ALA produces video on library security

ALA Video/Library Video Network has produced a training videotape titled Be Prepared: Security and Your Library. The 35-minute tape has eight sections that cover setting policies, approaching patrons, personal safety, management support, law enforcement cooperation, isolated libraries, inventory control, and internal theft. It includes discussion of solutions to security problems and examples of the correct way to handle security situations, plus comments by library security experts such as Rachel MacLachlan, director of security for the San Francisco Public Library, and Dave Kreek of the Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute. The video comes with a sheet of security tips which may be helpful to staff who work with library patrons. Copies are available for $130.00 from ALA Video/Library Video Network, 320 York Rd., Towson, MD 21204; (800) 441-TAPE; fax: (410) 887-2091.

NML and Commission collaborate on magnetic media preservation

The National Media Lab (NML) and the Commission on Preservation and Access have begun collaboration on developing preservation management tools for magnetic media. The NML has done extensive experimental research and mathematical modeling on the physical and chemical stability of many types of magnetic media. The collaboration is intended to translate that research for preservation professionals so it can be used in selecting storage options, predicting media degradation, and setting priorities for data migration.

The participants in this project are interested in concentrating on the types of media found in libraries and archives and would like assistance from anyone who has unique magnetic media collections. In particular, they’d like to know what types of media are most commonly found in those collections, what types of media are used or may be used for migration or back-up, and which manufacturer’s products and elements (e.g., magnetic particle, binder, substrate) are represented. If you can supply this information, please contact James R. Druzik, the Getty Conservation Institute: jdruzik@getty.edu; or Maxine K. Sitts, the Commission on Preservation and Access: msitts@cni.org.

Michigan Alliance publishes proceedings

The Michigan Alliance for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage has published the proceedings of its November 1991 conference, Conserving Cultural Heritage in the 21st Century. The three-day conference was held to determine Michigan’s preservation needs, formulate objectives to meet those needs, and create a preservation agenda for the future. The 56-page proceedings include texts of the presentations which provided the context for planning; the reports of library, archives, historic preservation, and museum working sessions; the conference evaluation; and appendices. Copies are available for $13.50 (including shipping and handling) from MI Alliance, c/o Susan Bandes, Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

Commission distributes brochures on digital projects

The Commission on Preservation and Access is distributing two brochures which describe recent digital technology demonstrations. One describes the preservation aspects of Project MUSE, a Johns Hopkins University (JHU) experiment providing network access to JHU Press journals. The other describes a Pennsylvania State University Libraries experiment scanning and storing archival materials. Copies are available free-of-charge from Sonny Koemer, Communications Assistant, The Commission on Preservation and Access, 1400 16th Street, NW, Suite 740, Washington, DC 20036-2217; (202) 939-3400; fax: (202) 939-3407.

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