

Conservation methodology

Barbara Appelbaum has written *Conservation Treatment Methodology*, a 468-page book that explores how to make decisions about conservation treatments. It provides a systematic approach for evaluating the physical and cultural aspects of objects, specific examples of evaluations, and a terminology to facilitate communication between conservators and nonconservators.

Appelbaum proposes characterizing an object using a four-part grid. Material aspects and nonmaterial aspects are on the horizontal axis and object-specific and nonobject-specific information are on the vertical axis. Information obtained by physical and scientific examination goes in quadrant I, information about material properties and deterioration goes in quadrant II, information about the history, value and future of the object goes in quadrant III, and information about artistic or historical context goes in quadrant IV. This rigorous characterization allows formulation of a realistic goal for treatment and appropriate choice of materials and methods.

The book costs \$32.95. Published by Elsevier, it is available from booksellers. ISBN-13: 978-0-7506-8274-9.

Digital preservation

The Preservation of Digital Materials by Priscilla Caplan is the February/March 2008 issue of *Library Technology Reports* (v.44: no.2). This issue provides an introduction to and overview of digital preservation for the nonspecialist. It explains definitions, goals and strategies, practices, foundations and standards, digital formats, repository applications (e.g., DSpace, Fedora, and EPrints), and unique projects (e.g., electronic journals and web harvesting). It also reviews initia-

tives such as the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP) at the Library of Congress, the Digital Preservation Coalition and Digital Curation Centre in the U.K., and Digital Preservation Europe, PLANETS, and CASPAR in Europe. Caplan is the Assistant Director for Digital Library Services at the Florida Center for Library Automation.

This single issue costs \$42 and is available from the ALA TechSource Online Bookstore, www.techsource.ala.org/ltr/the-preservation-of-digital-materials.html. Item number: TS4402.


Audio and video

Dietrich Schüller of the Austrian Academy of Sciences has prepared *Audio and Video Carriers*, a full-text document based on a slide show presentation. The slide show was used by Schüller and Albrecht Hfner in training workshops organized for the European Union Commission Project, Training for Audiovisual Preservation in Europe (TAPE).

Part 1 of the new 19-page document offers a broad overview of the nature of mechanical, magnetic and optical carriers of information. For each format, it covers the recording principle, composition of carriers, stability of components, and risk of deterioration during replay.

Part 2 provides information about how environmental conditions, handling, and storage can put these materials at risk.

Part 3 reviews equipment maintenance and contains a chart rating 31 formats and their related equipment for obsolescence. Lastly, Schüller argues that all audiovisual processes are prone to deterioration and obsolescence, so preservation in this context requires conversion to a digital format and a succession of migrations to new carriers.

This document is available as a free PDF at www.tape-online.net/docs/audio_and_video_carriers.pdf. 

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