

BOOK REPAIR IN THE U.S.A. : A LIBRARY-WIDE APPROACH TO CONSERVATION

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Abstract—Modern research library collections are a composite of both rare and non-rare books the majority of which are out of print and irreplaceable. Consequently, conservation treatment priorities cannot responsibly ignore non-rare material without shortchanging future scholarly needs. To address this concern, library conservators in the U.S.A. have begun applying a holistic approach to repairing damage in research collections and designing treatment approaches to provide the greatest good for the broadest portion of the collection.

This philosophical shift has resulted in a radical reassessment of traditional book repair programs, with conservators now exploring ways to train existing para-professional work forces effectively to meet the long-term conservation needs of high-use, circulating collections. The Library Collections Conservation Discussion Group (LCCDG) of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) has spent the past six years reviewing, discussing, refining, and disseminating treatment specifications for a full range of book repair techniques applicable to research library collections. Essentially utilitarian, these approaches to book conservation for masses of material are at once expeditious to perform, durable, non-damaging over time, and, we would argue, aesthetically pleasing.

Research library collections are a composite of both rare and non-rare books. A clear division is made typically between the special and the general collections which affects their storage, use, and conservation, and predisposes librarians and conservators alike to see general collections as an enormous mass of homogenous, utilitarian, characterless, and replaceable books. This portrayal is anything but true. Although the majority of books in research library collections were printed in the twentieth century, all older library collections also contain books produced in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries many of which still circulate. Most items in the general collections—no matter their date of publication—are out of print, and for all practical purposes, irreplaceable. Most critically, the majority will never become part of the special collections. These

books, thoughtfully acquired by generations of librarians, remain as a conglomerate highly valued by scholars. It is, after all, the unique depth and breadth of great research library collections that characterize and distinguish their scholarly significance, not merely their rarest or most valuable treasures.

Consequently, library conservators must act as advocates for the well-being of the entire collection if they are to carry out their charge responsibly. The profession risks much when segregated general and special collections are viewed as opposites, predisposing large portions of a library's holdings to receiving inappropriate or inadequate levels of treatment. Accepting the differences while acknowledging the similarities between rare and non-rare material, library conservators in the U.S.A. are expanding their approach to collection care and treatment to encompass both special and general collections. This philosophical position wasn't realized overnight. What were the events that brought about the transition? And what are the consequences to the professional conservator to expanding the role of book repair?

A Comprehensive Approach to Preservation

The Florence flood shook the world and galvanized the conservation community into a unified, international response.¹ While prior to 1966, there was on-going research conducted related to library preservation, most notably in the area of permanent/durable book paper,² the flood served as a catalyst for enhancing the exchange of professional information. The fifteen years following the disaster were filled with intense activity as librarians and conservators worked together to define an American preservation agenda. This "movement" was fueled by a new phenomenon—the creation of the preservation librarian.

In the late 1960s, the Library of Congress (LC) founded its Preservation Office headed by its first director, Frazer G. Poole. By the 1970s, other major research libraries followed suit, placing librarians in charge of assessing the overall collection needs and implementing preservation measures. Responsibility for in-house bindery and mendery operations, as well as administrative control of commercial library binding contacts, became the purview of the preservation librarian, and as programs developed, funding and staffing increased. In essence, an entirely new division

¹Ogden, Shereilyn, "The Impact of the Florence Flood on Library Conservation in the United States of America: A Study of the Literature Published 1956-1976," *Restorator* 3(1979), p. 1-36.

²See for example, Clapp, Verner W. "The Story of Permanent/Durable Book-Paper, 1115-1970," *Restorator* supplement number 3, 1970.

developed within many U.S. libraries.

A small but dynamic group of preservation librarians met frequently at professional meetings, and together with rare-book conservators began defining the work of library preservation. Through their efforts, a comprehensive library preservation agenda was clearly and fully articulated by the early 1980s.

Several factors favored the development of a comprehensive approach towards library preservation in the United States. In the late 1950s, William J. Barrow predicted 90% of books printed in the twentieth century would be decayed beyond use by the year 2000. Thus, the "brittle book problem" was born. Surveys done in the 1970s confirmed that nearly one-third of the holdings in some of the largest research libraries were currently, or would soon become, brittle—a condition that by extrapolation placed the nation's print heritage at risk. Reformatting of brittle texts became an essential component of the new preservation programs which acted cooperatively and with federal funding to address the issue.

