Issues In Setting Up A Book Repair Program

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Today’s objectives

• How do we determine the scope and functions of our book repair program?
• How do we identify materials that need treatment and route them to the repair unit?
• Which repairs are the most pragmatic for a small or new program with few resources?
• What types of supplies and equipment are useful in a book repair unit?
Definition of book repair

• A set of basic mending activities used to address problems caused by use, age, poor storage conditions, or inherently problematic materials and/or structure

Book repair as one part of an overall preservation effort

Other important techniques that contribute to book preservation are:
• environmental controls
• careful handling
• user education
• disaster planning
• proper exhibit protocols
• reformatting or replacement
• conservation treatment,
• commercial library binding, etc.
Why perform book repair?

• Cost effective
• Prevents more extensive and/or difficult to repair types of damage
• Extends the useful life of library collections before needing to replace them
• Sends a positive message to patrons

Look at your collections

• Review returned circulating materials
• Scan the stacks
• Talk with colleagues
Define the context for repair

- How are your books used – research, pleasure or both?
- Do the books circulate frequently?
- Are the books retained for the long or short term?
- What levels of support and resources are available at your library?

Types of damage that can be fixed in a basic book repair program

- Loose joint(s)
- Page(s) partially or completely detached
- Illegible title
- Inner hinge(s) cracked or broken
- Page(s) torn
- Torn endcap(s)
- Spine piece detached or missing
Loose joint(s)

Page(s) detached
Illegible or missing title

Inner hinge(s) cracked or broken
Page(s) torn

Torn endcap
Spine piece detached (or missing)

Example: reback
Replace old spine piece or make a new label

Protective enclosures
Supplies and tools

**Supplies**
- Book cloth
- Erasers
- Linen thread
- Paper, acid-free copy
- Paper, scrap
- Pencils
- PVA adhesive
- Starch paste
- Storage containers
- Tissue, heat set
- Tissue, Japanese
- Wax

**Hand tools**
- Awl
- Brushes
- Cutting mat
- Folder
- Microspatula
- Needle, knitting
- Needle, sewing
- Ruler and triangle
- Scalpel
- Scissors
- Tacking iron
- Tweezers
- Weights

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**Equipment**

- Book press and pressing boards
- Table top cutter or board shears
Suppliers to consider

Archival Products
http://www.archival.com/

Gaylord
www.gaylord.com/archival

Talas
www.talasonline.com

University Products
www.universityproducts.com

Bibliography


http://www.philobiblon.com/bkrepair/BookRepair.html
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