

## **Croatia**

Report by Tea Rihtar Jurić

Museum Documentation Center - MDC, Zagreb

### **Introduction – Key Issues**

The Museum Documentation Center (MDC), a public institution founded in 1955, is the main provider of museum statistics in Croatia (the number of museums, collections, registration, visits, staff, ownership, etc.).

In the Museum Documentation Centre's *Register of museums, galleries and collections of the Republic of Croatia* there are 300 units in the database that refer to 297 museums and permanent collections (2017). Some of the museums are part of the bigger, complex institutions and some are not officially registered because they do not meet required criteria. The number of museums is expected to grow, as some institutions are in the process of being registered.

MDC, as the coordinator of the System of museums in Croatia, gathers data on new museums/collections as well as updates on those already in the *Register* combining fieldwork, professional communication, research, and annual reports analyses. Online *Register (OREG)* is available for museums so that users and institutions can update their data regularly as they change. After the administrator's approval, a set of data on museums is available and researchable online at MDC's portal [muzEJ](#). Museum statistics and Annual reports are annually published online at [MDC's web site](#) as we gather the data.

**The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia keeps [The Register of Museums](#)**, the register of those that meet the criteria required by the law (an adequate building, the collections, qualified employees..). As of 2017 there are 156 registered museums in Croatia.

### **Definition of Museum**

*Note:* The definition below is a definition (currently valid) from the controversial law that was passed in 2015 against the will of the Croatian museum community (there where two changes of the government in the last two years, so the museum law was in the process of changing twice in

the last three years). The new government elected in the fall of 2016 decided to create a new law. The draft of the new law has been written but has not been released yet. According to the information we have the definition is going to be changed.

*“Museum is a public institution or an organization unit of a public institution that permanently performs museum activity as a public museum or an institution, association, cooperative, foundation, company or their organization unit and an artisan that permanently performs museum activity as a private museum, in the service of society and its development, open to the public, and as provided by this Law“*

The term “museum” itself is not protected by law so it can be used for all sorts of establishments.

### **Existence of Museum-related Laws**

The work of museums in Croatia is regulated by the Museum Law (2015). Special laws are released for the Museums of Ivan Meštrović and the Jasenovac Memorial site. The Museum Law is completed by rule books (6), statutes (11), resolutions (3) and *Convention on international exhibitions*.

There are laws that refer to the culture in general, and do affect museums as well.

Laws on protection and preservation of cultural property / heritage also apply on museum's collections / monuments / sites which are registered as cultural property.

### **Categories used regarding Type of Collection**

Types of collections in museums are museum collection and documentation collection. Both museum and documentation collections are protected by the Museum Law as cultural property and are subjects to the legislation on protection and preservation of cultural property.

By the type of collections the museums are also divided into general, which have mixed collections, and specialised museums like archeological, ethnographical, natural history, science and technology and art museums.

## **Categories used regarding Type of Ownership**

Type of ownership is classified according to the museum founder. There are two categories of museum ownership: public (state and local authorities of different levels) and private. Public museums and galleries can be founded by the Republic of Croatia, counties, City of Zagreb, cities and municipalities. Private museums and galleries can be founded by legal entities and individuals. More founders can establish a public or private museum or gallery. Obligations and rights between more founders are regulated by contracts.

The museums of churches and monasteries are owned by the church.

The State, on the basis of a public call or tender, contributes funds for programmes and projects of all registered museums.

## **Existing Data – Basic Figures and Diagrams**

### **Croatian Museum Statistics overview, 2016**

*Source of data: Register of Museums, galleries and collections in Croatia, Museum Documentation Center, 2017. Authors: Staša Popadić, Tea Rihtar Jurić. Last data for 2016 delivered: 24 th February 2017*

