Issue 603: Contextualize issues in a more informative way

Background & current work

Background
- Conversation from Issues 603 and 605 seemed to overlap in that discussion about how to encourage participation, and perhaps the changing nature of participation from change in formats to SIG meetings, came up in both
- In order to consider both issues, I have done a historical analysis of participation to see if this can better help us to define and understand the issues at hand
- Issue 603: discussed at the 54th meeting, at which point the conversation was broadened to "encouraging participation" more generally.

Current approach
- Reviewed documents from the Minutes page of the CIDOC CRM website
- There are no Minutes for Meetings 12, 19, or 26
- Workbook with data

Questions & goals

3 questions:
1. How many people participate in SIG meetings? (number of unique participants over time)
2. How many participants does a SIG meeting attract? (number of participants per meeting)
3. How many SIG meetings do people attend? (number of meetings per participant)

Through 2 lenses:
1. Through analyzing SIG meeting participation over the entire history of the SIG
2. Through analyzing participation in only the past 16 SIGs (past 5 years, 8 in-person and 8 online/hybrid)

Hopeful takeaways:
- What can we learn about SIG participation, particularly when thinking about a comparison of format: online/hybrid (past 8) vs. in-person?

Limitation & further questions

This does not include questions such as:
- **Why do people attend?**
  - Learn for the first time?
  - Stay up to date with something they already know about?
  - Contribute?
- **How many participants contribute?**
  - Raise issues?
  - Speak?
  - Vote?
  - Present?
- **Demographics?**
  - Geography?
  - Age?
  - Career?
  - Experience/familiarity with CIDOC CRM?

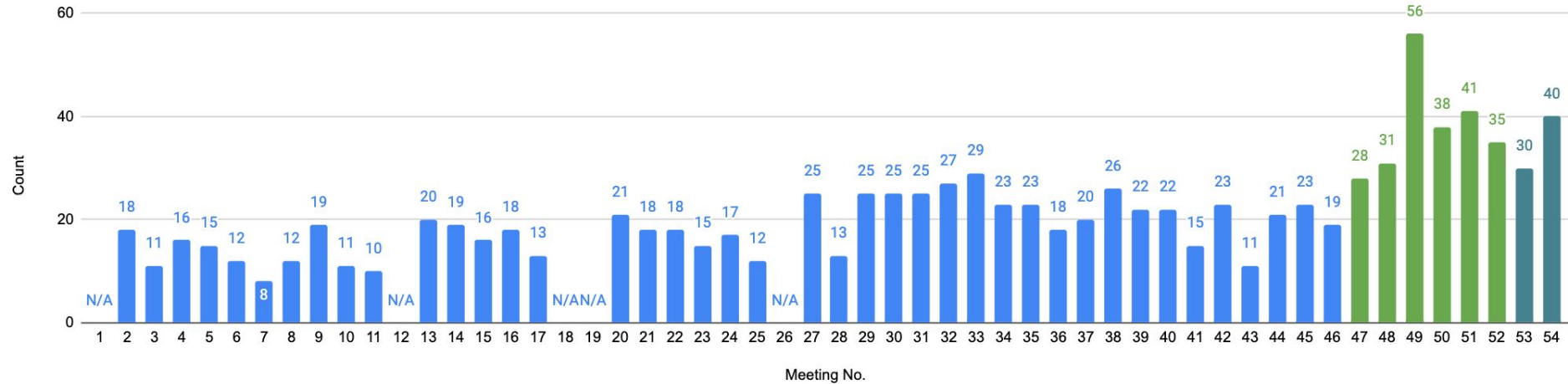# Q1: How many people participate in SIG meetings?

- All time
  - 280 unique participants
- Past 16
  - 112 unique participants
  - Online (past 8) vs. in-person
    - 56 only started participating since meetings went online
      - 54 new participants
      - 2 attended in previous years (last IRL meetings: 37, 38)

Takeaways:
- Looking at the past 16 meetings: online meetings doubled the number of unique participants (56 to 112; increase of 100%).
- Looking at the entire history, we can see that 20% of all participants have come to the SIG online (224 to 280; increase of 25%)

Q2: How many participants does a SIG meeting attract?

Average no. of participants per meeting		
All time	Past 16	Online (past 8)
21.5	28.5	37.5

# Q2: How many participants does a SIG meeting attract?

Takeaways:
- More people are attending online SIGs than in-person ones.
- Only one in-person meeting has ever had more participants than an online meeting
  - 33rd meeting of SIG, which had 29 participants; lowest-count online meeting had 28 participants, was the 47th meeting, which was the first online

Top 10 best attended SIG meetings		
Meeting No.	**Format**	**No. of participants**
49th	Online	56
51st	Online	41
54th	Hybrid	40
50th	Online	38
52nd	Online	35
48th	Online	31
53rd	Hybrid	30
33rd	In person	29
47th	Online	28
32nd	In person	27

Q3: How many SIG meetings do people attend?