The brittle book problem also highlighted the need for conservators and administrators to gain a better understanding of the deterioration mechanisms affecting paper and other materials used in bookbindings, pamphlets, and storage enclosures, if they were going to make optimal long-term decisions. Poole anticipated the need for scientific information by organizing LC's Preservation Office to include both elements in the person of John C. Williams, a research chemist, and Peter Waters, a book conservator. Conservation scientists were quick to identify environmental conditions as having a tremendous impact on the rate at which library materials deteriorate. As a result, environmental monitoring and control became another key component in preservation programs.

The 1960s and 1970s witnessed several severe floods in American collections including the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Corning Museum and Library, and in 1978, the Meyer Library at Stanford University. In the wake of these disasters, preservation librarians sought ways to prevent and respond to catastrophes, making emergency preparedness another programmatic component.

Concurrently, preventive measures, such as improving staff and patron awareness about the vulnerability of collections, led to better handling and housekeeping procedures, and resulted in increased collection durability. Accordingly, staff and patron care and handling awareness also became part of the agenda.

Repair of damaged books had long been an integral component of library operations, and most libraries had systems established for repairing books. Yet, from the beginning, the repair of special and general collections materials were seen as different, with old and rare books the specific concern of experienced binders and restorers, and everything else subject to in-house repair methods. As the field of book restoration developed into what is now known as conservation, librarians turned to a new generation of conservators to treat their rare books. Conservation distinguished itself from restoration in several ways. First, it insisted on a broad scientific inquiry into the chemical makeup of historic materials and the agents of deterioration by which they were affected; second, it required rigorous examination of objects to document both the condition prior to treatment and the precise treatment undertaken. Conservators practicing in the United States agreed to abide by a code of ethics and guidelines for practice set forth by the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC), the national professional organization for the field. Open communication among conservation professionals and across conservation disciplines became highly valued, and eroded the old-world norm of maintaining trade secrets. Of necessity, the new generation of book conservators retained their link to traditional craft bookbinding, yet operated within dramatically expanded boundaries.

Americans, with few exceptions, did not receive the benefits of exposure to established trade apprenticeships (in the European sense) or educational programs in preparation for careers as bookbinders, conservators, or conservation technicians; early on, training of conservation and preservation professionals was identified as a necessity within the field. Three major research libraries—the Library of Congress, the Newberry Library, and the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center—led the way to defining rare book conservation through training programs for prospective rare book conservators. Initiating the nation's first certification program in the conservation of library and archival materials, Columbia University began offering graduate-level degrees in 1981. This program was a component of the School of Library Science and included a separate course of study for preservation administrators seeking theoretical competency in library preservation without engaging the specifics of hands-on treatment procedures.

By the early 1980s, research libraries across the country—many of them larger university libraries—established preservation departments. The programs were often built by combining smaller, existing library units, such as the menderly, into larger entities. This restructuring caused many preservation departments to face their first critical impasse: how could existing operations be

modified so their efforts were consistent with preservation goals? Little by little, librarians, conservators, and conservation scientists sought to define these minimum expectations for book repair, conservation, library binding, and preservation microfilming. Over the years, national standards for microfilming³ and commercial library binding⁴ were developed. Conservation work was performed in accordance with the AIC "Code of Ethics and Guideline for Practice,"⁵ and the materials and methods used for in-house book repair were gradually improved.

Recognizing that funding was limited and would never be sufficient to address the preservation needs of the entire collection, preservation librarians and conservators had to face, and continue to face, difficult choices related to setting priorities. Cooperation among institutions on a national level was seen as a means of ensuring that duplication of effort did not occur, yet the concept of sharing a single "preservation master copy" is restricted in practical terms to reformatting efforts, such as cooperative microfilming projects.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s preservation programs have become as integral to many library operations as are more traditional departments, such as collection development, acquisitions, and cataloguing. To succeed at this level, preservation librarians had to overcome challenges more critical than establishing base funding independent of federal grants or achieving full administrative integration—although these were also essential elements. The profession had to develop a fundamental commitment among library staff and administrators acknowledging that preservation of an institution's collections was consistent with the library's long-term goals.