Units in the database (Register) in 2016: 297

Number of museums: 294<sup>1</sup>

A-Register: 190

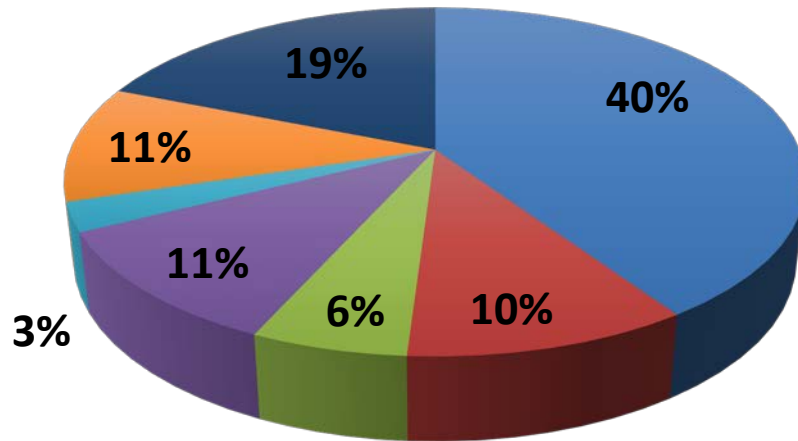
B-Register: 47

C-Register: 60

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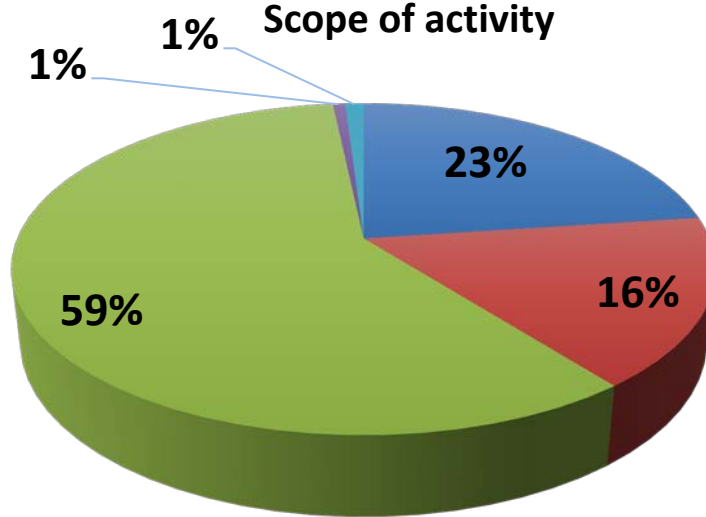
<sup>1</sup> Number of physical units (museums). Some museums are complex institutions that gather several museums.

### Museum founder



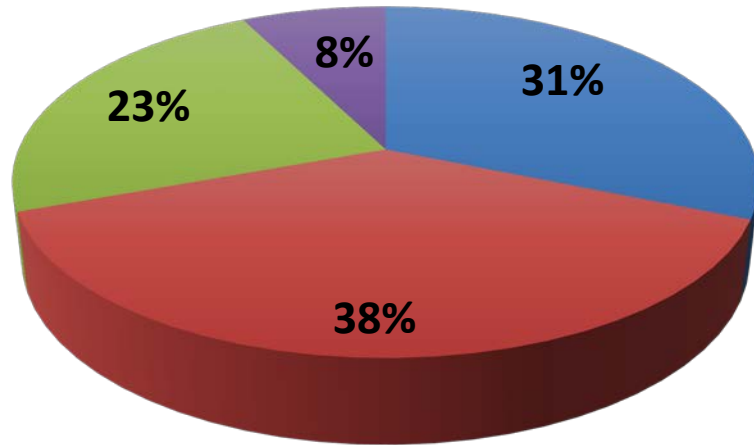
■ city ■ community ■ county ■ state ■ more than 1 founder ■ other ■ no data

### Scope of activity



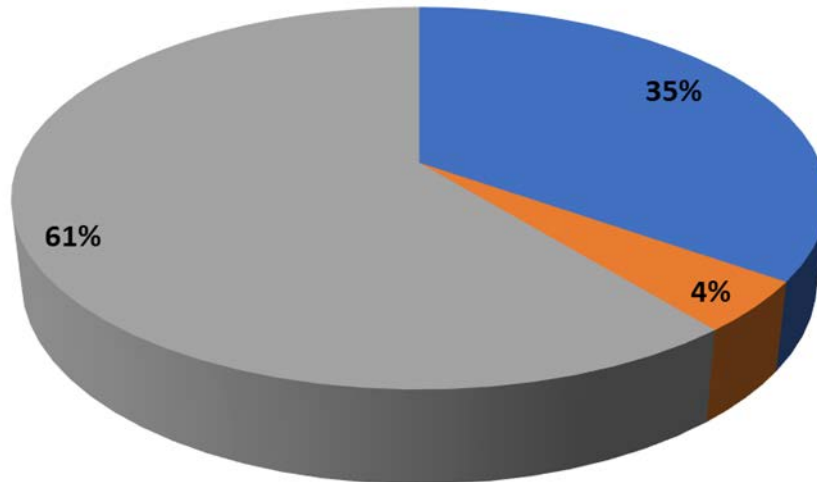
■ national ■ regional ■ local ■ international ■ no data

