Yale
Best Practices in Conservation and Exhibitions for Library & Archives Collections

5 November 2013

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YUL Collections
Conservation & Exhibition Services
Conservation is... an ethics rather than standards based profession.
Conservation treatment is...

a set of actions taken to maximize the utility and longevity of an object

based on a specific interpretation of the ideal state for that object based on its intended future use.
Consider the value of the object and the context from which it was produced.
# Layers of Meaning – Ideal State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>BOOK</th>
<th>Reader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sign</td>
<td>SYMBOL</td>
<td>Signifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>ART</td>
<td>Mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>ARTIFACT</td>
<td>Viewer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fact</td>
<td>HISTORY</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabricator</td>
<td>EVIDENCE</td>
<td>Interpreter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strive to provide best possible conservation expertise and work.
“set of actions...”
Treatment Continuum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Treatment</th>
<th>Minor stabilization</th>
<th>Intermediate repair</th>
<th>Major intervention</th>
<th>Full Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.jpg" alt="Image of No Treatment" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.jpg" alt="Image of Minor stabilization" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.jpg" alt="Image of Intermediate repair" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.jpg" alt="Image of Major intervention" /></td>
<td><img src="image5.jpg" alt="Image of Full Treatment" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Paper Theater
“Peep Show”
Digitization-Driven

- Pre-imaging
- Post-imaging
- Rethinking housing
Understand the limitations of one’s own expertise and consider resources and facilities available.
Document examination, scientific investigation, and treatment by creating permanent records and reports.
Perpetual and delicious

The triumph of the most glorious nation, the English, is now complete. The mighty Rome, the conqueror of the universe, now under the支配 of the British. The English have conquered the world, and the world belongs to them. Their power is unlimited, and they are the supreme rulers of the universe.
Promote an awareness of conservation through communication with allied professionals and the public.
MS 4
roman esque / gothic, 15th century

St. Antoninus, Confessio nale
154 x 103 (95 x 69) mm

Written in half end of 15th century
Original lection on thin squared vellum,
leaves over 1., bound through turnips in
the thickness of wood in bands into rectangular
frames on their outer face. Twisted
banded cords of linen wound on bands
folded in grooves. At supports pegged and
lignum [?] used to fill in around them.
Spine lined with brown calf, sewing ex-
cept under endbands tied-down. Covered
in brown calf, blind-tooled with simple
trellis pattern, bands by Carter. Cover tum
longues two catches on lower board
studs on strap at upper. Boards worm-
 eaten and detached and most of the
cover missing. Minor repairs to endleaves
and headband made ca. 1576.
**Traveling Scriptorium** - A Teaching Kit by the Yale University Library

Iron Gall Ink

Iron gall ink is one of the most frequently found inks in manuscripts from the Middle Ages to the 19th century. With a color ranging from blue-black when freshly made to a rusty brown when degraded, it is omnipresent in libraries and archives, and was often referred to as "common ink." Historically, iron gall was
Preserving Your Family Papers

Christine McCarthy
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Preservation Department
Yale University Library
Prevent damage and deterioration through risk management activities.
Exhibition Standards

- Preventative care
- Standards and guidelines
- Generalized information based on classes of materials
- Encourages “yes” or “no” answer
- Discourage dialogue

Guidelines for loan of objects from the National Gallery of Canada

Specifications are the maximum allowable conditions within these categories. More stringent
than of particular objects that have higher-than-normal environmental sensitivity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>RH set-point, between</th>
<th>RH fluctuation away from set-point in a 24 hour period</th>
<th>Illumination, maximum</th>
<th>Ultra- violet component of illumination, maximum</th>
<th>Loan duration (in months)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-22°C.</td>
<td>43-50 %</td>
<td>± 10 %</td>
<td>200 lux</td>
<td>75 µW/cm²</td>
<td>See B</td>
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<td>18-22°C.</td>
<td>43-50 %</td>
<td>± 10 %</td>
<td>200 lux</td>
<td>75 µW/cm²</td>
<td>14 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-22°C.</td>
<td>43-50 %</td>
<td>± 5 %</td>
<td>150 lux</td>
<td>75 µW/cm²</td>
<td>11 months</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-22°C.</td>
<td>30-50 %</td>
<td>± 10 %</td>
<td>1000 lux</td>
<td>75 µW/cm²</td>
<td>See B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See C.

See B.
Exhibition Practices

• Balancing current and future use with targeted approach
• True collaboration model
• Identifying highest risks and easily mitigated risks
• Using tools to predict effects of exhibition more accurately
Audubon on display at Beinecke Rare Book Library
Reduce personal and environmental risks and hazards in the laboratory.
Sustainable Conservation

- Decrease chemical inventory
- Replace certain solvents with less toxic alternatives
- Better control on equipment use
- Frequent updating of our MSDS file
- Respiratory health program
- Recycling – reuse
- Staff training
- Y-A-L-E campus program
Select and utilize methods and materials that will not adversely affect the use of the object now and in the future.
Iron Gall Ink
Contribute to the evolution and growth of the profession, a field of study that encompasses the liberal arts and the natural sciences.