

Preservation and Conservation

Online Resources for Training and Research

AIC – [American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works](#)

Why we like this site: AIC provides an excellent gateway to many different sources such as [journal articles and publications](#); [disaster response](#) guides and resources (more on this later); and [standards and guidelines](#) for conservators. AIC also offers an assortment of [workshops as well as online courses](#) (we'll have more on this later) and publishes the *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation* (see above).

ALCTS – Association for Library Collections and Technical Services

Why we like this site: Most of you are already familiar with the ALA's various services and interest groups or sections, but we think it useful to take a look at ALCTS. This section of ALA offers a range of [training opportunities](#) and interest groups that focus on Preservation issues. Among these are:

- ✚ Lists/e-mail discussion groups:
 - ❖ PADG – Preservation Administrators Discussion Group (aka Preservation Administrators Interest Group). The [PADG listserv](#) is an open forum focused on preservation issues. We sometimes use it to pose questions and often find the topics timely and useful.
 - ❖ The [Digital Preservation list](#) is also useful (although less active).
 - ✚ PARS – [Preservation and Reformatting Section](#) “Contributes to library service and librarianship through encouragement, promotion of, and responsibility for those activities of ALCTS relating to the preservation and reformatting of library materials in all types of institutions; provides leadership in the application of new technologies to assure continued access to library collections.”
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CoOL – [Conservation OnLine](#)

Why we like this site: CoOL provides access to a wealth of information about conserving a wide range of materials (audio-visual, electronic, wood, textiles and, of course, paper based material). An important resource that many of us subscribe to is the [Conservation Distribution List](#) (archived discussions are found at the [Conservation DistList Archive](#)). Discussions are often relevant and we can submit questions when we need input or advice on specific problems or issues. The List discussions are archived and searchable – a very useful resource. This isn't the jazziest looking site, but it is a rich and reliable resource. Our research often starts here.

The site also hosts [The Journal of the American Institute for Conservation](#) and there is a dictionary on [Bookbinding and the Conservation of Books](#).

Demonstration Videos:

- ✚ Washington State University – [Conserving Early Modern Books](#)
Why I like it (Kay): This site has a very interesting video showing the steps in conserving books. It runs about 9 minutes, so plan ahead. It's worth the time.
 - ✚ New York Public Library – [Behind the Scenes at NYPL's Conservation Lab](#).
Why I like it (Nicole): This video demonstrates the science and techniques behind conservation by showing and explaining, in an easy to understand way, the treatment of a document in the lab. Complete with before and after photos! It runs a little over 5 minutes.
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[Library of Congress Preservation website](#)

Why we like this site: With a little of something for everyone, this site provides advice for individuals and libraries. It's a good resource for keeping an eye on current events and future directions. Their list of [Other Preservation Resources](#) includes links to preservation sites that address a variety of topics.

Lyrasis – [Preservation Resources and Publications](#)

Why we like this site: This provides good supplemental information to CoOL and NEDCC. Lyrasis also offers [classes](#) on various topics and [“training tracks”](#) on select topics.

NEDCC - Northeast Document Conservation Center

Why we like this site: NEDCC provides access to [training](#) (hands-on workshops, webinars, conferences, and online courses), [disaster assistance](#) (more on this later this week) and the very useful “Preservation Leaflets”. NEDCC’s [Preservation Leaflets](#) cover a wide range of preservation topics including planning, emergency response and recovery, environmental monitoring, storage and handling, photographs, reformatting, and conservation.

Oxford University – [Conservation and Collection Care](#) “Handling Library Material”

Why I like this site (Christine): We use this site for training student assistants in the care and handling of material (they browse it, but some sections are more apropos than others). This is my favorite page: [Food & Drink](#). The approach is light, but the information is thorough and accurate. If you visit, be sure to follow the arrows at the bottom of each page.

Print Resources: Not everything is online yet. Often, the reference materials we use for training or to research the best treatment or storage methods are in print. One excellent collection of such material is the [Myra Jo Moon Memorial Preservation Reference Collection at Jefferson County Public Library](#). While many of these titles are older, they continue to be useful. [More about Myra Jo Moon](#) (please note that the Colorado Preservation Alliance mentioned here has merged into [SRMA](#))

Why I like this site (Nicole): Most of the 275 preservation related items in this collection are available through Prospector! The scope of the collection encompasses book preservation, bookbinding, book arts, and book history topics. I particularly enjoyed being able to check out DVDs to watch hands-on demonstrations.

Book Repair Instructional Sites

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

The Good: All of these sites provide excellent instructions for a large variety of book repair or enclosure treatments. There are *many* sites that provide repair instructions, but we think these are the best.

If you plan to repair your own books, **be cautious**. Many of the techniques are in the “Don’t try this on your favorite book without a lot of practice” category.

In the near future, the Preservation Department will start training some of the Branch staff to perform some of these techniques – we ask that they wait until we can set them up with proper supplies and some hands on training.

- ✦ University of Indiana’s online [Repair and Enclosure Treatment Manual](#)

Why I like it (Kay): This is an excellent and comprehensive training tool.

- ✦ Dartmouth – [A Simple Repair Manual](#)

Why I like it (Megan): This is a good manual for simple book repair for circulating collections. It includes some good information on the tools used in book repair and some general information on what makes a good workspace for repairing books. The manual also includes a good list of resources.

- ✦ Book Arts Web – [Three Basic Book Repair Procedures](#)

Why I like it (Megan): This is another very good site that covers three basic repair techniques.

The Bad and the Ugly: How NOT to do it.