The fifteen years immediately following the Florence flood can be viewed as a period of development and self definition. During this period, comprehensive approaches to training professionals and implementing preservation programs were initiated. The next fifteen years saw the establishment and steady development of many new programs. It is at this juncture, now thirty years beyond the profession's initial call to arms, that established rare book conservation programs can well afford to focus anew on problems specific to the general collection. It is within this mature preservation environment, that the "new book repair" has developed and is being practiced

³ *RLG Preservation Microfilming Handbook*, Mountain View, CA: Research Libraries Group, 1992; *Preservation Microfilming: A Guide for Librarians and Archivists*, Chicago: American Library Association, 1987.

⁴ Parisi, Paul A. and Merrill-Oldham, Jan, *Library Binding Institute Standard for Library Binding*, 8th ed., Rochester, NY: Library Binding Institute, 1986.

⁵ The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, "Ethics and Guideline for Practice," in *Directory*, 1997, p. 24-31.

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Treating Non-Rare Books : The "New" Book Repair

Book repair and shelf preparation (i.e., the strengthening of new acquisitions prior to circulation) of general collections materials in most research library preservation departments are handled by in-house, book repair staff or sublet to a commercial library bindery. An in-house book repair program provides three primary services to the library. It offers a low-cost source for simple treatments, such as cloth spine repairs, paper repairs, and shelf preparation procedures including pamphlet binding. Its on-site location keeps books accessible during the repair process and allows books to be handled on a rush basis. And, an in-house book repair program provides the library with a source for complex, one-of-a-kind treatments most commercial library binderies are reluctant to take on.

To satisfy the library's objectives, these services must all conform to one primary objective: bringing or restoring books to usable condition in a timely manner. Governing our choice of treatments designed to meet these criteria are certain assumptions about the general collection. It is likely that items in the research collection will be retained indefinitely; i.e., they have long-term research value. For this reason, it is also fair to assume each item may need to be repaired more than once during its tenure in the collection, predisposing treatments to design solutions that don't make future interventions difficult. It is also known that books in the general collection are used more vigorously than materials housed in special collections. The repair must be able to sustain stresses from being photocopied, tossed into backpacks, or returned through bookdrops.

Work that is classified as book repair falls into three principle categories. The first is "rush work," which consists of library materials in need of immediate attention due to its status as reference or course reserve items. These must be completed in one to three days and account for a small but ever present body of work. The second category represents the bulk of the work: the ongoing repair, rebinding, and rehousing of library materials as a response to physical and chemical breakdown. Shelf preparation, a third component of the work, includes the preparation of material for permanent housing in the stacks, and includes pamphlet binding, serial binding, and the consolidation of loose parts, such as errata sheets or folded maps. In addition to these three major categories lie a small number of problems that require specialized attention or deliberation, and which, for one reason or another, are not so straight-forward as to easily conform to

preexisting treatment options.

Most work is identified for treatment through patron use either at the library's circulation points or as a result of being left for reshelving after in-house use. In many research libraries, books requiring repair are identified primarily through screening for damage while the material is handled in preparation for reshelving. The beauty of this approach is that damage is identified within the context of an ongoing library operation (i.e., no one needs to look for work in the open stacks). Being damaged and recently used, the book then can be assumed to be at greater risk of receiving further damage than similarly damaged material at rest in the stacks. Some preservation programs combine this approach with secondary criteria which may include requirements resulting from a grant or some other special project (a collection shift or large-scale rehousing project), or by batching heavily used, non-circulating material (i.e., reference or course reserve materials) for treatment during a low-use period, such as a break within the academic calendar.

The large number of items requiring attention within the general collection presses book repair programs to function as production shops. Within this context, their work must strive to be at once neat, quick, tough, and non-damaging. Unfortunately, many repairs completed in the past were so predisposed to efficiency they are now the principle source of a book's current damage. This condition reflects the use of poor quality materials, the excessive or insensitive application of adhesives, or an adherence to inappropriate repair methodologies. An example of this type of conservation headache is the well-intended use of pressure-sensitive tape for mending both text and binding. Preventing this type of ongoing damage is an educational problem for the conservator, but once appropriate materials and techniques are defined, the good will and productivity of a staff long committed to helping the collection can be harnessed.

