Preserving Scrapbooks in the Archives

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Scrapbook Structures

“A blank book in which miscellaneous items (as newspaper clippings or pictures) are collected and preserved”.

A Brief History and Use of Scrapbooks

- Introduced as a popular format in the early 1900’s, though the idea of scrapbooks developed from photographic albums.
- Highly popular in the 1920s-40s, but experiencing an increase in popularity today as well.
A Brief History and Use of Scrapbooks
Scrapbook Structures

• Non traditional formats
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Bindings: Mass Produced of leather, cloth, or paper
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Boundings: Specialty
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Bindings: Custom
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Page Attachment Mechanisms: Laced Binding
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Page Attachment Mechanisms: Spiral and 3-Ring
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Page Attachment Mechanisms:
Post Binding
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Page Attachment Mechanisms: Strap and Staple
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Page Attachment Mechanisms:
Plastic Sleeve
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Page Attachment
Materials:
Uncommon Formats
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Page Attachment Materials: Uncommon Formats
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Text Block Materials: Paper
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Text Block Materials:
Magnetic Sheets
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Text Block Materials: Plastic Sleeves
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Method of attachment of enclosures
  - Pins
  - Straps
  - Tape
  - Glue
  - Corners
  - Lamination
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Method of Attachment: Straps
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Method of Attachment: Tape
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Method of Attachment: Glue
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Method of Attachment: Photo Corners
Materials Used in Scrapbooks

Method of Attachment: Lamination
How do Scrapbooks Fail?

• Binding Failure
• Page Detachment
• Paper Embrittlement and Discoloration
• Attachment Failure (& Discoloration if Adhesive)
• Deterioration of Enclosures
Why do Scrapbooks Fail?

• Inherent Vice
• Improper Storage Conditions
• Improper Handling
Preservation Concerns

Binding Failure: Stress
Preservation Concerns

Binding Failure: Leather Decay (or) “Red Rot”
Preservation Concerns

Binding Failure:
Weak Binding Materials Combined with Unforgiving Structures
Preservation Concerns

Binding Failure: Wear and Tear
Preservation Concerns

Page Detachment: Unforgiving structure combined with weak materials
Preservation Concerns

Page Detachment:
Deterioration of Materials
Preservation Concerns

Paper Embrittlement and Discoloration
Preservation Concerns

Paper Embrittlement and Discoloration
Preservation Concerns

Attachment Failure: Glues
Preservation Concerns

Attachment Failure: Pressure Sensitive Tapes
Preservation Concerns

Attachment Failure: Metals
Preservation Concerns

Attachment Failure: Magnetic Pages
Preservation Concerns

Attachment Failure:
Lamination
Preservation Concerns

Attachment Failure: Plastics Deterioration
Preservation Concerns

Deterioration of Enclosures: Paper
Preservation Concerns

Deterioration of Enclosures: Photographs
Preservation Concerns

Deterioration of Enclosures: Photographs
Preservation Concerns

Deterioration of Enclosures: Plant and Animal-Based Materials
Preservation Concerns

Deterioration of Enclosures: Plant and Animal-Based Materials
Preservation Concerns

Deterioration of Enclosures: Other Unstable Materials – Remove or Maintain?
Preservation Options

Storage:
Temperature
<65°F±5
Relative Humidity
40-50%±5
UV Light Exposure
0 μ watts
Direct Visible Light
kept to a minimum
Preservation Options

Stabilization: Ties and Wraps

Average cost = $1.50 each

http://preserve.harvard.edu/guidelines/hdtransfer.html
Preservation Options

Stabilization: Boxes

Average cost = $5–$20

Average cost = $30–$100
Purchasing Archival Materials

- “archival”
- pH (<7.0, 7.0, >7.0)
- Lignin-free
- Buffered
- Unbuffered
- High Alpha-Cellulose Content
- Permanent Paper

The infinity symbol inside a circle identifies a publication printed on paper that will last for several hundred years. The paper meets the criteria set forth in American National Standard for Information Sciences - Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1992.

- LE (Life Expectancy)
- Photographic Activity Test (PAT)
Preservation Options

Handing and Use: Support
Preservation Options

Handing and Use: Gloves and Photocopying
Preservation Options

Removal of Materials and interleaving
Preservation Options

Removal of Materials
Reformatting Options

- Microfilm
- Preservation Facsimiles
- Digitization
Reformatting Options

- Microfilm
- Preservation Facsimiles
- Digitization
Reformatting Options

Considerations

• Bi-tonal, grayscale or color if microfilm?
• Can it be disbound?
• How will pamphlets and other multi-page enclosures be treated?
• What will serve as the preservation copy if digitized?
Conservation Options

Item-level Treatment
Conservation Options

Item Level Treatment
Real-life Examples
Informational Resources

General Preservation/Conservation

Conservation On-Line (CoOL)

http://palimpsest.stanford.edu

American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC)

http://aic.stanford.edu

Canadian Conservation Institute Institute (CCI)

http://www.cci-icc.gc.ca
Scrapbook Specific Resources


Thanks!

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Questions?

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