Optimizing Collections Care:

Configuring Strategies and Options for Unusual Art Library Collections

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Yale Center for British Art, Reference Library and Archives

- ~40,000 print volumes
- Publishing dates 1850 – Present
- Unique holdings – Jennings Albums (72 vols)
- Microfilm and Microfiche
- Electronic Media
- Photo Archive ~150,000 photographic reproductions
- Artists Files
- Annotations and Marginalia, Signatures, Paul Mellon bookplates
Basic Elements of Preservation Programs

• Environmental Control
• Disaster Planning
• Security
• Storage and Handling
• Reformatting
• Library Binding
• Conservation Treatment
• In-House Repair
• Digital Projects

NEDCC : Preservation 101, online course
http://unfacilitated.preservation101.org/
Strengths

- Environmental Control
- Security
- Storage
- Library Binding
Areas for Development/Improvement

- Disaster Planning
- Handling
- Reformatting
- Conservation Treatment
- In-House Repairs
- Digital Projects
Assessment

- **General Planning Survey**
  - Identify hazards, prioritize collection needs, identify actions needed to extend life and use of collection

- **Collection Condition Survey**
  - General vs. Item-Level
Plan of Action

- Assessment information CRITICAL
  - Targeted Areas for Collection Prioritization
- Developed 2-year plan for creation of preservation program with in-house repairs
- Garner support from colleagues
- Presented to Director for approval
- Result = Line item added to existing budget
Collaborations: Meeting and Outreach

- Converse and Collaborate Continuously!
  - Yale Center for British Art Conservators
  - Yale Center for British Art Facilities
  - Yale University Libraries Preservation Librarian
  - Yale’s Lewis Walpole Library Conservator, Facilities and Librarian
  - Bridgeport National Bindery
  - Class Instructors from varied backgrounds
  - Peers and Colleagues throughout Profession

Helps to gather information, identify areas for collaboration, opportunities to learn from past experience, and aids in creating future plans for collections care
Training for In-House Repairs

- Local classes and workshops
- National centers: NEDCC, IPI, CCAHA
- Online Courses and Tutorials
- National Conference Opportunities
- Academic Libraries
- Preservation Departments Online
- Guild of Bookworkers
- Book-Arts List-serv
- ALA List-servs: PADG, DigiPres
Implementation: In-House Repairs

- Creation of MS Access Database to track damages, repairs, and all treatments
- Began in 2013 after some initial training (methods and materials)
- Obtain Supplies

- Basic Repairs
- In-Depth Repairs
- Bridgeport National Bindery, Conservation Dept.
Current In-House Repairs

- Paper Repair
- Tip-ins
- Hinge Tightening
- Re-sewing of signatures
- Recase and Reback
- Full Binding
- Cleaning, Consolidating, and Re-lining Spines
- Custom Enclosures, Pockets, and Cases
Immediate Options and Easy In-House Repairs

- Regular dusting
- Light exposure
- Update/Create policies for bindery, security, handling and storage, and disaster response plan
- Tip-ins
- Hinge Tightening
- Paper Repair
Opportunities and Growth

- Utilize Student Assistance
- Continue Education and Training
- Self-Direction
- Develop Full Policies
- Conduct Outreach to Users - Handling and Use

- Seize Opportunities
- Targeted Repairs for 2015 Closure
- Reformatting Projects en masse
- Consortia Projects for Digitization
- Look for Collaborative Opportunities
- Seek Funding
Thank You!

Questions?

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