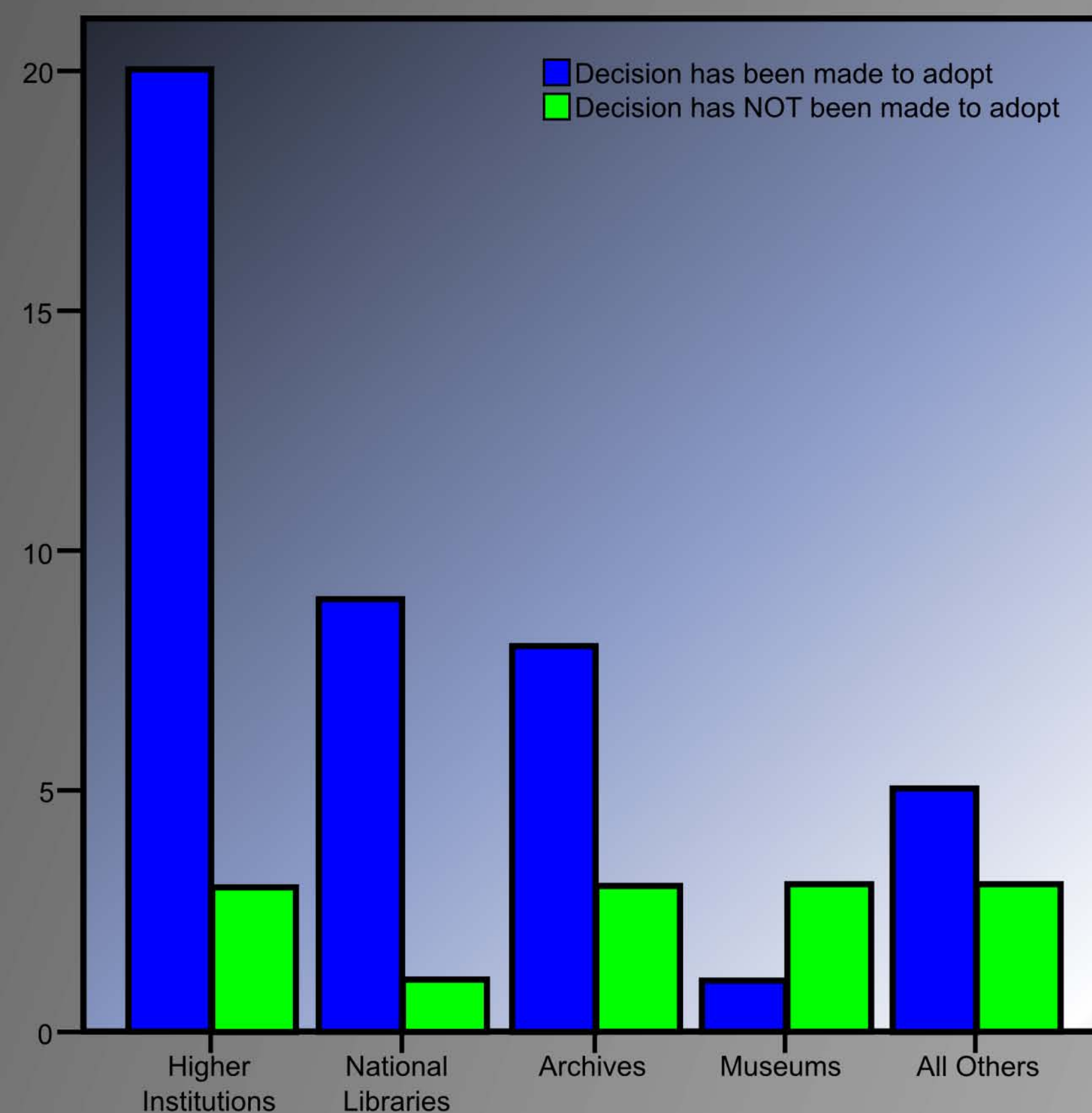# Expanding the Search for Digital Preservation Solutions

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Introduction

Digital preservation is a significant challenge for cultural heritage institutions and other repositories of digital information resources. The challenges of long-term access issues are multifaceted, often requires a mixture of approaches. Considering the critical role of metadata in any successful digital preservation strategy, the Preservation Metadata Implementation Strategies (PREMIS) has been extremely influential on providing a "core" set of preservation metadata elements that support the digital preservation process. This poster presents some preliminary result on factors that affect the adoption of PREMIS in cultural heritage institutions. The study employed a web-based survey to collect data from 123 participants in 20 countries as well as a semi-structured, follow-up telephone interview with a smaller sample of the survey respondents.

Summary

Studying adoption of innovations requires a longitudinal study to understand an inherently complex set of issues that affect adoption. This research on digital preservation metadata adoption just barely begins to show the many layers of this complex problem. Considering the diverse needs of cultural heritage institutions and the complexity of digital preservation issues, much remains to be illuminated. Further developments in digital technologies are likely to produce new digital preservation challenges as well as opportunities.

Innovation (PREMIS) Characteristics

- 1. Perceived Relative Advantage
- 2. Compatibility
- 3. Complexity
- 4. Trialability
- 5. Observability

PREMIS ADOPTION

Institutional (Readiness) Characteristics

- Recognition of Need
- Adoption of Clusters of Related Innovations
- IT Infrastructure Sophistication
- 6. Institutional Readiness
- Institutional Support
- Percieved External Pressure
- ...

Analysis

Roger's diffusion of innovation theory was used as a theoretical framework. The main constructs considered for the study were relative advantage, compatibility, complexity, trialability, observability, and institution readiness. The data analysis revealed that a vast majority of the institutions had not yet reached the development stage in terms of their level of PREMIS adoption. Although academic institutions and national libraries were among the early adopters of PREMIS, the overall adoption was not that high. The preliminary analysis also showed that all six factors influence the adoption of PREMIS in varying degrees. The disparity in the adoption of PREMIS among diverse cultural heritage institutions can be attributed to the factors identified in the study. Among the six variables, institutional readiness was one of the strongest predictors, explaining 17.4% of the variance in PREMIS adoption.

Bar chart legend:
- ■ Decision has been made to adopt (blue)
- ■ Decision has NOT been made to adopt (green)

Categories: Higher Institutions, National Libraries, Archives, Museums, All Others

Decision NOT Made to Adopt PREMIS

- Not yet considered
- Investigation Stage
- Planning Stage

Decision Made to Adopt PREMIS

Chasm?

- Development Stage
- **PREMIS Adoption**