

2000

## Preservin' the South

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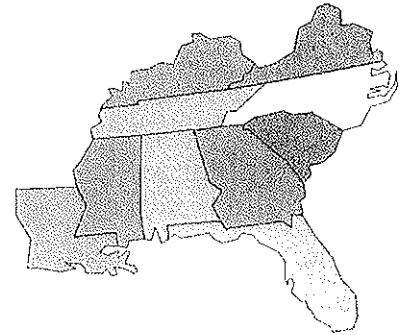
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# Preservin' the South



Preservation News by Christine Wiseman  
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## New Publication on Digital Projects from NEDCC

While the impact of digital technology on the preservation community is undeniable, the appropriate use of digital technology for preservation remains an open question. Learn how the experts are answering this pressing question when you read the Northeast Document Conservation Center's latest publication: *Handbook for Digital Projects: A Management Tool for Preservation and Access*. For the past five years, the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) has explored the complex issues surrounding digital preservation through its successful School for Scanning conferences. This book will make up-to-date information on these issues available to a broad audience.

An easy-to-use primer, *Handbook for Digital Projects* is focused on meeting the information needs of libraries, museums, archives, and other collections holding institutions. It is intended to serve as a resource and response to the questions, conflicts, and unique preservation challenges produced by ever-evolving technologies. A compilation of experts' experiences and advice, the Handbook covers in detail, such topics as:

- \* Rationale for Digitization and Preservation
- \* Guidelines from Case Studies
- \* Selection of Materials for Scanning
- \* A Technical Primer
- \* Digital Longevity
- \* Project Management
- \* Vendor Relations
- \* Copyright Issues
- \* Scholar Commentary: An End-User Speaks Up

Find more information about this publication on the NEDCC website, [www.nedcc.org](http://www.nedcc.org).

## New CD-ROM from UNESCO

A new preservation tool, a CD-ROM entitled "*Safeguarding our Documentary Heritage*" is available on the UNESCO website as part of their "Memory of the World" Program. It was prepared on behalf of UNESCO by the IFLA/PAC with the assistance of the Mission on Research and Technology.

This searchable multi-media program provides information about the deterioration and preservation of cultural property by document type, visual, audiovisual, film, graphic, and photographic. It also categorizes disasters and gives guidelines for a stable collection environment. The program can be view on the UNESCO website, [www.unesco.org/webworld/mdm/](http://www.unesco.org/webworld/mdm/), using Shockwave and by ordering the free CD-ROM from the website.

#### New Digital Publications

Many institutions are looking for guidance when it comes to creating, managing, and preserving digital collections. Two new publications attempt to provide practical advice and establish best practices for libraries and archives undertaking digital imaging projects and developing a strategy for long-term file management.

*Moving Theory into Practice: Digital Imaging for Libraries and Archives*, (Edited and principally written by Anne Kenney and Oya Y. Rieger. Mountain View, CA: Research Libraries Group, 2000. Softcover, \$80, \$72 for RLG members.) a primer on digital imaging projects, is the latest offering from Cornell University, who remain one of the leaders in imaging practice and research. Although fairly technical, the manual provides practical advise on selection, conversion, quality control, metadata creation, image processing, systems building, access, preservation and management. *Moving Theory into Practice* is a companion to the weeklong workshop of the same title, but stands on its own as a reference work.

There is also an online digital imaging tutorial <[www.library.cornell.edu/preservation/tutorial/](http://www.library.cornell.edu/preservation/tutorial/)> <<http://www.library.cornell.edu/preservation/tutorial/>> that is intended for use in conjunction with the book and workshop; however, it also stands alone as introduction to key concepts of imaging.

*Preserving Digital Information: A How-To-Do-It Manual* (by Gregory S. Hunter, Neal-Shumann Publishers, softcover, \$64.95) discusses the challenges librarians and archivists face in preserving electronic information on disks, networks, CD-ROM's, and other electronic media. The manual shows how to apply best practices when managing long term storage of digital collections.

#### 2000 Preservation Assistance Grant Awards are Announced

In the spring of 2000, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Division of Preservation and Access distributed guidelines for a new category of grants, *Extending the Reach* which includes Preservation Assistance Grants. These awards of up to \$5000 are designated to help libraries, archives, museums and historical organizations to preserve their collections. Though available to institutions nationwide, special consideration is given to applicants in areas considered underserved by NEH. These areas include Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming. Activities that are eligible for funding are general preservation assessments and long-range planning, consultations, preservation education, and the purchase of equipment and supplies.

In April, 179 institutions applied for \$748,000 for preservation efforts. Sixty-one percent of these institutions were funded; 54% were in the underserved regions. Eight institutions in the Southeast received awards this summer: The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham, AL; The Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum, Birmingham, AL; The Historic Huntsville Foundation, Huntsville, AL; The University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL; The Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami, FL; Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA; Lindsey Wilson College, Columbia, KY; and Milligan College, Milligan, TN.

The deadline for next year is April 3, 2001. Information, guidelines, and forms are located on the NEH website, [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).

#### SOLINET Launches New Digital Library Curriculum

In response to increasing interest and demand, SOLINET is expanding its training on digital library topics. Three new workshops are under development, jointly sponsored by SOLINET's Preservation Services and Digital Library Services. Designed to provide practical training for small groups of

participants, these workshops will debut during this year's "workshop week", scheduled for November 13-17, 2000 in Atlanta.

The three workshops will be scheduled sequentially so that the topics build on one another for those who wish to obtain more comprehensive training on digital library issues. However, each workshop also functions as a stand-alone session. This arrangement allows for participants to choose workshops that best meet their needs, and to attend several related sessions in one week.

The series begins with a two-day workshop entitled *Digital Library Program Development* that covers the management issues associated with starting up and integrating a digital library program into existing library operations. The one-day, *Introduction to Digital Imaging for Libraries and Archives* follows, and focuses on establishing and managing digital conversion projects. The final workshop of the series, *Digital Imaging of Photographic Collections*, specifically addresses selection, conversion, and providing access to image collections. This session features hands-on demonstration and practice of scanning techniques, lighting, applying metadata standards, and database development.

Workshop participants will be made aware that digitization is primarily an access tool, and not currently an acceptable preservation reformatting option. Preservation issues including long-term file maintenance and the use of standards and best practices as a means to ensure access to digital files into the future will be addressed in all sessions.

For full descriptions see: <[www.solinet.net/presvtn/events/event.htm](http://www.solinet.net/presvtn/events/event.htm)>.

See <[www.solinet.net/cet/reginfo.htm](http://www.solinet.net/cet/reginfo.htm)> for registration information. These workshops are funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Preservation and Access.