low-tech site-feasible examination techniques; management, leadership and communication skills.
- Create a digital resource/archive for important articles, treatments, site reports, supply lists, databases, etc. related to field conservation
- Collaborate with the Collections Care Network on storage and handling of materials and disaster planning/ response for archaeological collections.

Combined Comments from Questions 14, 17 and 18:

Encourage better compensation for field conservators by raising conservation's profile among the archaeological community:

- Encourage granting agencies to make conservation a requirement for funding
- Produce brochures or pdfs--statistics, case studies, etc.-- on the importance of conservation to disseminate to archaeological organizations/directors/museums
- Create an ADG page or pdf linking to the salary compensation summary and websites where excavation directors and/or conservators could apply for funding.

Foster better communication with archaeologists, scientists, students and allied professionals:

- Promote curriculum reform in the teaching of both conservation and archaeology
- Develop a mechanism for conservators to give lectures to archaeological graduate students or work with them in the field
- Increase publication about conservation in archaeological and other (non-conservation) journals
- Take active role in the general archaeology sphere, for ex. by posting on archaeological listservs, such as HISTARCH.
- Promote discussion with international Institutions that serve these groups to begin to define and establish standards of behavior and expectations.