

Consider the monitoring and reviewing of outcomes of decisions – How can we demonstrate and measure these? Is this sufficiently addressed in practice?

Develop guidelines – Can ICCROM publish guidelines for sharing conservation decisions using the content developed for the course?

Decision-making as an emergent topic in conservation

Our initial sense of the need for the course in 2002 had been qualitative, but, with hindsight, it is also possible to look quantitatively at the emergence of decision-making as a ‘hot’ topic in our field prior to, and during, the life of the course.

A search was made of three decades (1980s, 1990s, and 2000s) in the ICCROM library database and the Art and Archaeology Technical Abstracts (AATA). Searches were made of the topics ‘decision’ or ‘decision-making’ combined with each of the various topics that had been part of the course syllabus. The searches were made using the best available keywords for these topics in each catalogue’s preset keyword list. The number of hits from the two databases was averaged.

The results, Figure 1, show that the topic of decision-making grew by a factor of ten during those three decades, and that the two fastest growing subtopics grew 100 times – decision-making combined with ‘digital/electronic media’ or combined with ‘community’. Clearly the topic had been growing in the 1980s and 1990s prior to creation of the course, but continued to grow by a factor of almost 100 throughout the duration of the SCD project, 2002-2011.

A consistent multinational demand for the course

Since the first SCD course in 2002, there have been a high number of applications coming from a wide range of countries, as shown in Figure 2.

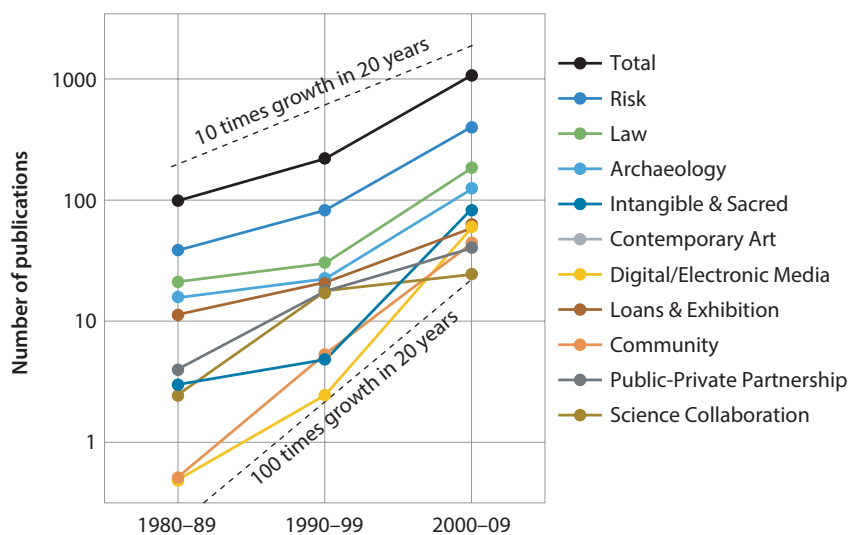


Figure 1. Growth in the number of conservation publications on decision-making in combination with various subtopics. The numbers are averages of the number found in the AATA database and in the ICCROM Library database. All the plots have a slope (rate of growth) that lies between a growth rate of x10 in 20 years (upper dotted line) and x100 in 20 years (lower dotted line).