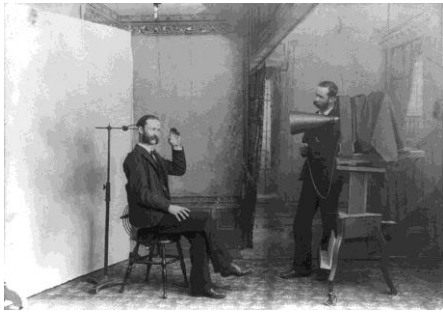


# Fundamentals of the Conservation of Photographs



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**SESSION:** Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Recovery / Hands-on Practicum

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## SESSION OUTLINE

### ABSTRACT

#### Disaster Preparedness:

Fire, floods, mold outbreaks, and other disaster can have devastating consequences for photographs collections that prevention alone can mitigate or, indeed, prevent. Following the example of personnel safety, major institutions have developed risk management policies to protect their collections.

The first step is to do an inventory of the dangers and an evaluation of the degree of probability associated with each. In fact, the risks differ depending on the region, the construction technique, the type of collection, and the amount traffic. Once the major risks are determined, the next step is to examine prevention and warning devices, as well as intervention and rescue techniques. Rapid detection of a destruction process, accompanied by an appropriate reaction, can contain the damage and stabilize endangered artworks until they can receive an appropriate conservation treatment.

#### Disaster Recovery:

Manmade and natural disasters often result with water-damaged photographic collections. Water-damaged photographs need to be treated as soon as possible. However, for large collections, this is not possible and practical. When the collections are accessible after a disaster, the photographic materials need to be frozen immediately to minimize mold growth, damage to the emulsions and image materials. Treatment for the collection might take years to complete.

In this session the participants will have hands-on practicum treating frozen water-damaged photographic materials.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

#### Disaster Preparedness:

As a result of this session, participants should be able to assess the main risks to photograph collections from disasters, and how to be prepared for these and how to react if necessary



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## SESSION OUTLINE CONT'D.

### Disaster Recovery:

As a result of this session, participants should be able to assess the risks and treat water-damaged photographic materials.



### CONTENT OUTLINE

- Water damage to photographic materials
- Molds and mold mitigation
- Damage to the emulsions and image materials
- How to prevent further damage
- Case studies from participants

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

 = Essential reading material

 = Available online

-  Norris, Debra Hess. 1991. Preservation Planning for Diverse Photographic Holdings in *Photograph Preservation and the Research Library*, 19-27. Stanford, CT: Reserach Libraries Group.
-  "Disaster Planning: Prevention, Preparedness, Response, Recovery." Safeguarding the documentary heritage - a guide to standards, recommended practices and reference literature related to the preservation of documents of all kinds. UNESCO (2000).  
[http://webworld.unesco.org/safeguarding/en/all\\_sini.htm](http://webworld.unesco.org/safeguarding/en/all_sini.htm)

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