Identifying standard practices in research library book conservation

Abstract
The field of research library conservation has emerged as a distinct discipline and undergone major refinements over the past fifty years: professional organizations and training programs have been established, new treatment techniques have been developed and promoted, and, increasingly, special and general collections practitioners have collaborated on treatment solutions. Despite such dramatic growth and definition within the field, there has been no comprehensive assessment of the book treatment practices employed by research libraries for special and general collections. In response to this need, a study was undertaken to investigate and document the types of treatments employed by research libraries to conserve and maintain their book collections, and to compare the practices used for special collections with those used for general collections. This paper describes the evolution of the field over the past fifty years and identifies book conservation techniques the study found to be routinely, moderately, or rarely employed in research libraries. A comparison of special and general collections treatment practices suggests that while notable differences exist, many treatment practices are common in both contexts. Implications of the study’s results and potential applications for this new information are stated.

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Books and other materials take up and give off moisture making them sensitive to relative humidity. Very high humidity encourages mold growth and insect infestations. Low humidity causes materials to lose their flexibility. With old media deteriorating and new media becoming available, research remains an important practice in the field of conservation and preservation. Students and professionals in library and information science research everything from paper media preservation to the creation and maintenance of electronic resources. The two main issues that most libraries tend to face are the rapid disintegration of acidic paper and water damage (due to flooding, plumbing problems, etc). The field of research library conservation has emerged as a distinct discipline and undergone... Academic journal article Library Resources & Technical Services. Identifying Standard Practices in Research Library Book Conservation. By Baker, Whitney; Dube, Liz. Read preview. Article excerpt. The field of research library conservation has emerged as a distinct discipline and undergone major refinements during the past fifty years. Professional organizations and training programs have been established, new treatment techniques have been developed and promoted, and increasingly, special and general collections practitioners have collaborated on treatment solutions. The field of research library conservation has emerged as a distinct discipline and undergone major refinements during the past fifty years. Professional organizations and training programs have been established, new treatment techniques have been developed and promoted, and increasingly, special and general collections practitioners have collaborated on treatment solutions. Despite such dramatic growth and definition within the field, no comprehensive assessment of the book treatment practices employed by research libraries for special and general collections has been conducted. Conservation research is essential for advancing knowledge but to make an impact scientific evidence must influence conservation policies, decision making and practice. This raises a multitude of challenges. How should evidence be collated and presented to policymakers to maximise its impact? With an increasingly greater focus on evidence-informed policy and practice, researchers need concrete examples on how to generate and synthesise research findings, and then to communicate these findings to decision-makers; all while recognising that a degree of uncertainty is inherent to all policy-making. This book will aid anyone wishing for their research to have an impact, particularly in conservation but also any interdisciplinary pursuit.'