Conservation

Conservation Division cares for the Library's special collections and historic artifacts through: conservation assessment, research, treatment, and rehousing; environmental monitoring and analysis; object preparation for exhibition, loan, and digitization; and collections emergency management and response.

Preservation Research & Testing

The Preservation Research & Testing Division undertakes scientific research and analysis to support and advance the preservation of the full scope of the Library’s collections through: better understanding of material composition and degradation; evaluation of treatment outcomes; and quality assurance of preservation supplies.

Want to Know More?

Have a question about preservation? Click on the button Ask A Librarian at the top of www.loc.gov/preservation

Find out what’s happening in these pictures at www.loc.gov/preservation

Help the Library Preserve Our National Collections!

Your gift helps to preserve and protect collections at the Library and across the nation, providing support for education and outreach programs, research and training, and internships that help to launch careers in preservation.

www.loc.gov/preservation

The Library of Congress offers users a universal collection of ever-increasing diversity and scope. The Preservation Directorate sustains and ensures long-term access to these unmatched collections by evaluating, managing, and responding to the risks and challenges associated with the wide variety of materials in the Library’s care.

www.loc.gov/preservation
Library of Congress Preservation Directorate

To advance the care and stewardship of the national collection, the Library of Congress Preservation Directorate integrates complementary services across five divisions:

**Binding & Collections Care**

The Binding & Collections Care Division supports the Library’s general and reference collections through binding preparation, collections conservation and housing, and contract management for library binding and for mass deacidification (bulk chemical treatment of acidic paper materials).

**Collections Management**

The Collections Management Division is responsible for inventory control, collections security, and space management for tens of millions of collection items across three Capitol Hill buildings and the Library’s off-site facilities, including the environmentally optimized preservation repository in Fort Meade, MD.

**Preservation Reformatting**

The Preservation Reformatting Division provides continued access to the information in at-risk materials such as newsprint, brittle books, and obsolete storage media (e.g., floppy disk, MiniDisc, old hard drives) by reproducing in digital, microform, and paper alternative formats.