Durability is a key consideration for all general collections repairs, as circulating and heavily used reference books must be sound enough to survive hard photocopying, careless handling, and sudden impact within book drops. Ideally, a durable repair includes a structure appropriately mated to the item in question, fit enough to withstand the book's anticipated level of future use, yet sufficiently flexible to lie open completely. The materials incorporated must be appropriate for the repair and of high quality.

Book repair work must also be performed quickly, which implies it achieves its objective economically. The concept of economy, however, may vary from institution to institution, or from book to book. It is really a multi-faceted issue. Each institution must define what it is willing to

commit in terms of time to solve a specific type of problem, and balance this cost against the repair needs or durability requirements of the physical material. Is it more economical to do the repair in-house, or could the item be appropriately repaired by a commercial library binder? Is it more economical to make a box in-house, or would the time be more productively spent if the box were purchased from a commercial vendor? The answers to these queries are dependent upon a number of factors including the availability of funding, staff expertise (both in-house and commercially), and patron use patterns, any of which may shift over time.

Embedded in the concept of achieving an economically viable workflow is the practice of batchwork—i.e., identifying a group of materials exhibiting similar treatment problems, performing a discrete step to each book before proceeding to the next step, and working through this cycle of repairs until each book in a group is completed. There are different approaches to performing batch work. Some institutions use one person to complete a group of materials while others have people who specialize on specific segments of a treatment and finish groups of materials collectively. Usually, several batches of different treatments are moving through the shop simultaneously; thus, workflow and organization are critical elements of a repair program.

David Pye, in his book *The Nature and Art of Workmanship* explains that sound workmanship involves the exercise of dexterity, judgment, and care,⁶ a three-pronged approach in which care is given equal weight. Book repair staff, comprised of people with diverse backgrounds of interest and experience, can become highly skilled as a result of repeating similar processes during the course of treating large volumes of similar work. Once a technique is thoroughly understood and practiced, an attentive technician often becomes extremely adept at its execution, demonstrating that neat work need not be at odds with speed but arrives united in the experienced craftsman.

The ever-present challenge faced by book repair is to provide the library with work that is at once neat, quick, tough, and non-damaging in quantities sufficient to offset the institution's rate of deterioration. This outcome is largely achievable because the overwhelming majority of general collection books are case bindings suffering from similar problems. Approaching these problems with standardized solutions, or "treatment to specification," (a term coined by American book conservator Glen Ruzicka), one well-trained supervisor should be capable of coordinating the work of a large number of technicians or student employees with a high degree of success. Defining the concept by contrasting single-item, book conservation with book repair, Ruzicka suggests:

⁶ Pye, David. *The Nature and Art of Workmanship*. London: Cambridge University Press, 1968.

In book repair, one or more specifications are defined and items for treatment are grouped accordingly] The [rare book] conservator begins with the item and derives the specs, the book repairer begins with the specs and defines the item (“this is a reback, this is a hinge repair”) the definition of the specifications is key. A variety of specifications are desirable; however, too many options can lead to a random, “how shall I do it this time” approach. Book repair is not conservation. Treatment to specification is essential to any book repair service, in-house or on contract. Conservation treatment, on the other hand, can function with six or sixty alternative treatment specifications.⁷

Implementing the use of treatments to specification requires a considerable amount of thought devoted to their selection, development, and implementation. These procedures should evolve as sound solutions to frequently occurring problems within the collection. Once defined, these specifications should be documented for future reference, describing the treatment’s applicability, detailing the steps and materials required in its application, and noting the amount of time the technique takes to perform on average. There is growing consensus that written treatment specifications, used in conjunction with the date of treatment routinely recorded in the finished book, function adequately for documenting en masse treatments of non-rare library materials. This procedure will also provide the repair department with feedback about the durability of specific treatments, and help document the evolution of techniques and materials for future reference.

Matching a repair problem to an appropriate treatment specification must be handled on an item-by-item basis. The decisions governing the flow of work through the repair shop and the allocation of resources to mitigate specific damage or deterioration must balance a number of variables including:

- The total number of items requiring repair predicated on the library’s patterns of use and the overall condition of the collection;
- The average rate of work flow through the shop based on availability of staff, their technical proficiency, and the library’s demand for finished work;
- The appropriateness of the technical solution selected for the material being treated; and,
- The appropriateness (and availability) of alternative preservation options for treating damaged materials, including commercial library binding.

