

ALA Preservation Policy

The ALA Council approved a revision of ALA's Preservation Policy during the Annual Conference in June 2001. The Planning, Policy and Research Committee of the Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS) of the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) drafted the revision, solicited comments from ALA members, and submitted the document for approval.

The revision expands the policy to cover new media and delivery methods, particularly the Internet. ALA's policy is based on the premise that every person should have "access to information at the time needed and in a usable format." The policy affirms that preservation of information resources is a core activity of libraries and librarians, and supports preservation of all types of media and formats. It addresses standards, usability, longevity, and durability of library collection media, preservation of digital information, public education on preservation of primary source documents, and federal legislative policy. The new policy is available at <http://www.ala.org/alcts/you/preservation.html>.

NTFER emergency wheel

The National Task Force on Emergency Response (NTFER) has reprinted its Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel. These round, sliding-window charts provide easy-to-use information for dealing with emergencies that threaten cultural collections. Side 1 of the wheel is devoted to response action steps arranged under nine headings: disaster alert (if you have advanced warning), safety first, getting started off-site, stabilization of the building and environment, documentation, retrieval and protection, damage assessment, salvage priorities, and historic buildings.

Side 2 is devoted to salvage steps arranged by medium: books and paper, electronic records, textiles, furniture, ceramics/stone/metal, organic materials, natural history specimens, framed artworks, and photographs. The information conveyed on the wheels may be viewed at http://www.fema.gov/r-n-r/ers_wl.htm# and http://www.fema.gov/r-n-r/ers_wl2.htm.

The wheels cost \$10.95 each, with a discounted price of \$6.95 each for nonprofit organizations or government agencies. There are also discounts on purchases of ten or more. For more information, contact Cindy Olsen, National Task Force on Emergency Response, 1730 K. St., N.W., Suite 566, Washington, D.C. 20006; phone: (888) 979-2233; fax: (202) 634-1435; e-mail: colsen@heritagepreservation.org; Web: <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/programs/wheel1.htm>.

The New Library Scene

The New Library Scene, the official journal of the Library Binding Institute (LBI), is back in publication after a yearlong hiatus. LBI has made some editorial changes and the revived publication will be shorter than its predecessor, concentrating on new developments, quality of techniques and materials, and the overall value of library binding to preservation of books. Werner Rebsamen, professor emeritus of the Rochester Institute of Technology, will serve as technical advisor. The first issue of the revised serial is volume 20, number 1 (summer 2001).

NEDCC's Preservation 101

The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) conducted "Preservation 101: An Internet Course on Paper Preservation" for the second time in June and July 2001. Offered to 250 participants this time, the online course provided eight introductory lessons linked to a glossary and a bibliography, plus a bulletin board for communication among the instructor and participants. The lessons are titled "What is Paper Preservation?", "Introducing Archives," "Environmental Damage to Collections," "Solutions to Collections Care," "Housekeeping," "Emergency Preparedness," "Care of Photographs," "Preservation Planning."

Now that the interactive course is concluded, NEDCC has made the lesson texts available to everyone at <http://www.nedcc.org>. ■

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