What do musicologists do all day?

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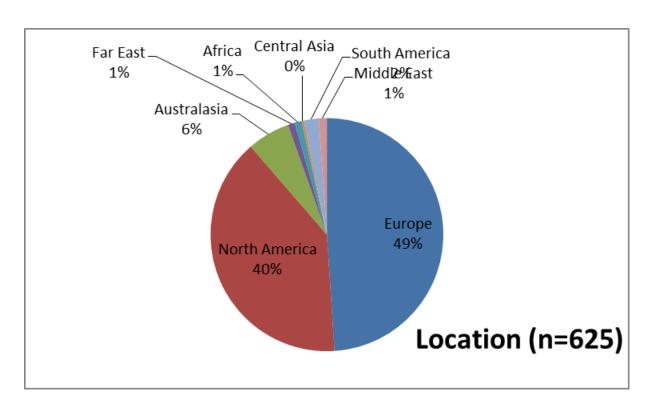The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

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What do musicologists do all day?

http://media.npr.org/assets/img/2013/04/22/gettyimages_97301770-9dfc454ddac15875e36d7c523222c827303e2a431-s40.jpg

Demographics

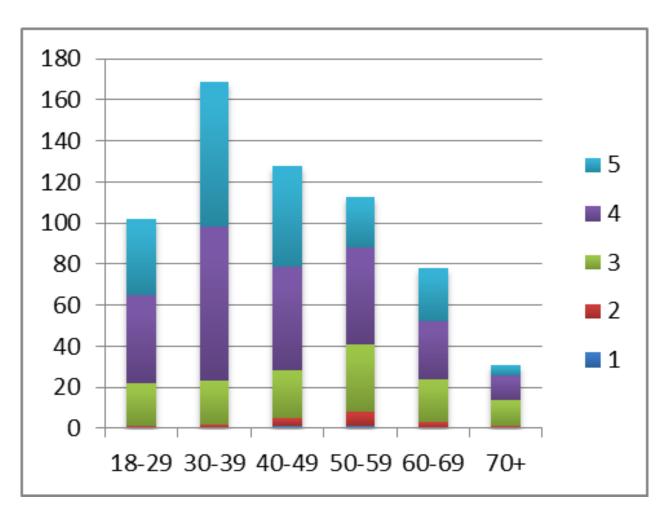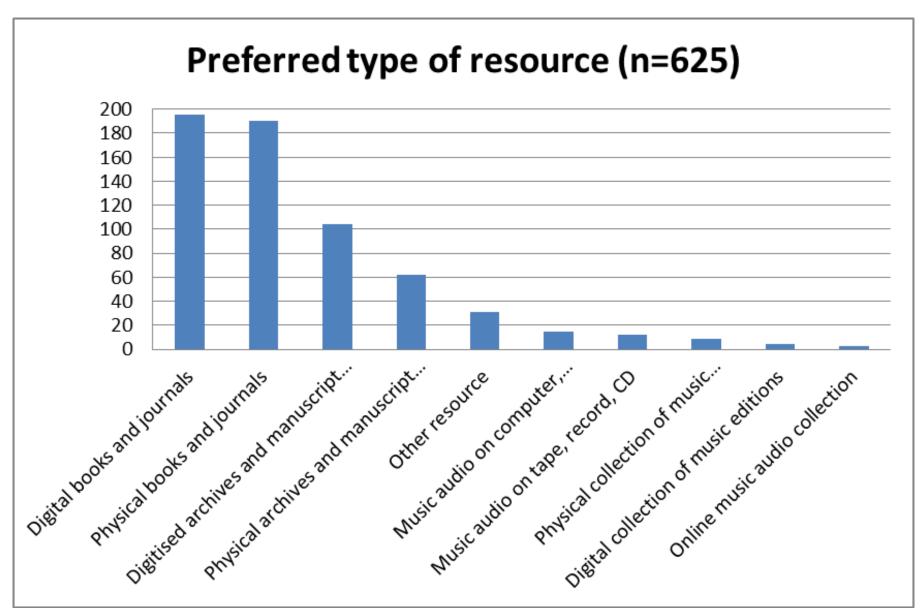| Country	Frequency
United States	220
United Kingdom	91
Germany	48
Australia	32
Netherlands	31
Canada	28
Austria	25
Italy	24
France	20
Greece	12

Countries with 1 response:
Chile, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, India, Ivory Coast, Korea South, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Nigeria, Poland, South Africa, Taiwan, Turkey, Venezuela