Type of museum



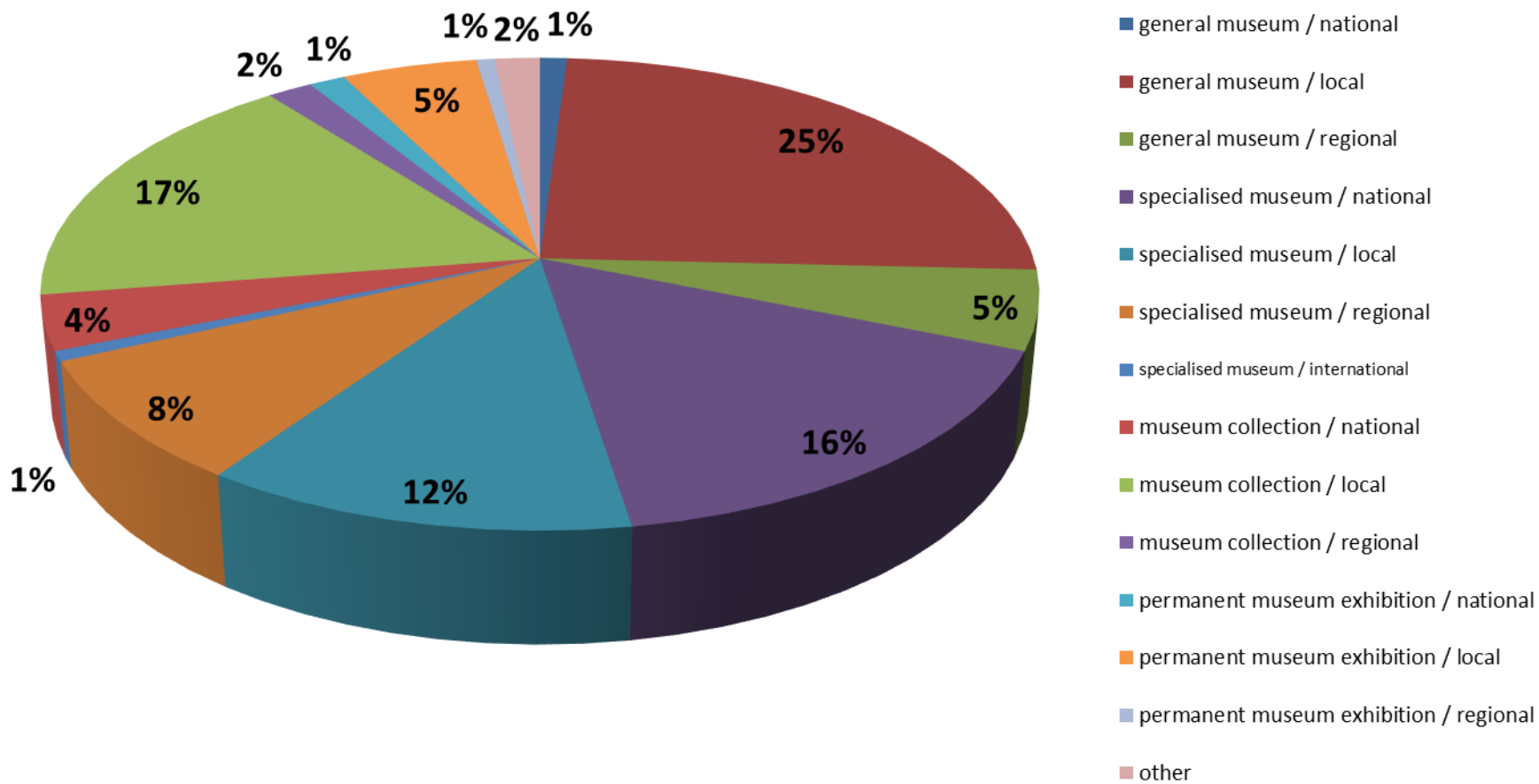
■ general museum ■ specialised museum ■ museum collection ■ permanent museum exhibition