⁷ Ruzicka, Glen. 1993. Book Repair and Conservation: Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts. In *The Changing Role of Book Repair in ARL Libraries. SPEC Kit 190*. Washington, D.C.: Association of Research Libraries, Office of Management Services

Inadvertent but permanent damage to the collection can occur through the application of techniques that later prove undesirable. While each library must establish its own approach to setting treatment guidelines, certain materials require additional attention if they are to be properly preserved. For example, due to current rebinding practices as well as the embrittlement of text papers, there is growing concern that original nineteenth- and early twentieth-century publishers' bindings are disappearing at an alarming rate. These books lack the protection afforded books housed in special collections yet few librarians or conservators are proficient at recognizing historically or artistically significant examples.

In summary, general collections treatments tend to be use-driven in response to patron needs. The work itself is not fussy, but fluid, adhering to the basic precept that ideal solutions are indeed neat, quick, tough, and non-damaging. Most repairs conform to a standardized "treatment to specification" approach requiring a significant investment of time to define. Once established, this core of "house techniques" serves to ensure high standards of workmanship and productivity among the predominantly technician-based workforce. Most significantly, the approach provides entire research collections with optimal, long-term treatment solutions that allow the permanent retention of publisher's bookbindings in original form, thereby preserving the collection's historic and artistic significance.

The Library Collections Conservation Discussion Group

Since 1992, the Library Collections Conservation Discussion Group (LCCDG) of the American Institute of Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) has emerged as the principal forum in the U.S.A. for stimulating dialogue on the topic of book repair. Its primary function is to foster improvements in the management and implementation of conservation programs for non-rare library collections. Participants include members of the Book and Paper Group of the AIC active in library conservation, book repair technicians, and preservation administrators responsible for overseeing repair programs. Together, these groups have voluntarily elected to function as a liaison between the conservation and library communities, working to publicize issues related to the current status of book repair in the United States. During the past five years, LCCDG has fostered discussions about the technical and managerial options available to practitioners for improving the quality and permanence of book repair within academic and research libraries.

LCCDG's meetings have concentrated on two principal areas: (1) the examination and

reevaluation of contemporary treatment techniques and the rationale for their application; and (2) the establishment of guidelines for identifying historically significant, non-rare materials housed in the open stacks. Both topics have generated considerable interest from conservators seeking resolution to similar problems common in all research library collections.

LCCDG's first two events were designed to take a closer look at treatment techniques. In 1992, practitioners from across the U.S.A. and Canada were invited to exhibit samples of their work at AIC's annual meeting in Buffalo, New York. Twenty-five practitioners contributed 150 linear feet of repair work to the exhibit, and stimulated a morning of vigorous discussion and interaction among the participants. At the second event, held the following year at AIC's annual meeting in Denver, Colorado, the participants returned with their samples; this time, they met in break-out groups to compare variations on similar techniques and define optimal solutions to repair problems.

The Buffalo experience provided most participants with their first in-depth opportunity to exchange information and examine book repair techniques produced in the major North American book repair programs; additionally, they reviewed services offered by commercial vendors. What became abundantly clear from the cross section of works exhibited is that book repair procedures have evolved with much in common. What also became clear was that the basic "core repair techniques"—the essential, omnipresent tip-ins, hinge-tightening procedures, and simple cloth spine repairs—were not diverse enough to meet the full range of problems characteristic of general collections.

While most repair work continues to center around case binding and, increasingly, on methods for protecting paperbacks, the approaches for repairing the remaining five to ten percent of the older, historically significant eighteenth- and nineteenth-century bindings were fascinating. Book conservators responsible for non-rare materials, and sensitive to the needs of older collections, had been expanding their repertoire of treatment options for some time. In light of the new samples, we were forced to broaden our view and acknowledge the implicit overlap between book repair and rare book conservation.

For example, when faced with damaged eighteenth- and nineteenth-century leather bindings, conservators were beginning to freely employ Etherington's toned Japanese paper hinge⁸ or joint tacketing defined by Cains⁹ and revised by Espinosa,¹⁰ two relatively quick solutions for

⁸ Etherington, Don. "Conservation Treatments," *Guild of Book Workers Newsletter* 80(1992), p. 7-8.

