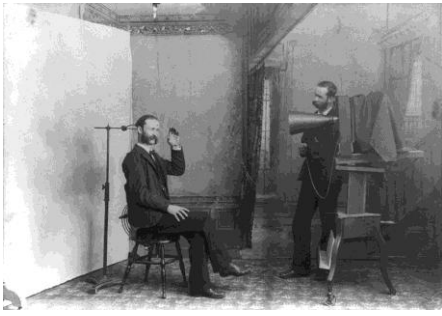


Fundamentals of the Conservation of Photographs



SESSION: Preservation Priorities

INSTRUCTOR: Monique Fischer

SESSION OUTLINE

ABSTRACT

This session will increase the participant's awareness about how preservation strategies can prolong the life of an institution's photograph collection. Simple and common preservation activities which include reformatting, rehousing, disaster planning, training of staff, proper storage and exhibition conditions can easily increase the life of a photograph. Prior to any conservation treatment, it is important that an institution has a preservation plan.

By definition preservation is the activity that increases the useful life of materials while conservation is the treatment of objects, which stabilizes and lengthens their life span. If an institution does not have a preservation plan in place, conservation treatment of an individual object is ineffective. For example, by introducing a conserved photograph into an unstable environment, the deterioration process continues. By not having staff properly trained in handling issues, photographs can be easily damaged.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

As a result of this session, participants should be able to:

- Understand how and why photographs deteriorate
- Understand the difference between biological, mechanical, chemical and physical deterioration of photographs
- Understand and explain the different types of deterioration characteristics associated with cased images, photographic prints and photographic negatives.
- Be able to distinguish one photographic process from another using visual analysis of deterioration characteristics.

CONTENT OUTLINE

- PowerPoint lecture "Preservation Priorities"
- **Group discussion** which will include all participants and will be moderated by: Monique Fischer, Dusan Stulik, Art Kaplan, Barbara Burianova and Jana Krizanova



SESSION OUTLINE CONT'D.

- The group discussion will cover general principles covered in the lecture and will also be an opportunity to discuss specific examples and issues provided by participants from their own collections. The assignment (see below) will also be reviewed and discussed.



ASSIGNMENT

- Download and complete the form available at the NEDCC link mentioned above (http://www.nedcc.org/resources/leaflets/1Planning_and_Prioritizing/06PriorityActions.php).
- If appropriate, check off the actions that need attention in your institution. If necessary, prioritize some of those actions. (You can skip sections 11, 12, 13, 14, and 16 since they do not directly pertain to photographs.)
- Bring the completed form to this session and think about the following questions:
 1. Does your institution have a preservation plan in place?
 2. If not, what changes can you make immediately?
 3. What changes will need more time and funding?These questions will be discussed during the group discussion.
- Participants are also encouraged to bring relevant examples of photographs from their (personal or institutional) collections to the sessions for discussion

BIBLIOGRAPHY

 = Essential reading material

 = Available online

-  Northeast Document Conservation Center. 2011. Priority Actions for Preservation. Accessed March 7, 2011.
http://www.nedcc.org/resources/leaflets/1Planning_and_Prioritizing/06PriorityActions.php
-  Northeast Document Conservation Center. 2011. Resources. Accessed March 7, 2011.
<http://www.nedcc.org/resources/introduction.php>

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