General museum / type

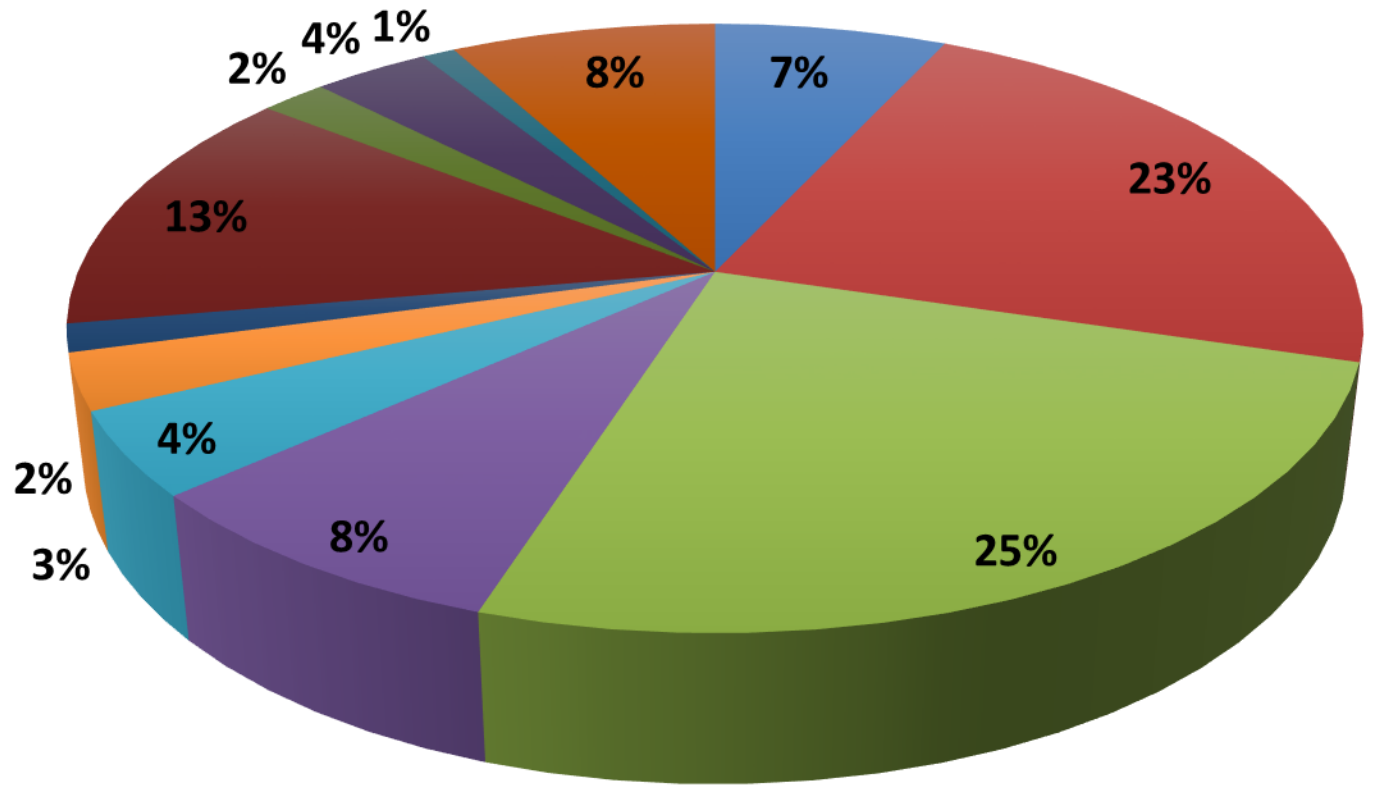


■ municipal ■ national ■ local

### Type of museum / scope of activity



### Specialised museum, museum collections, permanent museum exhibition / type

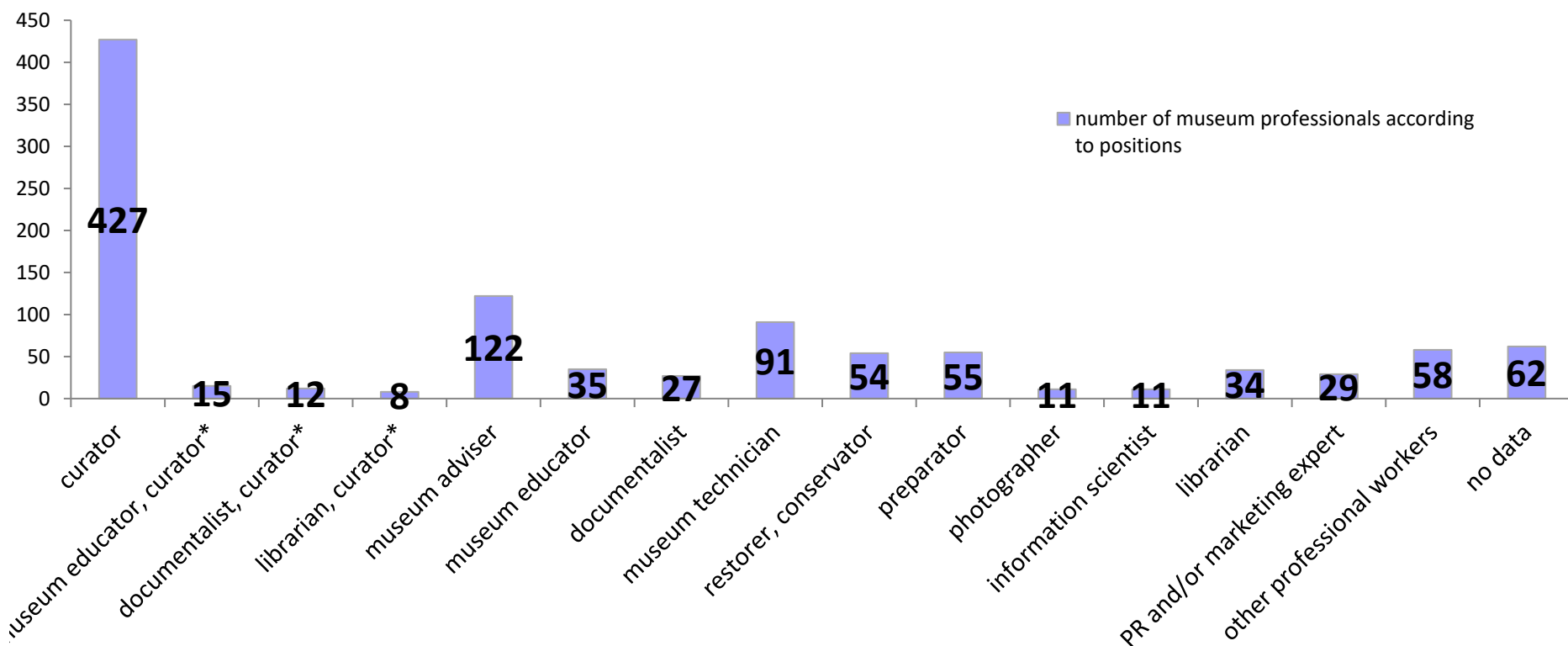


- archeological
- ethnographic
- art
- historical
- nature history
- technical
- historical house
- biographical/memorial
- maritime
- local
- sport
- other