- ✦ Yikes! <http://www.instructables.com/id/Repair-an-Old-Classic-Book-rebinding/> Please read the comments by a conservator that appear beneath the instructions. It contains some good tips. This site links to others:

- ❖ <http://www.instructables.com/id/Save-a-Broken-Binding/> errrr, how can I say it? Oh, the horror!
- ❖ Or this one: <http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-make-a-Duct-tape-Book-cover/> Actually, we’re pretty sure some of our patrons have seen this one.

Why we *don’t* like these: We’ve discovered many creative and truly frightening online instructional videos, but these are on the top of our list for how NOT to repair your books. Please don’t do these at home (or anywhere else)!

Personal Archiving, Preserving Family Treasures

Scrapbooking for the Ages - Scrapbooking tips for personal or family archivists

- ✦ [Helpful tips for preserving your precious documents & memorabilia](#). This tip sheet will help you create archival scrapbooks and photo albums. It's short and practical. NOTE: Acid free paper is readily available at craft stores these days, but it usually isn't lignin free. Why does it matter? Paper can be labeled acid free when the pH level is around 7 at the time of manufacture. Lignin, which is part of the cellular structure of wood, is inherently acidic and, if left in the paper, will leech acid into the rest of the paper. It takes a while for that to happen, so using acid free paper that has lignin may be acceptable for scrapbooking – it depends on how long you want the scrapbook to last. See [Inherent Vice: Materials](#) at [Northeast Document Conservation Center](#).
- ✦ At the [Smithsonian Institution Archives](#) you can find links to several “how to” pages. Did you inherit the family photo albums with the photos firmly attached to those “magnetic” pages (“sticky pages”) and can't figure out to salvage them? At [this site](#) about photographs, find tips and videos plus links to other related topics. This video and other SIA videos are also available at [YouTube](#) (look for the “by SIArchives” to be sure you find the Smithsonian sites. Other trained conservators provide videos on YouTube, but so do a lot of folks with little or no training – as always on the web, check the source.)
- ✦ The Image Permanence Institute (IPI) provides a handy [glossary](#) as well as a [The Archival Advisor](#) which provides articles, book reviews, tip and tricks and other information.

[Your Old Books - RBMS Publications Committee](#) (Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of ALA)

Why I like it (Nicole): This is an excellent primer for identification of potentially rare material and the options of appraisal, care, sale, donation or simply the enjoyable pursuit of book collecting. The guide contains a lot of useful information to help you determine whether something might be of monetary or historical value.

Family and Personal Treasures of all kinds. Should you wash that ceramic object that's been handed down through the ages or is there a better way to clean it? What's the best way to store photos? These sites may be of assistance.

- ✦ Caring for Your Treasures (AIC) – [Guides for Taking Care of Your Personal Treasures](#)
Why like it (Christine) These guides cover everything from architecture to textiles to dolls.
 - ✦ Library of Congress – [Family Treasures](#)
Why we like it: This site provides a good overview of what you can do to protect personal and family treasures.
 - ✦ The National Park Service can be a rich source of information. Their [Conserve O Grams](#) may be written for museums, but they often contain practical advice for the family curator.
 - ✦ The [Canadian Conservation Institute](#) site includes tips for preserving all sorts of material such as textiles, silver, woven objects and so on.
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Emergency Planning and Response Online Resources

All the major preservation or conservation websites, many of which have been mentioned under Preservation and Conservation (CoOL, NEDCC, Lyrasis, Library of Congress, ALA-ALCTS, National Park Service and the National Archives) also have important emergency planning and response information.

But for emergency planning and response, Carl recommends these as the most important sites: WESTPAS, Heritage Preservation Task Force and especially the new University of Colorado Boulder - Libraries Emergency Plan. These websites and his recommendations are listed here.

- ✦ [WESTPAS](#) is a simple site which mainly contains a [toll-free number to call for advice](#).
When the Earth Sciences building pipe burst on February 2, 2011, Carl called this number at 5AM, expecting to leave a message with their 24-hr answering service—but was connected immediately with Julie Page, one of their trainers. She helped me to review the strategy to take with the Map Library emergency—so helpful.
- ✦ The [Heritage Emergency National Task Force](#) (Under the auspices of Heritage Preservation) This site provides things like the [Emergency Response Wheel](#) (how to recover different materials) as well as other very practical tools, publications and links to key services. This organization serves as a clearinghouse for incident information during large emergencies, provides short videos on [how to clean, dry or freeze books](#) and so much more.

Caution: While you may choose to treat your personal damaged collections with whatever resources you can find like these, if University Libraries collections (permanent assets of the State of Colorado) are involved in an emergency, it is important that a certain protocol is followed. The protocol that needs to be followed is in the **Emergency Quick Reference** that is at your desk. This is restated and amplified in the newly posted [Emergency Plan](#) on the Preservation Homepage and Administrative Services Internal Information.

Other practical websites:

- ✦ The [Image Permanence Institute](#) provides us with many of the tools and guidance in conducting Environmental Monitoring. In an emergency, their dew point calculator is very useful in determining [what conditions can lead to mold](#). Just slide the Temperature and Humidity scales to the conditions you are experiencing and you can see what your risk of mold is.
 - ✦ AIC – [American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works](#). This site also includes “[How to find a conservator](#)” organized by what materials are damaged and geographic area. AIC offers an assortment of workshops and online courses as well. Carl was lucky to get a chance to receive some of their training to become an [AIC CERT volunteer](#), part of a national network of about 100 volunteers available to respond to cultural heritage emergencies.
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