⁹ Cains, Anthony and Katherine Swift. *Preserving our Printed Heritage: The Long Room Project at Trinity*

reattaching leather boards. The lapped case structure, revitalized by Frost,¹¹ was being adopted freely as a durable alternative to the traditional case binding structure. Heavy or oversized volumes were once again receiving split-board bindings designed to accommodate their weight, a technique popularized as a “library binding” by Cockerell¹² at the turn of the twentieth century. Reversible spine linings of paste and Japanese paper were becoming standard procedures, prior to applying a second lining of polyvinyl acetate adhesive (PVA), to prevent the PVA from coming into direct contact with the spine folds of the sections.

This assimilation of rare book techniques for the conservation of general collections material increased the profession’s treatment options, and after only a brief training period, book repair technicians and student employees were able to perform these techniques independently. However, a survey of the major preservation programs in the United States conducted in 1993¹³ revealed that most research libraries had no guidelines for identifying or providing appropriate treatment for material in circulating collections published before 1900, a condition conservators perceived as threatening.

In response to this situation, the following two LCCDG meetings concentrated on increasing the profession’s knowledge and appreciation of these historic materials, and on developing guidelines for their identification. In 1994, Sue Allen taught a day-long course at AIC’s annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, entitled, “Connoisseurship of Nineteenth-Century Publishers’ Bookbindings.” Ms. Allen’s presentation helped raise awareness of the historic and artistic significance contained in original publishers’ cloth case bindings; as a result, their vulnerability in the open stacks was magnified. This program was a first step toward achieving nationally-recognized guidelines for identifying historically significant nineteenth-century books, a process solidified at AIC’s annual meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1995 with the help of LCCDG’s next guest speaker, G. Thomas Tanselle. Mr. Tanselle’s scholarly bibliographical discourse supported the creation of a “Checklist of Primary Evidence in Nineteenth- and Early-Twentieth-Century Publishers’ Bookbindings,” which was drafted by Randy Silverman and reviewed by scholars internationally. This Checklist was also scrutinized by the nearly one

College Dublin, Dublin: Trinity College Dublin, 1988, p. 13.

¹⁰ Espinosa, Robert, and Pamela Barrios. “Joint Tacketing: A Method of Board Reattachment” *The Book and Paper Group Annual* 10(1991), p. 78-83.

¹¹ Frost, Gary. “Historical Paper Case Binding and Conservation Rebinding” *The New Bookbinder* 2(1982), p. 64-67.

¹² Cockerell, Douglas, *Bookbinding, and the Care of Books*, New York: D. Appleton and Co., 1901, p. 175-177.

¹³ Silverman, Randy and Maria Grandinette, (eds.). *The Changing Role of Book Repair in ARL Libraries, SPEC Kit 190*, Washington, D.C.: The Association of Research Libraries, Office of Management Studies, 1993.

hundred conservators attending that LCCDG meeting.

Unfortunately, the view that library general collections are strictly information centers persists and causes significant historical bindings to be lost routinely as a result of uninformed repair and rebinding practices. Without the effort of professional conservators to reverse this trend, many of these now-scarce artifacts will not survive.

Repair Technician Training

Book repair training has been offered in a large variety of formats to accommodate people of varying skill levels and the needs of different libraries throughout the U.S.A. Throughout the 1980s, funding was sought and received for training programs, and several book repair manuals were published. For example, in 1980, Johns Hopkins University received funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to conduct four workshops, three consultations, and two three-month internships a year for three years. In 1981, the Library Services and Construction Act (funded by the Illinois State Library) underwrote the Illinois Cooperative Conservation Program, which emphasized book repair workshops. During this same period, the H. W. Wilson foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities supported a series of workshops taught at the New York Botanical Garden Preservation Center. Also in 1980, the Guild of Book Workers conducted its first annual Seminar on Excellence in Bookbinding. At these seminars, experts in conservation and the book arts demonstrated techniques to provide participants with an opportunity to observe skillful workmanship and handle samples of beautifully executed work.