## Professional staff / positions

Total number of persons employed in museums: 1676

Total number of museum professionals: 1064<sup>2</sup>

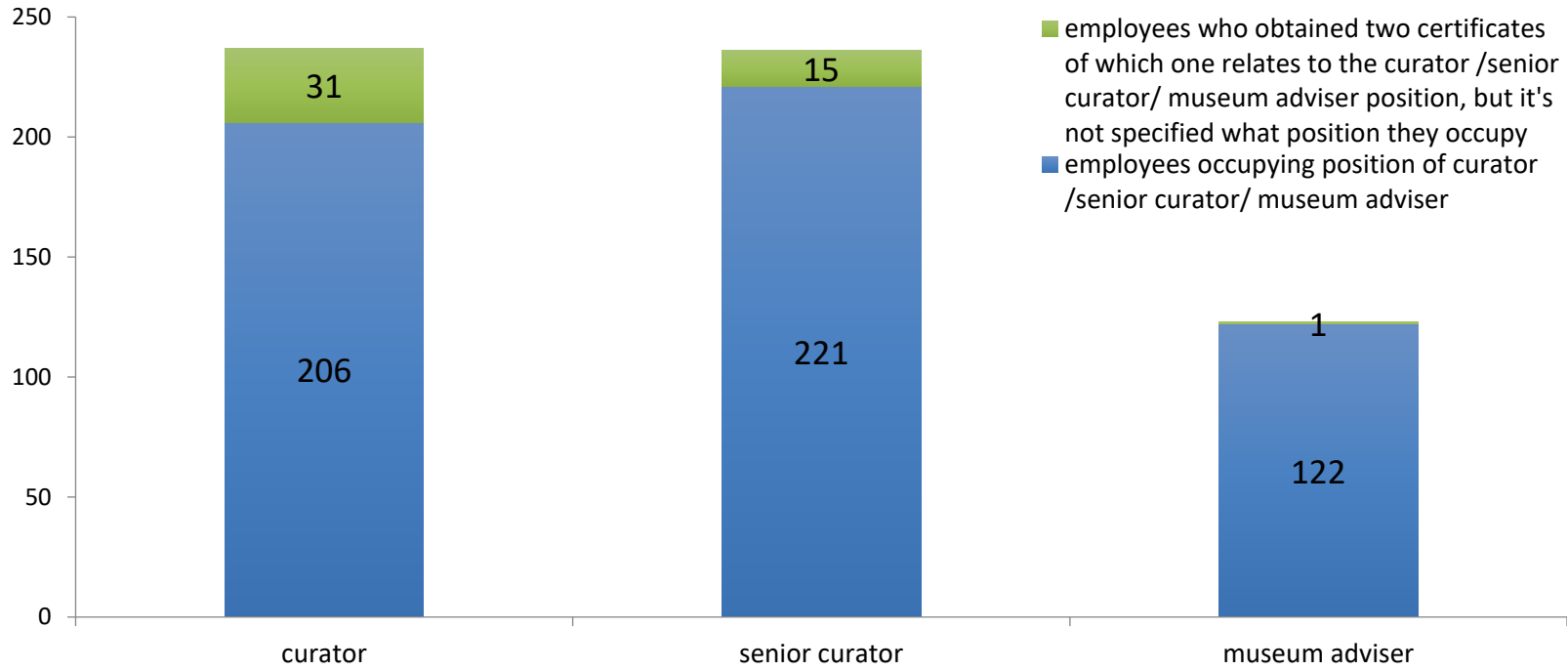


\* employees who obtained both certificates, but it is not specified which/what position they primarily occupy

