



Authors / Conservators:
Tania Estrada Valadez, Jeniffer Arlett Ponce Fernández,
Marie Vander Meeren, Thalía Velasco Castelán, Diana Velázquez Padilla

Documentary Heritage Conservation in Mexico: *a Perspective on the XXI Century*

In Mexico there is a large number of documentary properties with different assessment of cultural value, hence the preservation of this kind of heritage is fundamental.

The Documentary Heritage Department the National Coordination for Cultural Property Conservation (CNCPC) is the government institution that works for this aim.

We have stablished some principles related with our mission as a national entity, which can be resumed as follow:

1. Prioritize preventive conservation over restoration treatments, as a more efficient medium and long term strategy, compared to expensive, short range projects.
2. Find strategies that are adequate to particular problems of our own context.
3. Optimizing the use of materials and resources available in different regions of the country.
4. Promote the value assessment by the community that take care of properties. It is also important to take conservation measures according to the usage and function of goods.
5. Promote networks with local, regional and international institutions to exchange experiences and knowledge.



The aims mentioned before have been achieved in recent projects such as:

◆ Project of National Museum of Viceroyalty Choir Books Stabilization: 2013

The main goal of this project was the stabilization of ninety two choir books and minimum conservation treatment, but another important achievement was the creation of a management plan and the digitalization that will help us to disseminate the collection.

◆ Santa Maria Acapulco Project: from 2008 to 2011

The church property and cultural goods, such as books and sculptures of this small town were severely damaged by the fire of 2008. The conservators worked with the community during the restoration project to explain and show new conservation measurements in order to take care of their cultural heritage.

◆ The ICCROM-LATAM Course: 2012, 2013

In 2011 an international Seminar was organized in order to evaluate the impact on participants from Latin America and Spain who had attended the International Course on Japanese Paper Conservation (JPC), in Tokyo, Japan. As a result of the Seminar, this year we will hold the third *International Course on Paper Conservation in Latin America. Meeting the East*, jointly organized by CNCPC-INAH, the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties and ICCROM, within the framework of the Japanese paper conservation tradition, and their application to Western paper conservation, directly or with relevant modifications, considering the Latin American context.

Conclusion

The application of the principles mentioned before has given great results and are the product of intense work, analysis and experiences from the past. However, given the large number of documentary heritage and the need of a comprehensive panorama, it should be defined **conservation policy guidelines** that will lead to better ways to face the challenges of conservation of documentary heritage in the near future.

Contact us:

<http://www.conservacionyrestauracion.inah.gob.mx>
docs.graficos.cncpc@gmail.com