The 1980s also saw an increase in the literature specifically related to the repair of non-rare library materials. These publications supported newly forming training efforts while providing a rationale for existing programs to updating their approach. Jane Greenfield published a series of pamphlets in 1980 and 1981 outlining approaches for making wraparounds, pamphlets, tip-ins and pockets, among other techniques. Her book, *Books: Their Care and Repair*, was published in 1984. The first edition of Carolyn Morrow's *Conservation Treatment Procedures: A Manual of Step-By Step Procedures for the Maintenance and Repair of Library Materials* was published in 1982, with a second edition written by Morrow and Carol Dyal printed in 1986. The *Library Materials Preservation Manual*, by Hedi Kyle, with contributions by Nelly Balloffet, Judith Reed, and Virginia Wisniewski-Klett, was published in 1983. Robert Milevski's *Book Repair Manual* was published in 1985; the Library of Congress issued a series of six videotapes, *Library Preservation:*

Fundamental Techniques, in 1987.¹⁴

An ambitious approach to book repair training occurred in 1992 when forty conservators and preservation administrators from across the U.S.A. were invited to the University of California, Berkeley, to participate in a planning program funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The goal of this program was to develop teaching modules for implementation in various geographic regions of the country. As a result of this meeting, funding by NEH was made available to support extended training programs in four geographic regions: the Pacific Northwest, the Mountains Plains states, the South, and California and Hawaii. Each module provided trainees with one week of hands-on training at the host institution's library, followed by six weeks in the trainees' library to practice the training. The strength of this model was that each trainee received a total of three modules of supervised training, allowed each person to receive feedback on their technical accomplishments over an extended period of time.

Independently and on a cost-recovery basis, a series of workshops was also offered in the Southwest region in the spring of 1994. These workshops were sponsored by AMIGOS in collaboration with the Preservation and Conservation Education Programs of the University of Texas, the Preservation Department of the University of Texas Library, and BookLab.

Today, conservators and preservation administrators continue working together to ensure that training opportunities of this kind will be forthcoming in the future. While much has been done on a formal level, it should also be noted that many preservation programs throughout the years

¹⁴ Greenfield, Jane. *Wraparounds*, Yale University Library preservation pamphlet, No. 1, New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Library, 1980; Greenfield, Jane. *Tip-Ins and Pockets*, Yale University Library preservation pamphlet, No. 2, New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Library, 1980; Greenfield, Jane. *Paper Treatment*, Yale University Library preservation pamphlet, No. 3, New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Library, 1981; Greenfield, Jane. *Pamphlet Binding*, Yale University Library preservation pamphlet, No. 4, New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Library, 1981; Greenfield, Jane. *The Small Bindery*, Yale University Library preservation pamphlet, No. 5, New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Library, 1981; Greenfield, Jane. *Hinge and Joint Repair*, Yale University Library preservation pamphlet, No. 6, New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Library, 1982; Greenfield, Jane. *Books: Their Care and Repair*, New York: H. W. Wilson Co., 1984; Kyle, Hedi. *Library Materials Preservation Manual*, Bronxville, New York: Nicolas T. Smith, 1983; Milevski, Robert J. "Book Repair Manual", *Illinois Libraries*, 67(1985), p. 648-684; Morrow, Carolyn C. *Conservation Treatment Procedures: A Manual of Step-by-Step Procedures for the Maintenance and Repair of Library Materials*, Littleton, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1982; Morrow, Carolyn C. and Carole Dyle. *Conservation Treatment Procedures*, 2nd ed., Littleton, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1986; *Library Preservation: Fundamental Techniques*, videotape series, No. 1, "Surface Cleaning, Encapsulation, and Jacket-Making," Judith Fortson-Jones; No. 2, "Books in General Collections: Paper Repairs and Pockets," Robert Milevski; No. 3, "Pamphlet Binding," Jan Merrill-Oldham; No. 4, Books in General Collections: Recasing," Don Etherington; No. 5, "Protective Enclosure: Simple Wrappers," Lynn Jones; and, No. 6, Protective Enclosure: Portfolios and Boxes," Robert Espinosa. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, National Preservation Program Office, July, 1987.

have served as a state and local resource, voluntarily providing training and assistance to neighboring institutions.

Conclusion

Conservators and conservation technicians who participated in the LCCDG during the past few years have broadened the role of library conservation in the U.S.A. Acknowledging the depth and value of the general collections, they are working to adapt conservation practice to encompass all library material. Advocating a holistic approach that places entire collections under a single continuum of care, library conservators are challenged now to provide appropriate levels of treatment for both rare and non-rare material. A balance is being forged between the need to maintain collections in good working condition for patrons and scholars today while striving to preserve the richness and diversity of our print heritage for posterity.