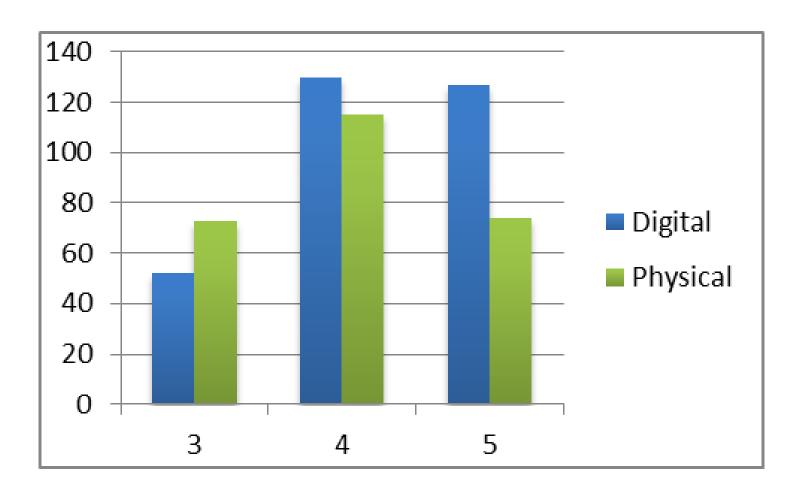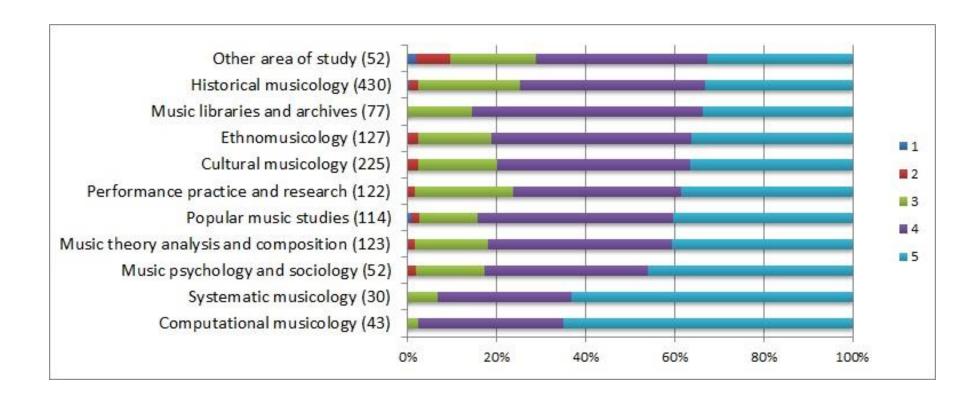# Age group and digital skills of participants (n=621)

Preferred type of resource (n=625)

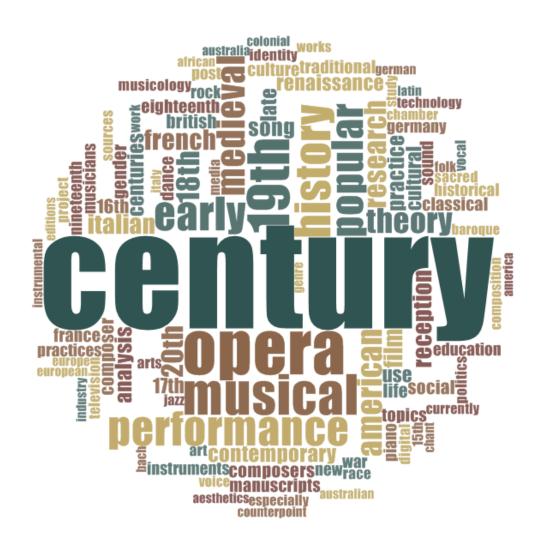# Preferred information resource by digital skills (n=571)

Percentage digital skills per speciality (n=1395)

What are you currently researching?

Rewards

Rewards

"It really makes me feel I could be in a library in Italy, but accessing the material more easily." (270)

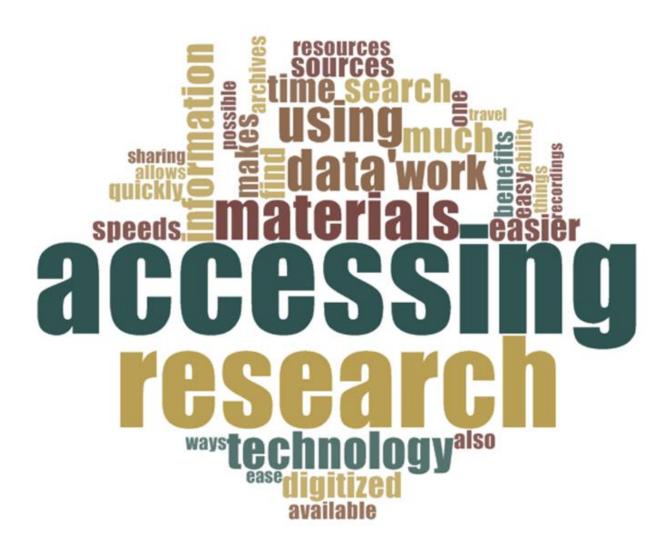*It is helpful to have access to my research almost wherever I am." (091)*

"I spent my PhD visiting them all over about 3 years; now I can see them all in one afternoon" (022)

"I cannot think what I would be able to do without this software!" (592).

