



Lecture: On the Lifetime of Collections

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In preventive conservation, environmental control is informed by numerous considerations, such as relevant environmental variables, as well as intended use, material sensitivity, resource considerations, and expected object lifetime. While environmental monitoring is routine, research has only recently been made available on how it could provide evidence for accountable collections care decision making. There are crucial links between user attitudes to collections and material change, which inform this discussion: What elements of material change should be prioritized? What makes objects unfit for a given purpose? When in the future is this tolerable? By answering these questions, a new concept of 'isochrones' has been developed, describing paper degradation depending on environmental as well as material properties, and reflecting expected lifetimes of objects.

Using the case study of the National Archives (Kew, UK), an example will be given of how a building model could further guide optimization of resources. Even if taking into account the changing climate, appropriate preservation environments can be achieved with significantly reduced energy consumption.

Workshop: Collections Demography

Matija Strlic, with Nancy Bell, The National Archives, UK

The one-day colloquium will bring together environmental and material research through the lens of values users associate with heritage.

9:30-9:45 Welcome

9:45-10:15 Collections Demography project: introduction

10:15-11:00 User attitudes to collections

11:00-11:30 Break

11:30-1:00 Thresholds of use: paper, photographs, canvas

1:00-2:00 Break

2:00-3:30 Lifetime of collections: paper, photographs

3:30-4:00 Standards and guidelines – recent UK developments

Live webcast for both lecture and workshop available at:

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/Smithsonian-On-UStream-TV>

MCI

Topics in Museum Conservation

Wednesday Lecture
November 13, 2-3 pm

Lecture Hall

S. DILLON RIPLEY CENTER
1100 JEFFERSON DR. SW
SMITHSONIAN METRO STATION

Thursday Workshop
November 14,

9:30-4:00

TBD



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