

1999

Preservin' the South

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Recommended Citation

(1999) "Preservin' the South," *The Primary Source*: Vol. 21 : Iss. 2 , Article 6.

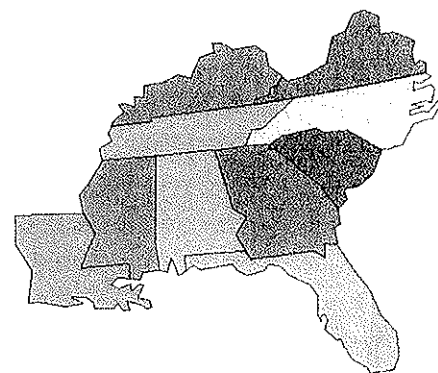
DOI: 10.18785/ps.2102.06

Available at: <https://aquila.usm.edu/theprimarysource/vol21/iss2/6>

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Preservation News by Christine Wiseman
Education Officer,
SOLINET Preservation Field Services



ASTM Natural Aging Research

In 1998 the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) launched a century-long study of the effects of natural aging on printing and writing papers. For the next 100 years, ten North American libraries situated in a variety of climates will store volumes of 15 experimental paper types and submit monthly and yearly storage condition reports to the Library of Congress and National Archives and Records Administration. At ten intervals throughout the century, specimen pages will be extracted from each site and tested for optical and physical durability.

This project will determine whether accelerated aging test results achieve similar results to that of natural aging; and therefore allowing scientists to reliably predict the life expectancy of various papers. It will also enable paper manufacturers to ensure that their product meets the needs of the research community's requirements.

Preliminary findings report that paper ages faster in stacks than as single sheets. Additionally, in natural aging tests daylight is more damaging than artificial light. For further information contact Bruce Arnold, (R.B. Arnold Associates, 130 W. Lancaster Ave., Suite 301, Wayne, PA 19087-4031, 610-964-9757) chair of ASTM's paper aging research program.

Spanish Translation of NEDCC manual now online.

Preservation of Library and Archival Materials: A Manual is a key resource of practical information about the care and preservation of library and archives collections. The Manual, an assortment of technical leaflets grouped by subjects such as emergency management and storage and handling, provides concise, up-to-date information at your fingertips.

The Northeast Document Conservation Center announces that the Spanish translation of the Manual is now available online at NEDCC's website <www.nedcc.org>. This translation makes a core collection of preservation literature available for the first time in Spanish.

SAA's Selected Readings in Preservation 1997/1998 on the Web

The Society of American Archivists Preservation Section has posted the recently released Selected Readings in Preservation 1997/1998 on its website <<http://dlis.gseis.ucla.edu/saapreserv/prindex.htm>>. It is an annotated list of selected sources released in a given calendar year on archival preservation. Selected Readings in Preservation contains books, reports, periodicals, and articles in English that relate to archival preservation. Geared to the general archives community, it is designed to serve as a convenient reference to selected sources. It is not intended to be comprehensive. To the extent possible, citations include the cost of and instructions for ordering publications.

New Standard for Library Binding Approved

The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) recently announced that the proposed Standard for Library Binding has been approved. The final text of the new standard is now at press; it will be published in early 2000. The old 1986 standard was developed collaboratively by binders and preservation librarians. It abolished the use of "oversewing" and outlined specifications for a variety of accepted leaf attachment methods. The new standard is jointly sponsored by NISO and the Library Binding Institute (LBI) and is performance based rather than materials based. It is the result of seven years of research to develop performance measures and specifications for library binding to complement industry-developed manufacturing specifications for library binding materials. The standard applies to the hard cover binding and re-binding of library-owned books, periodicals, and pamphlets and the prebinding of books for sale to libraries.

Website on Preserving Access to Digital Information Expanded

In response to a growing recognition of the need to safeguard digital heritage, the National Library of Australia established its Preserving Access to Digital Information (PADI) website in 1997. The site <www.nla.gov.au/padi/> was recently updated and expanded into a comprehensive "subject gateway" to information on digital topics. It has more powerful searching capability and a new maintenance program intended to keep the site up-to-date. In addition, a new discussion list, padiforum-l, has been established to exchange information on digital preservation issues. To subscribe to the list send an email message to listproc@nla.gov.au. In the first line of the message area type: subscribe padiforum-l [your name].

New NEH Outreach Grant Program

The National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Preservation and Access is launching a new grant program to help libraries, archives, museums and historical societies assess need and enhance the preservation and access to their collections. The small grants, of up to \$5000, include support for preservation or conservation assessments, specialized consultations, attendance at training, purchase of supplies, equipment and storage furniture. Priority will be given to applicants from states identified as underserved by the Endowment. Southeastern states included are: Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Puerto Rico. Guidelines scheduled to be available by February 1, 2000.

