



Preservation Week and Beyond: Ideas for Programs throughout the Year

Memories and treasures should last a lifetime and be passed on to future generations. Preservation Week inspires actions to preserve personal, family and community collections, in addition to library, museum and archive collections. It also raises awareness of the role libraries and other cultural institutions can play in providing ongoing preservation information. Local institutions are asked to do one thing in their communities to celebrate Preservation Week, even if the action or activity is small. For more information, visit www.ala.org/preservationweek. *Good programming takes time but not necessarily lots of money.*

1. Preserving Family Treasures—Discussion and Advice from Local Experts

- Two-hour program, best if samples available.
- Invite participants to bring an interesting item in to share (document, textile, glass, book) depending on host institution and local experts. If you won't have a qualified appraiser, make clear in your advertising *that no appraisals will be given*.
- Invite local collectors to talk about caring for their own collections in conjunction with a preservation specialist—encourages others to collect and preserve.
- Invite local institutions to talk about how they care for their collections—strengthens community relations.
- Some state field service offices offer free speakers—check with your state historical society or state library or museum. If you don't know any local experts, check the Preservation Week Speakers Bureau.

2. Digitizing Family Photographs and/or Papers

- Combine a free, public talk and a workshop (fee if needed) for a smaller audience.
- A historical society or the library local history room can sponsor and request copies of materials from people about local history—everyone benefits. See Memories Road Show.

3. Digital Archiving and Metadata for the Home Photographer

- Offer a program about how to create naming conventions, folder structures, and add metadata to family photographs.

4. Displaying Family Treasures

- Offer a program about framing, matting, light, creating copies to safely share family treasures without destroying them. A qualified local framer with preservation experience might be available.

Preservation Week is an initiative of the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), a division of the American Library Association (ALA) and other founding collaborators.

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5. Sharing Family Food Heritage

- Offer a program to copy and share grandmother's cookbook, family recipe cards, or other recipes, provide tips on how to preserve them for the future.
- Offer a program to share ideas for handing down traditions as well as sharing food (bring a dish to pass) with the local community. Be sure to check local regulations on food service.
- Offer a program to share local ethnic traditions with those not in the ethnic community. Partnering with an ethnic social or other organization is a great strategy.

6. Memories Road Show

- Invite participants to bring 2-3 photos of themselves, their family, or the town. Scan photos at the event, return originals to participant, video-record participant talking for 3-4 min about photos, archive copied images and video in local historical society or at state level. Another good opportunity for partnership. See Massachusetts Memories Road Show web site: <http://mastudies.ning.com/events/event/listByType?type=mass.+memories+road+show>.

7. Document Doctor

- Similar to an antiques road show with identification of materials and preservation advice. No appraisals, strictly for family photos, papers, ephemera.
- Do in conjunction with a road show program if allowed (this may be an existing fundraising activity for another institution—another partnering opportunity) or a general preservation talk.

8. Scrapbooking for Posterity

- Offer a program to explore what materials are safe and "archival"; what should be saved and how it should be labeled or documented; provide sound, preservation methods including what should NOT be put in a scrapbook, but stored another way.

9. Organizing Family Collections

- Invite staff or a local archivist to talk about archival arrangement and safe storage materials.
- Combine this with a digitization program for local history photographs or documents in private hands to add identified digital photos to your collection. Ask participants if they can identify your mystery photos.

10. Home Movie Day

- Invite community members to share—make sure to have a knowledgeable operator to play film on a well-functioning projector!
- Give an introductory address on preservation of film, reformatting, and preservation of digital video. See www.homemovieday.com/.

11. Quilt/Wedding Dress/Family Linens Care

- Sponsor a program in conjunction with quilt/bridal shows or in spring when quilts and dresses are most likely to be packed away

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12. Disaster Recovery Advice for Family Papers

- Offer a program on-site or at county or state fair.
- Demonstrate recovery and drying techniques for people to see, touch, rinse, dry, and ask about.
Show a range of materials and degrees of wetness, as well as a variety of drying processes. A state or regional conservation association (<http://cool.conservation-us.org/wcg/other.php>; many states have conservation associations) or center (www.rap-arcc.org/) may be able to provide experts.
See University of Iowa Collections Coalition, <http://blog.lib.uiowa.edu/preservation/2009/08/23/mock-disaster-recovery-drill-at-the-iowa-state-fair/>

13. Community Project

- Building storage or housing collections? Organize a local volunteer effort with the help of a conservator or experienced collections manager and good supervision. Remember to check liability and insurance requirements.
- Develop a school or community history project to collect and preserve materials relating to changes over time. Present results of the project to the community in a program.

14. Who Do You Think You Are?

- Tie in with the new television series or a local genealogy group to bring genealogy to the average person—tie in preserving family documents with this program.

15. A Day in the Life

- Develop a program on a day in the life of your institution focused on preservation and providing preservation information. Gear toward high school students, college students, or the general public. Highlight roles of positions, for instance registrar, curator, archivist, conservator, reference librarian, and library director.

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