"the ability to consult manuscripts and prints located around the world is remarkably helpful." (040)

Benefits

Benefits

"potential to formulate projects or research questions hitherto unthinkable" (003)

"Searching for Cantus firmus lines in 15th-century masses is now trivial" (546).

"I can often have them immediately" (119)

"... many things can be really 'counted', not the gut feeling that musicologists in the past had" (039).

"people, music, documents, can be accessed around the world" (336).

http://hdl...cph.3b01327

Messiah in Oklahoma

I think they [the benefits] are astronomical. I can read about Handel and his Messiah creation until I am blue in the face and tell students how magnificent the work is...but I truly feel that until I show them the digitized copy from the British Library and page through it with them virtually, the facts and the marvel of it all simply don't sink into their minds…

Technology makes it possible to open up a world of knowledge at their fingertips. Suddenly they aren't in backwater Oklahoma any longer, they're sitting on a magic carpet of technology wisking themselves away to London or Cairo or St. Petersburgh to see history happen with an immediacy that is life changing if they have the sense to see it.

Frustrations

Frustrations

Life was so much easier in the old days when I just typed up my paper and Xeroxed handouts and made cassettes of musical examples." (326)

"It is clunky, idiosyncratic, and miserable to use. Inserting images (such as musical examples) is a nightmare." (045)

"I can't stand the quirks and glitches of the mainstream software" (152)

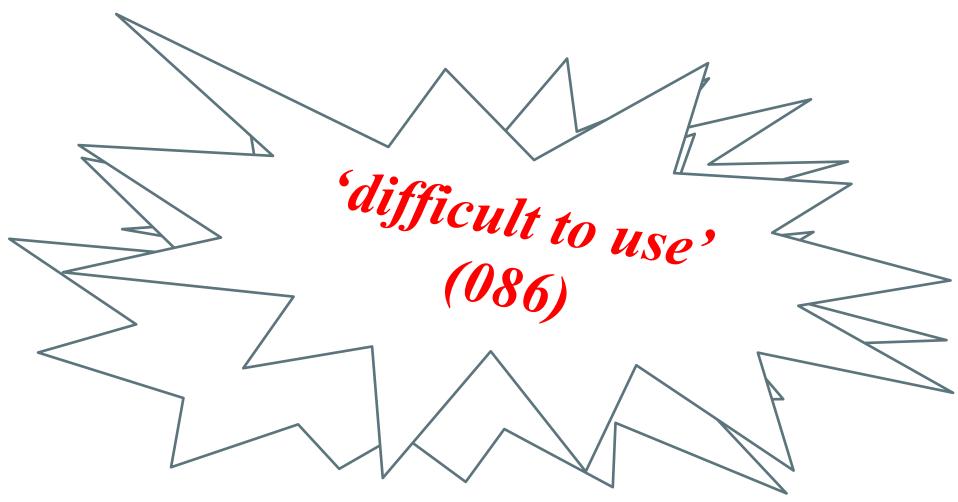*"Any interaction with Finale/Sybellius [sic] is a frustrating ...erience."(298)*

"...the more advanced transcription software ... presumes fluency in programming, e.g., C++." (223)

"Every time I come back to it, it feels like I have to learn it all over again. I wish they were more intuitive to use." (363).

Frustrations

'difficult to use'
(086)

Risks

Risks

"the vast majority of resources have not been digitized" (65).

"material questions about the physical nature, such as the writing material, are not answered on digitized materials" (393)

"Technology can help us to answer research questions more easily and efficiently, and (importantly) it can inspire us to devise new research questions. But it cannot replace using the grey stuff between the ears" (003)

"[physical items may] be overlooked" (319)

"encourages a rapidity of response and decision, often at the expense of maturing thought over extended time" (15)

"musicology will be too superficial and lose authority as a serious contribution to society" (604)

Risks

"laziness"

Limitations

Limitations

"those who do benefit because they have a university job, and those who have much less benefit, because they are independent" (337)

"Digital materials can be posted by anyone" (492)

"digitized archival material cannot substitute the original," (383)

"...the sheer amount of 'hits' one gets for a topic can be daunting...." (233)

"missing the surrounding context" (37)

"'Browsing' in the digital realm is a far less productive activity than browsing in library stacks" (68)

"when they have a problem that can really only be solved the old-fashioned libraries-and-grunt-work way, they're stuck... Carl Ludwig's 'Repertorium Organorum' may be hellish to use, but it's still indispensable" (058).

"do not always capture the creative process, or iterations, of materials" (420)

Music – Learning - Technology

- Findings indicate importance of digital skills in facilitating engagement of musicologists with technology.

- The development of these skills needs support in teaching and learning programmes at all levels.

- Requires a commitment from educational institutions, libraries and archives and wider stakeholders (funders).

Acknowledgements

Image source: