

RMS INSTA-POLL

“What % of your collection have you actually gathered yourself, from the actual businesses”

[November - 109 responding]

| | |
|---------------|----|
| 95% | 2 |
| 80% | 2 |
| 60% | 1 |
| 50% | 4 |
| 40% | 5 |
| 35% | 2 |
| 33% | 1 |
| 30% | 3 |
| 25% | 3 |
| 20% | 5 |
| 18% | 1 |
| 15% | 5 |
| 12% | 3 |
| 10% | 12 |
| less than 10% | 1 |
| 7% | 1 |
| 5% | 7 |
| less than 5% | 7 |
| 3% | 1 |
| 2% | 4 |
| less than 2% | 1 |
| 1% | 10 |
| less than 1% | 21 |
| 0% | 7 |
| no clue | 1 |

Note: Some of the lower responses are due to the fact that those particular collectors have very specialized interests. On the other hand, some of the high responses are from collectors who collect primarily from places visited.

Well, no real surprises here. Most collectors simply don't go out themselves and collect covers from the actual businesses and sites that may offer them. 67% of the respondents are at 10% or lower, with the biggest number of responses at “less than 1%.”

In earlier times, when matchbooks freely flowed, the results would surely have been not so lopsided, but the overall conclusion has been the same since collectors started trading and buying.

Still, *someone* has to initially go out, find, and pick up those new matchbooks (both in the present and in earlier decades), so God bless those unsung heroes and heroines who keep us supplied right up to today!

[Just as an aside, because I need a filler here...Do you know that the first time I used the term 'heroines' in my 7th grade Literature classes, they honestly thought I was talking about drugs!...Says something about our culture, don't you think?]