<sup>2</sup> not including trainees



### Curators, senior curators, museum advisers

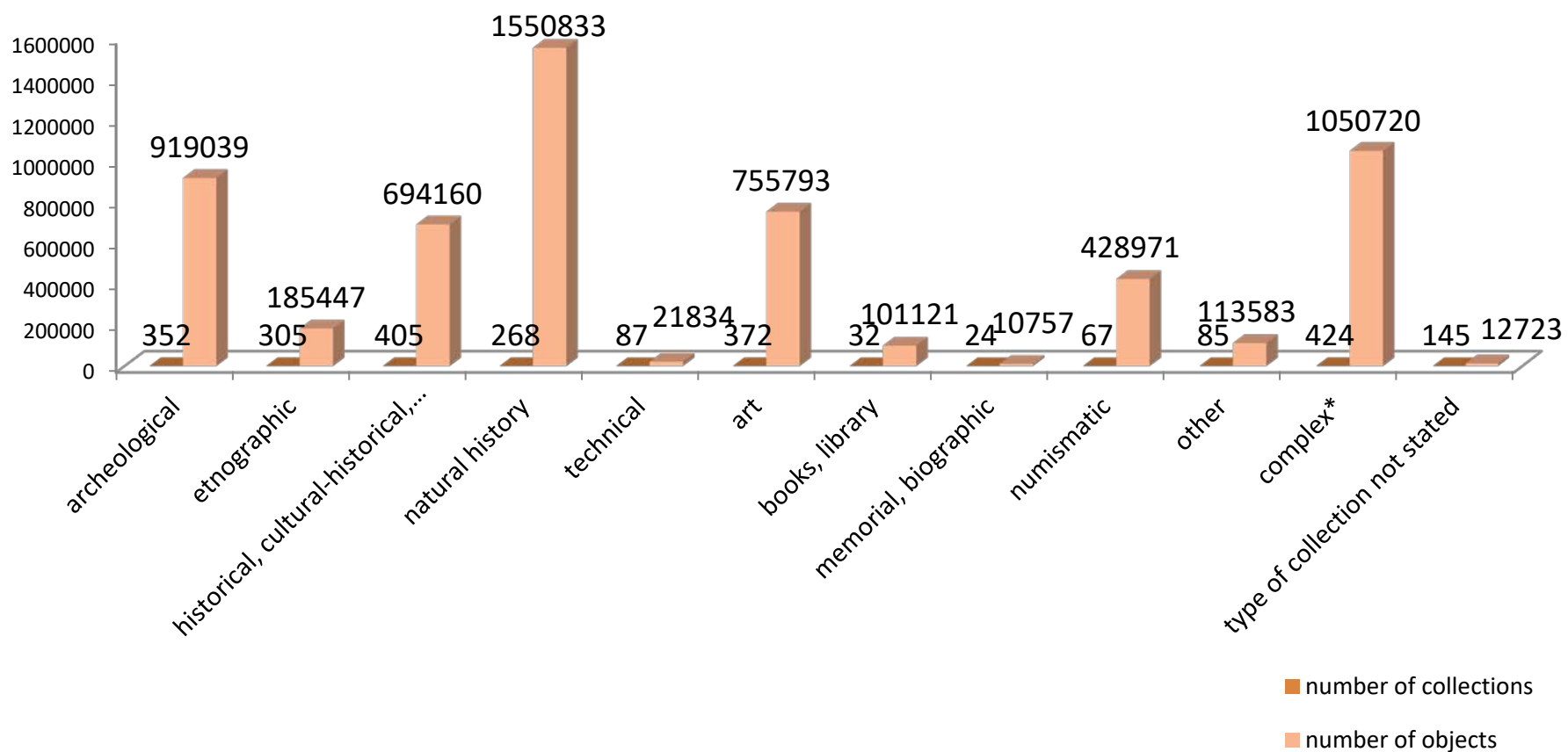


## Type of collection – number of collections, total number of objects

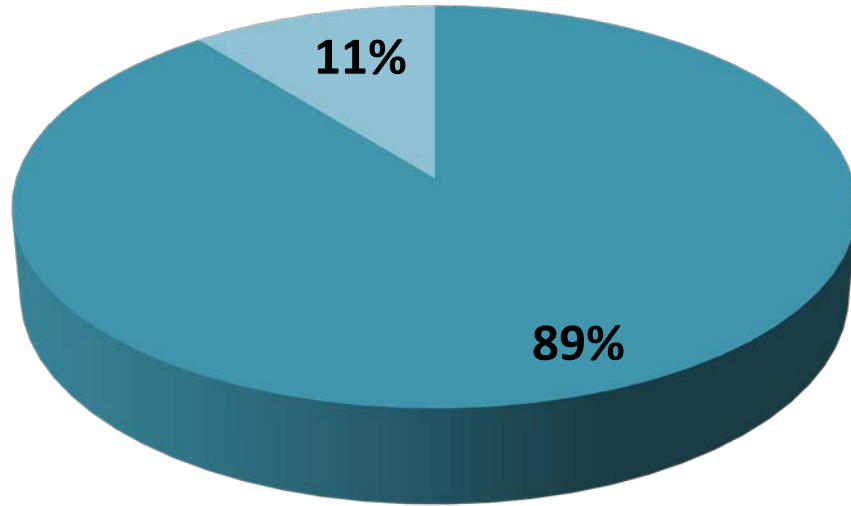
Number of museum collections: 2612

Total number of objects in museum collections: 5.838,416

Number of objects inventoried: 3.479,732

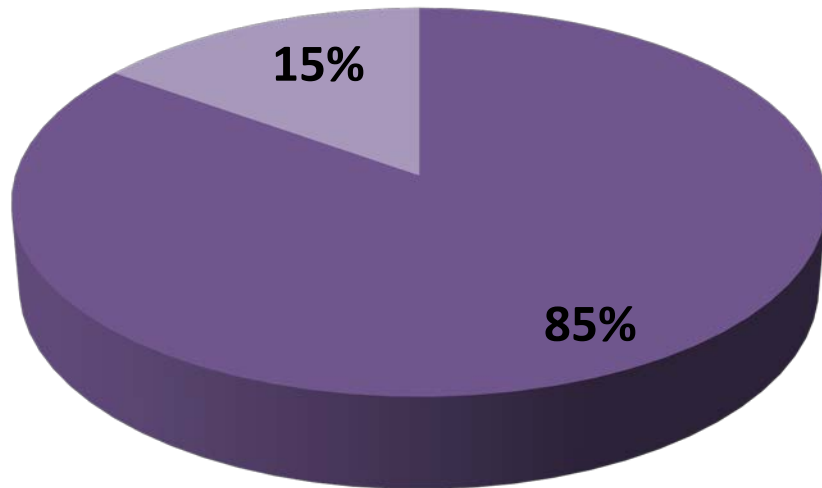


### Access to the internet



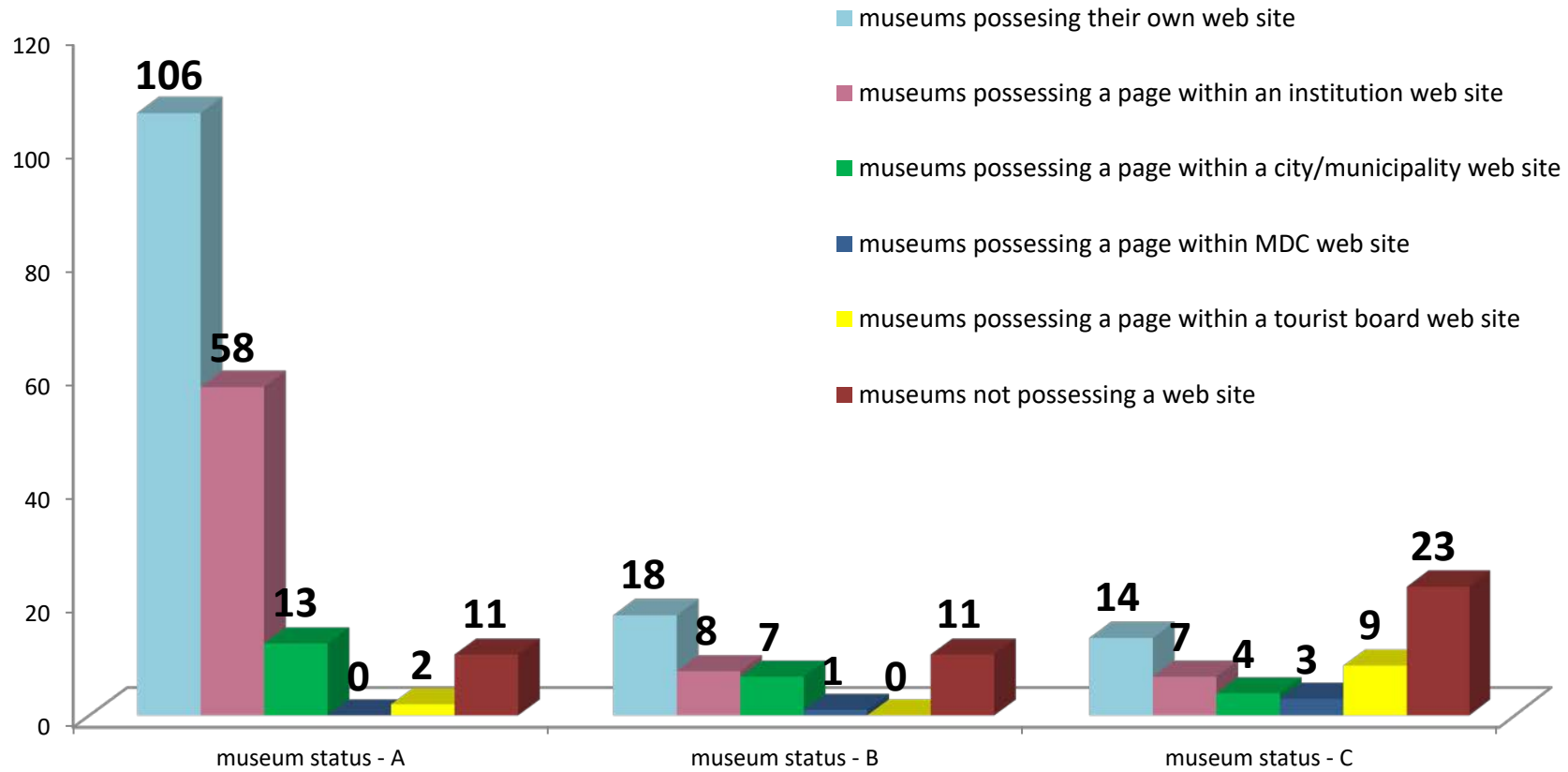
■ museums which have access to the internet (e-mail) ■ museums which do not have access to the internet (no e-mail)

### Museum web site



■ museums possessing a web site ■ museums not possessing a web site

### Museum web site / museum status (A, B or C)



**List of References**

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<http://www.mdc.hr/>

<http://hvm.mdc.hr/>

<http://www.min-kulture.hr/default.aspx?id=78>

<http://www.min-kulture.hr/default.aspx?id=75>

(accessed 14.09.2017.)

Museum statistics source of data: *Register of Museums, galleries and collections in Croatia, MDC, 2017. Authors: Staša Popadić, Tea Rihtar Jurić*