How many participants attend how many meetings
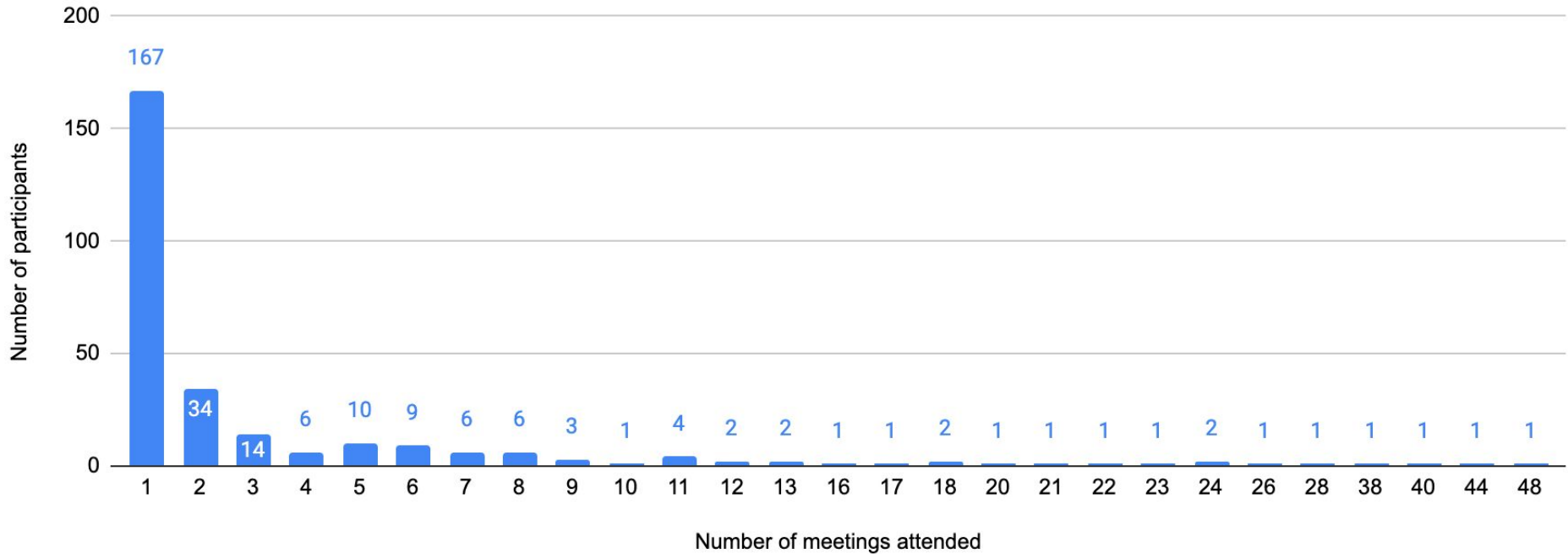
Q3: How many SIG meetings do people attend?

- Roughly half of people attend only 1 meeting
- The majority of people attend 5 or fewer meetings
- Long-term participation is comparatively low

No. of meetings attended	All time (n=280)	Past 16 (n=112)	Online (past 8) (n=56)
1 meeting	60% (167)	43% (48)	55% (31)
3 or fewer	77% (215)	61% (68)	78.5% (44)
5 or fewer	82.5% (231)	75% (84)	89% (50)
More than 5	17.5% (49)	25% (28)	11% (6)
More than 10	8.5% (24)	11% (12)	N/A (8 = 5.5% n=3)

Takeaways:

Frequency of participation does not appear to have changed dramatically, although there is comparatively little data to make any greater statement than that. The three points above hold true: most people attend, at most, a handful of meetings.

What can we learn from this?

Answering the questions:

1. How many people participate in SIG meetings?
   More new people are attending SIG meetings when they are held online.

2. How many participants does a SIG meeting attract?
   More people are attending each SIG meeting when they are held online.

3. How many SIG meetings do people attend?
   There is no marked change to trends regarding how many SIG meetings a person attends whether or not the meeting is held in-person or online.

What can we learn from this?

Preliminary findings:

- Meeting online is supporting greater participation
  - More people are participating in each meeting
  - New people are participating when online is an option
    - In a couple of cases, this has also led to participation of folks who used to be involved, then were not for some time, and nwo are again
- There is still an issue in retaining participation and achieving ongoing participation

Discussion

Opportunities:

- Assumption: we want people to come to meetings informed and enthusiastic (clear "why")
    - Therefore, looking at ways to build this up before the meetings as well as during
- With so many newcomers, it is perhaps more important than before to give clear introductions to issues, as well as to be clear about how participation takes place and welcoming to new voices
- There also may be opportunities for engaging newcomers based on this evidence of interest
    - ICOM mentorship sessions at conferences?
    - CIDOC training events, beyond conference times?