2021 Calls to the States

Highlights

- Percentage of states/territories/DC reporting: 73%
- Percentage of CoSA members reporting that their agencies managed pandemic-restricted operations fairly well or quite well: 100%
- Percentage of CoSA members reporting their agencies’ capacity for electronic records management and digital preservation is good or very good: 61%

At the time of the calls, many members were rebounding from the COVID-19 pandemic. The good news is that many of the concerns voiced in the 2020 Calls to the States about precarious state funding because of the pandemic didn’t materialize or were far less severe than predicted.

COVID-19 Impacts: On the Rebound

- A variety of pandemic-related operations will remain in place (to varying degrees): remoted work will continue for some; many research rooms will remain accessible only by appointment; and processes and tools developed during COVID have been folded into routine work.
- The pandemic afforded opportunities to adapt existing programming to online platforms, process backlogs, create/update databases, research guides and inventories, engage in strategic planning, and develop/update COOP plans.
- Among the challenges of reopening: 1) finding the right balance between pre-pandemic business models and expansion of online services; and 2) accommodating staff who are anxious about returning to work.

Research Wanted

- Advocacy for the importance of state archives
- Archives + Records Management training/programming
- Workforce development in a post-COVID environment

*Source: Council of State Archivists’ Calls to the States, June – July 2021*